

WINE News

Fill your cup with
Bordeaux.



NOVEMBER 1, 2021 FEATURES

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Bordeaux: Some of Our Ships Have Come In

By Clyde Beffa Jr.



Well, I finally got to Bordeaux in June to taste the 2020s. We were only there for five days, and I ended up with an infection in my leg—but that's a different story. Also, I did lead a tour to France in September, so at least I was able to see many of my friends there. But I am still a few trips behind—maybe in 2022?

As most of you are aware, the logistics of getting containers from Europe to the West Coast this year has been, and continues to be, a nightmare. It's taking at least an extra two months to bring them in. The pipeline is clogged, and surely the problem will not go away soon. We can only say we are sorry about it. Happily, the fine values on this page are all in stock now. I have more in-stock value wines for you, from the 2015 through 2018 vintages, on page 2; while Jacques, Alex, and Steve round up some of their current favorites on pages 3 through 5. After highlighting La Gaffelière on page 5, I finish up with 2019 and 2020 *Pre-Arrival* offers on page 6, great value oldies on page 7, and just-in-stock wines on page 8.

2015 Esprit de Pavie, Bordeaux (\$18.99) Pavie has been making this wine for over ten years, but we only carried it the first year and now. Sweet and sexy. **93 JS:** "A juicy and rich red with blackberry and black-truffle aromas and flavors. Layered and beautifully toned. Full-bodied, round and juicy. Beautiful wine. Really well done."



2015 l'Orme de Rauzan-Gassies, Haut-Médoc (\$19.99) This wine is quite good. I actually prefer it to the first wine. This is the first time we have carried this second wine of Rauzan-Gassies. It is soft and elegant on the palate. Plenty of ripe red fruits and some violets underneath.

2016 du Glana, St-Julien (\$29.99) This property was bought by its neighbor Ducru-Beaucaillou a few years ago. Superb terroir, and this property has always been a favorite value of mine. Juicy wine; plenty of sweetness on the palate. Ready now, or you can age it a few years in the cellar.

2017 Tour St-Christophe, St-Émilion (1.5L \$79.99)

A smashing success for the Kwok group. Kudos to JC and Jerome for this great 2017. A must-buy for sure. **93 JS:** "A spicy, fresh, and intense red on the nose with chocolate. Medium to full body and very fine tannins that give a creamy texture. Juicy and long."

2019 HB (Haut-Bailly) Pessac-Léognan (\$24.99)

One of the first 2019s in our stores. This is the third label of the venerable Pessac-Léognan estate, Haut-Bailly. The 2019 is the second vintage with this new name and label, both of which are meant to represent a modernization of the château as the next generation of the Wilmers family takes over production. Tons of fruit on the palate, with blackberry undertones. This wine is meant to be drunk young, but you can wait a few years.



Cover: Alexander Van Beek (left) and K&L's Trey Beffa discuss recent vintages at Château Haut-Bailly.

Bordeaux Is the King: Long Live the King

By Clyde Beffa Jr.

2018 La Roque de By, Médoc (750ml \$14.99; 1.5L \$29.99) This property of the Pagès family has given us an attractively fruity wine. Tannins are softening and the black currant fruit is still fresh and juicy. This half-and-half blend of Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon will develop well—decant if serving now. Great party wine.

2018 Guitignan, Moulis (\$17.99) 91 JS: “Black-fruit and dark-spice aromas on the nose with tobacco and bitter chocolate. It’s medium-to full-bodied with firm, powdery tannins. Structured.” We sold out their 1997 quickly. A fine neighbor of Poujeaux.

2015 Puygueraud, Côtes de France (\$18.99) 94 JS: “A dense and layered red that is tight and focused with blackberries, currants and blueberries. Pure. Full body, superfine tannins and a long finish. Sophisticated.”

2017 Haut Vigneau, Pessac-Léognan (\$19.99) One of our favorite “unknown” properties. This one is owned by the Perrin family of Carbonnieux fame. This 2017 is one of their best in recent memory. Very soft and elegant on the palate—plenty of minerals, also.

2015 Haut-Bergey Rouge, Pessac-Léognan (\$24.99) Another in a long line of values from this property, which we have been following since the early 2000s. **92 JS:** “Attractive violets, cassis, and wild herbs on the nose, which leads into a sturdy palate, which has a firm wedge of tannins amid flavors of currants and cassis.”

2015 La Fleur de Boüiard, Lalande de Pomerol (\$29.99) 93 JD: “The 2015 La Fleur De Boüiard is an awesome wine to seek out. Mostly Merlot, it offers a terrific bouquet of cassis and black cherries intermixed with lots of tobacco leaf and lead pencil notes. It’s medium- to full-bodied, has beautiful purity of fruit, and sweet tannin, as well as a texture that just glides over the palate.”

2018 La Tour de By, Médoc (1.5L \$39.99) One of our favorite value Bordeaux since we started selling it in 1979. **91 WE:** “The structured Cabernet Sauvignon in this ripe wine gives attractive black-currant flavors and a core of tannins that will allow it to age. It is a great food wine: fruity, structured and sure to age well.”

2016 Charmail, Haut-Médoc (1.5L \$39.99) 91 VN: “The 2016 Charmail has a generous bouquet with black cherries, boysenberry and discrete floral scents. The oak is nicely integrated here. The palate is medium-bodied with fine grain tannin, a lovely bead of acidity, an impressive precision and persistence on the finish.”



2016 Labégorce, Margaux (\$43.99) One of my personal favorite properties in all of Bordeaux. We sell more Labégorce than anyone else in the States. **JS 95:** “A very elegant and polished Margaux with great structure and an attractive touch of herbal freshness, then a delicate touch of sweetness at the long, fine finish.” James—I totally agree!

2016 Malartic-Lagravière, Pessac-Léognan (\$59.99) One of the top properties in the south of Bordeaux. Bravo to our friends at Malartic, the Bonnie family. **94 VN:** “The 2016 Malartic Lagravière offers a deeply intriguing interplay of rich red/purplish berry fruit and fresher, brighter notes that give the wine its sense of delineation. Lavender, rose petal and mint add striking high-toned nuances to this finely cut wine. The 2016 has turned out beautifully. Most important of all, it is impressively delicious.”

2017 Domaine de Chevalier Blanc (\$89.99) 94+ VN: “A wine of noble breeding and class, the 2017 Domaine de Chevalier Blanc dazzles from start to finish. Dried flowers, chamomile, mint and citrus confit struggle to emerge, buried by the wine’s sheer richness and concentration. The 2017 needs at least a few years in bottle to come together, but that won’t be an issue for a wine that will drink well for several decades.” **98 JS, 96 WS**

2016 Domaine de Chevalier Blanc (\$89.99) Another great value with scores even better than the 2017—but not much left.

2016 Pauillac de Latour, Pauillac (\$95.99) The third wine from Latour, and it is wonderful. Needs a few more years in the cellar. **94 JS:** “Lots of mineral, crushed stone, iodine, and graphite with blackcurrants and blackberries that follow through to a medium body with ultra fine tannins that are ever-so polished and give length and energy to the wine.”

2016 Leoville-Barton, St-Julien (\$169.99) The No. 1 Wine of 2019 in *Wine Spectator*. We knew this wine was great from our first taste in April 2017. It’s big and powerful, but with layers of ripe, sweet red fruits, round tannins, and a super long finish. A must-buy here.

2016 Cos d’Estournel, St-Estèphe (1.5L \$569.99) 100 JS: “This is muscular yet so well defined and toned. Full-bodied with deep and dense fruit on the palate, yet powerful and rich at the same time. So much sandalwood and blackberry character. Chewy and rich at the finish. This is a warm and generous wine, but the alcohol is just over 13 degrees. Not that high. Love the finish. Extravagant. Magical.” Only our last seven magnums are available as of October 28.

Eleven Reasons to Celebrate with Bordeaux

By Jacques Moreira



With the end of the year and the holidays upon us, more than ever we have reasons to celebrate. And with these occasions, whether they be an intimate dinner or a grand fête, a good bottle of wine is paramount! Here we've put together a list that offers a variety of wines from great old vintages to recent, age-worthy ones. Most are from the Right Bank region

of Bordeaux, with its luscious wines, except for a Margaux and a Médoc we just had to tell you about. One thing they all have in common is being of a very good value. So, no matter if you are interested in a bottle or a whole case, read on.

1996 du Val d'Or, St-Émilion (\$29.99) After selling the 1995 in a matter of hours, we now bring you the 1996, a more powerful and structured vintage that's perfectly aged and still full of life. A fine wine that delivers a perfumy nose of violets, along with mint, ripe strawberries, and olives. An excellent pairing for fall dishes. Make no mistake, this is an old-school wine, for those who appreciate the style.

2007 du Val d'Or, St-Émilion (1.5L \$49.99) Another offering from this property, but in this vintage we were able to secure a tremendous buying opportunity in the form of magnums — excellent for aging wine. This elegant wine will benefit with decanting to let its aromatics and flavors fully expand and breathe. Its tannins are softer than the 1996, and the fruit is more forward. A very good choice for cellaring for another 10 years or so.

2006 Le Prieure, St-Émilion (\$34.99) There is no denying it—the oak notes in this wine are very apparent. And I love it! Why? Because it's balanced and integrated. The vanilla and sweet coffee fuse seamlessly with plum and cherry notes, all supported with a good structure of tannins and acidity. A superb pairing with barbecue ribs and the like. Drink now after decanting, or cellar.

2010 Moulin Saint Georges, St-Émilion (\$69.99) A classic Right Bank wine from one of my favorite vintages. Rich and lush, with blackberry liqueur, plum, vanilla, and sweet spices, this will impress on the dinner table. Cellar it by the case!

2010 Pavil de Luze, Margaux (\$44.99) A very approachable style of Margaux. Seductive floral aromatics, along with coffee and cassis. It is developing nicely at this point, just starting to show some leather notes. A perfect choice for either a holiday party or dinner.



2018 Busquet, Lussac-Saint-Émilion (\$17.99) I have to point out the price of this wine. For well below \$20, here we have a Saint-Émilion so good that my first words upon tasting it were, "Pure pleasure!" Indeed, it is full of ripe fruit notes, along with spicy oak and velvety tannins. I am thinking Thanksgiving here!

2016 Cap de Faugeres, Côtes de Castillon (\$16.99) Fresh and floral with a rich palate of milk chocolate and cherries, the Cap de Faugeres delivers a deliciously approachable wine. Entirely at ease on a refined table or a simple dinner for two, this is one to be bought by the case—while we have it.

2018 Darius, St-Émilion (\$21.99) Château Darius is what I call an open and ready kind of wine, meaning that it's enjoyable right after pulling the cork. Loads of cherry and plum flavors, along with silky, soft tannins, will make this a hit at your holiday party. No decanting is required, but as with many Bordeaux wines, it is always appreciated.

2016 de Pitray, Castillon (\$14.99) I was looking forward to tasting this wine, as it's one of the few 100% Cabernet Francs from Bordeaux that I know of. I was expecting a Loire Valley style of wine, but it is all Bordeaux! Sure, it has all the hallmarks of the variety—floral notes, spicy, cocoa-driven palate, plenty of berries, and even a delicate scent of capsicum—but it is richer, fuller-bodied than most of its Loire counterparts. Good choice for parties and events as well as dinners.

2018 La Roque de By, Médoc (\$14.99) The La Roque is still young, with a firm tannin structure, but it has plenty of ripe fruit, enticing cocoa powder, and elegant cassis, which makes it an ideal candidate for cellaring a few more years. It will age nicely and keep improving. Another one of my "get it by the case" choices.

2019 Roquefort Blanc, Bordeaux (\$12.99) We often think of Sancerre for crisp white wines from France, reserving white Bordeaux for the rich and complex Pessacs. However, here we have an all-stainless-steel Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon blend that is as fresh and crisp as it gets. Ripe citrus, with tropical pineapple notes, to be enjoyed any day, any night—indeed, anytime.



Alex Finds Value Bordeaux That's Primed for the Season

By Alex Schroeder



As the crisp autumn air rolls in, it's time to start thinking about red wines to pair with your winter dishes or to pull out when company comes round for the holidays.

Despite a year full of logistical challenges, I'm here to tell you that the Bordeaux category at K&L is healthy, stocked, and stacked with, as always, the best values in the

industry. Here are a few you can find today:

2016 Vieux Château Palon, Montagne-St-Émilion (\$26.99)

Ever since owner Gregory Naulet brought in Hubert de Boüard, owner and winemaker at Angéus, to consult in the vineyards and the cellar in 2006, this wine has offered exceptional quality and polish for the money. 75% Merlot, 25% Cab Franc, the 2016 is bursting with succulent berry fruit framed by vanilla, earthy toast, and baking spice. Well-balanced and long-finishing, this is almost too easy to drink. **92 JS**

2015 Valentons-Canteloup, Bordeaux Superieur (\$12.99)

The Meynard family has produced some of K&L's all-time best-selling Bordeaux, such as the '10 and '15 Bois-Malot. Valentons-Canteloup is their Merlot-dominant blend, and in 2015 offers plush, ripe cherry and strawberry fruit, with soft notes of earthy underbrush and tea leaves. This is a great, old-school Bordeaux for a low price.



2012 du Glana, St. Julien (\$29.99) Located right across from Ducru-Beaucaillou in the prestigious Left Bank commune St-Julien, du Glana has always offered exceptional value for price. The 2012 is another great example and is aging very nicely. 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot. Dark cherry, black currants, cola, and graphite are concentrated and structured by firm tannins and medium-plus acidity. Still youthful, this is a bottle you can enjoy tonight, but will just keep getting better in the cellar. **90 JS, 90 WS**

2012 La Tour de By, Médoc (\$19.99) The wines of Tour de By are perfect for aging, which is what makes this nine-year-old under \$20 so exciting. This northern Médoc wine is made of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot and is tightly concentrated and structured in its youth. Years later, beautiful cherry-licorice flavors have emerged, riding firm but mature tannins across the palate to a focused, yet long and luxurious finish. This bottle is still youthful, but is delicious now and primed to improve. **90 DC**

2012 Beaumont, Haut-Médoc (\$19.99) Continuing the Left Bank 2012 tour, Château Beaumont is located a bit further south, between the communes of St-Julien and Margaux, and is now owned by Japanese whisky powerhouse Suntory. Made from 53% Cabernet Sauvignon and 47% Merlot, this is a perfect food wine. It has attractive red and black currant fruit, notes of cedar and spice, and dry tannins harmoniously integrated with the fruit. **90 JS**

2012 Charmail, Haut Médoc (\$19.99) This under-the-radar wine comes from one single vineyard directly adjacent to the Gironde river just north of St-Estèphe. The gravelly clay soils are planted to 48% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Cabernet Franc, and 2% Petit Verdot. The wine has soft black currant and sour cherry fruit with notes of pencil shavings and graphite and a hint of vanilla. The tannins are dry, and along with medium-plus acidity, make the finish satisfying, especially with food.



2010 Maucaillou, Moulis-en-Médoc (\$44.99)

Created in 1874, Château Maucaillou missed being included in the classification of 1855. For many wine writers, it belongs in the Grand Cru class. Robert Parker said it would be a Fourth Growth. Tasting the 2010, I understand the praise. The dark cassis fruit blends seamlessly with the graphite minerals. The oak is there but fully integrated and complementary to the powerful dark fruit. The tannins are supple and sexy, and great acid balances the powerful finish. This is great wine aged perfectly. **90 JS**



1999 Chasse Spleen, Moulis-en-Médoc (\$59.99) This is why people put down their claret for twenty years. Chock-full of tertiary elements like leather, tobacco, tea leaves, and earthy goodness around a strong core of sour cherry and red currant fruit, this wine has softened with time and entered into a sublime stage in its aging. I imagine it has a few years left like this, but it is really tasting amazing right now and would pair perfectly with a prime rib.



2019 de France Blanc, Pessac-Léognan (\$29.99)

I've been on a Bordeaux blanc kick and this is one of the best I've tried recently. Château de France has 46 hectares of vines, but only four are planted to white grapes: 80% Sauvignon Blanc and 20% Sémillon. Everything is hand-picked and cold-macerated in stainless steel, then aged for a year in 50% new oak barrels. The result is a wonderful mélange of citrus, lychee, minerals, and subtle toast. Light-bodied, yet richly fruited with great acidity and a long, clean finish. **93 WS**

Steve Goes Big on “Petite Châteaux” Buys

By Steve Bearden



K&L Wines specializes in older and more affordable Bordeaux, and our head buyer, Clyde Beffa Jr., goes to great lengths to search out and secure these gems. These bargain “petite châteaux” wines are often in the peak of their drinking window and can offer some of the best bang-for-the-buck in our entire inventory. If you are searching for

well-cellared bottles to pop open any old night, you can't go wrong with any of the following:

2015 Bois-Malot (\$12.99) Like all vintages of Bois-Malot, this wine tastes and smells of raspberries and earth, but with a gentle middle and a soft finish due to the extraordinary vintage. This is round, seductive, and filled with easy-drinking character. Perfect for picnics, barbecues, simple meals, or just by the glass. This is top-notch bang-for-the-buck, year after year.



2015 Clarendelle (\$14.99) The team at Haut-Brion brings us this tasty and affordable bargain that is drinking well right now. This is filled with bright, red fruits, subtle herb, and a round and earthy middle. This is forward, soft, and ripe and has wonderful persistence to the finish. **91 JS**

2010 d'Aiguilhe, Côtes de Castillon (\$39.99) This is clean and classy with a sophisticated profile of mixed berries, spice, and sleek, polished tannins. The fruit flavors intensify with air, but the wine remains precise and balanced between richness and fine structure. Fantastic winemaking here and a lot of pedigree for 40 bucks. **92 WS, 91 RP**

2010 de Belcier, Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux (\$17.99) Big and bold yet round and juicy. This shows the power of the vintage, but also the 10-plus years of bottle age, in the way that the dark, powerful middle eases into warmer, softer lines before the tannins kick in on the finish. Lots of wine from a great vintage for way less than twenty bucks. **92 JS**

2009 Sainte Marguerite, Médoc (\$15.99) This screaming value from a great vintage is filled with baked plum fruit, earth, bacon, and ripe mulberries. The wine is round and easy with an expressive bouquet and a charming personality. A ten-year-old wine with this much *wow* factor is rare indeed.

2009 Gaudin, Pauillac (\$39.99) This is big and closed at first but with air the ripe red fruits and classic pencil lead aromas really come to the fore. The wine remains firm and brooding but the warmth of the 2009 vintage can be felt in the sweetness of the fruit and richness of the mid-palate. This is super pure Classified Growth quality Pauillac for less than \$40! Decant this beauty tonight or cellar 10 more years.

2009 Lanessan, Haut-Médoc (\$29.99) This is a classic example of the vintage as well as a satisfying value to enjoy any time. Baked red fruits fill the plump body of this deep and delicious wine. Although generous, the wine remains clean and smooth right through the long, easy finish. This is ready for tonight.

2010 Latour-Martillac, Pessac-Léognan (\$69.99) Effusive and gravelly aromas of berries, smoke, asphalt, and warm plums give way to a tight and linear body of tensile structure and a long, mineral-laced finish. Spiced cherries and dark currants are sweet and persistent in the dark middle, which finishes with fine, ripe tannins. This property is on a roll and represents some of the best values of the appellation. **93 VN**

2009 Coufran, Haut-Médoc (\$24.99) This shows the warm, baked character of the 2009 vintage to a tee, and the wine is filled with ripe Merlot fruit flavors, along with plenty of blackberry. The middle is firm, dark and deep, but with no hard edges or aggressive tannin to get in the way of the pure drinking pleasure. Over 10 years bottle age, and from a great vintage, for less than 25 bucks! **92 JS**



Value from La Gaffelière

By Clyde Beffa Jr.

No doubt that since the 2017 vintage, Château La Gaffelière has been making some of the best wines in all of Bordeaux. So pure, so terroir-driven, and so affordable. We have a couple of wines made by their fine team.

2018 Armens, St-Émilion (\$34.99) I had never heard of this property, but I just tasted their fine 2018. Definitely in the style of La Gaffelière—soft and elegant on the palate. Some mineral and oak tones on the nose. It really opens up after a half-hour airing. Enjoy while you age the La Gaffelière.

2018 Dame de Gaffelière, St-Émilion (\$39.99) The second wine of La Gaffelière for the U.S. market. Blueberries on the nose and palate. Superb fruit and ripe berry flavors. A mini La Gaffelière for sure. **94 WE**

2019 La Gaffelière, St-Émilion (PA \$84.99) Pre-Arrival. Another must-buy from this property—they are on a roll. Fabulous aromas of black raspberry and blackberry. Very perfumy. Quite full-bodied, thick, and palate-filling. Lush, sweet, and sexy. Seamless; regal. **95-97 RP**

We have a few wooden cases of La Gaffelière. Great for holiday gifts.

Six bottle set consisting of 2 bottles each of 2010, 2012, and 2014. (\$849.00) Only two sets left.

Six bottle set consisting of 2 bottles each of 2010, 2015, and 2016. (\$929.00) Five sets left.



Some Great 2020s for Your Cellar on Pre-Arrival

By Clyde Beffa Jr.

A mix of values and top wines. In fact, the last five wines here are in my top 12 picks for 2020, and the first four are among my “Magnificent Seven Values” of 2020. *Offered as Pre-Arrival.*

2020 Labégorce, Margaux (\$31.99) Bright nose of raspberries and spice. Another winner here. Rose and cassis aromas. Elegant wine with lingering aftertaste of red fruits. Very round tannins.

2020 Tour St-Christophe, St-Émilion (\$31.99) Tasted in California: Deep color, almost black. Lovely nose of Asian spice and toasty oak. Powerful blackberry flavors, with some red berry hints on the back palate. Big and powerful wine with lots of mineral at the back end. Very good as usual.

2020 Siran, Margaux (\$32.99) These guys have been making great value wines year in and year out. Violet aromas with black raspberry undertones. Sweet palate entry, and the wine just coats the mouth with sweet fruit. Long, lingering finish. Will drink well early on.

2020 Gloria, St-Julien (\$39.99) Wow—very perfumy aromas of black cherry and toasty oak. Blackberry fruit flavors. Vibrant wine that tastes so good now. Long finish—a must-buy. Tasted at Joanne: Lovely, sweet cola aromas. Lively and fruit-forward. Tastes great right now. Spicy back end.

2020 Domaine de Chevalier Rouge, Pessac-Léognan (\$69.99) What a great value here! Soft and sweet on the palate with earthy flavors, and great length on the finish. Black cherry flavors. Soft, round tannins. As good as their 2016 and 2018—and well-priced for sure.

2020 Clinet, Pomerol (\$104.99) Surely one of the top wines of the vintage. Intense, ripe blackberry jam on the nose. Nuances of blueberries on the palate. Plummy, lush, sweet, and sexy on the palate. So well-made. Long finish.

2020 Lynch-Bages, Pauillac (\$139.99) Tasted with UGC wines and at the château. Blueberry and pencil shaving aromas. Some blackcurrant and rose on the palate. Sweet mid-palate and fine balance of tannins, acid, and fruit. Ager.



On the job: Clyde Beffa Jr. checks out viticultural conditions for the 2021 vintage at Château Haut-Bailly.

2020 Smith Haut Lafitte Rouge, Pessac-Léognan (\$164.99) With a special label honoring the Cathiard’s 30 years of winemaking at Smith, this wine has huge scores from the writers, with three or four possible 100 points. This wine is like a laser beam—very precise and focused. I think 2020 is their best wine in thirty years of winemaking—Fabian is a great winemaker. Sexy and ripe, this wine will age well.

2020 Pichon-Lalande, Pauillac (\$199.99) So good it reminds me of the fabulous 1989, which is drinking perfectly now after thirty-plus years. The Merlot really shines here. This wine will give any of the fabulous vintages 1981 through 1990 a run for the money. So elegant, but with plenty of structure for a long cellar life.

And Do Not Forget the Superb 2019s—Coming in Soon.

Five super values under \$50, and a few classics at a tad more. *Prices are Pre-Arrival.*

2019 Lilian Ladouys, St-Estèphe (\$21.99) These guys are on a roll. What a superb value for your cellar!

2019 Cantemerle, Haut-Médoc (\$27.99) Flavors of deep, sweet raspberries, earth, and wood. Strong wine; great freshness; lots of fruit, acid, and semi-firm tannins. Impressive wine that’s a combination of power and elegance.

2019 La Tour Martillac, Pessac-Léognan (\$32.99) Super high-toned red fruits; fresh and lively on the palate; very pure and very nice. This is the first vintage made in the new fermentation facility and cellar.

2019 Gloria, St-Julien (\$39.99) Lots of solid, dark fruit. Rustic edge, with some hints of black olive. This is a firm, direct, and classically styled Gloria.

2019 Grand Mayne, St-Émilion (\$44.99) We love this property, but did not offer it last year. Here it is, and Neal Martin likes it, too. **94-96 VN:** “The 2019 Grand Mayne takes its time to unfold in the glass, eventually delivering enticing and very pure red berry fruit, beautifully defined and less exuberant than some of the vintages I was tasting 15-20 years ago.”

2019 Tour St-Christophe, St-Émilion (\$34.99) Always one of our biggest sellers and this one is no exception. **96-97 JS:** “This is tight with finesse and focus. Minerally and salty with an ultra-fine palate and polished tannins. It goes on and on and on. Strength and finesse at the same time.”

2019 Léoville-Barton (\$91.99) Tasted twice, as the UGC and the property both sent me samples. Black color. Super sweet aromas of red roses and cassis. Big wine; full-bodied; tons of everything. Ager, and one of the better wines I tasted. **97-99 JD, 97-99 WE**

2019 Pontet-Canet, Pauillac (\$139.99) Great wines every year since 1994! Collector’s item. **97-99 WE:** “This is a luscious, sumptuous wine, with layers of black fruits and wonderfully cushioned tannins.”

We Specialize in Selling Great Value Old Wines

By Clyde Beffa Jr.

1988, 1995, 1996, 1998, 1999 Labégorce, Margaux (3L \$249–\$299) These lovely bottles are direct from the property, and they make great holiday party drinking, or even Christmas gifts. Old-school Bordeaux at its best. We have sold many cases of each of these vintages from Château Labégorce.

1990 Citran, Haut-Médoc (1.5L \$84.99) JS: “Seductive, with attractive vanilla and black cherry aromas and flavors, medium tannins, and a long, fresh finish. Has a lovely balance.” As Anthony Barton says, it’s the perfect size for a dinner party of two—if one person doesn’t drink!

2000 Poujeaux, Moulis (\$74.99) Another of our favorites at K&L. Good upfront fruit with chocolate nuances on the palate. Fine, mid-palate sweetness. This property consistently makes excellent wine for a reasonable price. **90 WS:** “A wine with delicious berry, nutmeg and fresh tobacco character, with just a hint of vanilla. Medium-bodied, with silky tannins and a long finish. Impressive. Very fine. Much better than from barrel. Best after 2008.” Hey, it’s after 2008, and this wine is delicious.

2002 Gaudin, Pauillac (\$29.99) We have had great success selling this property in the last four years, after never carrying it since we started K&L in 1976. The property is perfectly situated just north of Pichon-Lalande and Latour along the Route des Vins. We also have the wonderful **2009 Gaudin (\$39.99)** in stock now.

2004 Gigault “Cuvée Viva” Cotes de Blaye (\$19.99) We have always sold this property well over the years. We managed to find some cases just recently. Old-school wine made by our good friend, Christophe Reboul Salze, who owns the property. According to Robert Parker: “Made from essentially 100% Merlot, the 2004 exhibits a dark plum/purple color along with a rich, sumptuous bouquet of blackberries, cherries, smoke, cedar, and herbs.”



1996 Peyrabon, Haut-Médoc (\$24.99) Hey, this is \$1 per year and worth at least \$2 per year. Old-school red. A property very close to Pauillac that is one to watch for great values—well-made, value-driven wines with good depth and length. It is now under the same ownership as Domaine de Chevalier.

2010 Larrivet Haut-Brion Rouge, Pessac-Léognan (\$54.99) This under-the-radar property makes fabulous value wines, and this 2010 is super delicious. I have a case in my cellar. **92 WS:** “Dense, winey and energetic, but also supple and alluring, with steeped plum and boysenberry fruit inlaid with hints of singed anise, violet and warm stone. The tarry finish strides with authority, revealing ample grip for cellaring. A strong showing for this estate in ’10.” **93 DC**

2010 Grand Mayne, St-Émilion (\$74.99) We are featuring the 2019 Grand Mayne in this newsletter also. This 2010 is a superb value, but we only have about 10 cases left. **93-95 WE:** “Modern in style, with its new wood flavors dominant, this is a tight wine at this stage, packed with tannins, the fruit a ripe promise for the future. Big and dark, juicy flavors show through finally.”

2012 Potensac, Haut-Médoc (375ml \$17.99) Mature, fine-drinking Bordeaux wines are hard to find in 375-milliliter format. We just got in 240 bottles, so do not wait. **JS:** “A silky and refined Potensac and very well done for the vintage. Medium body, fine tannins and crisp acidity. Lots of citrus and raspberry character.” **90 RP, 90 WE**



Superb New Arrival (or Restocked) Bordeaux Values Under \$50

By Clyde Beffa Jr.

The containers are taking forever to arrive. But we did just get two in, and they had a few wonderful wines.

2020 Blanc Sec de Suduiraut, Bordeaux Blanc (\$19.99)

Wine Advocate: “It hits the ground running with vibrant notions of freshly squeezed limes, lemon meringue pie, and Granny Smith apples, plus hints of dill seed and white pepper. The medium-bodied palate delivers an impressive satiny texture along with a racy line cutting through the citrus and apple-inspired flavors, finishing long and steely.”

2019 de France Blanc, Pessac-Léognan (\$29.99) I love the white Bordeaux from 2019—they are so fresh and clean with fine acidity and plenty of flavor. This wine is quite delicious. **93 WS:** “This white crackles with chive and thyme accents amid a mix of lemon peel, white peach and jicama notes, followed by a nice steely-edged finish.”

2015 Bellevue Laffont, Lustrac-Médoc (\$16.99)

Did you know that this wine is the second wine of Fourcas Dupré and has been owned by Château Fourcas Dupré since 1973? I did not know that until I bought this wine. 60% Merlot and 40% Cabernet Sauvignon. Fourcas has really improved over the years—the wines now are not as backward as they had been. This Bellevue is a fantastic wine to be drunk in the near future. Plenty of black cherry flavors.

2015 Labadie, Médoc (\$13.99) Just to the north of St-Estèphe, on the banks of the Gironde, are a series of small communes whose names are less well known than their prestigious neighbors to the south. Surprisingly, this wine has a larger percentage of Merlot than is common in the northern Médoc, but it is so well integrated and balances so nicely against the Cabernet. Open and

inviting aromas of cassis and huckleberry give way to a medium-bodied palate bursting with blackberry fruit, cedar, tobacco, and fresh minerality. **90 JS**

2018 Haut-Bages-Libéral, Pauillac (\$49.99) They knocked it out of the park here. **97 JS:** “Pretty blackberries, blueberries and violets with some crushed-raspberry aromas follow through to a full body with wonderfully crafted and pure tannins that intertwine wonderfully. Long and endless. A triumph here. From biodynamically grown grapes.”

2018 Feytit-Clinet, Pomerol (\$79.99) I have always loved this property since I started collecting wine in 1971. In fact, I bought six cases of the 1970 in 1972. The price was \$8.99! Super year for Pomerol in 2018—isn't every year great in Pomerol? **95 JS:** “Blackcurrants, blackberries and some spices with dark-chocolate and chili undertones. Full-bodied, flavorful and sharp with a firm tannin structure. Succulent finish with good length. Salty and white-pepper undertones. Serious young Pomerol.”

2015 Pontet-Canet, Pauillac (\$129.99) Another great Pontet—so what else is new? Almost \$200 a bottle less than their 2009 or 2010. **97 WE:** “Succulent fruits, rich tannins and juicy acidity are in perfect harmony in this wine produced from biodynamic grapes. It has a rich, velvet texture and dense structure, sumptuous and already balanced and delicious. However do not be fooled, this is a serious wine for aging.”

2016 Tourelles de Longueville, Pauillac (\$49.99) OK, so this is the Merlot-dominated wine from Pichon-Baron. Not to be mistaken for their Cabernet-dominated second wine. **94 JS:** “The density and beauty to this second wine are superb with a rich palate and round and velvety tannins. Lots of blackberries and blackcurrants. Wow.”



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