

WINE News

Brighten the season with our best wines from Bordeaux.



OCTOBER 26, 2020 FEATURES

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As Winter Approaches, Bordeaux is Still King

By Clyde Beffa Jr.



It's already October, and the darned virus is still with us—but at least, that has not affected our great Bordeaux selection.

This eight-page Bordeaux newsletter has wines to fit anyone's pocketbook. Our great Bordeaux specialists write about their recent tastings on pages 3, 4, 6, and 8. I write about some great 2019s offered pre-arrival on page 5, and about the great 2016s on page 7. These 2016s

go from \$14 to over \$200. Hopefully, our stores will open soon, and you will be able to discuss these wines with our excellent staff—in person! Meanwhile, here we go:

2010 Haut-Bergey Rouge, Pessac-Léognan (PA \$39.99)

The Cathiard's purchase of Smith Haut Laffite in 1991, and the Garcin's (Silviane Garcin is Daniel Cathiard's sister) purchase of Haut-Bergey and Branon just after, took the Pessac-Léognan region by storm. We have been following these properties since the '90s, and I must mention this beauty, which will come to us by Christmas. Full and quite lush for 2010. Plenty of minerality and life for ten more cellar years. **92 RP**

2010 Bellefont-Belcier, St-Emilion (\$59.99)

While you wait for the Haut-Bergey, try this lovely wine. Bellefont was recently purchased by the Peter Kwok team (they own Tour St-Christophe and Haut-Brisson,

etc.) This 2010 scored **92 RP** with Parker himself, back in 2013: "The wine offers up notes of jammy black cherries, black currants, licorice, camphor, underbrush and some subtle vanillin. The wine is full-bodied, voluptuously textured and rich, with good acidity, surprising freshness and laser-like definition given its amplexity and length. It can be drunk early on for its beautiful fruit, but look for this wine to hit its stride in 5-7 years and last for two decades." Well, it has hit its stride—so buy it now, it's in stock.

2006 Arnaud, Haut-Médoc (\$19.99) This property, newly elevated to Cru Bourgeois Exceptionnel, has been making value reds since the early days of K&L traveling with Bill Blatch in Bordeaux (1980s). Château Arnaud is located between Margaux and Moulis, on a large gravel outcropping on the edge of the Gironde, neighboring Chasse-Spleen and Poujeaux. The blend is typically about half Cabernet and half Merlot, often with a bit more Cabernet. The wines are made in a traditional style made to withstand the cellar: black-fruited with spicy complexity from barrel, a rich midpalate, and fine tannin structure balanced by natural acidity. In other words, it's a steal for under 20 bucks! We have sold over 2,000 bottles of this beauty in the last few months.



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Cover: Not that Mouton—but grazing sheep arrive, along with fall color, after the harvest in Bordeaux. (Shutterstock)

Some Oldies but Goodies—All Price Ranges

By Clyde Beffa Jr.

2010 Prieur de Meyney, St-Estèphe (1.5L \$49.99) James Suckling: “Lots of ripe strawberries, with juicy orange and chalky mineral notes. Sweet red fruit on the palate with a juicy acidity and fine ripe tannins. Medium-full body and a pleasant medium-long finish with nice red fruit. Elegant. Second wine of Meyney.” Such a bargain.

2007 Labégorce-Zédé, Margaux (1.5L \$89.99) I have had some delicious wines from this property—most were from the '90s. Alas, the property does not exist anymore, as in 2009 it was folded into Château Labégorce. This 2007 is a delicious wine—purely Margaux elegance, with aromas of violets and toasty oak. After decanting, the wine was rich and ripe on the palate, with a delicate texture and lingering finish. This still has a long life ahead. As our good friend, the famous Anthony Barton, always said: “The magnum is the perfect size for a dinner party of two—if one person does not drink.”

2010 Troplong Mondot (\$189.99) 99 RP: “Inky, bluish/black/purple, with notes of spring flowers, licorice, camphor, graphite, and a boatload of blueberry, black raspberry and blackberry fruit, this is a powerful, full-bodied Troplong Mondot. All the building components of acidity, tannin, wood and alcohol are judiciously and impressively integrated.”

1981 Pichon-Lalande, Pauillac (\$299.99) This gem is only a step behind the monumental 1982, and 1981 was the last pre-Parker Bordeaux vintage, where the properties and their winemakers made wine to suit their style, not Mr. Parker’s palate. I have always loved this vintage—soft, and ripe. And so elegant—just like the owner, Madame May-Éliane Lencquesaing. Pichon-Lalande made (as a whole decade) the best wines in Bordeaux during the 1980s—even better than the first growths. **92 JG**

1989 Leoville-Las Cases, St-Julien (\$329.99) I have always loved the '89 Las Cases, more than the 1990, and just behind the otherworldly 1982! So sweet and sexy on the palate. Enjoy it with a fine prime rib cut. **98 DC**



1983 Pavie, St-Emilion (\$349.00), 1989 (\$399.99), and 1990 (\$389.99) Classic Jean-Paul Valette wines, direct from a collector in Bordeaux. I have drunk at least two bottles of each of these vintages in the past four months. I absolutely love the underrated 1983—full of life, sweet, and full-bodied. The 1989 and 1990 are monumental wines—I really think they are as good as any Château Pavies of the last 20 years. I just drank the 1990 in September, and it was perfection. Lush and round, finely balanced, and vibrant! These wines are *old school* Bordeaux at their best—no fancy garage wines here, just superior wines made from one of the best (if not the best) terroirs in St-Emilion. Taste a piece of history!

Also: Young and Delicious Bordeaux!

2019 Bois-Malot Blanc, Bordeaux Blanc (\$10.99) Easy to drink, super soft on the palate. Some fig and citrus notes. Warm weather wonder. **90 WE**

2016 Hyot, Castillon (\$13.99) 90 JS: “A very rich and ripe red for this appellation. Full-bodied, round and juicy with ripe and round tannins. Dark-berry, brick and stone undertones.” *Wine Enthusiast:* “Fruit and tannins come together well in this ripe wine. Its structure will allow it to age while the berry flavors bring a fresh edge. Juicy and fruity, it has fine potential.”

2017 Labégorce, Margaux (\$34.99) 93 JD: “Under the helm of Marjolaine de Coninck, who arrived from Fonplegade in 2009, this estate has been firing on all cylinders, and they’ve made a beautiful 2017 Château Labégorce. Based on 46% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, and the rest Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot that spent 14 months in 45% new oak, its deep purple/plum color is followed by a complex, medium to full-bodied, seamless Margaux that has complexity as well as depth and richness. With lots of cassis fruit and notes of sandalwood and spice, they’ve done a fabulous job with the tannins, and it has a great mid-palate and outstanding purity.”

2017 Malartic-Lagravière, Pessac-Léognan (\$69.99) 94 WE: “This ripe, structured wine is dense with tannins as well as acidity and black fruits. The weight and concentration promise well for the future, offering a richly juicy wine.”

(Continued from page 1)

2017 Malescot-St-Exupery, Margaux (PA \$64.99) One of the most successful Bordeaux properties over the last 15 years. Jean-Luc Zuger cranks out great Bordeaux values and great Bordeaux wines every year since the amazing 2009 vintage. Also try his underrated **2014 (\$59.99)** or the “off the charts” **2015 (\$84.99)**. This 2017 is so elegant and refined. **93+** points, Antonio Galloni: “The 2017 is a wine that keeps getting better each time I taste it, and that makes me very hopeful for the future; it will be interesting to see what happens here with aging, and, specifically, if a bit more structure emerges. This is a wine of great personality and character.”

2017 Tour Léognan Blanc, Pessac-Léognan (\$19.99) This white is blended from the young (under 12 years old) vines of the famous Château Carbonnieux vines, using the same vine-growing and winemaking methods. One of my go-to whites now in the stores. 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 on the nose and palate.



Steve's Riffs on '16, and More

By Steve Bearden



Three years ago, the 2016 Bordeaux vintage was particularly easy to taste from barrel due to the balance, freshness, and how complete the wines tasted at such an early stage. Now that the wines are sitting here on the shelves at K&L, we are delighted that, in addition to maintaining their freshness and precision, the wines have rounded out beautifully, showing all the ripeness, structure, and equilibrium that was evident early on. In addition, we have three vintages of one of the great whites from the region, Carbonnieux Blanc, as well as a couple of older gems from two of the greatest vintages of the last 25 years.

2013 Carbonnieux Blanc, Pessac-Léognan (\$38.99) Extended bottle age has added a touch of lanolin to the citronella, lime, and grapefruit pith elements in the 2013 version of this iconic white. There's richness and texture poking through all the mineral and acidity, with almond paste and tangerine notes beginning to emerge and round out the vibrant finish. This is drinking very well in mid-life. **92 WE**

2016 Carbonnieux Blanc, Pessac-Léognan (\$34.99) A typically delicious Carbonnieux Blanc that I find un-typically approachable. This has citronella, citrus blossom, crushed green melon and juicy lime notes in a rich but steely style that shows poise and sophistication. A great white Bordeaux and a bargain compared to the top whites from Burgundy, the Loire, and the northern Rhône. **93 WE**

2017 Carbonnieux Blanc, Pessac-Léognan (\$41.99) Honeysuckle, flan, and lemon sorbet aromas waft from the glass when this is poured. This shows wonderful weight and texture in the citrusy and flowery middle, but the mineral-soaked finish is clean and bracing. Although this will age well, it is already vibrant, complex, and substantial. **95 WE**

2016 Lestage Simon, Haut-Médoc (\$17.99) The Merlot in the blend seems to really shine here, with the wine's ripe black cherry and raspberry aromas and flavors having a fine dusting of dark chocolate. A touch of high-quality oak and sweet but firm tannins tell you that this is more serious than the price would suggest. This is an over-achieving bargain. **93 JS**

2016 Bellegrave du Poujeau, Haut-Médoc (\$19.99) This opens with lively aromas of cherry, chocolate, limestone, and spice. The body is fresh, supple, and filled with ripe but subtle red fruits that lead to a finish of cocoa powder and fine talc. Delicious and ready to drink tonight. **90 WE**



2016 Darius, St-Emilion (\$21.99) Don't let the price fool you: this both tastes like and is structured like a Grand Cru Saint-Emilion. Aromas of Bing cherries, vanilla spice, and smoke hit your senses as you dive into the rich and smooth middle of darker fruits. Although hidden underneath the copious mid-palate fruit, the structure is evident on the long, grippy finish of ripe tannin and mineral. This is a delicious value that punches well above its weight class.

2016 de Lamarque, Haut-Médoc (\$29.99) This wine starts with beguiling aromas of crushed flowers, maple, and mint. The silky body is filled with layers of glossy dark fruit that hide the structure lurking underneath. Ample acidity, plenty of fruit, and a fine mineral and cedar-tinged finish are the hallmark of this balanced, rich wine. **93 JS, 93 WE**

2016 Fombrauge, St-Emilion (\$36.99) This consistent property, run by the owner of Château Pape-Clement, seems to get more elegant and sophisticated with each vintage. This opens with aromas of violets, toast, ripe black cherries, and a trace of licorice. The middle is filled with cherry and plum flavors that pick up a touch of spice as they linger on the long, limestone-tinged finish. **94 JS**

2016 Tronquoy-Lalande, St-Estèphe (\$39.99) The folks at Montrose have fashioned another structured yet sexy wine filled with ripe, forward fruit that can be enjoyed tonight but could age gracefully for decades. The supple, flowery aromas are followed by a sweet entry of black and blue fruits that coat the substantial middle, and lead to a structured finish of fine, sweet tannin. This is a full-bodied wine that hides its scale with wonderful balance and impeccable length. Also available in **magnum** and **double magnum**. **93 RP**

2005 Belgrave, Haut-Médoc (\$59.99) Here is a great property from one of the best vintages of the last 25 years that is hitting middle age in full stride. This starts with lively, lifted aromas of blackberries and slate, then zooms right into a substantial middle of mulberry and dark plum fruit. This is a big, smooth wine that shows great precision to the rich flavors and has a long, complex finish. Drink or age.

1995 Bel Air Lagrave, Moulis-en-Médoc (\$24.99) Here is a great value in a mature Bordeaux from an excellent vintage. Aromas of dried cherry, leather, and dried flowers waft from this when poured. The body is soft and silky, and with air, turns from red fruits to dark plum, where a subtle hint of damp clay carries the persistent finish. Better after an hour in decanter.



Alex's Great Values to Round out 2020

By Alex Schroeder



What a year it's been! If you end up remembering anything good about the year 2020, let it be the amazing values popping up out of Bordeaux! With a string of excellent vintages saturating the market (2015, 2016, 2018, and now 2019) and the economic upheaval caused by worldwide economic shutdown, there's never been a better time to

line your cellar with some excellent wine at remarkable prices. Here are a few of our favorites in stock right now:

2016 La Tour de By "Cuvée K&L" Medoc (\$19.99)

This château has been around since the 16th century and has some of the highest-elevation vines north of Pauillac. This is classic Left Bank claret, made from 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, and 5% Petit Verdot. And, at under \$20 a bottle, it's one of the best values in red in the store. The precision of 2016 is on full display, with ripe, red fruits; silky, integrated tannins; a touch of smoky, savory wild game; and perfectly balanced acidity. This will easily improve for at least 10 years in the cellar.



2016 La Tour de By "Héritage Marc Pagès," Médoc (\$29.99)

This wine is from the same vines as the Cuvée K&L, but as an homage to the château's patriarch (who purchased the property in 1965), it spends more time in new oak and takes a large step in a luxurious direction for only \$10 more. The rich fruit is framed by warm vanilla and spice notes, with a plush, lip-smacking texture, and added ageability from firm wood tannins on the finish. **92 JS**

2015 Pauillac de Latour (\$99.00) If you want to taste the refinement, richness, and elegance that has made Château Latour famous for centuries, this is a great opportunity to do it without breaking the bank. Pauillac de Latour is their third label, made from the property's younger vines. But, in a generous vintage like 2015, the first-growth quality is evident. Rich red fruits, currants and cherries, undertones of smoky minerals and cedar, with ripe, elegant tannins and a silky-yet-firm texture. This is a *lot* of Bordeaux for under \$100. **94 JS**



2015 Fontesteanu, Haut-Médoc (\$21.99) Château Fontesteanu fell onto K&L's radar with a delightful, inexpensive backvintage from 1998 that our customers and staff adored. I'm glad we found this charmer, because the 2015 is going to go at least that distance, if not more! It's 53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 45% Merlot, and 2% Petit Verdot. Pretty red currant fruit, gravelly minerals, and a hint of earth. I was quite shocked at the precision and balance for the price—no wonder it ages so well!

2015 Grand Destieu, St-Emilion (\$27.99) Heading over to the other side of the Gironde, Château Grand Destieu is a tiny, four-hectare estate on the western edge of St-Emilion run by Fabienne Lagoubie, a longtime Bordeaux winemaker. This Merlot-Cabernet Franc blend from one of the warmer vintages leans toward a polished, modern style, with rich, round dark fruit underlined by toasted oak notes. It is not overbearing in any way, however, and still offers nuances of smoky earth and spice, for a very fun Bordeaux experience. **92 VN**

2017 Roquefort Blanc, Bordeaux (\$15.99) Château Roquefort is located on an old Gallic fort site built on the limestone plateau in Entre-Deux-Mers. This superb terroir gives us one of the best deals in Bordeaux blanc in the store. Made from 85% Sauvignon Blanc and 15% Sémillon, it's bursting with minerals and has beautiful yet precise lemon, lime, and melon fruit flavors, and a great acid line, for a long and satisfying finish. Whether you are looking for a patio pounder or a great food wine, this just can't be beat for the price.



2016 Roquefort Rouge, Bordeaux (\$15.99)

As much as I love their white wine, I bought a whole case of this red after tasting it—I just had to, for less than \$16 a bottle. Merlot-dominant, it shows the balance and elegance 2016 Bordeaux is known for, with rich Morello cherry, toast, licorice, and mint, and great tannin-acid balance. It's delicious now, but it will continue to age gracefully for another 8–10 years, if you can keep your hand off it!



2018 Trébiac, Graves (\$12.99) Château Trébiac is on a roll! Year in and out, Trébiac offers delicious, young, no-frills claret for everyday enjoyment, and 2018 might be my favorite yet! 70% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Sauvignon, aged in a combination of stainless steel and concrete vats, it has a super-expressive nose, rich, sweet blueberry and blackberry fruit, some classic Graves minerals, and serious drinkability!

2017 R de Rieussec, Bordeaux (\$23.99) Château Rieussec was acquired by Château Lafite in 1984. In addition to bringing their first growth expertise to sweet wines, they offer this dry white, the only one in the Rothchild's portfolio. It's on point, too. From an excellent vintage for white wines, this Sémillon-dominant blend is replete with tropical fruits like lychee, pineapple, and citrus, and has that razor-sharp acid line typical of 2017s. **93 VN**



Clyde's Tips on 2019s Pre-Arrival

By Clyde Beffa Jr.

We did not travel to Bordeaux to taste the 2019s. But, while we did not taste *many* of the top wines of Bordeaux, thanks to the many châteaux that air-freighted samples to us, we did get an idea of how the vintage was, and is. One of the *best* aspects (good news) of the 2019s is the pricing of most of the wines. Some are priced from 20% to 30% less than the 2018s—thanks to Alfred Tesseron's Pontet-Canet, as the first wine to be released, at 30% less than 2018. And then Palmer at the same discount! Those wines set the tone for the campaign.

One of the *worst* aspects (bad news) of 2019 was, and is, the quantities released by the properties. Many cut their first tranche quantities from 20% to 35%. We were allocated less of our favorites, even though most all properties made a lot of 2019! We have sold out of quite a few wines. I was able to taste about 70 wines, and notes are below.

2019 Smith Haut Lafitte Rouge, Pessac-Léognan (\$94.99) 96-98 RP

2019 Palmer, Margaux (\$239.99) Great buy! 98 DC

2019 Mouton Rothschild, Pauillac (\$499.99) 99-100 JS: "This shows purity of fruit with blackcurrants and cassis and hints of blueberries and fresh flowers. Toasted and roasted. The 90% of Cabernet Sauvignon really makes this special. Lead-pencil, tar and licorice notes. Powerful with finesse. Extremely persistent." **98-100 RP**

2019 Marquis d'Alesme, Margaux (\$39.99) This wine is a knock-out. Ceep color; blackberry flavors. 94-96 JD

2019 Labégorce, Margaux (\$29.99) Very Margaux in texture. Elegant, red berry wine with some violets on the nose. Soft and sweet—and sexy. 93-95 JD

2019 Brane-Cantenac, Margaux (\$59.99) Elegant, earthy aromas with a lot of Asian spice and clove on the palate. Plenty of tannins for extended cellaring. 96 DC

2019 Léoville-Barton, St-Julien (\$86.99) 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

2019 Langoa-Barton, St-Julien (\$44.99) Black cherry aromas and cherry cola flavors from one sample. Asian spice aromas and clove flavors on second sample. Great upfront fruit with some tannins on the back palate. 94-96 WE

2019 Cantemerle, Haut-Médoc (\$27.99) Flavors of deep, sweet raspberries, earth, and wood. Strong wine with great fruit. 93-95 WE

2019 Duhart-Milon, Pauillac (\$64.99) 95-96 JS

2019 Pichon-Lalande, Pauillac (\$169.99) To me, this is one of the best Pichons ever. These guys are on a roll—like the fabulous '80s. Huge scores. 98-100 VN, 98-99 JS

2019 Réserve de la Comtesse, Pauillac (\$39.99) 93-94 JS

2019 Lynch-Bages, Pauillac (\$99.99) 96-98 VN

2019 Montrose, St-Estèphe (\$139.99) 98 DC

2019 La Dame de Montrose, St-Estèphe (\$39.99) 94 DC: "The Merlots were so good this year that most have gone into the first wine, giving this a higher percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon than usual and making it a serious Dame de Montrose, with clear ageing potential."

2019 Phélan-Ségur, St-Estèphe (\$41.99) One of the best Phelans—ever! Black color. Blueberry and rose aromas. Quite perfumy. Full-bodied. Has tannins under all the fruit. Ager. Bravo! 96-97 JS

2019 Croix de Labrie, St-Emilion (\$89.99) The first 2019 I tasted, and I tasted it in April. A great wine to start the vintage tastings. Toasty oak aromas with a fine elegance. Very ripe and blackberry-driven on the palate. Soft, round tannins, with a smooth, long finish. Very fine wine for sure—but not very well known in the US. 95-97 JD

2019 Haut-Brisson, St-Emilion (\$24.99) Dark, dark color. Very spicy aromas that follow to the palate with raspberry nuances. Tons of sexy, ripe black fruit flavors. A sure value. 93-94 JS

2019 Bellefont-Belcier, St-Emilion (\$44.99) Wow! What a treat here. Raspberry aromas abound. Very feminine and elegant on the palate. Rich, ripe, and sweet black fruit flavors. Round tannins; elegant finish. Delicious. 95-97 JD, 95-96 JS

2019 Angélu, St-Emilion (\$299.99) 60% Merlot, 40% Cabernet Franc. Aromas of roses and blackberries. Powerful wine, with great structure and balance. Lots of red berry flavors thanks to the Cab Franc. Full bodied, long-term ager. Similar to 2005? This really opens up after half an hour. Tremendous quality; good price. 98-99 JS

2019 La Gaffelière, St-Emilion (\$59.99) 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

2019 Ausone, St-Emilion (\$629.99)

2019 Canon, St-Emilion (\$109.99) 98 DC

2019 Barde-Haut, St-Emilion (\$31.99) 94-96 JD

2019 Poesia, St-Emilion (\$29.99) 95-96 JS

2019 Beau-Séjour Bécot, St-Emilion (\$59.99) 96 DC

2019 Beau-Séjour Duffau, St-Emilion (\$119.99) 98 DC

2019 Talbot, St-Julien (\$54.99) 93-95 JD, 94-96 WE: "A rich, spicy and smoky wine, this has generous tannins to balance the blackberry fruit flavors."

2019 Troplong Mondot, St-Emilion (\$89.99) 96-98 RP, 96-98 VN

2019 Feytit-Clinet, Pomerol (\$59.99) 92% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc. A superb wine, with tons of Asian spice on the nose and palate. Sweet, ripe, black fruit flavors with clove undertones. Velvet tannins. Tops. 95-97 JD

2019 Le Bon Pasteur, Pomerol (\$54.99) Blackberry aromas and flavors. Nice balance; good fruit and structure. 95-96 JS

Jacques' Inside Scoop on Some Top Values in Bordeaux

By Jacques Moreira



After a brief but challenging hiatus, here we are, back again—with the same enthusiasm and unbridled passion for wine, offering you the best of Bordeaux, from the famous names to the petits châteaux we've just discovered, and can't wait to have you discover, as well.

I have not tasted any 2019s as of yet, with the exception of one—a dry white from

Sauternes! However, there has been no lack of good wines for me to enjoy—many of them from the magnificent 2010 vintage, and quite affordable, too. Here are some of them I'd like to share with you:

2019 Château Guiraud "G" (dry) Bordeaux Blanc Sec (\$19.99)

A fortuitous trend has been happening with the great Sauternes producers—d'Yquem, Rieussec, among others—the making of dry white wines. These wines are made with the same meticulous care, and outstanding quality, one comes to expect from these illustrious châteaux. One characteristic I found in them is a balanced richness, an elegant opulence that is not easily found. The Guiraud "G" Sec is made of fully ripened grapes, but not botrytized. Fermented in barrels that were used in the élevage of the Sauternes Grand Cru, it has a seriousness about it that goes beyond the delicious citrus, peach, and creamy sorbet notes. Perhaps it is due to the lees stirring and barrel aging. It has the richness of a wine made with very ripe grapes, but it's never heavy, and it's completely dry. **93 JS**



2017 Labégorce, Margaux (\$34.99) After the outstanding 2015 and 2016 vintages, Labégorce was left with a hard act to follow with the more challenging 2017. And yet, they did it. Stunning floral aromatics, along with the classic Margaux notes of violets, immediately waft from the glass, followed by cocoa and coffee. After decanting, the wine is ready to be enjoyed now in its pretty youth, but you can cellar it as well. Here is a perfect example why you should not overlook wines from a less than stellar vintage, as they can offer innumerable buying opportunities. **93 JD, 93 VN**

2016 Tronquoy-Lalande, St-Estèphe (\$39.99) Considered one of the best vintages of Tronquoy-Lalande, the 2016 is definitely in its youth still. To drink it now, I would advise to decant it. But it's all there: alluring aromatics of blueberries, cassis, and incense; rich, full-bodied palate with plenty of spices. For the cellar—by the case! **93 RP**

2015 Valentons-Canteloup, Bordeaux Supérieur (\$12.99) Valentons-Canteloup has always been a tremendous value in our Bordeaux inventory, especially for those who like an old-school wine. The fruit here takes a backseat to more dried leaves, and earthy tones. This will pair very well with any mushroom-sauced dish for this fall.

2010 Valentons-Canteloup Bordeaux Supérieur (\$13.99) We decanted the 2010 and it opened up to a high-toned, floral aromatics, with plenty of cassis. Perfectly aged, and a classic pairing with some aged hard cheese.

2010 Le Jard, Lalande-de-Pomerol (\$19.99)

This gem of property has been run by the same family for more than 100 years. It's located in the best terroir of Lalande-de-Pomerol, with the very same clay soil that produces the silky wines of Pomerol—but without the hefty price tag. Lalande-de-Pomerol has been under the radar for many wine drinkers, but here at K&L we are determined to change that. A rich, velvety Merlot-dominated blend, full of plums, chocolate, and cherry liquor, this quintessential Right-Banker will be a star with any roasted pork, chicken dishes, game, and even a chocolate dessert. This is a must-have for its unbeatable price-to-quality.



2010 Bel-Orme Tronquoy de Lalande, Haut-Médoc (\$21.99)

This is a second domaine of the famous second growth Margaux producer, Château Rauzan-Gassies. Bel Orme, however, is located further north, in the famous terroir of Saint-Seurin-de-Cadourne. It's a sweet spot for me, for the high quality of the wines and the value it always offers. The wine has a very intriguing nose, intermingling of fruit and woody characters; vanilla spice and violets; along the notes of cassis, cocoa, and tobacco. Decant or cellar for a few more years. A very good value.



2016 Bellegrave du Poujeau, Haut-Médoc (\$19.99)

This is the first time I have seen this hard-to-find wine, from a tiny vineyard, only 12 miles from downtown Bordeaux. It was once part of Château Duthil, but now this 10-acre property is owned and managed by Jean-Pierre Cantelaube. Jean-Pierre has done a complete renovation of the cellars and changed the name back to its original "Bellegrave du Poujeau." The gravelly terroir, surrounded by a pine forest, has an ideal aspect that favors Cabernet Sauvignon. The wine's powerful nose of sweet cassis, blueberries, chocolate, and incense is reflected in its elegant palate. Indeed, this is one of the top Cabernet Sauvignons I've tried this year, and for a price that it's easily half the cost of what one might expect of a wine of this quality.

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2016 Bordeaux in Stock Now

By Clyde Beffa Jr.

A Superb Vintage—from Value to Top of the Line

From my 2016 Vintage Report: 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 seem to be better.

2016 La Tour de By “K&L Cuvée” Médoc (\$19.99) Lovely value wine. See Alex Schroeder’s notes in this newsletter.

2016 Bellegrave du Poujeau, Haut-Médoc (\$19.99)

90 WE: “This vineyard in the southern part of the Médoc is so close to Bordeaux city that only a small part has been saved from buildings. The wine is worth the effort, rich with fine tannins and wood-aging flavors that sustain the ripe blackberry fruits and smoky character. The wine should age well.”

2016 Darius, St-Emilion (\$21.99) Just arrived. See Steve Bearden’s notes in this newsletter.

2016 Truquet, St-Emilion (1.5L \$26.99) *Wine Enthusiast:* “From vines on the plateau to the west of the village of Saint-Émilion, this is a light, fruity wine. Its acidity and tannic structure lend a crisp texture to its black currant fruit.” Magnum size for parties.

2016 Clément-Pichon, Haut-Médoc (\$29.99)

90 VN: “The 2016 Clément-Pichon offers simple blackcurrant and raspberry aromas on the nose, quite pure and airy, well defined if not overly complex. The palate is medium-bodied with sappy red fruit laced with graphite and tobacco, well-knit with an elegant finish.”

2016 de Lamarque, Haut-Médoc (\$29.99) Minty wine, and full on the palate. Very Margauxish. See Steve’s notes in this newsletter.

2016 La Tour de Mons, Margaux (\$29.99) 93-94 JS:

“Dense and chewy with very firm and silky tannins. Full-bodied and powerful. Better than the 2015.”

94 WE: “Situated in one of the northern sectors of Margaux, this estate was created in the 13th century. This sumptuous wine has enormous power that is mitigated by the taut, mineral texture and black-currant flavors. It is a finely wrought wine that will take time to age.”

2016 La Tour de By “Heritage Marc Pages” Médoc (\$29.99)

Big wine, full-bodied, with lots of vitality. See Alex Schroeder’s notes in this newsletter. **92 JS**

2016 Fombrauge, St-Emilion (\$36.99) Vibrant wine with balancing acidity to balance its rich style. See Steve’s notes in this newsletter.

2016 Tronquoy-Lalande, St-Estèphe (\$39.99) Fabulous wine with super sweet palate entry. Soft tannins at the back. Must buy, but selling quickly. **93 JS, 93 RP**



To be wine tasting in Bordeaux on a sunny April day...Team vintage 2016 on the march at Langoa and Léoville-Barton in April, 2017.

2016 Barde-Haut, St-Emilion (\$49.99) Hélène Garcin-Lévêque has brought this property to the top echelons of St-Emilion. This is one of her best vintages yet. Spicy, ripe, sexy red. Pure on the palate. Good scores all around. **96 VN**

2016 Bellevue, St-Emilion (\$59.99) 97 JS: “A dense and layered red with ripe plums and blueberries, as well as hints of wet earth and moss. Full-bodied, velvety and layered with fantastic fruit and creamy, velvety tannins. Plush and deep. Great wine.”

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. **96 JS, 96 WE**

2016 Croix de Labrie, St-Emilion (\$89.99) 96 JS: “This shows so much violet and dark-berry character on the nose. So enticing. Full-bodied with chewy and polished tannins, blackberries and eucalyptus and a light, menthol note to finish. A rich yet touching wine.” **92 RP**

2016 Calon Ségur, St-Estèphe (\$159.99) 98 JS: “Superb aromas of crushed berries, violets and sandalwood with hints of cedar and roses. Full body, very fine tannins and savory, delicious fruit. Vibrant acidity combines beautifully with the fruit and structure. Harmonious and attractive. Fine-toned.”

2016 Léoville-Barton, St-Julien (\$179.99)

The top wine of 2019 in *Wine Spectator*. We knew this was great, from our first taste in April 2017. The wine is big and powerful, but with layers of ripe, sweet red fruits. Round tannins and a super-long finish. A must-buy here. **97 WS**

(Continued on page 8)





Don't be spooked by vintage Bordeaux wine. (Photo: from one of our recent vintage tours).

Just Arrived

2010 Coufran, Haut-Médoc (\$21.99)

2010 Verdignan, Haut-Médoc (\$21.99)

These two “value” properties hit it out of the park in the 2010 vintage. Robert Parker said of the 2010 Coufran: “Another potential sleeper of the vintage and one of the best Coufrans I have tasted in many years, the 2010 is a plump, fleshy, chewy effort (there is always a lot of Merlot in this blend) revealing a deep plum/ruby/purple color as well as sweet black cherry and mocha notes interwoven with background oak.” The Verdignan is the big brother of the two. More power and depth. *Wine Spectator*: “Juicy and well-rendered, with dark currant and steeped cherry fruit laced with smoldering tobacco and grilled savory, revealing a hint of warm stone hanging through the finish.”

incredible value in the top vintages. Prieur de Meyney, the second wine of prominent St-Estèphe producer, Château Meyney, is no exception. And, as vintages go, it doesn't get much better than 2010.

2010 Capbern Gasqueton, St-Estèphe (\$49.99) Now known as Château Capbern. Dominated by Cabernet Sauvignon in this vintage, this is a stunning St-Estèphe, with classic tobacco and incense notes; deep, dark fruit; and elegant, round tannins, it's just a seamless beauty. Excellent choice for the cellar and to buy by the case, as it will only get better.

2016 (Continued from page 7)

2016 Valandraud, St-Emilion (\$199.99) 98 JD: “Including 15% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon, the Merlot-dominated 2016 Château Valandraud is a brilliant example of this cuvée that should match or exceed the incredible 2015 at maturity. Brought up all in new oak, its deep purple color is followed by a powerful bouquet of crème de cassis, graphite, smoked earth, and hints of earth. Possessing full-bodied richness, thrilling purity of fruit, ripe tannins, and just about perfect balance, it's another tour de force from the incredibly talented Jean-Luc Thunevin.”

2016 Montrose, St-Estèphe (\$219.99) Powerhouse, but finely balanced. **100 JD:** “Unquestionably one of the top 2-3 wines of the vintage, the 2016 Château Montrose is a monument in the making.”



Jacques (Continued from page 6)

2010 Lestage, Listrac-Médoc (\$24.99) Château Lestage has a prime location on the slopes of the highest point of the Médoc, the Puy de Menjon, which provide perfect drainage for its vines. This well-respected Cru Bourgeois is another example of a classic old-school Bordeaux. I advise to decant it, to let it reveal its beautiful, woody aromatics.

2010 Prieur de Meyney, St-Estèphe (1.5L \$49.99)

A well-known adage in the wine business is, that the “second wines” of the great estates often present



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