

2015 BORDEAUX FUTURES FROM



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The 2015 Futures will be available in early Fall of 2018.

Compiled by Jon Ellison



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Bordeaux 2015

By the time I headed to Bordeaux this spring, I was already hearing rumours that some Bordeaux Château owners were getting ready to trot out that much loved and often over-used term, “Vintage of the Century”. After all, this region of France had not had a stellar vintage since 2010, and it was also a year that ended in 5 like some of other great vintages (2005, 1995 & 1985...).



While I am happy to report that the overall quality of wine produced in Bordeaux in the 2015 vintage is very high and in some cases, staggeringly amazing, it is not a “Vintage of the Century”. The simple reason being that there is too much variation in the quality of wine produced across the entire region. This variation is due to the constantly changing weather the region experienced during the year. After a very wet January and February, the months of March through to June saw half the normal amount of rain, making them very dry months which assisted with quick flowering and a fast and generous fruit set. June and July saw a spike in temperatures which began to stress many of the vines, but this stress was reduced by the arrival of rain in early August. September saw a drop in temperature and a limited amount of rain, except in St. Estèphe which suffered through triple the amount of rain it normally receives. By the time all was said and done, when and how much rain the vines received and what terroir they were on had a major impact on the quality of wine produced.

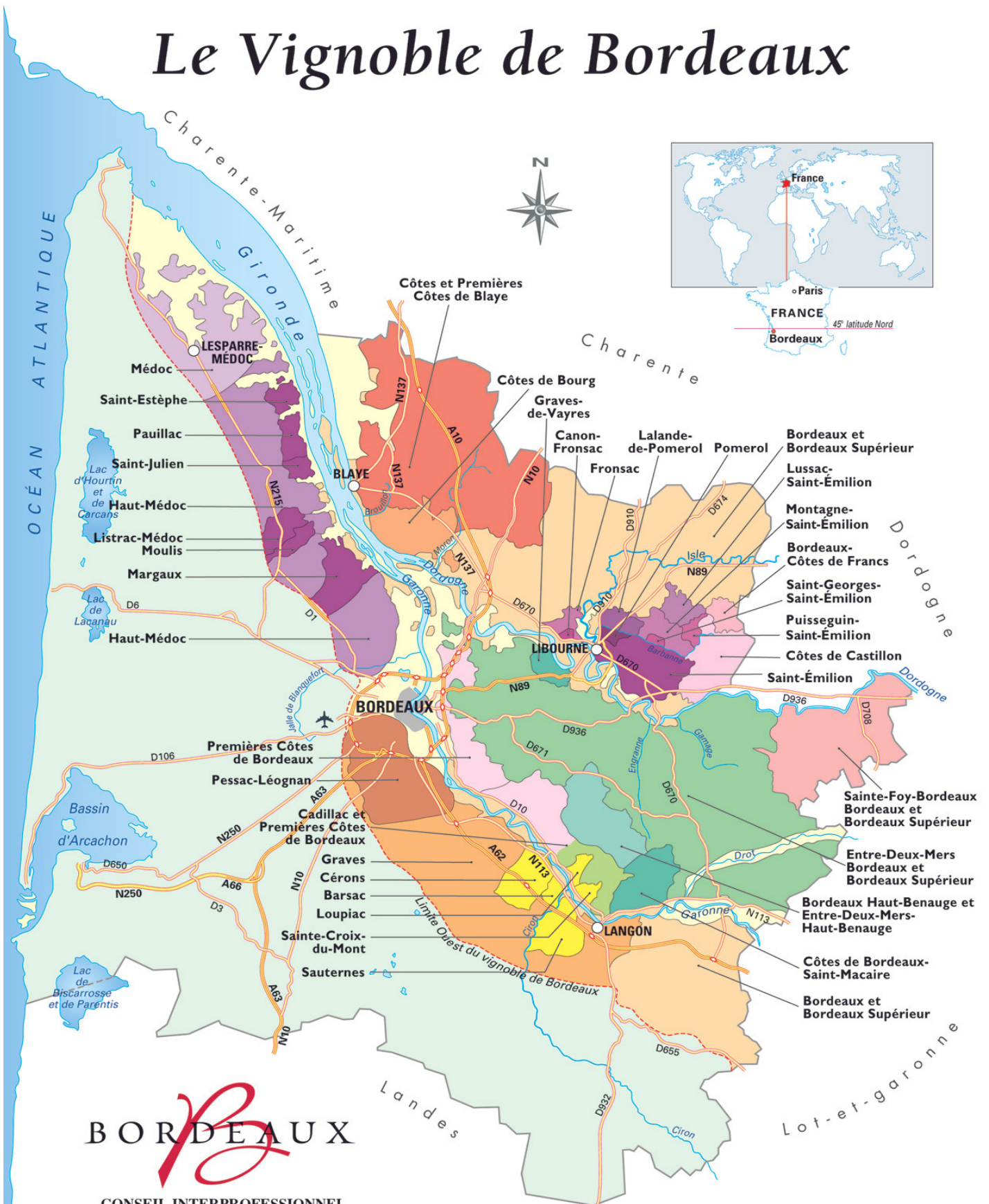
On the Left Bank, St. Estèphe struggled to produce wines with the normal concentration found in this appellation, while the wines produced in Margaux are superb across the board. Over on Right Bank, both St. Émilion and Pomerol produced many wines that challenge for the best of the vintage, but there are also many disappointing wines that are overly extracted and too tannic. Many of the wines produced in 2015 are fruit dominant with well integrated tannins and acidity. Thanks to modern winemaking techniques, many of these wines will have immediate drinkability, but I suspect they will also be very long lived in the cellar if you have the discipline to keep your hands off them.

For those of you familiar with our Futures offerings, you will note that this year we have a wider selection of wines from the Right Bank and some of the Satellite appellations than we normally do. This is due in large part the number of excellent and often value-oriented, wines produced in these regions. We have included many of our traditional selections from the Left Bank, with a focus on St. Julien as always. I am confident that all my selections are of excellent quality and will reward those who invest in them with drinking pleasure for many years to come. I invite you to explore this year’s offering, and if you need any assistance or guidance in making your selections, please contact Jon Ellison at jonellison@marquis-wines.com or by calling 604-695-2950.

Yours truly,

John Clerides, Owner of Marquis Wine Cellars

Le Vignoble de Bordeaux



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LEFT BANK

The Left Bank is the wine region of Bordeaux located on the west side of the Garonne River. It includes the appellations of Haut-Médoc, Saint-Estèphe, Pauillac, Saint-Julien, Listrac, Moulis, Margaux, Pessac-Léognan, Graves and Barsac/Sauternes. The red wines from the Left Bank are generally dominated by Cabernet Sauvignon with smaller percentages of Merlot, Cabernet Franc and sometimes Petit Verdot and Malbec.

Haut-Médoc/Médoc

The Médoc extends northwest of the city of Bordeaux. It is divided into Haut-Médoc, where the classified growths are also found, and the Bas Médoc, located further north on the marshes at the mouth of the Gironde estuary. Although the appellation technically covers the entire Médoc, most wines of the Médoc come from the Haut-Médoc. Always one of the most reliable regions of Bordeaux, the quality of the Médocs in 2015 is on display again. The wines produced in the southern part of this large appellation tend to be more supple, while the wines produced in the north are classic Médoc. Wines dominated by Cabernet Sauvignon fared better than those with a higher percentage of Merlot.

Château Belle-Vue - \$39.99 plus tax (\$45.99)

“The 2015 Belle-Vue, located next to Giscours in northern Macau, is a blend of 45% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot and 15% Petit Verdot matured in 40% new oak. There was some reduction to contend with on the nose, since they use less SO₂ during the élevage; the palate, however, shows good potential with firm tannin, fresh and nicely poised with a foursquare, but fine minerally finish.”

- eRobertParker.com #224 88-90 points



“The 2015 Belle-Vue wraps around the palate with gorgeous depth. Sweet floral and savory notes add lift to a core of dark red cherry jam and raspberry. Silky tannins give this mid-weight, supple Haut-Médoc much of its undeniable appeal. Expressive floral and minty notes add the closing shades of complexity. The estate's gravelly soils and location towards the north of Macau were both huge advantages in 2015. The blend is 45% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot and 15% Petit Verdot.”

- Vinous, April 2016 89-91 points

Château Cambon La Pelouse - \$39.99 plus tax (\$45.99)

“The 2015 Cambon la Pelouse has quite a rich bouquet with small red cherries, kirsch and blackcurrant aromas. The palate is medium-bodied with a gentle grip on the entry, quite pure in the mouth, though it needs a little more complexity to develop on the finish that just trails away at the moment.”

- eRobertParker.com #224 85-87 points

“The 2015 Cambon La Pelouse is dark, juicy and quite expressive. Black cherry, menthol, licorice, coffee and leather meld together as this supple, expressive Haut-Médoc opens up in the glass. The 2015 is really quite lovely and delicious. It will be interesting to see if the tannins soften a bit from here. Hints of tobacco and savory herbs add the closing shades of aromatic nuance. The blend is 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 46% Merlot and 4% Petit Verdot. Tasted two times.”

- Vinous, April 2016 87-89 points

Château Cantemerle - \$69.99 plus tax (\$80.49)

"The 2015 Cantemerle is a blend of 59% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc and 6% Petit Verdot. It offers plenty of blackberry and raspberry fruit on the nose, not the best defined that I encountered among the Haut-Médocs, but with plenty of "stuffing." The palate is medium-bodied with supple red and black fruit on the entry matched with a fine thread of acidity. There is a pleasing crescendo in the mouth driven by that Merlot content and it finishes with some swagger. This is a very fine Cantemerle exuding joie-de-vivre that I can see doling out plenty of drinking pleasure over the next decade and beyond. Tasted thrice with consistent notes."



- eRobertParker.com #224 90-92 points

"The 2015 Cantemerle is ripe, juicy and forward, with good overall depth and plenty of juiciness. Sweet red cherry, new oak, herb, blood orange, anise and earthy notes wrap around the fleshy, inviting finish. This is an especially racy, forward style, but there is good tannic grip as well. Tasted two times."

- Vinous, Apr 2016 86-88 points

Château La Lagune - \$99.99 plus tax (\$114.99)

"The 2015 La Lagune has a rich and slightly heady bouquet with lavish black cherry and cassis fruit that need to obtain more definition and composure. This seems to be trying a little hard. The palate is ripe and rounded on the entry, the tannin here a little stringy with a straightforward, slightly attenuated and saline finish that I hope will flesh out during élevage. This just lacks the sparkle that I discerned in the 2014 last year - let's see how it turns out in bottle."

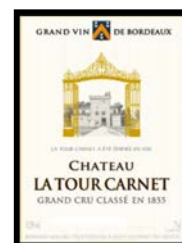
- eRobertParker.com #224 88-90? Points

"The 2015 La Lagune is an absolutely delightful Haut-Médoc with forward fruit, lovely juiciness and tons of personality. Sweet tobacco, cedar, menthol, red cherry and earthy notes abound in this expressive, highly nuanced wine."

- Vinous, Apr 2016 88-91 points

Château La Tour Carnet - \$69.99 plus tax (\$80.49)

"The 2015 La Tour Carnet is a blend of 70% Merlot and 30% Cabernet Sauvignon. The fruit was cooled through a "cryogenic tunnel freezer," essentially spraying liquid nitrogen, and will be matured for 16 months in 30% new oak. It has a very pure bouquet, so much so that there is something almost Pinot Noir-like here, with ebullient Morello and subtle kirsch-like scents. The oak is judicious and neatly integrated. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin. This is very smooth and harmonious in the mouth, well-judged acidity, precise and detailed. It gently fans out on the finish, completing what I think is a very well-crafted, silky and seductive Haut-Médoc."



- eRobertParker.com #224 91-93 points

"The 2015 La Tour Carnet is soft, supple and inviting. Dark cherry, mocha, chocolate, spice and new leather are all pushed forward. There is good up-front richness and density, but the wine loses some persistence on the finish. This is an especially nuanced, laid-back vintage for the Tour Carnet, with less overall depth than is customary, but solid overall balance. The blend is 70% Merlot and 30% Cabernet Sauvignon. Tasted four times."

- Vinous, Apr 2016 87-89 points

Château Lanessan - \$39.99 plus tax (\$45.99)

“The 2013 Lanessan has quite a punchy, fruit-driven bouquet with well-integrated oak, a Lanessan with more sense of purpose than I have found in recent vintages. The palate is medium-bodied with fine blackberry and raspberry fruit, fine tannin, leading to a smooth and harmonious finish, which lingers nicely in the mouth. You know, this is the best Lanessan for a long time, perchance because Mon. De Bouard is consulting?”

- eRobertParker.com #224 90-92 points

“The 2015 Lanessan is an attractive, mid-weight wine that will drink well upon release. Dark red cherry, plum and sweet floral notes add to the wine's open-knit personality and considerable appeal. Tasted two times.”

- *Vinous*, Apr 2016 86-88 points

Château Potensac - \$59.99 plus tax (\$68.99)

“The 2015 Potensac is a blend of 45% Merlot, 38% Cabernet Sauvignon and 17% Cabernet Franc that was cropped at 50 hl/ha, and raised in one-third new oak. There is a sense of airiness on the nose: small dark cherries, crème de cassis and crushed strawberry, pretty and nicely focused. The palate is medium-bodied with edgy tannin, fresh and citrus in style, just a touch of reduction towards the finish, but they will blow off by the time it is in bottle. I would have just preferred more persistence on the finish, but otherwise this is a decent Potensac.”

- eRobertParker.com #224 89-91 points



“The 2015 Potensac is gorgeous. Dark red cherry, plum, spice, new leather and licorice abound in this racy, voluptuous Médoc from the Delon family. Dark red cherry, mocha, plum, spice and sweet floral notes grace the racy, silky finish. The 2015 is a lovely Potensac. The blend is 45% Merlot, 38% Cabernet Sauvignon and 17% Cabernet Franc.”

- *Vinous*, Apr 2016 88-90 points

Château Sociando-Mallet - \$76.99 plus tax (\$88.84)

“The 2015 Sociando-Mallet is a blend of 45% Cabernet Sauvignon, 50% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Franc this year. It has a rather introspective bouquet, broody and earthy, although with aeration it reveals pleasant blackberry and wild strawberry fruit. The palate is medium-bodied with chewy tannin, a little rustic and brutish at the moment with an abrasive finish that will hopefully soften by the time it is in bottle. I feel that this was just upended by the storms that swept across the region in September.”

- eRobertParker.com #224 85-87 points



“The 2015 Sociando-Mallet offers lovely depth and consistency. Silky, floral and beautifully persistent on the palate, the 2015 is one of the most finessed Haut-Médocs I tasted. Bright red stone fruit, earthiness and sweet floral notes are all nicely delineated throughout. The 2015 is not a huge wine, but it makes its case with lovely aromatics, subtlety and grace. This is an especially strong wine from the northern Médoc in 2015. Tasted two times.”

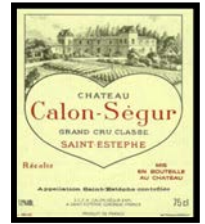
- *Vinous*, Apr 2016 87-90 points

Saint-Estèphe

Saint-Estèphe is the northern-most communal appellation in the Haut-Médoc. The wines from this commune tend to be austere and robust in their youth, needing fairly long ageing to show their best. Since the 1980s however, the trend has been to craft wines with a higher percentage of Merlot, thus making the wines approachable at a younger age. While Merlot plantings have risen, the star of this appellation is still Cabernet Sauvignon, which can ripen to perfection and dominates the blends each year. In 2015, the wines produced in this appellation are solid overall but there are not as many highlights as in other appellations. This was due in large part to the high amount of rain that fell throughout the year.

Château Calon-Ségur - \$169.99 plus tax (\$195.49)

“The 2015 Calon-Ségur is a blend of 82% Cabernet Sauvignon, 16% Merlot and 2% Petit Verdot (no Cabernet Franc in the Grand Vin this year). It was picked from 8 September until 5 October at a yield of 47 hl/ha and is matured in 100% new oak for the next 20 months. The Cabernet Sauvignon dominates the aromatics with blackberry, cedar and graphite aromas: quite linear, nicely focused and reserved compared to the 2014 last year. The palate is understated on the entry, the tannin very fine and the acidity very well judged. Like the nose, the Cabernet drives this wine forward: structured and a little "brittle" in the mouth, perhaps the most Pauillac-like Calon-Ségur that I have encountered over many years of tasting. Afford this several years in bottle.”



- eRobertParker.com #224 91-93 points

“The 2015 Calon-Ségur is super-polished, silky and exceptionally beautiful, especially for the vintage and appellation. Creamy, expressive and inviting, the 2015 possesses striking nuance and delineation throughout. Dark blue and purplish fruits, lavender, herbs, menthol and licorice add the closing shades of nuance. I don't think the 2015 will match the superb 2014, but it is a very pretty, if somewhat smaller-scaled, wine.”

- Vinous, Apr 2016 90-93 points

Château Haut-Marbuzet - \$82.99 plus tax (\$95.44)

“The 2015 Haut-Marbuzet is a blend of 40% Merlot and 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, plus 5% each of Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. There is something a little static on the nose this year, surprising given that it tends to be one of the more lascivious primeur samples. The palate is sweet on the entry, but there is a lack of structure here and it seems to run out of ideas towards the finish. It is balanced and fresh, but missing some depth and grip in the mouth. Probably an earlier drinking Haut-Marbuzet.”

- eRobertParker.com #224 84-86 points

“One of the positive surprises of the year, Henri Duboscq's 2015 Haut-Marbuzet offers striking depth and density, especially within the context of the year. Dark red cherry, plum, smoke, menthol and licorice meld together. As always, Haut-Marbuzet is distinguished by its exotic aromatics and racy personality. This is a very strong effort at its level.”

- Vinous, Apr 2016 90-93 points

Château Montrose - \$299.99 plus tax (\$344.99)

“The 2015 Montrose is a blend of 67% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot and 4% Cabernet Franc that was picked between 15 September and 8 October, the fruit sorted three times using three sorting tables, then an optical sorting machine and finally by hand. Matured in 65% new oak, it possesses some of the best aromatics you will find in the appellation - billowing blackberry, cassis and boysenberry scents all beautifully defined and seamlessly integrated with the new oak. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, commendable depth and a vibrant bead of acidity that lends this Montrose tension from start to finish. The class comes through strongly in this wine, perhaps the best Saint-Estèphe this year. Give this a decade in bottle, more if you can, since Montrose tends to repay cellaring.”



- eRobertParker.com #224 93-95 points

“The 2015 Montrose is silky, super-finesed and nuanced, all qualities that are unusual for a wine that is usually much more of a powerhouse. Black cherry, smoke, leather, graphite, crème de cassis and licorice notes open up in the glass, yet the wine comes across as raw and not fully formed. The 2015 appeared to put on a bit of weight over the two weeks I followed it, but I don't see the depth, structure and personality of the very best versions.”

- Vinous, Apr 2016 90-93 points

Château Phélan Ségur - \$92.99 plus tax (\$106.94)

“The 2015 Phélan Ségur, a blend of 53% Cabernet Sauvignon and 47% Merlot aged in 50% new oak, is certainly one of the better offerings from the Saint-Estèphe appellation. For sure, the bouquet is restrained, kept on a leash, but it trots along with crisp blackberry and raspberry fruit, interwoven with an attractive pencil lead note. The palate is medium-bodied with ripe tannin. It is structured and quite bold, considering the storm that swept across the appellation during harvest, clearly a lot of sorting here that engenders a clean and pure wine with appreciable mineralité and tension on the foursquare finish. If released at a sensible price, then this would be a recommended Saint-Estèphe to consumer over 10-12 years.”

- eRobertParker.com #224 91-93 points

“The 2015 Phélan Ségur is one of the most impressive wines I have tasted here in a number of years. It is also a wine that developed considerably over the two weeks I followed it. Early tastings suggested a deep, powerful Saint-Estèphe, but over the course of a week, the aromatics and finesse seemed to become more apparent. Beautifully ripe, silky tannins wrap around a core of expressive dark red cherry, plum and exotic spices. The decision to pick on the late side certainly was right on the money. This is a pretty and promising wine from the team at Phélan Ségur.”

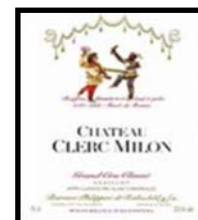
- Vinous, Apr 2016 89-92 points

Pauillac

Just south of Saint-Estèphe lies the appellation of Pauillac, with the largest number of First Growths. Known for its long-lived wines with notes of cedar, cassis and cigar box, this commune is the most consistent from vintage to vintage. Wines produced in Pauillac in 2015 are classier and more elegant than the 2014s and the overall quality of wines produced in 2015 is quite high, but many of the wines will require time in the cellar to really show their true nature.

Clerc Milon - \$139.99 plus tax (\$160.99)

“The 2015 Clerc Milon is a blend of 51% Cabernet Sauvignon, 34% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Franc, and 1% each of Petit Verdot and Carmenère, raised in 55% new oak. It has a highly perfumed bouquet with scents of small black cherries, graphite, touches of incense and wilted violets. This is a very extravagant bouquet for Clerc-Milon that wants to make an early impression. The palate is medium-bodied with fine-grain tannin, more expressive and delineated than the 2015 d'Armailhac, the finish beautifully focused with that graphite seam coming through on the sustained finish. This is potentially an outstanding Clerc-Milon, though it will need a decade in bottle to show its true potential.”



- eRobertParker.com #224 91-93 points

“The 2015 Clerc Milon is plush, round and inviting, with a gorgeous center of fruit, striking aromatics and balance. The tannins are especially silky, which gives the 2015 much of its succulence and inviting personality. Hints of mocha, dark spices and violets add further shades of nuance and gravitas in a Clerc Milon endowed with real depth, density and gravitas. Patience will be key, as the 2015 is likely to require at least a few years to fully come together. This is a very pretty, rewarding Clerc Milon. Tasted three times.”

- Vinous, Apr 2016 91-93 points

Château d'Armailhac - \$95.99 plus tax (\$110.39)

“The 2015 Château d'Armailhac is a blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot, 9% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot, marking a slightly higher percentage of Merlot this year. Picking began on September 16 and finished October 5 - one of the longest harvest periods for this estate, according to Philippe Dhalluin. It has a very intense bouquet with layers of small dark cherries and cassis, the oak prominent, though the final blend will contain proportionally less. The palate is very concentrated and quite showy, as d'Armailhac has a proclivity of being at this early juncture. The acidity here is nicely judged with just a touch of graphite coming through on the finish. This is a satisfactory d'Armailhac, but there was a nagging feeling that this is one wine from the Mouton Rothschild stable that left me wanting more. Perhaps that will develop during its barrel maturation?”



- eRobertParker.com #224 89-91 points

“The 2015 d'Armailhac is especially strong this year. Racy and sumptuous to the core, the 2015 offers lovely depth and radiance throughout. Sweet red cherry, pomegranate, blood orange and spices are all pushed forward, while the creamy, generous textures are hugely inviting. The plush, racy personality of the vintage comes through loud and clear. The d'Armailhac is the hidden gem in the Mouton-Rothschild portfolio this year. This is superb effort from the Mouton team headed by Philippe Dhalluin. Tasted three times.”

- Vinous, Apr 2016 90-93 points

Château Duhart-Milon - \$149.99 plus tax (\$172.49)

“The 2015 Duhart-Milon is a blend of 73% Cabernet Sauvignon and 27% Merlot picked between September 23 and October 6. It will eventually see 40% new oak during its élevage. It has a tightly-wound bouquet with blackberry, bilberry and cassis fruit, moderate complexity, perhaps just a little static at the moment. The palate is medium-bodied with quite supple tannin for the normally obdurate Duhart-Milon, the acidity nicely judged with a pleasing salinity towards the finish. I would just like to see more personality come through by the time of bottling. Otherwise, this is a fine Duhart-Milon that is more compromising than the tannic "beasts" of yester-year, and it should drink after 5-7 years in bottle.”



- eRobertParker.com #224 90-92 points

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

- Vinous, Apr 2016 90-92 points

Château Grand-Puy-Lacoste - \$149.99 plus tax (\$172.49)

“The 2015 Grand-Puy-Lacoste, 74% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot and 3% Cabernet Franc, matured in 75% new oak and was picked between September 18 until October 4 (although the "real" picking commenced from September 21). Now, Grand-Puy-Lacoste is often quite "aloof" at this early juncture, but that is not the case with the 2015. This is more approachable aromatically, beautifully defined, thanks to that expressive Merlot and Cabernet Franc. The palate is medium-bodied with svelte tannin and finely tuned acidity (pH 3.68). Beguilingly harmonious in the mouth, it boasts a silky smooth texture with wonderful salinity on the aftertaste that is sustained in the mouth. As usual, Xavier Borie has produced a "classic" Pauillac, but one that is a little more appealing to those that don't want to cellar for 20-30 years. You could describe the 2015 as being between 2009 and 2010...and that, folks, is not a bad place to be.”

- eRobertParker.com #224 94-96 points

“A rich, super-finessed wine, the 2015 Grand-Puy-Lacoste brings together the ripeness of the vintage and classic elegance of Pauillac in stunning style. Today, the 2015 is gloriously ripe and intense, with fabulous follow-through and remarkable balance. Dark red cherry, pomegranate, exotic, spice and blood orange hit the flamboyant finish. This is one of the wines of the vintage. Don't miss it. Tasted four times.”

- Vinous, Apr 2016 92-95 points

Château Haut-Batailley - \$93.99 plus tax (\$108.09)

“The 2015 Haut-Batailley is a blend of 72% Cabernet Sauvignon and 28% Merlot, matured in 60% new oak. It was picked between 21 September until 2 October. It is a level up from the 2015 Lacoste Borie with much more fruit intensity: blackberry, boysenberry, tobacco and cedar aromas. It gathers momentum in the glass and develops a subtle mint accent. The palate is medium-bodied with supple, lithe tannin, very well balanced with just a slight tinniness that will disappear by the time in bottle. I love the pencil shaving sprinkled over the aftertaste here. With very good substance and impressive length, this is a classic Pauillac that I suspect will offer 25 or 30 years of pleasure.”



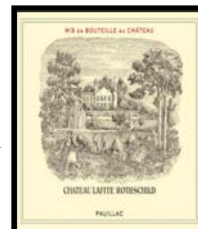
- eRobertParker.com #224 92-94 points

“A wine of class, pedigree and nuance, the 2015 Haut-Batailley is superb. Beams of supporting tannin give the dark purplish flavors striking energy and cut. Graphite, smoke, violet, mint, dark cherry and plum notes continue to open up in the glass. Haut-Batailley is a Pauillac with distinct Saint-Julien leanings, and that is exactly what comes across here. It is also one of the overachievers of the year. The 2015 was impressive each and every time I saw it. Tasted five times.”

- **Vinous, Apr 2016** 92-95 points

Château Lafite-Rothschild - \$1,288.99 plus tax (\$1,482.34)

“The 2015 Lafite-Rothschild is a blend of 91% Cabernet Sauvignon and 9% Merlot picked between 17 September and 6 October. Matured in 100% new oak, it has a tightly-wound bouquet with black cherries, cassis, cedar and graphite, though it does not quite possess the depth one would have expected the vintage would have bestowed. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin, harmonious on the entry and with the oak neatly integrated. There is a very fine grip towards the finish, which has a tangible spicy edge - white pepper with a touch of bay leaf and enough pencil lead to fill a stationery set. The aftertaste is extremely long here, more than a minute when I timed it on my watch. It is an excellent Lafite-Rothschild in the making and it often "finds its voice" only after bottling, so it could ultimately end with a higher score.”



- **eRobertParker.com #224** 94-96 points

“A dramatic, ample Lafite, the 2015 is also arrestingly beautiful and vivid. Expressive floral notes give the dark red and black flavors gorgeous aromatic lift. Today, the new oak is a bit pronounced, but otherwise, this is an exceptional wine. Rose petal, lavender, mint and purplish stone fruits add the last shades of detail.”

- **Vinous, Apr 2016** 94-97 points

Château Lynch-Bages - \$239.99 plus tax (\$275.99)

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



- **eRobertParker.com #224** 93-95 points

“A total knock-out, the 2015 Lynch-Bages is racy, sumptuous and super-expressive. Raspberry jam, mocha, dark spices and leather flesh out as the 2015 shows off its broad, ample frame and inviting personality. The 2015 is a decidedly dark, flamboyant Lynch-Bages with enough depth to drink well for several decades. Although a bit atypical, the 2015 Lynch-Bages is nevertheless quite attractive.”

- **Vinous, Apr 2016** 91-94 points

Château Lynch Moussas - \$86.99 plus tax (\$100.04)

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

- eRobertParker.com #224 92-94 points

“The 2015 Lynch-Moussas is a burly, powerful wine, yet it offers plenty of character. A distinctly earthy, savory wine the 2015 is laced with scents of grilled herbs, smoke, cedar, leather and red stone fruits. Slightly angular contours give the 2015 its hearty feel but there is good depth and intensity throughout. This is a solid showing.”

- Vinous, Apr 2016 88-91 points

Château Mouton-Rothschild - \$1,199.99 plus tax (\$1,379.99)

“The 2015 Mouton-Rothschild is a blend of 82% Cabernet Sauvignon, 16% Merlot and 2% Cabernet Franc matured entirely in new oak, as usual. This represents a relatively high percentage of Merlot simply because, as winemaker Philippe Dhalluin told me, that quality was so good. I afforded my sample four to five minutes to open as it was a little reduced at first, but eventually it reveals a gorgeous, extraordinarily intense bouquet of blackberry, cassis, incense and cold slate aromas. In some ways it reminds me of Latour as much as Mouton Rothschild. The palate is medium-bodied with svelte tannin, perfectly pitched acidity, wonderful tension and impressive length. There is a strong graphite theme running through from start to finish that is little grainy and so it will require preferably a decade in cellar. But what freshness and panache here, a classic Mouton-Rothschild that will live for 50 or 60 years, not a million miles away from say, the 1986 or 2010. Expect this to settle at the top of my banded score once in bottle.”

- eRobertParker.com #224 97-99 points

“Mouton-Rothschild's 2015 is a wine built on finesse rather than power alone. Raspberry jam, spice, rose petal, pomegranate and blood orange make a very positive first impression. The 2015 is rich and intense on the palate, but never heavy. In 2015, harvest stretched from September 14 to October 2, a few days longer than normal. The blend, which was put together just before this tasting in late January 2016, is 82% Cabernet Sauvignon, 16% Merlot and 2% Cabernet Franc.”

- Vinous, Apr 2016 95-97 points

Château Pédesclaux - \$89.99 plus tax (\$103.49)

“The 2015 Château Pédesclaux is a blend of 52% Cabernet Sauvignon, 42% Merlot and 6% Petit Verdot, incidentally the first time that the latter has been used in the blend. It was picked from 18 September with the young Merlot and finished 26 October with the Cabernet Sauvignon at 50 hl/ha. It has a very pure bouquet with iodine-tinged blueberry and blackberry fruit, graceful and harmonious. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, precise in the mouth with perhaps the best tension that I have discerned in this rejuvenated Pauillac - one where a pretty penny has been spent, I might add. Granted, it is not a Pédesclaux with profound depth and I was anticipating greater "volume." That said, it is nicely proportioned and sure to age well, continuing the vigorous upward curve of this estate. One to watch.”

- eRobertParker.com #224 90-92 points



“The 2015 Pédesclaux comes across as quite understated and delicate. Although the aromatics are appealing, the 2015 lacks depth and personality. The limits of the vintage are evident here. The blend is 52% Cabernet Sauvignon, 42% Merlot and 6% Petit Verdot.”

- **Vinous**, Apr 2016 86-88 points

Château Pichon Longueville Baron - \$279.99 plus tax (\$321.99)

“The 2015 Pichon-Baron is a blend of 77% Cabernet Sauvignon and 23% Merlot picked between 18 September until 9 October. Apparently Christian Seely made use of four additional 80-hectolitre wooden vats that augmented his stainless steel vessels. It has a very pure bouquet with lifted blackcurrant, blueberry and graphite aromas, beautifully delineated, the oak seamlessly embroidered with the fruit. The palate is medium-bodied with very fine tannin. This is disarmingly and utterly harmonious with a startling mineral core. Possibly the most sensual Pichon-Baron that I have tasted at this nascent juncture, it gently unfolds in the mouth and leaves with an enormously persistent finish that leaves the senses tingling. If you want to know whether this 2015 is up there with the 2009 or 2010, the answer is unquestionably yes.”



- **eRobertParker.com #224** 96-98 points

“A wine of total seduction, the 2015 Pichon-Longueville Baron possesses exceptional richness, power and intensity, all in the suave, inviting style of the year. Silky, voluptuous and creamy, the 2015 is totally spherical on the palate. This is an undeniably charming Pichon-Baron that should drink beautifully for several decades. Hints of lavender, mint, violet and crème de cassis add the closing shades of nuance in this seamless, racy Pauillac.”

- **Vinous**, Apr 2016 93-96 points

Château Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande - \$279.99 plus tax (\$321.99)

“The 2015 Pichon-Longueville Comtesse de Lalande is a blend of 68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot that was picked from 10 September with the young Merlot, finishing on 9 October. It includes 12.5% vin de presse (which incidentally was included in the blend). It has a very pure bouquet with expressive Merlot imparting black cherries and wild strawberry aromas that are embroidered with a thread of graphite. I noticed how it errs more towards black fruit with extended aeration. The palate is medium-bodied with edgy tannin on the entry, the Cabernet Sauvignon here in the driving seat despite that level of Merlot trying to get in a look. Together they give a sense of completeness to this Pichon Lalande that has semblances towards the great 1996. Whereas this Pauillac has a tendency to be more approachable than others, in fact, the 2015 has the backbone and substance to suggest that it will require a minimum of ten years' ageing, but patience will be amply rewarded. Nicolas Glumineau has overseen a quite brilliant Pichon Lalande here.”

- **eRobertParker.com #224** 95-97 points

“A dazzling, towering wine, the 2015 Pichon-Longueville Comtesse de Lalande has put on considerable weight in just the last few months. Today, the 2015 is vivid and intense, with a huge backbone of tannin and marvelous complexity. In 2015, the Cabernet Sauvignon is pushed higher as the Merlot was less consistent in its ripening. Graphite, charcoal, tobacco, crème de cassis and new leather are some of the signatures in what is shaping up to be a super-classic Pichon-Lalande. Simply put, the 2015 is one of the wines of the vintage. Tasted four times.”

- **Vinous**, Apr 2016 96-98 points

Château Pontet-Canet - \$219.99 plus tax (\$252.99)

“The 2015 Pontet-Canet was tasted on two occasions around two weeks apart and I noticed a superior showing the second time around. This year is a blend of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot that was picked from 18 September apropos the Merlot and from 28 September for the Cabernet, finishing on 3 October. It is matured in 50% new oak, 35% concrete and 15% one-year-old barrels. It has a pure and perfumed bouquet with small dark cherries, red plum and subtle violet scents, perhaps a little Margaux-like in style, the second showing demonstrating a little more red fruit character. The palate is medium-bodied with a slightly grainy texture on the entry. There is nicely judged acidity here, moderate depth, very supple tannin that lend this a silky texture. There is modest weight towards the second half, perhaps spicier than some of its Pauillac peers with an edgy, lightly peppered finish. It is an intriguing and complex, almost mercurial Pontet-Canet, a wine that I suspect will gain more weight during its élevage. Afford this 5-8 years in bottle and you should have a delicious, intellectual Pontet-Canet on your hands.”



- eRobertParker.com #224 94-96 points

“One of the wines of the vintage, the 2015 Pontet-Canet oozes class, finesse and pure pedigree. A hypothetical combination of the 2010 (for its dark fruit and tannic structure) and the 2009 (for its voluptuous fruit), the 2015 offers remarkable intensity, power and grace. A host of exotic floral and spice notes wrap around the dark, racy finish. In a word: magnificent! The 2015 is 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and 5% Petit Verdot, aged 50% in new oak, 35% in terra cotta amphora and 15% in one-year-old barrels.”

- Vinous, Apr 2016 95-98 points

Saint-Julien

Located just south of Pauillac, Saint-Julien is very uniform in terms of quality. Wines from this commune are classic, elegant and long lived with a lot of subtlety. Saint Julien is traditionally the bastion of very good-to-great quality Left Bank Bordeaux, the commune that makes up for its lack of First Growth with virtues of reliability, trust and steadfastness. In 2015 Saint-Julien was as reliable as ever and the overall quality of wines produced was quite high. The best wines have excellent purity of fruit and vibrant acidity, thanks in large part to less rainfall throughout September as compared to the other communes.

Château Beychevelle - \$169.99 plus tax (\$195.49)

“The 2015 Beychevelle was picked between 22 September and 8 October, a blend of 42% Cabernet Sauvignon, 47% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc and 4% Petit Verdot that will be matured in 50% new oak. It has quite a high IPT at 81, a pH of 3.72. It has a clean and crisp bouquet, tightly-wound at first, then unfurls with redcurrant, cranberry and raspberry scents, leaning towards the red spectrum rather than black. There is impressive delineation here, no frills, almost clinical in its "aromatic efficiency." The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin.



This is a suave Beychevelle in the making, harmonious in the mouth, supple even, gently building towards a lightly spiced finish. Among the Saint Julien wines, this is clearly one of the more understated 2015s. It is only when you swallow the wine that its lingering flavors remind you that this could evolve into one of Philippe Blanc's great Beychevelles. While it is not a headline-grabbing wine, a decade in bottle will be handsomely rewarded.”

- eRobertParker.com #224 92-94 points

“Understated and nuanced, the 2015 Beychevelle is a wine of lovely finesse. Graphite, smoke, plum, violet and lavender are some of the many notes that are found in this delicate, super-expressive Saint-Julien, while floral notes add lift. The finessed side of Saint-Julien comes through nicely here. In 2015, yields were around 47 hectoliters per hectare. The blend is 47% Merlot, 42% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Cabernet Franc and 4% Petit Verdot. New oak is around 50%. Tasted two times.”

- **Vinous, Apr 2016** 92-94 points

Château Branaire-Ducru - \$119.99 plus tax (\$137.99)

“The 2015 Branaire-Ducru is a blend of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 26% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot and 4% Cabernet Franc that was picked between 18 September until 8 October, with two or three intervals in between. Matured in around 60% new oak (although as usual my barrel sample was from a new oak barrel), it has a high-toned, black cherry and cassis scented nose that perhaps feels a little constricted by the new wood in this sample, though not necessarily once in bottle. The palate is medium-bodied with a lightly spiced entry, white pepper and a touch of sage, gritty tannin, foursquare and a little conservative. There is commendable weight on the finish, if not quite the precision compared to its peers. I noticed this gaining more cohesion in the glass, which bodes well for once the Branaire-Ducru is in bottle. I expect this to rest at the top of my banded score.”

- **eRobertParker.com #224** 90-92 points

“The 2015 Branaire-Ducru is deep, fleshy and delicious. Radiant, open-knit and endowed with a total sense of class, the Branaire hits all the right notes. A striking mélange of dark red and purplish fruit, wild flowers, hard candy, mint, spice and new leather makes a strong opening statement. Sweet floral notes add lift on the finish. Branaire is one of the freshest, most perfumed Saint-Julien of the vintage. As such, it is a wine of pure pleasure and sensuality, not to mention a terrific example of the year. Tasted three times.”

- **Vinous, Apr 2016** 92-94 points

Clos du Marquis - \$119.99 plus tax (\$137.99)

“The 2015 Clos du Marquis is a blend of 66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 31% Merlot and 3% Cabernet Franc cropped at 39 hl/ha between 22 September and 9 October, a total of 15 days of picking. Matured in 50% new oak, it has a pure and harmonious bouquet with blackberry, sous-bois and subtle tobacco aromas that gently unfold in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin in the mouth, a keen line of acidity, fine precision here with a mineral-rich finish that exudes terroir expression. This is a great Clos du Marquis from Jean-Hubert Delon and his team, a Clos du Marquis with swagger.”



- **eRobertParker.com #224** 91-93 points

“The 2015 Clos du Marquis emerges exclusively from 30+ year-old vines on the property. Lavender, violet, plum, crème de cassis, spice and menthol meld together in a deep, beautifully layered Saint-Julien built on spherical texture and juiciness. Silky tannins give the 2015 its up-front, racy personality, while sweet floral notes add aromatic lift on the finish. This is a very pretty and complete wine. Tasted two times.”

- **Vinous, Apr 2016** 90-93 points

Château La Croix de Beaucaillou - \$96.99 plus tax (\$111.54)

“The 2015 La Croix de Beaucaillou is a blend of 52% Cabernet Sauvignon, 45% Merlot and 3% Petit Verdot. It has a floral note on the nose: small black cherries, blueberry and wilted violets, the last becoming more intense as the initially tight-fisted wine opens in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with fine-grained tannin. There is very well-judged acidity and its texture is harmonious and silky smooth. The quality is loaded more in the mouth than on the nose at the moment, but it is a seriously classy "deuxième vin" that just needs a little more persistence on the finish.”

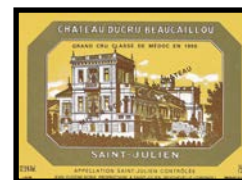
- eRobertParker.com #224 91-93 points

“The 2015 Croix de Beaucaillou emerges from a south-facing parcel in the center of Saint-Julien. Plump, racy and creamy on the palate, the 2015 offers lovely depth from start to finish. Cherry pit, plum, lavender and spice flesh out in the glass, but it is the wine's overall balance that is most compelling. The Croix de Beaucaillou is 52% Cabernet Sauvignon, 45% Merlot and 3% Petit Verdot.”

- Vinous, Apr 2016 90-92 points

Château Ducru-Beaucaillou - \$339.99 plus tax (\$390.99)

“The 2015 Ducru-Beaucaillou is a blend of 95% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Merlot, picked from around 28 September to 6 October. Matured in 100% new oak for what will be 18 months, delivering 13.5% alcohol, it has a relatively opulent bouquet for Saint Julien, with ripe black plum mixed with blackberry and cranberry, very well defined and neatly interwoven with the new oak. The palate is medium-bodied with a slightly savory opening, gently but insistently gripping the mouth. It feels dense and structured with a subtle marine-like note towards the linear, black olive-tinged finish. Bruno Borie has a 2015 with backbone, with longevity in mind. I suspect this will require a decade for the tannins to soften and continue the purple patch for this grand estate.”



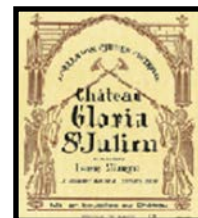
- eRobertParker.com #224 94-96 points

“The 2015 Ducru-Beaucaillou offers notable depth, power and richness. There is plenty of tannin lurking beneath, but it is nearly buried by the sheer intensity of the fruit. Smoke, tobacco, charcoal, leather and dark stone fruits give the 2015 much of its brooding, tightly wound personality. A wine of pedigree and exceptional class, the 2015 Ducru is structured yet also spherical in texture, with terrific balance and tons of style. The 2015 is 95% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Merlot.”

- Vinous, Apr 2016 94-96 points

Château Gloria - \$89.99 plus tax (\$103.49)

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



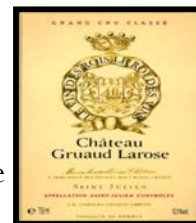
- eRobertParker.com #224 90-92 points

“The 2015 Gloria is intense and quite powerful, but also a bit rough around the edges. Iron, smoke, red stone fruit, pencil shavings and tobacco give the wine its rustic personality, an impression that is reinforced by the burly tannins. There is good intensity in the glass, even if some angular contours remain. Hints of inky crème de cassis and spice add the closing shades of Saint-Julien expression. Tasted three times.”

- **Vinous, Apr 2016** 87-89 points

Château Gruaud Larose - \$145.99 plus tax (\$167.89)

“The 2015 Gruaud Larose is a blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 31% Merlot and 9% Cabernet Franc, picked from 21 September. It has a rather conservative bouquet, reticent at first, gradually unfolding with truffle-tinged black fruit, the oak nicely integrated but perhaps needing a little more energy. The palate is ripe and rounded on the entry, fleshier than many of its Saint Julien counterparts, quite sumptuous in terms of mouthfeel with a suave texture. There is a sense of linearity here, a strictness that particularly comes through on the finish. The purity is commendable and the tannin, fine, but what it needs is that final flourish. It just misses that killer blow on the finish and saunters to its conclusion. I hope that it gains more in barrel.”



- **eRobertParker.com #224** 90-92 points

Château La Petite Marquise de CDM - \$63.99 plus tax (\$73.59)

“The maiden 2015 La Petite Marquise comes from three to 15 year-old vines within the Clos du Marquis vineyard, because the team did not want to include them in the Grand Vin and also to reinforce the idea that this is a separate cru from Léoville Las-Cases. A blend of 52% Cabernet Sauvignon and 48% Merlot, it has a fragrant bouquet with blackberry, briary and slightly clayey scents. The palate is medium-bodied with grainy tannin. It is well balanced, tapers slightly to the finish, but there is plenty of freshness.”

- **eRobertParker.com #224** 86-88 points

“The 2015 La Petite Marquise is a new second wine from Clos du Marquis, the Delon family's sister estate in Saint-Julien. Rose petal, herb, plum, cherry jam and tobacco are all nicely delineated in this attractive, mid-weight offering. The high percentage of Merlot in the blend gives the 2015 much of its upfront appeal. This plump, juicy Saint-Julien will drink well with minimal cellaring.”

- **Vinous, Apr 2016** 89-91 points

Château Lagrange - \$92.99 plus tax (\$106.94)

“The 2015 Lagrange is a blend of 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 17% Merlot and 8% Petit Verdot, continuing the estate's philosophy including more Cabernet in the Grand Vin (for example, in 2005 it was just 46%.) Cropped at 50 hl/ha and matured in around 50% to 55% new oak from six different cooperages, it has a tightly-knit bouquet with blackberry, cedar and light rose petal scents, elegant in style. The palate is medium-bodied with slightly grainy tannin, moderate weight in the mouth, not as intense as either the 2009 or 2010, although it is harmonious and graceful. There is a pleasant spicy, white pepper note that lingers on the aftertaste of what should be one of the earlier drinking Saint Julien wines.”

- **eRobertParker.com #224** 90-92 points

“The 2015 Lagrange is quite powerful and deep, but the tannins are also imposing. It will be interesting to see if the Lagrange fleshes out with time. Today, it is a bit austere and compact. Stylistically, the Lagrange is quite different from the second wine, the Fiefs, but from a purely qualitative standpoint I don't see a meaningful difference today. In a second tasting, the Lagrange showed more fruit, but also a riper, more stewed profile. Tasted two times.”

- **Vinous, Apr 2016** 88-91 points

Château Lalande-Borie - \$59.99 plus tax (\$68.99)

“The 2015 Lalande-Borie is a blend of 45% Cabernet Sauvignon and 55% Merlot. Picked from 26 September until 2-3 October, it has a surprising bouquet: high-toned and exotic for the vintage, very intense cassis and iodine aromas, perhaps needing just a little more complexity to come through, though I am sure it will by the time of bottling. The palate is more controlled at the moment, restores order as it were. The tannins are quite dense, lending weight to this Lalande-Borie, the acidity is nicely judged and the finesse finally comes through towards the finish.”

- **eRobertParker.com #224 89-91 points**

“The 2015 Lalande-Borie is an attractive, mid-weight Saint-Julien to drink over the next handful of years, while the fruit retains its freshness. This is an especially lithe, feminine Saint-Julien built on grace more than power from iron and sand-rich soils on the western side of the appellation. The blend is 55% Merlot and 45% Cabernet Sauvignon.”

- **Vinous, Apr 2016 88-90 points**

Château Langoa Barton - \$99.99 plus tax (\$114.99)

“The 2015 Langoa Barton is a blend of 54% Cabernet Sauvignon, 38% Merlot and 8% Cabernet Franc picked between 19 September and 5 October, matured in 60% new oak. It has a slightly smudged bouquet at first, a mixture of red and black fruit, a little sous-bois and tobacco developing in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with gently grippy tannin, veering more towards red fruit here, but laced with tobacco and cedar notes. The finish is austere and perhaps mean at the moment, so hopefully it will develop more flesh by the time of bottling. I must confess that I cannot remember tasting Langoa next to Léoville Barton at this stage and finding such a disparity between the two wines, attested by tasting the 2014s just afterwards and finding them closer together in terms of quality.”

- **eRobertParker.com #224 88-90 points**



“The 2015 Langoa Barton is fleshy, open-knit and absolutely delicious. Sweet red cherry and pomegranate are pushed forward, while hints of violet, lavender and spice add freshness and lift to the succulent finish. The gracious, feminine side of Saint-Julien comes through in spades. This is very nicely done. Tasted two times.”

- **Vinous, Apr 2016 90-93 points**

Château Léoville-Barton - \$159.99 plus tax (\$183.99)

“The 2015 Léoville-Barton is a blend of 86% Cabernet Sauvignon and 14% Merlot picked between 19-22 September and 28 September until 5 October for the Merlot and Cabernet respectively. Matured in 60% new oak, it has a more compelling and intense bouquet than the 2015 Langoa Barton at this early stage, whereas in other years I have found the siblings closer together. It delivers some lovely blackberry, sage and cigar box scents. The palate is very refined with edgy tannin, beautifully balanced with seamlessly integrated oak. It is the classic Léoville-Barton style, full of energy and showing more breeding than the Langoa on the finish. This is just an outstanding, classic, drop-dead gorgeous Léoville-Barton that is destined to give immense pleasure over the coming years. Bravo Anthony, Lilian et al.”

- **eRobertParker.com #224 94-96 points**



“The 2015 Léoville-Barton is superb. Vivid and wonderfully nuanced in the glass, the 2015 offers exceptional purity in its aromas and flavors. As always, the house style favors finesse over pure power, but in 2015 there is a good bit of both. Graphite, pencil shavings and crème de cassis, herbs and mocha meld into a rich, textured, beautifully persistent finish. The tannins are there, but they are nearly buried. Léoville-Barton is not the most powerful or showy Saint-Julien in 2015, but it is class personified. Don't miss it. Tasted two times.”

- **Vinous, Apr 2016** 93-96 points

Château Léoville Las-Cases - \$389.99 plus tax (\$448.49)

“The 2015 Léoville Las-Cases has the highest Cabernet contents in recent years, 85% and 9% of Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc respectively, partly because some of the old Merlot vines were blended into the deuxième vin. Picked between 22 September and 9 October, a total of 15 days picking, it will be matured in 85% new oak. The alcohol level is 13.8%, higher than 2010 for example. Jean-Hubert Delon has crafted an extremely pure and tensile bouquet, almost pixelated with blackberry, briary, slate and oyster shell aromas that blossom in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied, svelte and sensual on the entry, the tannins a little edgy with a gentle crescendo: black fruit, tons of minerals, real focus and precision towards the finish. This is a superlative Léoville Las-Cases with the substance to suggest long-term aging will be repaid.”

- **eRobertParker.com #224** 95-97 points



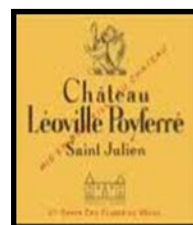
“A vivid, mesmerizing wine, the 2015 Léoville Las-Cases is stunning in its beauty. Unusually rich and sumptuous for Las-Cases, the 2015 possesses magnificent intensity and power from start to finish. Blackberry jam, charcoal, smoke, licorice and asphalt are some of the many notes that take shape in the glass, but the 2015 truly stands out for its vertical structure and overall intensity. At the same time, the 2015 is an unusually ripe, exotic Las-Cases with much more flesh and voluptuousness in its curves than is the norm. In that sense, the 2015, is not at all typical for Las-Cases. And yet it is striking. The 14.5% alcohol is the highest recorded here.”

- **Vinous, Apr 2016** 95-98 points

Château Léoville Poyferré - \$169.99 plus tax (\$195.49)

“The 2015 Léoville Poyferré is a blend of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 26% Merlot, 6% Petit Verdot and 3% Cabernet Franc that was harvested between 24 September and 10 October. The IPT comes in at 80 with a pH 3.69. It has a typical Léoville-Poyferré bouquet at this stage: quite bullish and forthright, packed full of dense black cherries, red plum and cassis, the 85% new oak pronounced, but will be subsumed with bottle age. The palate is full-bodied with mouth-coating tannin: layers of graphite-infused black fruit, cedar and mint, almost Pauillac-like in personality with a sustained graphite finish. This is a sophisticated Saint-Julien built for long-term ageing, perhaps less flamboyant than recent vintages, but the terroir shows through. Expect it to land at the top of my banded score, possibly higher.”

- **eRobertParker.com #224** 92-94 points



“The 2015 Léoville-Poyferré is simply magnificent. Rich, creamy and voluptuous in the glass, the 2015 captures all the best qualities of the vintage in spades. Layers of flavor blossom in the glass as the wine fill out its broad-shouldered frame with impeccable grace. A host of floral notes, including violet, lavender and rose petal grace the utterly exquisite finish. There is so much to like here. Specifically, the interplay of ripeness, texture and freshness is compelling. The blend is 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 26% Merlot, 6% Petit Verdot and 3% Cabernet Franc. Tasted three times.”

- **Vinous, Apr 2016** 93-96 points

Château St. Pierre - \$126.99 plus tax (\$146.04)

“The 2015 Château Saint Pierre is a blend of 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 19% Merlot and 6% Cabernet Franc cropped at 48 hl/ha between 21 September and 7 October, matured in 50% new oak. It has a tightly wound bouquet with blackberry, raspberry and cedar, just a touch of pencil shaving surfacing with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied with succulent tannin on the entry, quite tensile with a fine bead of acidity. This is not the most complex Saint-Pierre that I have encountered, although it possesses 2015's elegance and refinement. This will have more to give after bottling and may ultimately overtake Gloria. Tasted twice with consistent notes.”

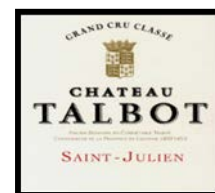
- eRobertParker.com #224 91-93 points

“One of the pleasant surprises of the vintage, the 2015 Saint-Pierre offers terrific depth and overall intensity. There is more than enough richness to match the virile tannins. Crème de cassis, game, mocha, lavender, mint and sweet spices are fused together in this deep, unctuous wine. This is an especially dense, extracted Saint-Julien but it shows good overall balance as well as potential. The blend is 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 19% Merlot and 6% Cabernet Franc. Tasted three times.”

- Vinous, Apr 2016 90-93 points

Château Talbot - \$119.99 plus tax (\$137.99)

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



- eRobertParker.com #224 88-90 points

“The 2015 Talbot is a pleasing, accessible wine with good up-front presence and lovely overall balance. Dark fruit, leather, menthol, game, smoke, licorice and herbs add attractive shades of nuance throughout. The 2015 Talbot is a bit rustic and not especially complex, but it sure is delicious. Best of all, the Talbot should drink well relatively early and be priced reasonably, making it one of the better values of the vintage. Stéphane Derenoncourt and Julien Lavenu are the consulting winemakers.”

- Vinous, Apr 2016 90-93 points

Margaux

Margaux is the southernmost communal appellation in the Haut-Médoc. Wines here generally have a higher percentage of Merlot than the more northerly appellations. Margaux is always a difficult commune to judge due to its large size and wide variety of soils. In 2015 Margaux produced some of the finest wines of the Left Bank, and of Bordeaux as a whole, due to the fact it was the driest of all the appellations. The top wines this year display lovely floral notes along with excellent concentration of fruit.

Alter Ego de Palmer - \$135.99 plus tax (\$156.39)

“The 2015 Alter Ego de Palmer is a blend of 42% Cabernet Sauvignon, 52% Merlot and 6% Petit Verdot. It has a very open, ravishing, quite precocious bouquet with ripe black cherries, fresh dates and crème de cassis that gain intensity in the glass. The palate is more refined, reins it all back in thanks to quite tensile tannin, a crisp line of acidity, moderate depth in the mouth and a gentle grip. There is a touch of tarriness and cracked black pepper towards the finish with very good length. Give this 5-7 years in bottle.”

- eRobertParker.com #224 90-92 points

“The 2015 Alter Ego is round, succulent and also a terrific introduction to the vintage. Raspberry jam, cinnamon, flowers and mint are all pushed forward. This is an especially succulent, juicy Margaux that is firing on all cylinders. Today, the 2015 gives the impression it will drink well with minimal cellaring, as its balance and overall harmony are first-rate. The blend is 52% Merlot, 42% Cabernet Sauvignon and 6% Petit Verdot.”

- **Vinous, Apr 2016** 90-93 points

Château Brane-Cantenac - \$139.99 plus tax (\$160.99)

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



- **eRobertParker.com #224** 93-95 points

“A super-expressive, deep wine, the 2015 Brane-Cantenac possesses magnificent intensity and pure power from start to finish. Dark red cherry, wild flowers, smoke, plum, tobacco, spice and game are some of the notes that build as the wine gains richness and volume with time in the glass. There is plenty of tannin lurking beneath, but it is nearly buried by the sheer opulence of the fruit, while the creamy finish alone is striking. This a deeply satisfying wine from Henri Lurton. Brane-Cantenac is another wine that is a pure pleasure bomb in 2015. Don't miss it. Tasted three times.”

- **Vinous, Apr 2016** 92-95 points

Château Cantenac Brown - \$105.99 plus tax (\$121.89)

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

- **eRobertParker.com #224** 92-94 points

“The 2015 Cantenac Brown is superb. Translucent, weightless and totally finessed, the 2015 offers outstanding purity and exceptional overall balance. Sweet plum, tobacco, cedar, licorice and new leather are some of the many nuances that take shape in the glass, but it is the wine's purity that is most impressive. Hints of lavender, iron and smoke add shades of nuance on the tightly wound finish. Over the two weeks I followed it, the Grand Vin put on considerable depth and power. It will be interesting to see where things end up here, but the 2015 was superb all three times I tasted it. Cantenac Brown is one of the great still affordable wines of the year. Don't miss it.”

- **Vinous, Apr 2016** 93-96 points

Château Giscours - \$115.99 (133.39)

"The 2015 Giscours is a blend of 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot and 5% Petit Verdot. That is in stark comparison to older vintages, for example the 2000 Giscours that was 50/50 Cabernet and Merlot. This vintage is matured in 50% new oak. Winemaker Alexandre Van Beek told me that the 2015 "...reflects the true terroir at Giscours that created the great wines of the 1960s and 1970s." That is something to live up to with fresh



memories of the 1961 in my brain. The bouquet is very intense and almost "untamed" at first, but it calms down in the glass, revealing attractive scents of blackberry, raspberry, cedar and graphite. This is a Giscours determined to make a good impression...and it does. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, very pure, a little spicier than recent vintages, adorned with a gentle crescendo in the mouth towards a really quite fantastic, tensile, complex and compelling finish. Having tasted the 1961 and 1970 Giscours just a few months ago, I wager that the 2015 will be the best since the 1961. Time to fall back in love with this great Margaux property."

- eRobertParker.com #224 94-96 points

"The 2015 Giscours is terrific. In fact, this may be one of the very best recent vintages I have tasted here. Ample and quite broad in its first impression, the 2015 possesses magnificent depth from start to finish. Even with all of its intensity, the 2015 retains striking freshness and delineation. Succulent dark cherry, plum, blood orange and sweet spice notes all flesh out in the glass. Creamy, silky tannins add to the wine's considerable appeal. The purity of the fruit here is striking. The blend is 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot and 5% Petit Verdot, with no Cabernet Franc this year. The 2015 is a terrific Giscours."

- Vinous, Apr 2016 91-94 points

Château Kirwan - \$89.99 plus tax (\$103.49)

"The 2015 Kirwan has a very opulent, heady bouquet that perhaps has its foot pressed down a little too hard on the accelerator? It just feels a little ostentatious compared directly with its peers. The palate goes some way to restore order with small dark cherries, taut and quite firm tannin with a very citrus-fresh finish. It is a Margaux that seems to be on full glare at the moment - I hope that during élevage the contrast is toned down, so that there is more balance and a sense of terroir can come through, because this estate can produce great wines."

- eRobertParker.com #224 89-91 points

Château Labégorce - \$63.99 plus tax (\$73.59)

"The 2015 Labégorce is a blend of 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 44% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc and 4% Petit Verdot that was picked between 15 September and 20 October. Cropped at 38 hl/ha and matured in 45% new oak, it has a sumptuous bouquet with macerated black cherries, wild strawberry and a touch of fresh prune. The palate is well balanced and much more reserved than the aromatics: crisp and firm tannin, nicely focused with a pleasing salinity on the structured finish that suggest that this Labégorce will reward long-term ageing."

- eRobertParker.com #224 91-93 points

"The 2015 Labégorce is dark, plummy and juicy, with lovely textural richness and intensity. This is a decidedly modern style of Margaux, with all the elements in the right place. Today, the new oak (45%) is a bit pronounced, but the wine appears to have the stuffing to support it. The high percentage of Merlot gives an extra degree of sumptuousness that is emphasized in this vintage. Raspberry jam, mint, cinnamon and wild flowers wrap around the succulent finish. The blend is 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 44% Merlot, 4% Petit Verdot and 2% Cabernet Franc. Tasted two times."

- Vinous, Apr 2016 90-92 points

Château Malescot St. Exupéry - \$115.99 plus tax (\$133.39)

“The 2015 Malescot-St-Exupéry has an intriguing and complex bouquet with oyster shells and seaweed infusing the intense black fruit. It is certainly well defined with nicely integrated new oak. The palate is medium-bodied with crisp tannin, a keen thread of acidity, very pure and smooth in texture, gently unfolding towards the lightly spiced finish that lingers long in the mouth. This is a superb Margaux, surfeit with breeding and sophistication, though it will need 10-15 years in bottle.”



- eRobertParker.com #224 93-95 points

“The 2015 Malescot St. Exupéry is dense, powerful and rustic. Black cherry, smoke, leather, iron and dark spices hit the palate. Expansive, broad and juicy, the 2015 has more than enough depth to full out its broad shouldered frame. As it often is, the Malescot St. Exupéry is a bit rough around the edges, but time in bottle should take care of at least some of that. The 2015 finishes with lovely density and a blast of pure power.”

- Vinous, Apr 2016 92-95 points

Château Palmer - \$589.99 plus tax (\$678.49)

“The 2015 Palmer is a blend of 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 44% Merlot and 6% Petit Verdot matured into up to 70% new oak. The official start of the picking was 22 September, finishing on the 7 October with the Petit Verdot and the Cabernet Sauvignon. This has a wonderful bouquet with layers of dark cherry, boysenberry, a faint hint of dark chocolate and minerals. There is superb delineation here. The palate is medium-bodied, but this constitutes a decidedly more structured Palmer than I have encountered in recent years, perhaps a little more masculine due to the slightly higher Cabernet content. This is a classic Palmer made by winemaker Thomas Duroux, symmetrical in some way, poised and effortless on the finish. Those who like the more showy Palmer might not warm to this 2015, but this has real class and sophistication, a Palmer that will repay those with the nous to cellar it for 10-15 years. Expect it to reside at the top of my banded score.”

- eRobertParker.com #224 95-97 points

“A dark, voluptuous beauty, the 2015 Palmer is just as beautiful today as it was from barrel a few months ago. Mocha, plum, black cherry, tobacco and cedar are fused together in an effortless, racy Margaux endowed with real pedigree. Sweet tannins round out the plush, seamless finish, but they are there. This is a hugely promising Palmer. The blend is 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 44% Merlot and 6% Petit Verdot.”

- Vinous, Apr 2016 94-97 points

Château Prieuré-Lichine - \$89.99 plus tax (\$103.49)

“The 2015 Prieuré-Lichine has a tightly wound bouquet, crisp and a little leaner than some of its Margaux compadres. It just feels contained at the moment. The palate is medium-bodied with gruff tannin on the entry. There is respectable depth here, but it feels linear and rather predictable towards the blackberry and cedar finish. I would like to see more complexity and personality come through by the time of bottling. It feels a bit bolshie at the moment.”

- eRobertParker.com #224 88-90 points

“The 2015 Prieuré-Lichine is all class. Nuanced, delicate and silky in the glass, the 2015 speaks to the finesse that is such a signature of Margaux. All the elements are in the right place. Sweet red cherry, plum, spice and floral notes mesh together in an effortless, gracious wine with a bright future. This is the first vintage Stéphane Deroncourt and his team made in the new cellar. Tasted two times.”

- Vinous, Apr 2016 91-94 points

Château Rauzan-Ségla - \$159.99 plus tax (\$183.99)

“The 2015 Rauzan-Ségla is a blend of 63% Cabernet Sauvignon, 33% Merlot, 3% Petit Verdot and 1% Cabernet Franc cropped at 40 hl/ha between 10 September with the young Merlot vines and finishing with the Cabernet Sauvignon, which was picked between 22 September and 9 October. It is matured in 65% new oak for around 18 months. It has a very intense, almost crystalline bouquet with blackberry, briary, flint and just a touch of violet petal. There is incredible delineation here and the new wood is seamlessly integrated. The palate is medium-bodied with extremely fine tannin, perfectly judged acidity, otherworldly purity and a mineralité rarely seen in this Margaux estate. This is a brilliant Rauzan-Ségla, not necessarily more powerful than previous vintages, though enhanced by its precision, frisson and energy, perhaps longer on the finish. Winemaker Nicolas Audebert has conspired with the benevolent growing season to produce a benchmark wine for the estate.”

- eRobertParker.com #224 96-98 points

“The 2015 Rauzan-Ségla is simply magnificent. Rich, powerful and intense, the 2015 exudes class. The flavors are dark, sumptuous and wonderfully expressive. In many ways, the 2015 captures both the finesse of Margaux and the intensity of the year. Specifically, the combination of power, freshness and delineation is compelling. The 2015 was blended just 4-5 weeks before I started tasting it. Over the course of two weeks the wine seemed to gain quite a bit of volume and depth. The 2015 is an intense, rich wine. It is also totally compelling. “

- Vinous, Apr 2016 93-96 points

Pessac-Léognan

This appellation lies directly south of the city of Bordeaux in the region of Graves. The appellation was established in 1987 and encompasses the 10 best communes in Graves. This area takes its name from its very distinct soil, which possesses a high percentage of gravel. The wines from Pessac-Léognan are characterized by pronounced smoky and mineral notes. The 2015s are simply stunning and meant for a long life in the cellar. A candidate for appellation of the vintage.

Château Haut-Brion - \$1,299.99 plus tax (\$1,494.99)

“The 2015 Haut-Brion, a blend of 50% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc and 42% Cabernet Sauvignon, was picked between 8 September and 5 October, and is matured in the same level of new oak (78%) and IPT (75) as the La Mission. It has a heavenly bouquet that like the La Mission bestows instant gratification - a veritable kaleidoscope of aromas so crystalline that you can pick them out one by one: dark plum, blackcurrant, Kalamata olive and graphite. It is tempting to just nose this all day. The palate has an indescribably stunning balance and like the La Mission, there is a paradoxical sense of intensity married to weightlessness. Everything here is so precise, so pure and yet as it crescendos towards the finish, it offers a profundity that is unmatched across Bordeaux in this vintage. Having had the pleasure of many great wines from this estate in the past - 1945, 1955, 1959, 1961 and 1989 - the 2015 belongs among that pantheon.”



- eRobertParker.com #224 98-100 points

“The 2015 Haut-Brion is shaping up to be one of the wines of the vintage. Thrust, power and pure intensity come through loud and clear in the crème de cassis, blackberry jam, smoke, licorice and graphite flavors. Soaring aromatics and layers of intense fruit, all supported by a beam of firm tannin make the 2015 a wonderfully complete wine that will drink well for many, many decades. The unctuous fruit and baby fat will need time to melt away, but there is little doubt this a magical wine with huge potential for the future. The purity of flavors and textures will take your breath away.”

- Vinous, Apr 2016 95-97 points

Château La Mission Haut-Brion - \$859.99 plus tax (\$988.99)

“The 2015 La Mission Haut-Brion is a blend of 58% Merlot, 35% Cabernet Sauvignon and 7% Cabernet Franc that was picked between 9 September and 1 October. Matured in 78% new oak, it has an incredibly pure bouquet with intense blueberry, blackberry, iodine and cold stone aromas that soar from the glass. There is nothing holding back here - a La Mission with real exuberance. The palate is medium-bodied with incredible intensity in the mouth, but without any leaden weight. It is a startling La Mission Haut-Brion to behold at this early stage. It is one of those wines where as a professional critic, I had to adopt a poker face to hide the untrammelled joy this nascent wine imparts. Complete and profound, the 2015 will rank as one of the great modern-day classics from this grand estate, another to add to that long list of magical La Missions.”



- eRobertParker.com #224 97-99 points

“In 2015, La Mission Haut-Brion is translucent and deeply expressive to the core. Remarkably polished for such a young wine, the 2015 also handles its 15% alcohol with grace. Smoke, graphite, tar, leather and incense, the 2015 exudes intensity allied to freshness, a combination that makes it virtually irresistible in my book. The 2015 is also remarkably nuanced for such a big wine, but it has tremendous persistence in all directions. Scents of rose petal, mint, red cherry and pomegranate meld into the voluptuous finish. Tasted two times.”

- Vinous, Apr 2016 94-97 points

Château Pape Clément - \$199.99 plus tax (\$229.99)

“The 2015 Pape Clément is a blend of 56% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot and 4% Cabernet Franc. It was cropped at 40 hl/ha between 25 September and 15 October with berry by berry destemming. It has a drop-dead gorgeous bouquet that continues the ever greater finesse that has been imparted into this Pape-Clément in recent years. It is extremely precise, almost crystalline. The palate is underpinned by fine tannin, pitch-perfect acidity, a sense of cohesion and harmony that is outstanding. There is not a hair out of place on this barrel sample and it will doubtless evolve into one of the best wines this state has produced since the 14th century, when Bertrand de Goth was planting its first vines. This comes highly recommended - a Pape-Clément that will reward those who can resist temptation and cellar this wine for 10+ years. Tasted on four separate occasions.”



- eRobertParker.com #224 95-97 points

“The 2015 Pape Clément is stunningly beautiful. Rich, ample and powerful, the 2015 exudes richness. As always, Pape Clément is one of the most overt wines in Pessac, but the move towards picking a bit earlier gives the wine more energy than was the norm a decade ago without fundamentally altering the style Bernard Magrez and Michel Rolland favor. Dark red cherry, plum, menthol, licorice, blood orange and exotic spices are all very much alive. The purity of the fruit here is striking. This is one of the best recent vintages of Pape Clément I have tasted. The 2015 is 60% Cabernet Sauvignon and 40% Merlot, done in about 80% new oak. Tasted four times.”

- Vinous, Apr 2016 93-96 points

Barsac/Sauternes

As one of the five communes of Sauternes, the producers of Barsac are entitled to label their bottles under either name. Located on the west bank of the Ciron, the vineyards benefit from river mist which favours the noble rot. Wines from Barsac tend to be a little lighter than Sauternes due to the high content of sand and limestone in the soil. This is a great area for good value sweet wines. Located just south of Graves, the Sauternes appellation is dedicated entirely to the production of unfortified sweet wines. Most wines are made of a blend of Sémillon, Sauvignon Blanc and occasionally Muscadelle. In 2015 the wines produced in these two appellations are stupendous and well worth looking at. This is thanks in large part to just the right amount of rain coupled with warm, sunny conditions. This meant that the noble rot was so regular and even that the harvest and vinification proceeded with ease. The 2015s might match the stunning 2001s in quality.

Château Coutet 375ml - \$45.99 plus tax (\$52.89)

“The 2015 Coutet comes with 153 grams per liter of residual sugar at 13.8% alcohol. It has a fragrant bouquet with acacia honey, citrus scents and a touch of melted butter, all very well defined. The palate is medium-bodied with impressive purity, those limestone soils imparting the acidity that defined this Barsac, and lending great precision and tension on the live-wire finish. This is a wonderful Coutet that feels energetic - a compressed spring coil that will drink earlier than the likes of Climens or de Fargues, but has the DNA to age gracefully over 25-30 years.”



- eRobertParker.com #224 94-96 points

“The 2015 Coutet is nicely lifted, gracious and understated. Candied apple, Jolly Rancher and exotic flowers are all nicely balanced in this attractive, mid-weight Sauternes. This is a very pretty Barsac built on aromatic nuance and bright, salivating acidity.”

- Vinous, Apr 2016 90-93 points

Château Guiraud 375ml - \$49.99 plus tax (\$57.49)

“The 2015 Guiraud, tasted in two occasions, has a sumptuous bouquet with scents of wild honey, apricot and a faint smear of marmalade. The palate is fresh and tensile on the entry, brimming with energy with impressive energy towards the blood orange and quince-tinged finish. This is a stylish, suave Guiraud that should age beautifully in bottle.”

- eRobertParker.com #224 94-96 points

“The 2015 Guiraud is classy, nuanced and understated. Scents of orange peel, crème brulee, pineapple, mint and sweet spices give the 2015 much of its aromatic lift and intrigue. Deceptively medium in body, the 2015 has quite a bit of depth, but avoids being heavy. There is so much to like here.”

- Vinous, Apr 2016 90-93 points

Château La Tour Blanche 375ml - \$45.99 plus tax (\$52.89)

“The 2015 La Tour Blanche has a noticeably deeper color than the other barrel samples that I tasted. The bouquet is quite intense, although I feel that it does not quite have the complexity of its peers. The palate is much better: smooth and unctuous on the entry, layers of honeyed fruit tinged with peach and almond, delivering a very composed and powerful finish that lingers long in the mouth. Give this 3-4 years in bottle until the aromatics find their voice.”



- eRobertParker.com #224 92-94 points

“The 2015 La Tour Blanche is powerful, dense and immediate. A rush of apricot jam, honey, orange preserves, mint and white flowers melds together. Unctuous, deep and beautifully layered, the 2015 is a terrific Tour Blanche.”

- **Vinous, Apr 2016** 90-93 points

Château Lafaurie-Peyraguey 375ml - \$55.99 plus tax (\$64.39)

“The 2015 Lafaurie-Peyraguey has a slightly taciturn bouquet at first, though it soon awakens to deliver pure wild honey and subtle marmalade notes, though it maintains a sense of restraint. The palate is well balanced and very pure, a sensual Lafaurie-Peyraguey with a very harmonious, light-spiced marmalade and honeyed finish. This is stylish and understated, but I suspect it will age extremely well.”



- **eRobertParker.com #224** 93-95 points

“Silvio Denz's 2015 Lafaurie-Peyraguey is terrific. Understated and wonderfully nuanced, the 2015 exudes class. The tropical fruit, pineapple, mango, apricot, honey and chamomile notes are beautifully sketched. There is so much to like. The blend is approximately 95% Sémillon, 4% Sauvignon, 1% Muscadelle from yields of just 10 hectoliters per hectare. Denis Dubourdiou consults.”

- **Vinous, Apr 2016** 93-95 points

Château Raymond-Lafon 375ml - \$45.99 plus tax (\$52.89)

“The 2015 Raymond-Lafon has an attractive bouquet in the making: intense honey, acacia and white flower scents soaring from the glass. The palate is very well balanced and pure: mineral-tinged honeyed fruit, great tension with plenty of finesse on the finish. This is one of the best vintages that I have tasted in recent years.”

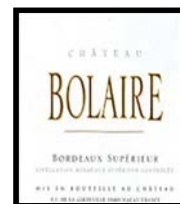
- **eRobertParker.com #224** 92-94 points

Bordeaux Supérieur

Bordeaux Supérieur is a generic Bordeaux appellation. It encompasses parts of the Left and Right Bank,s, as well as the area between the two, known as Entre-Deux-Mers. The Appellation d'Origine Contrôlée requires an extra 1/2 degree of alcohol over the Bordeaux AOC to have the Supérieur designation. It is very important to be selective, as the quality of the wines varies depending upon where the grapes are sourced.

Château BOLAIRE - \$29.99 plus tax (\$34.49)

“The 2015 BOLAIRE comes from the same winemaking team as Château Belle-Vue, a blend of 60% Petit Verdot, 35% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon picked between September 22 and October 9. Matured in one- and two-year-old barrels, the Petit Verdot strides across the nose, dishing out gorgeous violet and blueberry scents - lively and generous. The palate is medium-bodied with filigree tannin, well-judged acidity with a precise, energetic finish that is a delight. This comes highly recommended.”



- **eRobertParker.com #224** 89-91 points

“The 2015 BOLAIRE is plump, delicious and juicy to the core. Sweet red cherry, plum, mint and new oak are all front and center in this attractive, supple red. BOLAIRE is distinguished for, among many things, its Petit Verdot-rich blend. Best of all, the 2015 should be a tremendous value.”

- **Vinous, Apr 2016** 88-90 points

RIGHT BANK

The Right Bank is on the east side of the Dordogne River. The two most important appellations are Pomerol and Saint-Émilion. The wines from the Right Bank range from 100% Merlot to blends dominated by Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Generally, there is much less Cabernet Sauvignon in these wines.

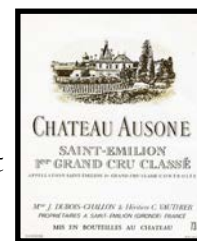
Saint-Émilion

Home of the so-called “micro-châteaux”, Saint-Émilion’s output is bigger than that of any other Right Bank appellation. The wines from this appellation are usually dominated by Merlot, with an important percentage of Cabernet Franc. Since Cabernet Sauvignon struggles to ripen in this area, it is only planted where there is an ideal microclimate and is relegated to a minor position in most wines. In 2015, Saint-Émilion is the most divisive appellation, splitting wine lovers into two camps. Some people will love the powerful Merlot-based wines while other people will seek out the more refined and subtler Cabernet Franc-based wines. Overall, the wines that were harvested earlier are more precise and charming compared to wines whose grapes were harvested later in September.

Château Ausone - \$1,599.99 plus tax (\$1,839.99)

“The 2015 Ausone is a blend of 50% Cabernet Franc and 50% Merlot this year, cropped at 30 hl/ha between 29 September and 2 October for the Merlot and 8-10 October for the Cabernet Franc. Matured in 85% new oak, it has a very intense bouquet of small dark cherries, cassis, violets and incense, a hint of blood orange originating from the Merlot tucked underneath. The palate is medium-bodied with svelte tannin, seamlessly integrated oak. It is an intense Saint-Émilion with a superb arching structure on the finish, while maintaining sufficient freshness from start to finish. It grips the mouth a little more than some of its peers, implying that it will need longer in bottle, but it will be worth the wait.”

- eRobertParker.com #224 95-97 points



“The 2015 Ausone is the embodiment of class. A seamless, mind-blowing wine, the Ausone boasts extraordinary purity and finesse. The flavors are deep and unctuous throughout, and yet the wine is remarkably vivid. A host of sweet floral notes and exotic spices are fused into the eternal finish. In 2015, Ausone is as good as it gets. Readers who can find the 2015 should not hesitate, as it is truly magnificent. All I can tell readers is that it took the most extraordinary discipline to spit this wine during my tasting. It is every bit that profound. The 2015 is 50% Cabernet Franc and 50% Merlot that will spend 20 months in French oak, 85% new. The Merlot was brought in between September 29 and October 2, while the Franc came in between October 8 and 10.”

- Vinous, Apr 2016 97-100 points

Château Canon - \$179.99 plus tax (\$206.99)

“The 2015 Canon is going to be a benchmark for this historic estate. A blend of 72% Merlot and 28% Cabernet Franc, it was cropped at 42 hl/ha between 14-25 September and 30 September until 2 October respectively. The alcohol level is an average 14.5% with a pH 3.78, matured for 18 months in 70% new barrels (except for one barrel of Cabernet Franc that they will bottle separately - just to see). Lucid in color, it has an intense bouquet that exudes extraordinary purity with scents of raspberry, wild strawberry, limestone and violets. It makes a huge impression. The palate is medium-bodied and multilayered with vivacious red and black fruit infused with minerals. The acidity lends the tension here from start to finish, but what this Canon possesses unlike the dozens of other vintages that I have tasted, is an overarching structure that will see it age in similar fashion to past classics such as the 1929, 1947 and 1964. It lingers very long in the mouth, the oak just surfacing a little on the aftertaste, although that will be subsumed with time. This estate has been in the ascendant in recent vintages under winemaker John Kolasa and now Nicolas Audebert, together with a benevolent growing season, has elevated Canon to a level that few could have predicted.”

- eRobertParker.com #224 98-100 points

“The 2015 Canon is one of the undisputed stars of the vintage. An utterly mesmerizing wine, Canon has it all; alluring aromatics; towering structure, fabulous depth, and exceptional balance. The aromas and flavors are remarkably nuanced for such a big wine. Waves of graphite, exotic spices, smoke, herb, licorice, violets and crème de cassis appear at every angle as this utterly profound Saint-Émilion shows off its pedigree. So far I have tasted the 2015 four times. It has never been anything less than sensational. Quite simply, Canon is one of the few truly must-have wines of 2015. It is every bit that memorable.”

- Vinous, Apr 2016 96-98 points

Château Cheval Blanc - \$1,499.99 plus tax (\$1,724.99)

“The 2015 Cheval Blanc represents the entire vineyard this year, since there is no Le Petit Cheval (two plots that did not meet requirements were not included in any blend). A blend of 45% Cabernet Franc/Cabernet Sauvignon and 55% Merlot, matured in 100% new oak, it has a very complex bouquet, subtle and tightly wound, very precise with dark berry fruit, hints of graphite, minerals and a hint of black pepper, perhaps a little spicier than recent vintages. The palate is medium-bodied with extraordinarily fine tannin. Beautifully balanced, perfectly controlled, this Cheval Blanc gently builds in the mouth, but remains strict and precise. The Cabernet Franc here is very expressive (though apparently the Merlot was showier prior to malolactic). This is an intellectual Cheval Blanc, thoroughly enjoyable, but it will need 10-12 years to really show its pedigree. A profound wine in the making, it will rank with the great wines of the past.”



- eRobertParker.com #224 97-99 points

“A wine of total finesse, the 2015 Cheval Blanc speaks to understatement above all else. Sweet floral notes meld into a core of bright red stone fruits and mint. Silky, nuanced and wonderfully persistent on the palate, the 2015 possesses remarkable depth, but in an understated fashion. There is plenty of tannin buried beneath the fruit. The 2015 is not an obvious Cheval Blanc, but rather a sublime wine that will only start to blossom with a decade plus in bottle. It will drink well for decades beyond that.”

- Vinous, Apr 2016 95-97 points

Château Figeac - \$289.99 plus tax (\$333.49)

“The 2015 Figeac is a blend of 29% Merlot, 28% Cabernet Franc and 43% Cabernet Sauvignon that was picked from 21 September with the Merlot until 15 October with the Cabernet Sauvignon at 41 hectoliters per hectare. The Cabernet comes through strongly on the nose - classic Figeac in many ways - black fruit, a touch of cassis, pencil and a touch of rose petal. The palate is drop-dead gorgeous, its foundation a lattice of filigree tannin and perfectly judged acidity. It is very fresh from its vivacious start to its pencil-lead finish imbued with effortless grace. It is almost comical that naysayers decried that Michel Rolland would turn Figeac into some kind of fruit bomb. Head winemaker Frédéric Faye has overseen a tip-top classic Figeac without any of the greenness that occasionally affected older vintages, now boasting a level of precision up there with the very best in the Right Bank. It was difficult to find fault with this quite astonishing Saint-Émilion and who knows what could transpire once it is in bottle.”



- eRobertParker.com #224 97-99 points

“The 2015 Figeac is superb. A blast of tannin hits the palate first followed by waves of inky purplish fruit, exotic spices, new leather, lavender and mint. Beams of pulsating acidity and structure give the 2015 much of its super-distinctive personality. The 2015 is powerful and built to age, that much is clear. In 2015, Figeac brings together the generosity of the year with the classic sense of structure that is so unique to Figeac, with a touch greater polish that Michel Rolland has brought since he arrived. The 2015 is compelling. It's as simple as that.”

- Vinous, Apr 2016 93-96 points

Château Moulin Saint-Georges - \$79.99 plus tax (\$91.99)

“The 2015 Moulin St.-Georges is a blend of 80% Merlot picked 2, 5 and 10 October and 20% Cabernet Franc picked on 5 October, matured in 85% new oak. At the moment, the bouquet is showing the new oak component, with broody black fruit underneath. The palate is medium-bodied and seems to have absorbed the wood quicker than the nose, smooth and sensual with touches of dark chocolate lining the long finish. Give this 4-6 years in bottle.”

- eRobertParker.com #224 90-92 points

Château Saintayme - \$42.99 plus tax (\$49.44)

“The 2015 Saintayme is pure Merlot picked between 29 September and 9 October, cropped at 45 hl/ha and raised in 30% new oak. It has a gorgeous bouquet with blackberry and cranberry fruit, a touch of vanilla emanating from the new oak that is nicely integrated. The palate is medium-bodied with good depth, a "solid" Saintayme, a pleasant chewiness with a feisty dark berry, licorice-tinged finish. This comes recommended - a fine Saint-Émilion from the hands of Denis Durantou.”

- eRobertParker.com #224 90-92 points

“Denis Durantou's 2015 Saintayme, 100% Merlot, is dark, exuberant and wonderfully open-knit. Dark red cherry, plum, mocha, spice and new leather give the 2015 much of its seductive, welcoming personality. The purity of the fruit is striking. Because of the protracted malos, the wines went into barrel late, and that shows the slightly angular contours that are the result of oak that has not fully integrated. There is good potential here. Harvest took place between September 29 and October 9.”

- Vinous, Apr 2016 87-90 points

Château Sansonnet - \$69.99 plus tax (\$80.49)

“The 2015 Sansonnet is a blend of 80% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon that is matured in 80% new oak. It has a precise, quite introverted bouquet at first with just a hint of graphite infusing the black fruit. It turns almost sorbet-like. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, again, that graphite seam embroidered through the black fruit, structured but focused and sophisticated on the finish. Worth checking out, I would not be surprised if this clocks in at the top of my banded score once in bottle.”



- eRobertParker.com #224 90-92 points

“Proprietors Marie and Christophe Lefèvre and their winemaker, Jean-Philippe Fort, have done a fabulous job with the 2015 Sansonnet. There is no shortage of depth or richness, but what the 2015 has that other recent vintages have not had is fully ripe tannins that are hard to achieve in this cold site. Layers of dark, inky fruit, spices, leather and licorice build as this exotic, flamboyant St.-Émilien shows off its racy personality. This is a striking, modern St.-Émilien. Ripeness, unctuousness and alcohol are all pushed to the extreme. Sansonnet is 80% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, done in 80% new oak. Tasted three times.”

- Vinous, Apr 2016 89-92 points

Château Soutard - \$99.99 plus tax (\$114.99)

“The 2015 Soutard felt a little warm on the nose when I tasted the barrel sample, the inky black fruit smudged by the alcohol. The palate is medium-bodied with smooth tannin, fleshy and harmonious in the mouth, the acidity perhaps lower than its peers with attractive strawberry and candied orange peel notes surfacing on the finish. I was expecting more from this estate, although let's see if it achieves more composure once in bottle. The élevage will have to be carefully handled.”

- eRobertParker.com #224 89-91 points

Château Soutard-Cadet - \$79.99 plus tax (\$91.99)

“The 2015 Château Soutard-Cadet is a 2.106-hectare vineyard, acquired by the Lefevre family in 2015 (owners of Moulin du Cadet and Sansonnet) and located in front of Château Soutard. A blend of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc and matured entirely in new oak, it has a pure redcurrant and wild strawberry scented bouquet that gains momentum in the glass, but never becomes overpowering. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, well-judged acidity, tensile in the mouth with an appealing touch of graphite and sous-bois on the finish. This is a very appealing, well-crafted Saint Emilion, nuanced and full of personality.”

- eRobertParker.com #224 92-94 points

“The 2015 Soutard-Cadet is a new wine made by the Lefèvre family, who also owns Sansonnet. Ripeness is pushed to the edge in this full-throttle Saint-Émilien. Chocolate, black fruit, menthol and licorice are all nicely delineated in the glass. The 2015 is an intense, rich wine with plenty to admire. Specifically, the tannins - always a challenge with heavily extracted wines - are very nicely balanced within the style. This is an impressive debut. Soutard-Cadet is 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc done in 100% new oak. Tasted three times.”

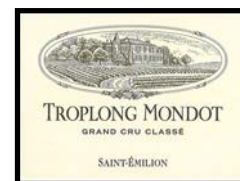
- Vinous, Apr 2016 88-91 points

Château Troplong Mondot - \$239.99 plus tax (\$275.99)

“The 2015 Troplong Mondot is inky black in color. The nose was initially arresting with a carapace of toasty new oak, but it only takes several swirls of the glass for that to dissipate and leave scents of intense black fruit, crème de cassis, spice box and violets. It is verging on "heady" in style, powered along by that Merlot. The palate is medium-bodied with succulent ripe tannin, layers of ripe, sensual, lavish black fruit interlaced with black pepper and clove.

The acidity binds everything together, maintains control through to the finish that fans out nicely. It leans towards the hedonistic style of Saint-Émilion, but it is not pushed over the edge as I have found in previous recent vintages. What it needs to develop is just the charm and personality of the finest Saint-Émilion wines this vintage.”

- eRobertParker.com #224 92-94 points



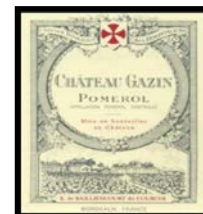
Pomerol

Merlot is without a doubt the king of this 784 hectare appellation. Given the right weather conditions, it produces lush, rich and voluptuous wines that are very approachable in their youth but also have the ability to age. The 2015 wines from Pomerol are not homogeneous, despite the area being spared the rainstorms that swept across the Northern Médoc. The quality of wines really depends on vineyards being situated on the all important gravel plateau. It is also based upon how much Cabernet Franc is used in the final blend of each wine. In 2015 this variety excelled due to the near flawless growing conditions. Many of the wines produced in this appellation are opulent, concentrated and almost sensuous to the taste.

Château Gazin - \$139.99 plus tax (\$160.99)

“The 2015 Gazin has a perfumed bouquet with layers of black cherry, raspberry coulis and truffle scents, more welcoming and sensual than the wines a decade ago from barrel when they intermittently felt under-ripe. There is none of that here for sure. The palate is medium-bodied with sappy black fruit on the entry. There is excellent structure here, a masculine Gazin with plenty of grip, counterbalanced by abundant tertiary, tobacco-tinged black fruit. There is real salinity towards the finish, completing a superb wine by Nicolas de Bailliencourt and his team. Do not overlook this Pomerol. It is one of the subtler expressions of the 2015 vintage and one that I am sure will develop beautifully in cask.”

- eRobertParker.com #224 94-96 points



“The 2015 Gazin is dark, fleshy and wonderfully expressive. Mocha, bittersweet chocolate and a host of ripe dark fruit, along with the wine's contours, give the 2015 much of its sumptuous personality. This is a decidedly plush, extracted style, but all the elements are nicely balanced throughout.”

- Vinous, Apr 2016 89-92 points

Château La Croix de Gay - \$79.99 plus tax (\$91.99)

“The 2015 La Croix de Gay has an expressive, understated, but very well-defined bouquet with raspberry and cranberry fruit, cedar and a touch of truffle. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, moderate depth in the mouth with precision and refinement towards the finish. It is a beautifully crafted La Croix de Gay, not as long-term as some of its peers, but balanced and surely delicious.”

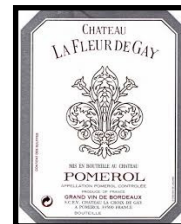
- eRobertParker.com #224 90-92 points

“A dramatic, sweeping wine, the 2015 La Croix de Gay possesses notable depth and pure power. Broad tannins provide the backdrop for a huge core of fruit. Iron, smoke, tobacco and a host of savory/feral notes add myriad shades of nuance throughout. The 2015 is shaping up to be a terrific wine, but readers will have to be patient.”

- **Vinous, Apr 2016** 89-92 points

Château La Fleur de Gay - \$179.99 plus tax (\$206.99)

“The 2015 La Fleur de Gay was actually more timid on the nose than the La Croix de Gay, possibly due to the higher percentage of new oak used here. Still, with aeration, it is clear that there is more than enough fruit waiting in the wings. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin, lithe in the mouth and well balanced with layers of licorice-tinged black fruit. Perhaps it does not require all that new wood on the finish, but I suspect it will be absorbed with 4-6 years in bottle.”



- **eRobertParker.com #224** 91-93 points

“The 2015 La Fleur de Gay is a dark, sumptuous beauty. Beautifully layered and nuanced, the 2015 wraps around the palate in all directions. The 2015 is going to need time to fully come together, but it is striking, even at this early stage. Myriad shades of mocha, black cherry jam, spices and new leather are laced into the deep, resonant finish.”

- **Vinous, Apr 2016** 92-95 points

Château La Pointe - \$86.99 plus tax (\$100.04)

“The 2015 La Pointe is a blend of 84% Merlot and 16% Cabernet Franc, picked between 27 September for the younger vines for the second wines, and 1 October for the heart of the Merlot, the Cabernet picked 8 and 12 October. Eric Monnoret told me that the 2015 was matured in 50% new oak. It has a comparatively flamboyant bouquet compared to recent vintages of La Pointe, with opulent red berry fruit, kirsch, cassis and patina of tar. The palate is medium-bodied, firm in the mouth at the moment, quite structured, the oak nicely integrated with a slightly savory finish. This is a robust La Pointe, quite spicy in the mouth with a long aftertaste. It will gain more harmony during its élevage.”

- **eRobertParker.com #224** 91-93 points

Château Le Gay - \$215.99 plus tax (\$248.39)

“The 2015 Le Gay comes from the 6.5-hectare Pomerol estate, of which 2.09 hectares are currently being restructured. It is a blend of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc picked from 27 September until 8 October at one degree lower alcohol than Montviel; it has a fragrant bouquet with delineated red cherries, crushed strawberry and hints of vanilla from the 100% new oak. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, ripe and rounded in the mouth, very well balanced and very smooth. This just glides across the mouth and once that new oak has been absorbed, this will be a gorgeous Le Gay to behold. Do not overlook this Cru because it has been on a roll in recent years.”

- **eRobertParker.com #224** 94-96 points

“A wine of power, density and exceptional finesse, the 2015 Le Gay has it all. Even with all of its obvious richness, the 2015 is slow to reveal itself. Hints of violets, lavender, cloves and new leather wrap around a core of inky, dark-fleshed stone fruits in a resonant, impeccably crafted Pomerol loaded with personality and pure class.”

- **Vinous, Apr 2016** 93-96 points

Chatea Mazezyres - \$65.99 plus tax (\$75.89)

“The 2015 Château Mazezyres has a lovely bouquet of blackberry, briary, sous-bois and a light marine influence, all very well defined but not concerned about making a big splash at this premature juncture. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, crisp and focused with plenty of fresh blueberry and cassis fruit, before segueing into a structured but refined finish. There is great potential here in another great Pomerol wine from Alain Moueix.”

- **eRobertParker.com #224 91-93 points**

“The 2015 Mazeyerres is creamy, suave and expressive. Sweet tobacco, herbs, cedar, red plum, and licorice add attractive complexity in this mid-weight, nuanced Pomerol, an impression that is reinforced by the silky tannins. This is very nicely done.”

- **Vinous, Apr 2016 89-92 points**

Château Petit-Village - \$149.99 plus tax (\$172.49)

“The 2015 Petit-Village is a blend of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc, the first wine to be made by Diana Garcia-Berrouet (the daughter-in-law of Jean-Claude for those that recognize the appended name). It has a straightforward black cherry and iodine-scented bouquet that needs to muster a little more complexity given the terroir. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, perhaps more filigree than previous vintages. Given the precocity on the Right Bank, I would have liked more depth on the finish, though it is well balanced with ample freshness on the finish. It is a Pomerol estate that just needs to find its "groove.”



- **eRobertParker.com #224 90-92 points**

“The 2015 Petit-Village is the first vintage made under the stewardship of new technical director Diana Berrouet-Garcia. An explosive Pomerol, the 2015 possesses remarkable intensity, texture and overall depth. Dark cherry jam, smoke, licorice, crushed rocks and espresso are some of the many notes that grace this exceptional Pomerol. I can't remember tasting a Petit-Village this good. The interplay of Merlot fruit and more aromatic, savory Cabernet Franc/Sauvignon-inflected notes is simply compelling. The blend is 71% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc and 9% Cabernet Sauvignon.”

- **Vinous, Apr 2016 93-96 points**

Château Rouget- \$99.99 plus tax (\$114.99)

“The 2015 Rouget is the blend of five parcels around the Pomerol plateau and I took time to taste each of them when I visited Edouard Labruyère. A blend of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc aged in one-third new oak, it has quite a punchy, high-toned bouquet with licorice-tinged red fruit that opens nicely in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with ripe tannin, rounded in the mouth with moderate acidity, the Cabernet Franc very articulate. I like the cohesion here, svelte in the mouth with black fruit and allspice fanning out on the structured, sandalwood finish. This is a well-crafted Rouget that deserves wider consumer appreciation. I would not be surprised if this Rouget ends up at the top of my banded score.”

- **eRobertParker.com #224 92-94 points**

“The 2015 Rouget is outstanding. Plump, juicy and forward, the 2015 possesses terrific depth to match its flamboyant personality. Black cherry, plum, mocha, dark spice and licorice abound in this forward Pomerol. The style is unquestionably ripe and modern, but very nicely judged. Consulting winemaker Michel Rolland has done a fine job here.”

- **Vinous, Apr 2016 90-93 points**

Vieux Château Certan - \$439.99 plus tax (\$505.99)

“The 2015 Vieux Château Certan is a blend of 80% Merlot, 19% Cabernet Franc and 1% Cabernet Sauvignon, cropped between September 17 and October 2 at 42 hectoliters per hectare. The IPT is healthy 83 and the pH is 3.72, the alcohol 14.6%. Enough statistics. What you need to know is that it is a beguiling Pomerol that will set hearts aflutter. It is bridled with a heavenly bouquet with intense red and black fruit, black truffle and a touch of smoke, opening wonderfully in the glass; the Cabernet Franc is very expressive and imparting a licorice note after ten minutes. The palate is medium-bodied with intensity, with a killer line of acidity that imparts freshness from the very start. There is life-affirming tension interwoven throughout this extremely complex wine from Alexandre and Guillaume Thienpont. There are layers, more like a mille-feuille of blackberry, boysenberry, mineral, truffle and a touch of spice towards the finish, just a touch of warmth from the alcohol that merely complements an extraordinary and profound Pomerol.”



- eRobertParker.com #224 98-100 points

“One of the most exotic, flamboyant wines of the year, the 2015 Vieux Château Certan is rich, unctuous and seamless, with stunning depth and exceptional textural richness. In 2015, VCC is unusually deep and powerful. A host of rose petal, lavender, mint, spice and plum notes meld together, but it is the wine's overall intensity and spherical structure that stand out most. The 2015 is freakishly rich and likely to require at least 15 years to lose some of its baby fat. It was absolutely stellar on both occasions I tasted it.”

- Vinous, Apr 2016 97-100 points

Côtes-de-Castillon/Fronsac

Côtes-de-Castillon lies just east of Saint-Émilion, while Fronsac lies just to the west. Of all the lesser-known appellations, the Côtes-de-Castillon may well possess the greatest number of hidden treasures. In 2015, some excellent wines were made and this is definitely a year to be on the lookout for some great values. Alcohols might seem a bit high, but the same wines possess refreshing acidity so the wines are all nicely balanced.

Château Dalem - \$49.99 plus tax (\$57.49)

“The 2015 Château Dalem is a blend of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc that matured in 50% new oak. It has a very refined and energetic bouquet, beautiful floral scents filtering through the black cherry and red plum fruit, the oak well integrated. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, crisp acidity, a sense of symmetry and focus here with a lilted, delicious, tensile finish. What a great Fronsac wine this will be. Tasted twice with consistent notes.”

- eRobertParker.com #224 91-93 points

“One of the highlights of the vintage, the 2015 Dalem is ample, succulent and absolutely delicious. Dark red cherry, plum, mint and licorice are all pushed forward. The 2015 is a delectable, joyous wine to drink now and over the next handful of years, while the fruit remains plump and juicy, but there is plenty of underlying structure as well. The blend is 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc. Above all else, the Dalem should be a superb value. Proprietor Brigitte Rullier and consulting winemaker Christian Veyry have done a terrific job. Tasted two times.”

- Vinous, Apr 2016 89-91 points

Château de Laussac - \$39.99 plus tax (\$45.99)

“The 2015 Laussac has a detailed, quite complex bouquet with lifted blackberry and cedar aromas, very expressive and welcoming. The palate is clean and fresh, very well balanced with grainy tannin, pure black and red fruit, and is beautifully poised with an elegant finish that is an absolute delight. Expect this to land at the top of my banded score - absolutely superb.”

- eRobertParker.com #224 91-93 points

Château Montlandrie - \$59.99 plus tax (\$68.99)

“The 2015 Montlandrie is a blend of 75% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon, picked between September 29 and October 8, and matured in 45% new oak. This is perhaps more precocious on the nose compared to Denis Durantou's La Chenade and Les Cruzelles 2015s, gradually revealing an attractive floral, dried rose petal/pot pourri scent as it opens in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, quite grippy in the mouth, the acidity nicely judged here and again, very harmonious and sensual on the finish. You could almost whisk this out of barrel and drink this now, but preferably, give it 4-5 years in bottle.”

- eRobertParker.com #224 91-93 points

“The 2015 Montlandrie shows just how appealing and delicious the wines of Castillon are this year. Plump, juicy and giving, the 2015 wraps around the palate with striking depth and creaminess. There is plenty of tannin lurking beneath, but it is nearly buried by the intensity of the fruit. Far from an easygoing wine, the 2015 Montlandrie is going to need a few years to be at its best. This is an impressive showing. Montandrie is 75% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon brought in between September 5 and October 6.”

- Vinous, April 2016 90-93 points

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