

WINE News

*Good News this Spring:
Bordeaux Delivers!*



JUNE 8, 2020 FEATURES

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Bordeaux in June: Enjoy During the Lockdown

By Clyde Beffa Jr.



While we wait for this awful virus to pass, and while many are still confined to home, I want to focus this four-page Bordeaux report on in-stock wines that you can still get from us through our local delivery and shipping services. I think many of us are drinking a bit more these days—so, why not drink solid, good-value red and white

wines from Bordeaux? Most of the wines on this page and page 4 represent what I think are some of the best values we now have for your immediate enjoyment. Pages 2 and 3 show a cross section of top, in-stock, collectible wines—some old and some young.

Starting with a delicious new-arrival white wine, we have **2017 Tour Léognan Blanc, Pessac-Léognan (\$19.99)**. This is made from the young vines of the famous Château Carbonnieux, using the same vine-growing and winemaking methods. During their first years of production the replanted young vines produce delicious, full-flavored wines, although a little less rich in aromas. They are decidedly very pleasant and easy to drink when young. This is a wine for pleasure, a blend characterized by the Sauvignon, which confers on it dynamic citrus notes and a full and elegant palate, all well-balanced by the round, rich texture of the Sémillon. 2017 was a great white wine vintage in Bordeaux and this wine shows exceptionally well. A touch of oak blends well with the citrus notes.



K&L's Alex Schroeder just tasted the **2015 Tour Léognan Rouge (\$19.99)** which had sold out, but just came back in. He says: "This isn't an actual château, per se. It was at one time. It was purchased by the Perrin family in 1956 along with another famous château right next door, Château Carbonnieux. Now it exists only as Carbonnieux's second label, made from the younger vines. (Insider tip: In a great vintage like 2015, younger vines also make great fruit, and many second labels are particularly good values.) This is everything you'd expect from a great château in a great vintage! The thing about a great wine from Pessac-Léognan is an unmistakable minerality. It definitely shows in this wine, alongside smoky, ripe, red currant and morello cherry fruit, a pleasant savory edge, a plush silky texture, and wonderful balance and acidity."



2015 du Moulin Rouge, Haut-Médoc (\$19.99) This has belonged to the same family for 13 generations and is now a well-reputed Cru Bourgeois in the Haut-Médoc appellation. Sandwiched in between the famous Margaux and St-Julien appellations, the château benefits from an outstanding terroir. In fact, many trade professionals and knowledgeable wine lovers compare the wines of Château du Moulin Rouge with those of St-Julien. We have only bought the wine three times. The latest buy is this exceptionally good 2015. The elegance of the 2015 vintage especially in Margaux and St-Julien shows through on this usually big and tannic wine. Red rose aromas and cassis flavors open after decanting. Give it some air and enjoy with a pot roast or hamburger. **93 JS**

(Continued on page 4)

Some Great Value Oldies Just Arrived — They Will Not Last Long!

1995 du Val d'Or, St-Emilion (\$32.99) Back in again and sure to fly out quickly. Founded in 1704, this 14-hectare estate is run by the Bardet family, located on gravelly-clay soils that impart depth and complexity in the wine. 86% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc, 6% Cabernet Sauvignon. We sold the first 1,400 bottles in a couple of weeks. Sweet and sexy; blackberry aromas and flavors.

1997 Gaudin, Pauillac (\$29.99) Located next to Chateau Latour and Pichon-Lalande—nice neighborhood. The power and tannin of this property melds well with the elegance of the vintage. Old-school Bordeaux at its best. Pauillac for under \$30? Crazy good buy if you like old-school wines.

1999 Tour du Haut-Moulin, Haut-Médoc (1.5L \$39.99) What a delicious party wine! Sweet and soft on the palate. Ripe and ready. Like our good friend Anthony Barton always said: “The magnum is the perfect size for two people—if one does not drink!”



2009 Coufran, Haut-Médoc (\$24.99) At the very top of the Haut-Médoc, embedded in a sea of gravel just next to the Gironde River north of St-Estèphe, sits the anomaly of the Left Bank: Château Coufran, the “Pomerol of the Médoc,” so-called for its high proportion of Merlot vines in a region where Cabernet reigns supreme. The last 600 bottles just arrived—it will not last long. So soft and elegant. Rich and round on the palate also. Slam dunk value! We have sold over 6,000 bottles of this wine.

2010 Cantemerle, Haut-Médoc (\$64.99) One of the best wines ever from this overachiever. Plush dark fruit in aroma and flavor, with plenty of extract and a firm tannic base, yet smooth and slick in texture. We have sold over 7,500 bottles of this wine!

And One Exceptional, Old, “Expensive Value”

1983 Gruaud-Larose, St-Julien (\$169.99) Can it be as good as Pichon-Lalande or Palmer 1983? It's right up there. I just got 20 six-bottle cases from a great French cellar. Perfect provenance. Sweet and delicious wine. I think it's as good as their very expensive 1982.

2016 Bordeaux Wines in Stock: A Superb Vintage, from the Values to the Top of the Line

The 2016s were easy to taste, just like the 2015s. They were fresh and vibrant, with incredible aromatics. Most are more precise and focused than their '15 counterparts. We found great wines in all regions of Bordeaux, but the properties with heavier soils seemed to be better.

2016 L'Avocat Rouge, Graves (\$19.99) The Allison's have brought this property to prominence over the last 20 years. This 2016 is solid—rich style. Decant it and enjoy with a steak. Also try their **2004** and **2010** “Cuvée Speciale” reserve wines.

2016 Bel Orme Tronquoy de Lalande, Haut-Médoc (\$21.99) Made by the Rauzan-Gassies team, this wine has been a great value since the awesome 2001 and 2010. This 2016 is outstanding. **92 JS**

2016 Poujeaux, Moulis-en-Médoc (\$44.99) 92 JS: “Blackberry, blueberry and orange-peel aromas follow through to a full body with a solid core of fruit and a fresh, tangy finish. The hazelnut and walnut undertones add to the complexity.”

2016 Cantemerle, Haut-Médoc (\$46.99) So what else is new? Philippe Dambrine cranks out a great value every year since 2006 from this beautiful property.

2016 Barde-Haut, St-Emilion (\$49.99) Hélène Garcin-Lévêque has brought this property to the top echelons of St-Emilion. From 2001 through today, there have been great value reds made at Barde-Haut. This is one of the best vintages yet. Spicy, ripe, sexy red. Pure on the palate. Good scores all around. **96 VN, 94 JD, 93 RP**



2016 Malartic-Lagravière, Pessac-Léognan (\$79.99) Here is a property to watch since 2014 and into the future—the terroir is outstanding, and the team is superb. Excellent value—try their 2015 too, just in.

2016 d'Issan, Margaux (\$89.99) This beautiful property is making outstanding wines. Medium to deep garnet-purple colored, it has vibrant black cherries and black currant notes with chocolate mint, black olives and cigar box. **96 JS**

2016 Léoville-Barton, St-Julien (\$179.99) The top wine of 2019 in *Wine Spectator*. We knew this wine was great from our first taste in April 2017. The wine was big and powerful, but with layers of ripe, sweet, red fruits. Round tannins and a super long finish. A must-buy here also. **97 WS**

2016 Canon, St-Emilion (\$199.99) The 2015 got all the fanfare, but this wine is equally as good. Spicy, rich, perfectly balanced. Cellar this another five-plus years. **97 RP**

2016 Figeac, St-Emilion (\$269.99) These guys have been making fabulous wines for many years, but especially in the last ten years. This wine is one of the best of all the 2016s. Lush wine packed with ripe black fruit flavors. Seamless and long on the palate. **100 VN**

2016 Léoville-Las Cases, St-Julien (\$349.99) One of the best of the vintage—but it's always one for the best of the vintage! Power and concentration here. Long term cellar dweller. **100 DC, 100 JS, 100 RP**



Oldies, But Goodies, In Stock

2004 and 2010 l'Avocat "Cuvée Speciale" Graves (\$31.99) From our good friends Sean and Nikki Allison. These two wines are very well priced—there is no more of either at the property. Plenty of ripe fruit flavors and earthiness here.

2006 Barde-Haut, St-Emilion (\$46.99) We carry a lot of Hélène Garcin-Lévêque's wines because they are so good and so well-priced. This mature wine is no exception. Enjoy it over the next few years.

2012 Pastourelle de Clerc Milon, Pauillac (\$49.99) The new second wine of Clerc Milon. We love this 2012. It's a soft, fruity, easy to drink second wine for a great price.

2001 Lynch-Moussas, Pauillac (\$79.99) This is a no-brainer. Almost 20 years old and drinking perfectly right now. Lots of cassis and red rose aromas and flavors. A must-buy for great value, mature Pauillac.

1989 and 1990 Bel-Air Lagrave, Haut-Médoc (1.5L \$89.99) 20-year-old magnums of great tasting wine for under \$100! We have sold many cases of these two gems, but there is no more after this last shipment. Ripe and sweet on the palate. Old-school Bordeaux at its best.

2007 Labégorce Zede, Margaux (1.5L \$99.99) This label and property does not exist since 2010,



when the vineyards were incorporated into Château Labégorce. Excellent terroir here, and the wine is very elegant with some lavender aromas and flavors mixed with a touch of oak.

2010 Larcis Ducasse, St-Emilion (\$139.99) Fabulous terroir here as well, and great winemaking by Nicolas Thienpont. Notes of licorice, garrigue, incense, smoked meats, espresso, creme de cassis and blackberry. This is an unbelievably intense wine. Remarkably full. **98 RP**

Some Top Wines from the Two Best Vintages of the 21st Century: 2009 and 2010

2009 Clos Fourtet, St-Emilion (\$299.99) and **2010 Clos Fourtet (\$169.99)**

2009 Haut-Bailly, Pessac-Léognan (\$299.99) and **2010 Haut-Bailly (\$189.99)**

2009 Léoville-Poyferre, St-Julien (\$299.99) and **2010 Léoville-Poyferre (\$169.99)**

2009 Montrose, St-Estephe (\$389.99) and **2010 Montrose (\$299.99)**



Stay Home and Drink Sauternes Before, During, and After a Meal

2013 Raymond-Lafon, Sauternes (\$29.99) Probably the best buy in sweet wines in the US! Very few cases left.

2009 Guiraud, Sauternes (\$59.99) 97 VN: "The 2009 Guiraud is one of the gems of Sauternes this vintage, one of the finest offerings in recent years. It has a wonderful, beautifully delineated bouquet with expressive scents of wild honey, orange pith, Seville orange marmalade and just a hint of pineapple." Extremely rich vintage!

2009 Suduiraut, Sauternes (\$99.99) Outstanding stickie—very viscous and rich, but with fine acidity at the back palate.

These Are all 100 Pointers

2015 d'Yquem, Sauternes (\$379.99) I prefer this wine to the otherworldly 2001.

2009 d'Yquem, Sauternes (\$549.99) So thick and lush.

2001 d'Yquem, Sauternes (375ml \$379.99) Legendary. Will age well for many more years.

White Bordeaux

2016 Carbonnieux Blanc, Pessac-Léognan (\$39.99) 91 VN: "The 2016 Carbonnieux Blanc is one of the better whites of the year, as it has quite a bit of freshness and overall energy. Citrus, mint and floral notes show lovely cut and tension throughout."

2017 Suduiraut, Sauternes (\$79.99) 94-96 VN: "It has an expressive, harmonious bouquet with dried honey and white flowers. The palate is well balanced with a viscous opening, well judged acidity, plenty of botrytized fruit with a long, lightly spiced finish that feels so fresh and vital. This is a superb Suduiraut from Pierre Montegut and his team."

2015 Gazin Rocquencourt Blanc, Pessac-Léognan (\$29.99) Not very well known to most, but K&L loves this value white made by the same people who make Malartic-Lagravière. Our last batch has just arrived. White flowers and citrus abound. Fairly rich and warm, but finely balanced. **93 JS**

2016 Malartic Lagravière Blanc, Pessac-Léognan (\$79.99) We just got in a few more cases of this gem. One of the best white Bordeaux made, and still reasonably priced. Fine acidity here balancing the richness and depth of the floral flavors.

2017 d'Yquem "Y" (\$149.99) We just got a bit more of this beauty in. I love the focus and acidity of the 2017 whites — similar to the 2014s and much better than the 2015s or 2018s. **95 WS**

2014 Le Petit Cheval Blanc, Bordeaux Blanc (\$159.99) Very rare and very delicious. Superbly made. We only have two cases left. **92 VN**



(Continued from page 1)

2016 Beaumont, Haut-Médoc (\$22.99) One of our favorite value properties is also located in Cussac, near du Moulin Rouge. We have been carrying this wine for over 20 years. It's owned by the Beychevelle people, and there are many tender, loving hands used in the production of this wine. A must-try for value-equals-happy-Bordeaux-lovers. This lovely 2016 is 50% Cabernet and 47% Merlot, with 3% Petit Verdot thrown in. This stunning, value red shows tons of sweet, sexy black cherry aromas and flavors. It is so elegant and sweet, you want to drink it right up. This could be one of the best ever from this overachieving property! Do not miss it. **93 WE**



2016 Clément-Pichon, Cru Bourgeois Haut-Médoc (\$29.99) A major sleeper of the vintage from a beautiful Loire-style property in the south of the Haut-Médoc region of Bordeaux. We have been selling this wine since the great 1996 vintage. The beautiful nose leads to black cherry and coffee notes. There's plenty of fruit, and nice balance. A bit more tannic than the Beaumont—decanting now will help soften it out. **90 VN**

2016 Gros Caillou, St-Emilion Grand Cru (\$25.99) OK, I have been to St-Emilion about 50 times in the past 35 years, and I have never seen or been to this property. Heck, there are over 4,000 St-Emilion properties! Yet, while this is the first vintage we have carried from this property, it will probably not be the last. We tasted a sample of the wine in December and bought it on the spot. Classic, lively, vibrant 2016 Bordeaux for a very good price. Spicy and toasty oak aromas, and tons of black fruit aromas and flavors. Quite sweet right now, but if you decant it for an hour and it will be even better. We did not decant and still finished the bottle quickly—it tasted so good with our roast chicken dinner.

How About Two Older Wines for Super Prices?

1999 Lestage Simon, Haut-Médoc (\$24.99) Heck, that is only a bit more than \$1 per year. Located at Saint-Seurin-de-Cadourne, which is beside the great vineyard of Saint-Estephe, this profits from an outstanding terroir which is complex and diverse, and whose uniqueness is the basis of this château's wines. This wine is elegant and fruity, with the Merlot showing through. Gary Westby blogged about it last year and bought a case on the spot. I tasted it again (March 22, 2020) and it is better than I first thought—perfect with a New York steak dinner. This property is known to make big and tannic wines, but the softness of the vintage,

the ripeness of the Merlot, and the 20-plus years aging in the property's cellar, make this wine superb right out of the bottle. Some black fruit flavors and very round, sweet tannins. Fabulous value to drink now and for a few more years. These '99s are showing so good right now.

2006 Haut-Bergey Rouge, Pessac-Léognan (\$27.99)

The Cathiards, with their purchase of Smith Haut Lafitte in 1991 and the Garcins, (Sylviane Garcin is Daniel Cathiard's sister) with their purchase of Haut-Bergey and Branon just after, took the Pessac-Léognan region by storm. We have been following these properties since the '90s. This 2006 is a great value Haut-Bergey with plenty of rose aromas and red fruit flavors. Perfect for enjoying now and for a few more years. **90 RP**



And, I Must Mention One Great California Wine that just Arrived in Our Stores

2019 Kalinda Napa Valley Sauvignon Blanc (\$17.99)

Just like our delicious 2018 Sauvignon Blanc, this 2019 was made by a very famous Oakville region winemaker. We can't tell you who made it, or at which property it was made, but let it be known this winemaker was once named by Robert Parker as the best winemaker in the world! From



Calistoga: Clyde Beffa shelters in place with 2019 Kalinda Sauvignon Blanc.

26-year-old vines, this wine was aged in mainly stainless steel, but also 7% in clay amphorae and 3% in seasoned French oak barrels. Plenty of bright lime and citrus nuances on the palate here. Very floral on the nose. Laser-like focus, crisp acidity, and a long, delicious finish. This wine is so good, you will drink two bottles in a sitting. And the price is much lower than the flagship SB from this property.

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