



GLENGARRY

EN PRIMEUR

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YOUR COMPLETE GUIDE VINTAGE 2016

[www.enprimeur.co.nz](http://www.enprimeur.co.nz)

## YOUR GUIDE TO EN PRIMEUR AND THE 2016 BORDEAUX VINTAGE

Glengarry have sold fine wines via the En Primeur system since 1983; our first offering was in fact the super 1982 vintage, an auspicious starting point. Selling En Primeur went hand-in-hand with the importation of wine for retail sale in New Zealand; it was not until the early 1980s that wine from elsewhere could legitimately be purchased and sold through wine stores in New Zealand. Glengarry was the first to get involved with selecting fine wines from around the world and bringing that world to the palates of New Zealanders via a wine retail store.

In this guide, we have compiled all the relevant details for the wines from the stunning 2016 vintage: our vintage summary, overviews and recommendations. In addition, you will find some history, and some views and thoughts on the system, En Primeur, making this your complete guide to En Primeur, Vintage 2016.

We are now in the midst of the current En Primeur season, which will finish on the 20th July, 2017. We hope you will enjoy this guide and find it useful. Our team would love to discuss these wines with you further, so please do not hesitate to contact us.

Liz Wheadon,  
Glengarry, General Manager



### WHAT IS EN PRIMEUR?

Also known as Wine Futures, Bordeaux Futures or, as we like to call it, a Liquid Investment.

En Primeur refers to the process of buying wine before it is bottled and released onto the market; the wine is normally delivered two years later. Originally, only red Bordeaux was sold in this way, but increasingly wines from Burgundy, California, the Rhône, Italy, vintage ports and even New Zealand have been offered En Primeur. Glengarry is so renowned for our Bordeaux selections though that we prefer to concentrate on them.

### WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES FOR ME?

In a word, price. When purchasing En Primeur, you are buying the wine at the initial release price, direct from Bordeaux. For many châteaux, this is usually the lowest you'll ever get, significantly lower than future retail prices.

Availability, too, is an important factor. These are some of the greatest wines from Bordeaux, often produced in such small quantities that they may never be seen on the open market. Even for En Primeur wine that does eventually make it to the retail shelves, the quantities available are extremely limited and there is no guarantee that one will acquire it at that stage.

To own a Bordeaux wine right from the start is the ultimate in provenance. Purchasing En Primeur means that the wine will leave the château and come directly to New Zealand via our temperature-controlled container.

Another advantage is the choice of bottle size. Purchasing this way allows you to select how you have your wine bottled, from half-bottles through to large format. Ideal, then, for a future event and/or for potential investment.

Birth years, birthdays, celebrations: this a great way to purchase wine for these sort of occasions.

### HOW DOES IT WORK?

The first part of the process involves the châteaux making barrel samples of their wine available for evaluation and review by wine experts and négociants. Only after this is the wine then offered to us for purchase. Glengarry has long-standing relationships with the best négociants in France, relationships that guarantee us the offer and supply of wine that is simply not made available to other merchants.



When offers are made to us we notify you immediately by email and requests are processed until the wines are fully allocated (during the height of this period offers can be made daily and can be fully allocated within hours). Where demand exceeds supply, we go back to the négociants and attempt to secure more stock, but there are no guarantees that more wine will be made available.

Note, whereas some merchants only offer en primeur wine by the unmixed case (12 bottles, 24 half-bottles, 6 magnums), Glengarry can offer the wine to you by the bottle, which makes purchasing wine en primeur a more accessible proposition for many customers.

Once you have requested the wine you want to acquire en primeur you will need to pay for it, but don't worry, you don't have to make full payment up front, rather, payments are made in two instalments. The schedule for payments and the time line for the arrival of stock is as follows:

## FIRST PAYMENT

The first en primeur payment is due in the year the en primeur offering is made - we will remind you when it is due. This payment contributes approximately 75% of the total price.

## ESTIMATED SECOND PAYMENT

The final payment is due on or before collection of the wines, or within 20 days of invoice of the Estimated Second Payment. This will be towards the middle of the second year following the year of ordering en primeur and includes final landed import costs. The Estimated Second Payment is estimated at the time of the en primeur offering until the wine arrives, but the estimate should be close to the mark. This payment component is approximately 25% of the total price.

## HOW IS THE WINE PACKAGED?

We order from France in case lots, though you can purchase less than a case. These are transported to us in attractive wooden boxes from the châteaux and shipped by our well-established distribution lines in secure, temperature controlled containers (an exclusive Glengarry service). Standard wooden box quantities are as follows:

BOTTLE SIZE		PACKAGING
Half-Bottles	375mL	Wooden case of 24 Half-Bottles
Half-Bottles	375mL	Wooden case of 12 Half-Bottles
Regular Bottles	750mL	Wooden case of 6 Regular Bottles
Regular Bottles	750mL	Wooden case of 12 Regular Bottles
Magnums	1.5L	Wooden case of 6 Magnums
Magnums	1.5L	Wooden case of 3 Magnums
Double Magnums	3L	Wooden case of 1 Double Magnum
Jeroboams	5L	Wooden case of 1 Jeroboam
Impériales	6L	Wooden case of 1 Impériale



## HOW DO I PURCHASE?

You can acquire en primeur wine online [www.enprimeur.co.nz](http://www.enprimeur.co.nz). Once logged in you can add the wine you are interested in to your wish list (if it is as yet unavailable) and then request that the wine be allocated to you (once available).

Feel free to contact us if you require any assistance with this process.

In Auckland: Regan McCaffery 021 992 340

or Wellington: Philip Rowe 021 754 300 or Meredith Parkin 021 972 526.

The 2016 campaign is in full swing, in fact nearing completion with most of the wines now released. Our campaign will remain open until 20th July 2017. First payment summaries will then be prepared in July and sent to you, these will be due for payment by the 20th August 2017.

## EXPLORING BORDEAUX

To start the journey of exploring Bordeaux, you need to first start with the Classification System. In 1855, being lovers of red tape, the French 'authorities' created what became known as 'The Classified Growths of the Médoc'. A five-class classification of 61 of the leading Médoc Châteaux (as well as two from Graves). This formalised lists that were already in place, based on each Châteaux relative quality as expressed by the prices of each individual estate. These growths, or 'Crus' range from first (Premier) through to fifth (cinquièmes). Over the years that have since passed, there has been very little change to the 1855 Classification other than Château Mouton Rothschild moving from second growth to first in 1973 - Baron Philippe de Rothschild reportedly saying - 'Mouton I am, Second I am not'. Château Cantemerle added as a fifth growth in 1856 and Château Dubignon, a third growth was absorbed into Château Malescot St Exupéry.

Saint-Émilion added its own classification system in 1955, which has subsequently been frequently amended. Pomerol has never been classified, although the greatest wine from this region, Château Pétrus, is generally spoken of in the same hushed tones as the five first growths of the Médoc.

The Médoc First Growths are;

Château Lafite-Rothschild (Pauillac)

Château Margaux (Margaux)

Château Latour (Pauillac) - *not sold En Primeur*

Château Haut-Brion (Graves)

Château Mouton-Rothschild (Pauillac)

Whilst much of the classification system holds true today, the inherent problem with a system is that some of the Châteaux have improved out of sight since it was first introduced, while others are considered to have rested on their laurels, smug in the knowledge that their wines will always fetch high prices, as this was what the classification was based on in the first place. Like anything, it is a good guide as long as one keeps in mind the fact that some of the wines outside its boundaries can still be superb.



Bordeaux is located in the South West of France, and is the wine region that produces more top quality wine than any other. Bordeaux is renowned for its reds, which are often referred to as claret. The reason these wines attract so much interest, and generate such high prices, is largely their ability to age, with a lot of them not showing their true potential for decades. The main red grapes grown are Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc. The most famous white region is that of Sauternes, where the world's most luscious dessert wines come from. The White wines from Bordeaux are made with Sauvignon Blanc, Sémillon and in some cases Muscadelle; the very best white wines, like red wines from Bordeaux, are extremely age worthy.

Bordeaux is neatly divided into two groupings of appellations - those on the left bank of the Gironde and those on the right, with the Dordogne running through them. In general terms, the left bank is home to Cabernet driven wines and the right bank Merlot dominant expressions. The appellations on the left bank include Margaux, Pauillac, St-Julien and St-Estèphe. The appellations on the right bank include Fronsac, Lalande de Pomerol and the two great appellations of Saint-émilion and Pomerol.

The city of Bordeaux is a UNESCO World Heritage site and the heart of this unique region. At the centre of all trade here is the Négociant system, an historic route to market that remains strong today; the châteaux sell their wines to négociants, who in turn offer them to their partners around the world, essentially an open trading market - with a few exceptions - we are, after all, in France.

## THE HISTORY OF EN PRIMEUR

The process of selling En Primeur is not as long-established as you might think. A little history: The role of the négociant in Bordeaux is intertwined with the region in many ways; initially establishing themselves in the region, they were first and foremost businessmen, though not from Bordeaux itself. The early négociants were of German, English and Dutch origin. Regarded by the châteaux as outsiders, it became necessary to employ a middle-man, giving rise to the role of the courtier, i.e. one who acted as intermediary between the buyer and the seller.

At this time négociants bought wine in cask, immediately after the grapes had been vinified; the négociant would then blend and bottle the wine. It was not until the 1920s that Philippe de Rothschild led the charge to change this system, with his the first château to bottle the wine within the estate. He quickly convinced all the first growths to follow suit. The négociants continued to purchase the wine immediately upon vinification, but instead left it with the château to look after and bottle. Initially only involving the five first growths, in 1967 all of the classified growths were required to estate bottle, with all French wines following shortly after.

The négociants carried all the costs of these stocks and aged them until they were ready for sale. It was not until the financially hard times of 1974 that, to relieve some financial pressure, they began to sell the wines to retailers globally while still in barrel at the châteaux, marking the birth of the En Primeur system we know today.

## IS THERE A FUTURE FOR EN PRIMEUR?

There is a lot of discussion in the media about En Primeur. There are those who question the relevance of rating cask samples, and those who question the validity of the process itself. Nonetheless, it is a system that has been shown to work. Does it provide good return on one's investment? It certainly has over the years, and may well continue to do so. Although some have looked to, and will continue to consider, Bordeaux for its investment potential, these are, before anything else, some of the world's greatest fine wines, created for drinking and savouring. The so-called 'lesser' vintages often mature earlier and represent excellent mid-term cellaring potential.

Have the prices gone too high? With the exceptional quality of the 2009 and 2010 years, the prices did reach new levels. Since then, the very top producers have maintained a certain, relatively high price level. Not all wines are at this level, though, and there is a bracket of top wines - below the 30 or so in the category above - that represent excellent value and are seriously good wines. Those top-end prices of a select few have, unfortunately, cast something of a shadow over the rest of the Bordeaux output.

As for the tasting of cask samples, one is sampling and assessing a young wine that has been created by the winemaker to evolve into its ultimate form. Experience shows that these final wines tend to not vary greatly from the samples reviewed. Comparing the scores of these samples, bestowed by critics, and the final wines themselves shows very little difference other than, usually, a point or two upwards.

There are a lot of people who bemoan the process, particularly the UK trade for whom, in good years, En Primeur is financially very important. There have been many calls from media for En Primeur to be reworked, perhaps done differently. Yet these same people turn up in droves each year to taste the wines; their curiosity gets them every time.

En Primeur is a fascinating process, one that attracts a huge amount of media attention and discussion. When you think about the time that must be spent on brainstorming marketing ideas to find a point of difference, the effort required to create a clever campaign and generate the marketing dollars to realise it, one could easily say that the Bordelaise have nailed it, via a workable system where the vintage is reviewed, analysed and disseminated out into the wine-drinking world. En Primeur can be regarded, then, as an excellent piece of wine marketing that is, for now, working just fine.



## WHY PURCHASE FROM GLENGARRY?

Within the French market, particularly at the upper level, Glengarry are very successful with our Bordeaux En Primeur offering. We lead the market in terms of cases shipped and dollar turnover, mainly through our loyal customers and our longstanding relationships with the best Négociants, enabling us to offer the best wines in reasonable volumes, even in high demand years such as 2005, 2009 and 2010. The Glengarry En Primeur service has been running since our first offer in 1982 and we are able to offer the security of experience and expertise in this exciting and growing wine service.

With our longstanding relationships and our experience honed over 30-odd years, we are old hands at this, and once again we made the commitment to ensure you the best service and advice, with Liz Wheadon having been in Bordeaux in April to taste the 2016 vintage. Follow her on twitter ([#lizziewine](#)) or our facebook and blog, [aboutwine.co.nz](#).

## BORDEAUX 2016 – A TURNING POINT?

Liz posted this collection of thoughts about the 2016 vintage on our blog post her tasting in Bordeaux: “The 2016 vintage is very distinctive in character and somewhat different to the recent vintages coming out of Bordeaux. The question I was left pondering is whether the change is due to climatic conditions, market influence or a shift in the make-up of the commentators.

The overarching character one encounters in the 2016 wines is balance. Simply put, everything is in its place. The fruit presence is not too much or too little, the lively acid is adding a noticeable freshness and the tannins are decidedly ripe and well structured. This, then, is a balanced and excellent vintage. The alcohol levels are generally lower at around 13% and the extraction has been toned back; these are not overly-concentrated or extracted wines, the balancing acidity and freshness providing a key component.

So, did these factors and this freshness emerge from the drought, the sunny summer and the late-arriving rain, or was there another influence? When listening to those winemakers we visited within Bordeaux, one common theme that emerged was caution around not over-extracting. It led me to consider whether this was due a deliberate intent on their part not to draw overly upon the ripe, concentrated fruit the drought had provided, or whether they were reacting to a change in the overall make-up and opinions of the critics.

Robert Parker has had so much influence on Bordeaux and its wines; he has, indeed, been a key component in the success of many of the producers there. One thing is certain: in general, the bolder the fruit, the concentration and the flavour, the higher the Parker score. This, to me, does seem a somewhat short-sighted view; Bordeaux is a region with so much history, and yet much of what is being recalled and feted has been confined to relatively recent events. Many of the greatest Bordeaux I have tasted have been old wines, often bearing little resemblance to their younger counterparts from recent vintages. The difficulty in correlations aside, in tasting the 2016s, I could imagine them to be old wines.

The change that was apparent in Bordeaux may, in fact, have come from the vintage; these are, after all, many of the very best vineyards and châteaux in the world. Whatever it is that has resulted in these impeccably balanced wines, I do like them. If this is a turning point for Bordeaux, the region should continue at speed in this direction; for me, it's the right one.”





## 2016 VINTAGE REPORT AND OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

The growing season for the 2016 vintage was not typical. Come end of summer there were grave concerns for the vintage, then, at just the right moment, some rain fell. The flowering was challenged with a complicated weather pattern in spring. From the later part of June through to September 13th, it was very dry; an incredible drought, the days were very sunny and dry, though not hot (like in 2013). The fruit ripened well, though the berry sizes were very small. Then it rained, the berries enjoying the moisture and becoming more plump. With moisture, botrytis could have been an issue, though was not due to the drying winds. The nights were very cool at this time, which assisted with botrytis pressure at this point. The high diurnal temperature difference and cool nights part of the reason for the freshness and vibrant acidity in the wines. The settled weather after this welcome rain also allowed Cabernet to be left on the vine to mature; hang time is essential for Cabernet. Young vines did not enjoy this vintage, for many the drought provided too much of a challenge.

The overarching character in all the 2016s is balance; simply put, everything is in its place. The fruit is not too much or too little; the acid lively, adding freshness; the tannins super ripe and well structured. This is a balanced, excellent vintage.

The alcohol levels generally are lower, around 13%. The extraction has been toned back; these are not super concentrated, extracted wines. The acidity and freshness a key factor.

The left bank wines are excellent; Cabernet did enjoy these weather conditions. There's a purity to the wines, the very best are going to be long lived wines. In some of the recent vintages, it has been a little hard to taste the young wines and imagine them as old wines; not quite sure how the ripe fruit will evolve, or the atypical nature of them will evolve. Not so with the 2016 wines; these are wines that, even tasted at this very early stage, I could imagine as beautiful old wines. The very best express their terroir expertly, almost as if text book examples from the region.

There are many great wines on the left bank; those of St. Julien stood out, particularly Léoville Las Cases, which stopped me in my tracks, as did Château Mouton Rothschild. These would have to be my top wines of the vintage.

On the right bank, the wines are equally good, though do require a little more concentration, their brilliance not as obvious as the wines on the left. The cooler nights at the end of the vintage has resulted in very fragrant, attractive wines. This side of the river not quite as harmonious; potentially it could have been, though there seems a few châteaux that have still over extracted the grapes and this has led to concentrated, syrupy wines.

2016 is certainly a great year for reds, not so for sauternes. There are great sweet wines, though they won't be long lived sauternes, the acidity and freshness not quite enough. Noticeable exceptions to this general statement include Coutet and Suduiraut, the latter exceptional this year.

This is a year where quality exists broadly through the region and price points. There are many of the value Médoc that have over delivered their status and price point. These are wines that will be well worth seeking out and buying volume of.

### WINES OF THE VINTAGE

CHÂTEAU MOUTON ROTHSCHILD 2016  
CHÂTEAU COS D'ESTOURNEL 2016  
CHÂTEAU MONTROSE 2016  
CHÂTEAU Léoville LAS CASES 2016  
CHÂTEAU LA FLEUR Pétrus 2016  
CHÂTEAU PICHON BARON 2016  
CHÂTEAU CALON SÉGUR 2016  
CHÂTEAU LE PIN 2016  
VIEUX CHÂTEAU CERTAN 2016

### CELLAR MUST HAVES

CHÂTEAU PÉTRUS 2016  
CHÂTEAU MARGAUX 2016  
CHÂTEAU TROTANOY 2016  
CHÂTEAU LAFITE ROTHSCHILD 2016  
CHÂTEAU PICHON LALANDE 2016  
CHÂTEAU LAFLEUR (POMEROL) 2016  
CHÂTEAU LÉOVILLE BARTON 2016  
CHÂTEAU LAGRANGE (ST JULIEN) 2016  
CHÂTEAU KIRWAN 2016

### BEST VALUE WINES

CHÂTEAU FOURCAS HOSTEN 2016  
CHÂTEAU RAUZAN SEGLA 2016  
CHÂTEAU CLOS DE BOÛARD 2016  
CHÂTEAU FLEUR CARDINALE 2016  
CHÂTEAU HAUT BRISSON 2016  
CHÂTEAU LANESSAN 2016  
CHÂTEAU PUY BLANQUET 2016  
CHÂTEAU PLINCE 2016  
CHÂTEAU HOSANNA 2016  
CHÂTEAU POTENSAC 2016

## SAINT-ESTÈPHE

Saint-Estèphe is the largest and most northern of the great Médoc communes and lies about 50km north of Bordeaux. It produces a lot of wine mainly because of its clutch of highly reputed Cru Bourgeois such as Château Phélan-Ségur. There are only five classed growths: two seconds, a third, a fourth and a fifth. The wines are classed as solid rather than austere due to a lot of clay in the soil.



### CHÂTEAU PHELAN SÉGUR 2016

Saint Estèphe Cru Bourgeois

First payment \$67.59 Estimated second \$16.95

Estimated total \$84.54 Availability – Good

**91-94 Wine Spectator** *This has a pronounced savory streak amid the mix of plum and cassis notes, giving way to a tobacco edge on the slightly muscular finish. Shows plenty of breadth and depth, and should round into form.*

**94 Decanter** *They finished picking here on 25th October, one of the latest ever harvests at Phélan. Feathery tannins and a fresh, ripe but crunchy aspect to the fruit gives a real sense of vivacity and grip. I love the dark pepper spice that clamps around the fruit on the second half of the palate. This is an excellent vintage for Phélan, for me better than both the 2015 and 2014. It's full of life with silky, extremely pliable tannins (the IPT comes in at 89, but they reflect the signature of the vintage by being soft and lush) and a slow build up to a juicy frame that catches the fruit. Blend of 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 45% Merlot, aged in 50% new oak. - Jane Anson*

**94-95 James Suckling** *A super fragrant red with blackberry and blueberry aromas plus hints of blackcurrants. Full-bodied, powerful and structured. Tannic. Very long finish. A muscular and intense wine.*

**92-94 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Phelan-Ségur has a really quite superb bouquet, quite Pauillac-like in style with graphite-infused black fruit, subtle tertiary notes and later, pressed flowers. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin. There is plenty of tobacco-infused black fruit here, crisp and focused with a lovely salinity on the finish that lingers in the mouth. This is a strong follow-up to the excellent 2015 and may even surpass it. This is a Saint-Estèphe that is getting better and better.*

**17 Jancis Robinson** *Comfortable, well-balanced, bone-dry rendition. Very appetising. Very dry finish. Classical build. Far from heavy. Meaty and spicy and very agreeable to drink!*

### LES ORMES DE PEZ 2016

Saint Estèphe

First payment \$45.4 Estimated second \$12.65

Estimated total \$58.05 Availability – Good

**90-93 Wine Spectator** *This sports a juicy core of damson plum and red currant fruit, backed by a strong mineral edge that lends ample cut and drive to the finish. Shows pleasant austerity, with the structure to age.*

**93-94 James Suckling** *Powerful and structured with lots of blueberry, blackberry and currant character. Full-bodied, tight and tannic yet polished and beautiful. Fantastic. Juicy.*

**93 Decanter** *The Cazes family's property in St-Estèphe, which for a drinking wine is going to be hard to beat this year. Juicy and utterly delicious, it has freshness and a great menthol character with finely grained tannins. It manages to deliver the Médoc signature without falling over itself. Mostly Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon with a dash of Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot, planted on clay-limestone and gravels, aged in 45% new oak. 3.69pH. - Jane Anson*

**Glengarry Review** *44% Cabernet, 49% Merlot, 6% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot. Initially shy, the palate is very well structured with a beautiful integrated acidity. The freshness and energy in this wine a signature. The 2010 of this was excellent; the 2016 is like that, but fresher and more lively. Very good indeed. Liz Wheadon*

**92-94 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Les Ormes de Pez is a blend of 42% Cabernet Sauvignon, 52% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot picked from 28 September until 12 October. It has an impressive bouquet: blackcurrants, boysenberry and crème de cassis, all with very well integrated new oak. There is a lot of panache here, a word perhaps I have not associated with this Saint Estèphe in recent years. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, a lovely grainy texture, quite pure with lovely blackberry, melted tar and slightly savory, almost meaty notes. Harmonious right to the end, this is an excellent Les Ormes de Pez that seems to revel in the 2016 vintage. This might be one of the best wines from the estate.*



## CHÂTEAU LAFON ROCHET 2016

Saint Estèphe Fourth Growth

First payment \$70.05 Estimated second \$17.42

Estimated total \$87.47 Availability – Good

**90-93 Wine Spectator** *Very pure, with a lilac note leading the way for racy red currant and cassis flavors. The finish is alive, featuring a brisk iron note and long, pleasantly austere structure. Nicely done. Score range: 90-93 James Molesworth*

**93-94 James Suckling** *Powerful and structured with lots of blueberry, blackberry and currant character. Full-bodied, tight and tannic yet polished and beautiful. Fantastic. Juicy.*

**91-93 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Lafon Rochet is a blend of 25% Merlot, 67% Cabernet Sauvignon, 2% Petit Verdot and 6% Cabernet Franc cropped at 46 hectoliters per hectare and matured in 50% new oak. The harvest was between 1 October and 20 October. The alcohol is 13.6%, which is just a little higher here than say Cos d'Estournel or Montrose. It has a very succinct bouquet with blackberry, bilberry and light oyster shell aromas, classic in style, more reserved than I found the 2015 Lafon Rochet last year. The palate is medium-bodied with powerful tannin on the entry, a keen line of acidity (3.65 pH), fine symmetry with a pleasant rondeur on the finish sprinkled with black pepper and tobacco. This is a very fine Lafon Rochet from Basile Tesseron and his team.*

**Glengarry Review** *Fragrant and perfumed, the spicy tannins add great intrigue and interest on the palate. Tannins are then fine and elegant on the finish with very good length. Liz Wheadon*

**95 Decanter** *All the success of St-Estèphe in 2016 can be seen in Lafon-Rochet this year, where the 30mm of rain on 13th September and 13mm on 8th October, with nothing in between, allowed the clay, limestone and gravel soils to fully ripen the grapes. Owner Basile Tesseron says he had never seen such maturity in his Cabernet Sauvignons, and certainly we have hugely intense aromatics from the first nose. The palate features finessed and fleshed out mouthwatering black fruits making it hard not to love this. Tasted three times in total, and every time it stood out. Blend of 67% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot aged in 30% new oak. 3.68pH. - Jane Anson*

## CHÂTEAU COS D'ESTOURNEL 2016

Saint Estèphe Second Growth

First payment \$247.58 Estimated second \$51.82

Estimated total \$299.4 Availability - Sold Out

**97-98 James Suckling** *The finish is something else here. This is a wine that's so powerful and tannic yet at the same time so polished and superb on the finish. Full-bodied, beautifully crafted and precise. This is a wine that really grabs your attention. The agility and power are more than impressive. Wow is the word.*

**Glengarry Review** *This is a very classic Cos, a return to form. The distance between the style of the 2016 and the esoteric 2009 could not be more. The blend: 76% Cabernet, 23% Merlot, 1% Cabernet Franc. The tannins are beautifully ripe, the palate ethereal and textured, impeccable balance. The finish is long, poised and lively, the acidity giving this a freshness. Strict selection, 45% of the crop went into this Grand Vin. - Liz Wheadon*

**97 Decanter** *This is one of the best Cos d'Estournels that I can remember trying at this early stage, it really does have every hair standing up on end. Powerful and deep, with a clear intensity but such delicacy; this is fresh, beautiful and succulent. It moves effortlessly through the palate without ever letting you forget that it's there. Deep black cherries, touches of dark chocolate and graphite are driven forward by a pulse of energy. From a blend of 76% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot and 1% Cabernet Franc aged in 60% new oak. - Jane Anson*

**98-100 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Cos d'Estournel takes the 2016 baton and runs with it. A blend of 76% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot and 1% Cabernet Franc that was picked between 26 September and 15 October at 45 hectoliters per hectare, this fabulous Saint Estèphe will be matured in 60% new oak. The alcohol level this year is 13.07%, which proprietor Michel Reybier reminded me is almost 1.5% lower than in 2010. This is clearly a more classically styled Cos d'Estournel that is completely different than say, the 2009 Cos d'Estournel and the more flamboyant, exotic wines in recent years. It actually bears more stylistic similarities to its neighbor Montrose. It is extremely detailed with blackberry and a touch of boysenberry, the fruit almost "creeping up" on you by stealth and then underneath, an undertow of minerals, wet limestone and even flint. The palate has astonishing: exquisite balance, perhaps the most precise and detailed Cos d'Estournel that I have encountered in many years of tasting at this address. It segues into a Pauillac-like second-half with veins of graphite strafing the black fruit, but what marks this Cos d'Estournel is the palpable energy and tension allied with an effortless nature. The persistence, the reverberation in the mouth is quite magnificent, perhaps even longer on my second visit to the property compared to the first. It really is a brilliant Cos d'Estournel that oozes class and sophistication, moreover, a wine that is going to give serious amounts of drinking pleasure over a very long period of time. Boom—and Cos drops the mic. Tasted twice, almost three weeks apart, with consistent notes.*

## CHÂTEAU MONTROSE 2016

Saint Estèphe Second Growth

First payment \$210.59 Estimated second \$44.65

Estimated total \$255.24 Availability - Low

**18 Jancis Robinson** *Gravel and then clay (rather than mixed as in Tronquoy). 9 ha organic and 6 ha biodynamic. They intend to be fully organic in five years. 68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc. Very dark blackish crimson. Great, fresh, minerally savour on the nose. Lots of intensity initially. Sweet start, quite a surprise in a way, and then lots of structure. Doesn't quite hang together yet but there is masses of potential. Sweet, fresh ink. Good raciness. Quite muscular but not at all heavy. An edge of acidity is evident without the strong stoniness of St-Estèphe. Just a little bit stringy on the end. Lots of life and freshness (clays help). Pretty glamorous.*

**Glengarry Review** *68% Cabernet, 25% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc, this year is all about Cabernet at Montrose, no Petit Verdot made the blend and the percentage of Merlot is lower. Very pure cassis nose, the palate structure greets you and exceeds expectation. Cassis, leather, concentrated core of red fruit, has the charm of Montrose with the power. Balanced and very precise; fine, long, well-formed tannins. Abv is 13% Liz Wheadon*

**96 Decanter** *In many ways this is a Bordeaux vintage for lovers of great Burgundy - it has the depth and intensity but also a floral, fragrant edge to it; something that is encapsulated perfectly in the classicism of Montrose. This needs some time in the glass as its structure is long and straight, true to the signature of the property. It shows clear depth and precision, and gorgeously placed spice with the sweetness of the black cherry and wild fig stealing in along the side of the palate. The young vines suffered at Montrose because the estate has lots of gravelly, well drained soils, but the proximity to the river provided cooling nights and you can feel far more waves of vibrant freshness than in the 2015 vintage, even with the same tannin index of 80IPT (compared to 70IPT in 2014). An excellent wine which represents 37% of overall production. 68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot and 7% Cabernet Franc. - Jane Anson*

**97-98 James Suckling** *A solid and tight Montrose with a linear structure of ripe tannins that gives wonderful length and energy. Full-bodied, yet reserved and toned. Stone and mineral character underneath is impressive. Beautiful center palate. The class and focus are marvelous. Better than 2015. This is what Montrose is all about.*

**97-99 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Montrose is a blend of 68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot and 7% Cabernet Franc (no Petit Verdot this year) picked between 23 September to 14 October and matured in 60% new oak. It has a very sophisticated bouquet with blackberry, briary, a touch of blue fruit and violets. Sometimes this Saint Estèphe can be a little broody at en primeur, but this certainly is more expressive, maintaining very fine delineation and precision, unfolding with each swirl of the glass and revealing a hidden graphite/marine influence. The palate is very fresh on the entry. The first facet of this wine that strikes you is the freshness that lasts from start to finish. This is an animated, vivacious Montrose that starts in almost understated fashion yet builds in the mouth towards what is almost a sensual finish, not a descriptor often applied to Montrose. It is a disarmingly and hauntingly beautiful 2016, extremely long and the aftertaste lasting two or three minutes. NB This is one example where I felt my second visit, over a fortnight after the first, revealed a wine with much greater potential, and I therefore raised my banded score accordingly.*

## CHÂTEAU CAPBERN 2016

Saint Estèphe

First payment \$30.6 Estimated second \$9.78

Estimated total \$40.38 Availability - Sold Out

**92 Decanter** *This shows a great combination of deep, intense cassis and loganberry fruits and chalky, almost chewy, tannins. There is a slow creep of power, but with a sense of lightness in the touch. This is a reliable property, known as Capbern Gasqueton until 2013, that has delivered another hugely drinkable vintage - the IPT of 78 is similar to the 2014. The blend of 69% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot spends 18 months in 60% new oak. 3.7pH. - Jane Anson*

**92-93 James Suckling** *Love the stone, tar and black currant in this. Full and tight with firm and silky tannins and a long, long finish. Spicy, too. Can't wait to see how this evolves. Serious.*

## CHÂTEAU CALON SÉCUR 2016

Saint Estèphe Third Growth

First payment \$129.23 Estimated second \$28.89

Estimated total \$158.12 Availability - Sold Out

**94-97 Wine Spectator** *This sports a dark fruit core, a mouthwatering iron edge and a long, tobacco-accented finish. The broad and racy feel gives this a distinctive profile. This should put on some weight. Score range: 94-97 - James Molesworth*

**98-99 James Suckling** *Wow. This is the Calon we have been waiting for! Intensity and power. Chewy and polished tannins. Full body, great depth. It goes on for minutes. Shows a classic, historical character that really excites me. The essence of this estate and St.-Estèphe. Best ever?*

**Glengarry Review** *60% Cabernet, 18% Cabernet Franc, 20% Merlot and 2% Petit Verdot. Charming, gorgeous spice with an attractive aromatic nose. Red fruits are generous, with beautiful balance of cassis and plum. The tannins are super fine, elegant and long. This is excellent and with super impeccable balance. Liz Wheadon*

## CHÂTEAU COS D'ESTOURNEL BLANC 2016

Saint Estèphe

First payment \$173.61 Estimated second \$37.49

Estimated total \$211.1 Availability – Good

**93 Decanter** *Another Médoc white to bear in mind when selecting this year. A 75% Sauvignon Blanc, 25% Semillon blend, the team picked over the course of four outings, right through to 10th October having started on 12th September. This is far enough up in the northern Médoc to get full estuary breezes, and with extreme selection the crop is one third less than last year. The aromatic precision is lovely, a fresh, clean line of citrus and white peach flesh that opens up and peels itself back through the palate.*

**96-97 James Suckling** *A layered and deep white with beautiful fruit giving mango, sliced-lemon and green-pineapple character. Full-bodied and so flavorful. Love the phenolic balance. One of the best dry whites of the vintage.*

**Glengarry Review** *A tiny production with only 3000 bottles produced, 75% Sauvignon Blanc, the balance Semillon. This is a steely mineral expression of Sauvignon, the palate structure and weight superb. An herbaceous green style, it's lean, dry and fabulous. So elegant and refined. The vineyard for Cos Blanc is located north of St. Estèphe very close to the sea, the location providing a salinity and mineral edge. - Liz Wheadon*

## CHÂTEAU MEYNEY 2016

Saint Estèphe

First payment \$43.55 Estimated second \$12.29

Estimated total \$55.84 Availability – Good

**95-96 James Suckling** *Solid and incredible depth reminds me of the Meyneys of the 1960s that were so structured and incredible. Full-bodied yet polished and refined. Super structure.*

**92 Decanter** *Winemaker Anne la Naour and consultant Hubert de BOÛARD are clearly working very hard on upping the quality of Meyney, which is just starting to push beyond its normal price category. Of the triumvirate of great vintages, for me the 2014 was incredible and punched above its weight, but this is also a very good wine. It's a terroir of clay and gravel that takes a long time to come round, but already we have freshness, colour and spice with big bristling tannins and well placed damson and black cherry fruits. Powerful upfront with a good round mouthfeel, this has depth and solidity, a serious wine. 49% Merlot, 33% Cabernet Sauvignon and 18% Petit Verdot. - Jane Anson*

## MARQUIS DE CALON SÉCUR 2016

Saint Estèphe

First payment \$39.23 Estimated second \$11.45

Estimated total \$50.68 Availability – Good

**91 Decanter** *A beautifully vibrant violet colour with tight, sappy, dark fruits that grip right through the palate. This is a beautifully mouth-watering second wine from 55% Merlot and 45% Cabernet Sauvignon aged in 30% new oak for 17 months. The young vines suffered somewhat in 2016 with the drought, and many that were blended into the grand vin in 2015 (70% Merlot) did not make it in 2016. - Jane Anson*

**Glengarry Review** *55% Merlot, 45% Cabernet, Very dense red fruits on the nose, so many concentrated dense plum characters. Excellent structure, love the tannins, almost ethereal, fine and firm grained, this is a sensational second wine. Liz Wheadon*



## LA DAME DE MONTROSE ST ESTÈPHE 2016

Saint Estèphe

First payment \$55.26 Estimated second \$14.56

Estimated total \$69.82 Availability – Good

**91-92 James Suckling** *A linear and fine rendition of Montrose's second wine with blueberry and blackberry character. Medium to full body, firm tannins and a juicy finish. Structured. Racy.*

**90-92 Neal Martin** *The 2016 La Dame de Montrose is a blend of 35% Cabernet Sauvignon, 52% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc and 11% Petit Verdot. It is often a difficult Deuxième Vin to taste en primeur, and it often meliorates considerably during its élevage. Here, the aromatics took some time to coalesce in the glass: blackberry, graphite and a noticeable oyster shell aroma. The palate is medium-bodied with a gentle grip in the mouth, grainy in texture with very fine balance towards the finish where the quality of the vintage showed through. Doubtless those aromatics will improve and gain harmony by the time it is in bottle, and indeed, when I returned for a second visit I discerned a little more finesse and prettiness on the finish. This is a delightful La Dame. Tasted twice.*

**Glengarry Review** *Unlike many of the second wines of classified growths, this is truly a second wine, in that there's no dedicated plots for this wine, it is a selection from the same plots that go into the Grand Vin. Fragrant and gorgeous, there's a charming ethereal character to this wine. Merlot 52%, Cabernet 35%, 2% Cabernet Franc and 11% petit Verdot. Generous plum fruit characters with a nice lift and freshens. Super well balanced. Liz Wheadon*

## LES PAGODES DE COS 2016

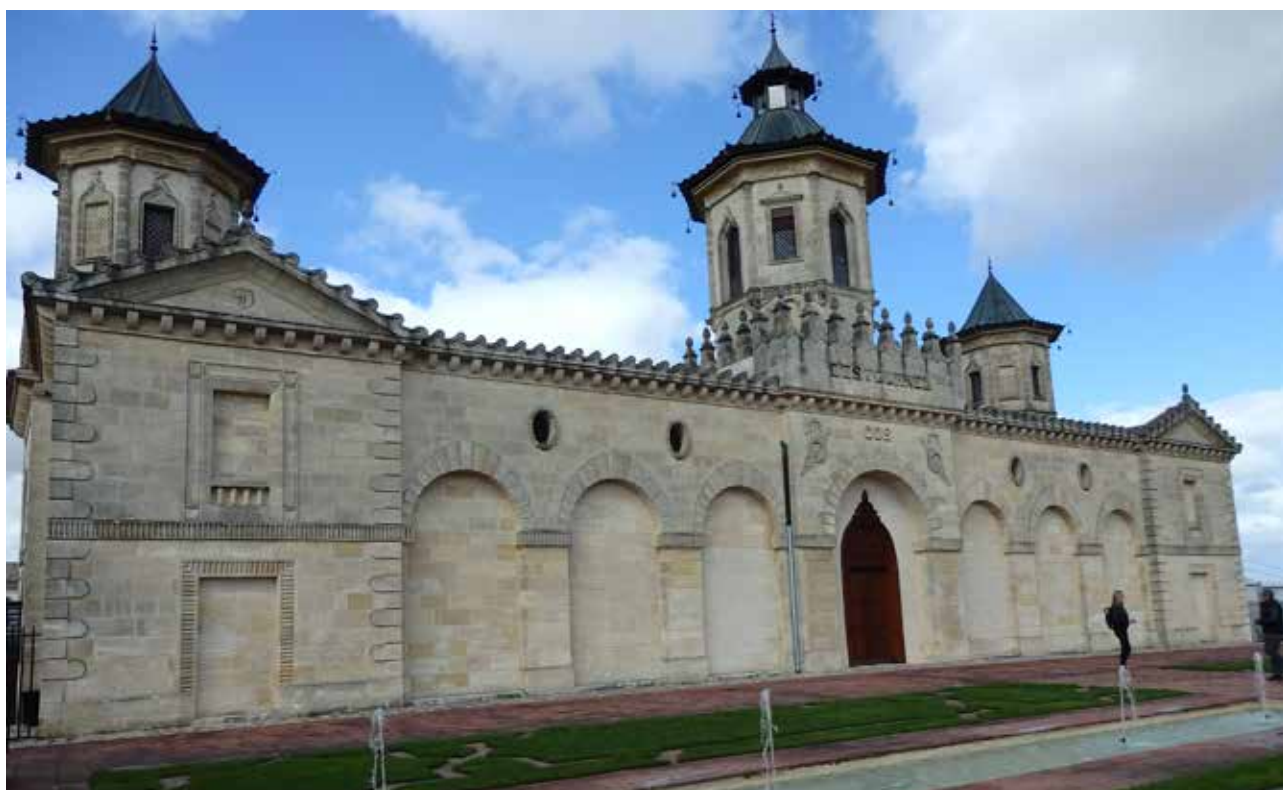
Saint Estèphe

First payment \$66.77 Estimated second \$16.79

Estimated total \$83.56 Availability – Good

**Glengarry Review** *Fragrant and expressive, cassis and spice notes that are refined and elegant. Excellent texture, charming, layered palate. Very good structure and length. This is super smart. - Liz Wheadon*

**92 Decanter** *This is a serious wine representing 55% of the overall production, with the other 45% in Cos ('not one drop into a third wine or bulk' says director Aymeric de Gironde). Extremely dark black cassis fruits and graphite show the power of St-Estèphe clays. Fresh, bright and well structured (3.61pH, 65IPT), this is bristling with fruit and silky tannins, and may even close down for a few years. A blend of 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 46.5% Merlot, 3% Petit Verdot and 0.6% Cabernet Franc from vines averaging 35 years old, aged in 30% new oak. - Jane Anson*



## PAUILLAC

Pauillac is the most important commune of the Médoc, containing three of the five first growths and no fewer than fifteen other classified châteaux. The wines of Pauillac are the archetype of Bordeaux, and the taste of Cabernet Sauvignon which is completely at home here. The wines are dense, full bodied and tannic: austere when young, rich and distinguished when mature; and the longest lived of all Bordeaux wines. The soil here dictates the longevity with heavy gravel, thicker to the north than the south, that lies on a sub-soil of larger stones, and iron based sands.

### CHÂTEAU CLERC MILON 2016

Pauillac Fifth Growth

First payment \$104.57 Estimated second \$24.11

Estimated total \$128.68 Availability - Sold Out

**96 Decanter** *An estate that has been making great leaps forward over recent years, and once again we have a gorgeous Clerc on our hands. This is extremely succulent, with aromatic complexity and a freshness that just bursts out of the glass. Things start off closed for the first minute or so, then the juice comes rushing through. The mid-palate is smooth and polished but also bursting with energy. This is quite clearly one of their best ever wines, ripped through with sweet cherry and wild blackberry fruit, tightened up by slate and cedar. 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot and 1% Carmenere (some of the oldest plantings of this grape in Bordeaux). Drinking Window 2027 - 2050 - Jane Anson*

**Glengarry Review** *55% Cabernet, 29% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot and 1% Carmenere. Intense black colour, fruit driven nose. Wow, the structure is impressive, this is so powerful and bold. Superbly terroir driven, this tastes like classic Pauillac, intense and firm structure. Liz Wheadon*

### CHÂTEAU D'ARMAILHAC 2016

Pauillac

First payment \$67.59 Estimated second \$16.95

Estimated total \$84.54 Availability - Good

**95-96 James Suckling** *This is really tannic and muscular for d'Armailhac. Perhaps the most powerful ever. Full and chewy yet balanced and polished. Very, very impressive. Greatest ever?*

**92-95 Wine Spectator** *Inviting, with notes of currant preserves and cherry sauce giving way to taut charcoal and singed alder accents. The chalky finish is a bit tight, but the stuffing is there. This has really good energy. Score range: 92-95*

**92-94 Neal Martin** *The 2016 D'Armailhac is a blend of 62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot that was picked between 27 September and 14 October. The bouquet is very impressive, typical d'Armailhac in terms of the opulence and flamboyance with lush black cherry and boysenberry fruit, a subtle floral note developing with time in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with a crisp and tensile entry; there is immense purity here with some lovely blue fruit appearing on the finish. This is a d'Armailhac that is emboldened by unprecedented tannic structure that gives it real backbone and a sense of authority. Quite simply, this is one of the best wines of Château D'Armailhac that I have tasted, somehow not a million miles away from Grand Puy Lacoste in style.*

**Glengarry Review** *62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot. Such a charming nose; generous, flamboyant palate with fruit that is neither too sweet or bold, it's just right. The tannins are very fine and well-integrated, the texture refined and the balance spot on. Juicy, vibrant and very well made. Liz Wheadon*

### CHÂTEAU GRAND PUY DUCASSE 2016

Pauillac Fifth Growth

First payment \$60.19 Estimated second \$15.51

Estimated total \$75.7 Availability - Good

**91-93 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Grand-Puy-Ducasse follows up the 2015 with a 2016 that is equally good, marking--one hopes--a change in direction for this Pauillac estate that frustratingly under-performed in the past. This has a very attractive bouquet with pure blackberry and raspberry coulis aromas, just that hint of pencil lead leading you towards Pauillac. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, plenty of sappy black fruit and a hint of tar and graphite towards the persistent finish. This is an excellent "G.P.D" that should give a couple decades of drinking pleasure.*

## CHÂTEAU HAUT BAGES LIBERAL 2016

Pauillac Fifth Growth

First payment \$67.59 Estimated second \$16.95

Estimated total \$84.54 Availability - Good

**91-94 Wine Spectator** *Seriously focused, with a bolt of graphite coursing through, while waves of fig, blackberry and black currant fruit follow along. Offers a long, sleek, mineral-driven finish. A strong showing. Score range: 91-94 - James Molesworth*

**94-95 James Suckling** *Very chewy and long already with ripe tannins and plenty of fruit suggesting tobacco and blackcurrant character. Long finish. From biodynamic grapes.*

**90-92 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Haut Bages Liberal has a very focused and much more sumptuous bouquet than in previous years, thankfully without dispensing any of its character. It just seems more confident on the nose. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, pretty blackberry and boysenberry fruit laced with a touch of oyster shell, sashaying towards a quite elegant finish with admirable depth. You would not describe this as a potentially exciting Pauillac, but I suspect it will be delicious once in bottle.*

## CHÂTEAU LYNCH BAGES 2016

Pauillac Fifth Growth

First payment \$198.27 Estimated second \$42.26

Estimated total \$240.53 Availability - Good

**Glengarry Review** *75% Cabernet, 19% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot. Very intense colour, amazing fruit concentration, bold, powerful and with impressive structure. There's freshness, and enough fruit for the power. Long lingering concentrated finish. A very typical Pauillac. Liz Wheadon*

**96-99 Wine Spectator** *This flashes some sporty flavors of ripe cassis, plum and blackberry compote, but quickly pulls everything together with the terrific graphite spine. Alluring tobacco and anise notes line the finish. Delivers fruit, power and cut. A great showing. Score range: 96-99 - JM*

**98-99 James Suckling** *This is really back-ended thanks to a powerful and almost endless finish. Full-bodied, dense and powerful with incredible concentration and length. Round and polished tannins. Layered. This unravels bit by bit. Energetic acidity gives it such superb freshness. This is at the 2010/2009 level.*

## CHÂTEAU PONTET CANET 2016

Pauillac Fifth Growth

First payment \$222.92 Estimated second \$47.04

Estimated total \$269.96 Availability - Good

**18 Jancis Robinson** *Picked 28 September to 12 October. Director Jean-Michel Comme says maybe a bit earlier than some. I'm not sure. They've been biodynamic for 12 years but 2007 was so bad that they had to abandon status. 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot. 34 hl/ha – reduced to that from spring pruning. Very dark crimson. More savoury and sumptuous than many of its neighbours. Blackberry compote and very round and rich and satiny. Very round. Almost too sweet but that is to complain needlessly. Already rich and enjoyable but masses of tannins too. Long and throbbing. Excellent with freshness and cleanliness and round. Pretty sweet though so it's a definite style.*

**97 Decanter** *This is richly layered with seductively ripe fruit. The quality and texture of the brambled blackberries, cassis and bilberries is striking. There is a sense of lightness and juiciness but also depth and flesh - you can feel the joy of that contrast at every step as the wine stretches out in front of you, hard to resist. 2016 is another vintage where they are up at 95%+ of grand vin, this year aged in 55% new casks, 10% in one year old casks and 35% in amphorae. Feel the effects of biodynamics make Pontet Canet stand out for its energy and lush tannins, even with the concentration of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot.- Jane Anson*

**98-99 James Suckling** *Vivid and full of energy with blackberry, currant and salt. Full body, intense and long. Harmony. Purpose. Classicism. The mineral and currant character is all year. A seamless tannin texture. Great wine. You want to drink it now!*

**Glengarry Review** *Pontet Canet has been biodynamic for 12 years now and whilst the weather pattern at the early stages put pressure on the vines, the technical team noted that the vines are strong and there was no disease pressure. 60% Cabernet, 35% Merlot, 4% Cabernet France and 1% Petit Verdot which is very close to what the blend is in the vineyard. This is very perfumed, with dark red fruits and a very brooding nature. The palate is all about the texture of the tannins and the layers of fruit, character and complexity. There's a brilliant core of dark fruits, incredible texture that's the differing factor here. A lovely long length, finesse and elegant with beautiful balance. Another smart year for Pontet Canet. Liz Wheadon*



## CHÂTEAU GRAND PUY LACOSTE 2016

Pauillac Fifth Growth

First payment \$124.3 Estimated second \$27.93

Estimated total \$152.23 Availability - Good

**94-97 Wine Spectator** *Ripe, but sleek and very focused, featuring racy iron and savory notes coursing alongside the core of black currant and black cherry fruit. The fresh finish keeps everything in lockstep. Well-built. Score range: 94-97 - James Molesworth*

**94 Decanter** *This has a spicy, almost toasted edge, perfectly balanced depth and a retraction of the tannins through the mid-palate that springs back again on the finish. This vintage sees the addition of 15 new small 80hl stainless steel vats in the cellar, allowing for more precision during fermentation. There is plenty of hidden power going on in this wine, with a tannin index of 79IPT, similar to the 2010. The silky tannins make this large-structured wine deceptive right now, but it is extremely well handled, particularly in the teasing out of mineral, wet stone touches flicking through the dark berry fruits. I expect it will close down a little more than some this year. - Jane Anson*

## CHÂTEAU LAFITE ROTHSCHILD 2016

Pauillac First Growth

First payment \$967.45 Estimated second \$193.04

Estimated total \$1160.49 Availability Good

**100 James Suckling** *Even stronger and more toned than the excellent 2015, this Lafite shows incredible power yet also finesse. Full-bodied, superfine and chewy wine. Muscular yet agile. Goes on for minutes. Stunning. Perhaps the greatest Lafite since the legendary 1959?*

**99 Decanter** *An awesome Lafite, this is elegant to a fault. It has the classicism of the very best vintages, and the pulse of electricity that runs through it is clear from the first moment you taste it. You are absolutely in Pauillac here, the epitome of what the left bank can deliver in terms of elegance and density: menthol edged tobacco, charcoal and cassis with both a subtlety and an intensity at once. It totally expands through the palate and pulls itself out, stretching out in front of you. It's a serious wine, but seamless. Concentrated, pure and fresh, everything is in its place. The blend this year is 92% Cabernet Sauvignon and 8% Merlot. Harvest took place between 23rd September and 12th October. 98-100 points. Jane Anson*

## CHÂTEAU MOUTON ROTHSCHILD 2016

Pauillac First Growth

First payment \$863.99 Estimated second \$171.23

Estimated total \$1035.22 Availability - Good

**98-100 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Mouton-Rothschild is a blend of 83% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot, 1% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot, the latter two co-fermented, picked from 26 September and finished on 14 October. As usual, it is being matured in 100% new oak. It has a very intense bouquet with blackberry, raspberry, cold limestone and crushed violet aromas that if anything, appear to gain vigor with aeration in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with supple, juicy tannin. There is a lot of fruit packed into this Mouton-Rothschild and therefore one can feel the weight in the mouth, yet the acidity keeps everything on tip-toes. The finish has superb precision and opulence, completing a Mouton-Rothschild that will rivet you to the spot. Tasted on two occasions, the second confirming that this is simply a magnificent wine. Whichever artist eventually designs the label is going to be drinking well.*

**100 James Suckling** *This is a phenomenal, muscular red that shows incredible power and depth. Full-bodied and with great concentration of tannins but this remains agile and polished. The form to this is stupendous. Such precision and clarity. The new 1986 but better.*

**Glengarry Review** *83% Cabernet, 15% Merlot, 1% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot (a variety that is not found that often in Mouton). Cassis, red and black fruits dominate the expressive nose. This is a muscular, powerful Mouton with intense fruit, ripe tannins and a firm Pauillac structure. Alongside all this power there's an impressive level of balance and finesse, a real charm to the wine. It's a big, structured Mouton, with impressive finesse, the acidity then adding delightful freshness, a hallmark of the year. Liz Wheadon*

## CHÂTEAU PICHON LONGUEVILLE BARON 2016

Pauillac Second Growth

First payment \$235.25 Estimated Second Payment \$49.43 Estimated \$284.68 Availability -Good

**96-99 Wine Spectator** *Has the pure, fresh, racy feel of the vintage, which is even more admirable considering the depth of the red currant, plum and cherry preserve flavors at the core and the power of the structure on the back end, pulling in accents of graphite and loam. A thumper of a Pauillac.*

**98-99 James Suckling** *I have been waiting for this for a long time. It's a remake of the legendary 1990 Pichon Baron. Full body, ultra-polished yet powerful tannins and a glorious finish. The will evolve beautifully. The core of fruit and tannins are great. A truly great Pichon Baron.*

**Glengarry Review** *85% Cabernet, 15% Merlot; the Cabernet very dominant in this year, one of the highest ever, a reflection on the quality of Cabernet this year. Dense cassis fruit character dominates the nose. The concentration and richness impressive. This is intense, powerful and super long. The balance is so impeccable; this starts off with a full charge of power, then shows you the balance which goes on and on. The finish very fresh indeed. This is a great Pichon, all about balance, concentration and minerality. A classic Pichon. Liz Wheadon*

## CHÂTEAU PIBRAN 2016

Pauillac

First payment \$50.33 Estimated Second Payment \$13.60

Estimated total \$63.93 Availability - Good

**93-94 James Suckling** *This is the best Pibran ever with fantastic depth of fruit and velvety tannins. Gorgeous fruit and richness. Layered and excellent. Dynamite.*

**90-92 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Pibran is a blend of 55% Merlot and 45% Cabernet Sauvignon picked between 4 and 18 October, and matured in 50% new oak for what will be a total of 18 months. It offers plenty of ripe black cherry and blackcurrant aromas on the nose, a touch of blueberry and a light patisserie (choux pastry?) emanating from the new oak that will be subsumed with time. The palate is medium-bodied with quite firm tannin, a structured and more masculine Pibran compared to the 2015 with fine salinity and "bite" on the finish. This will benefit and meliorate throughout its barrel maturation and I am sure it will give 15-20 years of drinking pleasure.*

**Glengarry Review** *52% Merlot, 42% Cabernet, 5% Cabernet Franc and 1% Merlot. This has the highest percentage of Merlot in a very long time, possibly ever. The nose is full of plums and generous red fruit perfume. Firm palate, smoky spice and ripe tannins. There's a very solid fruit core, plenty of character but never too much weight. Liz Wheadon*



## CHÂTEAU PICHON LONGUEVILLE COMTESSE DE LALANDE 2016

Pauillac Second Growth

First payment \$247.58 Estimated second \$51.82

Estimated total \$299.40 Availability - Good

**98 Decanter** *Beautiful mix of power and restraint that you can almost reach out and touch. The extraction is so silky that the effect is a wine that seems endless, suspended above your palate, caressing it and teasing you to find the tannins that are very much hidden. There are some rich coffee seams that fill out on the mid-palate with cassis and ripe blackberry notes, whipped together with violets and peonies. The juicy, mouthwatering quality just keeps on coming. The blend is 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 21% Merlot and 4% Cabernet Franc from yields around 40hl/ha and with an IPT of 82, 10% higher than in 2010 but you simply can't tell. This is clearly going to age and age. One of the wines of the vintage, and I am ready to be seduced. Jane Anson*

**Glengarry review** *75% Cabernet, 21% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc. No Petit Verdot this year; the colour, as it always is with Pichon Lalande En Primeur, is intense and dense. The tannins are firm and very ripe, there's a gorgeous long, fine and elegant finish. Intense power with elegance. Liz Wheadon*

## CARRUADES DE LAFITE ROTHSCHILD 2016 PAUILLAC

Pauillac

First payment \$284.02 Estimated second \$58.63

Estimated total \$342.65 Availability - Sold out

**92 Decanter** *This is a rich, deep, elegant and well structured Carruades, clearly better than the 2015 and 2014, a great success in this vintage. Lafite have increased the percentage of third wine, so in this vintage 35% of the production went into Carruades and 40% into the grand vin. The blend is 49% Merlot, 44% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot. - Jane Anson*

**94-95 James Suckling** *The most tannic and textured Carruades ever. Full-bodied, big and powerful. Very, very long. New style?*

## AILE D'ARGENT BLANC 2016

Pauillac

First payment \$107.04 Estimated Second Payment \$24.59

Estimated total \$131.63 Availability - Good

**89-91 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Aile d'Argent Blanc is a blend of 52% Sauvignon Blanc, 46% Sémillon and 2% Muscadelle. Philippe Dhaluin told me that there was more malolactic this year, around 27% of the wine going through complete malolactic fermentation. It has an attractive nose of lime flower, granite and orange blossom aromas, a touch of pineapple cordial developing with time. The palate is very well balanced with crisp acidity, tensile and precise with impressive focus. This is another a deep or powerful Aile d'Argent, but I admire the precision on display here.*

**Glengarry Review** *53% Sauvignon, 46% Semillon and 1% Muscadelle. A highly aromatic wine, the nose is very expressive, displaying notes of white peach and nectarine. The finish is textural, with rich passionfruit notes and great concentration. A lovely long finish with immense drive and superb balance. Liz Wheadon*

## LE PETIT MOUTON DE MOUTON ROTHSCHILD 2016

Pauillac

First payment \$272.24 Estimated Second Payment \$56.59

Estimated total \$328.83 Availability - Good

**93 Decanter** *This is full of the signature Petit Mouton sexiness, with soft grilled coffee bean edges to the aromatics and a touch of glamour, totally delicious. The fine tannins are soft and full of beauty, just chewy enough to pull you in and make you want to stick around. The structure builds through the palate and the final impression is of a big wine majoring on fully ripe fruit. 62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot and 3% Cabernet Franc.* **95-96 James Suckling** *This is a very powerful Petit Mouton with so much rich fruit and power. Full-bodied, tannic yet polished and long. Muscular for the second wine of Mouton.*

**Glengarry Review** *62% Cabernet, black fruit character on the nose. There's good power and structure with a bold fruit character. The tannins are very ripe, there in abundance, with enough fruit to ensure there's good balance. Lovely long length to the impressive fruit driven palate. Liz Wheadon*



## LES TOURELLES DE LONGUEVILLE 2016

Pauillac

First payment \$51.56 Estimated Second Payment \$13.85

Estimated total \$65.41 Availability - Good

**94-95/100 James Suckling** *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.*

**90-92/100 erobertparker.com / Wine Advocate Neal Martin:** *"It offers a mixture of red and black fruit on the nose, just a touch of melted tar with fine delineation. The palate is medium-bodied with quite a powerful opening, dense black fruit tinged with graphite, a solid Deuxième Vin with a slightly aloof finish (at least at the moment). There is a pleasant graphite note lingering long on the aftertaste that completes a fine Pauillac to enjoy over the next 12-15 years."*

**16.5 Jancis Robinson** *58% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Cabernet Franc, 5% Petit Verdot. 30% new oak. Dark crimson. Spicy peppery nose. Lively and just the right side of skinny. Edgy. Just a tiny bit scrawny on the end.*

**Glengarry Review** *58% Merlot, 25% Cabernet, 12% Cabernet Franc and 5% Petit Verdot. The cassis and red fruits are very concentrated, the tannins super fine. This has a dense, dark core that has impressive structure and a super long length. Another sensational Tourelles. Liz Wheadon*

## BLANC DE LYNCH BAGES 2016

Pauillac

First payment \$60.19 Estimated Second Payment \$15.51

Estimated total \$75.70 Availability - Good

**95 James Suckling** *This is really excellent with sliced apples, lemon rind, minerals and stones. Medium to full body, vivid and energetic acidity and a long and powerful, almost mineral finish. Wow.*

**Glengarry Review** *52% Sauvignon, 30% Semillon and 18% Muscadelle. Lifted vibrant tropical nose. The Semillon and Muscadelle were aged in oak, the Sauvignon alcoholic fermentation was in oak. Green fruit, lively aromatics with balance and lovely integration. This is super smart yet again. Liz Wheadon*

## ECHO DE LYNCH BAGES 2016

Pauillac

First payment \$60.19 Estimated Second Payment \$15.51

Estimated total \$75.70 Availability - Good

**90-93 Neal Martin** *Shows a slightly dusty edge, but the core of fruit bursts with friendly cassis and cherry compote flavors. Cedar and singed vanilla accents score the finish. Score range: 90-93 - JM 91 Decanter Echo de Lynch-Bages this year accounts for 25% of overall production, and even here we are at a tannin index of 85IPT. But the freshness is undeniable, with a pH of 3.55 giving beautiful violet reflections on the colour. On the palate, there are softer brambly fruits than in the grand vin. 73% Cabernet Sauvignon and 27% Merlot.*

**Glengarry Review** *73% Cabernet, 27% Merlot. Quite shy on the nose, the palate though is intense with concentrated cassis and sweet ripe red berries. Lovely freshness, lively and overdelivers. Liz Wheadon*

## CHÂTEAU DUHART MILON ROTHSCHILD

Pauillac

First payment \$114.02 Estimated Second Payment \$25.94

Estimated total \$139.96 Availability - Good

**94-95 James Suckling** *A firm and silky young red with a medium to full body and lovely chocolate, cedar and currant character. Flavorful finish. One of the best in a very long time. Wine Spectator*

**92-94 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Duhart-Milon-Rothschild is a blend of 67% Cabernet Sauvignon and 33% Merlot picked between 26 September and 12 October with around 13.3% alcohol, slightly higher than in 2015 that suffered a little dilution. The bouquet is tightly wound with blackberry, cigar box and sous-bois aromas that gently unfold in the glass. This is classic, conservative Duhart-Milon. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, a crisp line of acidity, just a touch of black pepper enlivening the black fruit. Overall, this represents in some ways a return to the slightly more austere style of Duhart-Milon, yet there is perhaps now more approachability and certainly plenty of freshness. For me, this is a step up from the 2015 and it comes recommended.*

## CHÂTEAU BATAILLEY 2016

Pauillac

First payment \$70.88 Estimated Second Payment \$17.58

Estimated total \$88.46 Availability - Good

**93/100 Decanter** *A tunnel of tannins takes you right through the palate, but it is not fully walled in as with 2010, rather the tannins are pliable and the overall feeling is of well controlled fruit that deepens as you go along. The blend is 85% Cabernet Sauvignon, with 12% Merlot and 3% Petit Verdot, and a pH of 3.6. Wonderfully deep fruit flavours of blackberry and crushed cassis reside against black chocolate and well contained tannins. A lovely vintage that has power but is just the right side of big extraction. Good persistency with a coffee-scented finish. This is a buy, for sure. - Jane Anson*

**95-96 James Suckling** *I thought the 2015 defined the new Batailley, but this is fantastic. Full-bodied and so tannic and powerful. Flavors of chocolate, coffee and spices. Excellent finish. Very muscular. Tight and precise.*

**93-95 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Batailley is a blend of 12% Merlot, 3% Petit Verdot, 85% Cabernet Sauvignon cropped at 50h hectoliters per hectare. Matured in 60% new oak. It has an intense graphite infused bouquet with fine delineation, some freshly picked Pauillac mint coming through with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied with firm tannin that grip the mouth insistently; with graphite and tobacco-infused black fruit dominating, this a classically styled Batailley in the vein of previous vintages with the elegance coming through towards the finish. This is one of those wines that grows on you, perhaps not as easy or as charming to taste as other Pauillac 2016s at this stage, but knowing this property well, I know how it can blossom when it matters, which is when you and I drink it.*

## RESERVE DE LA COMTESSE 2016

Pauillac

First payment \$62.66 Estimated Second Payment \$15.99

Estimated total \$78.65 Availability - Good

**93-94 James Suckling** *A dense and powerful second wine from PL with layers of fruit and ripe, silky tannins. Shows tension and verve as well as polish. Excellent.*

**90-93 Wine Spectator** *Solid, featuring a juicy, fleshy core of cassis and plum fruit, backed by a well-embedded iron edge. The sleek, pure, driven finish extends nicely, with a lingering savory echo. Score range: 90-93 - JM*

**90-92 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Reserve de Comtesse de Lalande is a blend of 37% Merlot, 54% Cabernet Sauvignon, 4% Cabernet Franc and 5% Petit Verdot, with a modest alcohol level of 13.1% and a pH of 3.71. It has a tightly wound bouquet that perhaps needed more coaxing than some of its peers, but it was worth persisting, as it unveils some lovely cedar-infused black fruit. The palate is medium-bodied with quite firm tannin on the entry, moderate depth, a light marine influence upon the black fruit with a little creaminess on the finish. This is a fine Reserve de Comtesse that is on par with the excellent 2015 last year.*

**Glengarry Review** *54% Cabernet, 37% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc and 5% Petit Verdot. Impressive fragrance, very pure cassis character with intense red aromas. So much intensity with a ripe tight core of red fruit. Fine forward tight tannins. This has a brilliant structure, very ripe tannins. An elegant poised Cabernet. - Liz Wheadon*



## HAUT-MÉDOC

The Haut-Médoc appellation stretches over some 50km from north to south. Interestingly there are only five properties that are part of the 1855 Classification that lie outside the classic communes of Saint-Estèphe, Pauillac, Saint-Julien, Margaux and Pessac-Léognan. These châteaux are La Tour-Carnet, Belgrave Camensac, Cantemerle and La Lagune.

The soils are mixed and diverse leading to a number of different styles and quality levels. Some say the quality of some of the less known wines are rising faster than their more famous namesakes.

### CHÂTEAU BELLE-VUE 2016 - HAUT MÉDOC

Haut Médoc Grand Cru Classe

First payment \$22.49 Estimated Second Payment \$8.21

Estimated total \$30.70 Availability - Good

**97-98 James Suckling** *This is very exciting this year with a profound depth and power of fruit in addition to mineral undertones. Full and intense. Great finish. Better than the 2015?* **89-91 Wine Spectator** *The 2016 Belle Vue is a blend of 45% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot and 20% Petit Verdot picked at 55 hectoliters per hectare between 3-20 October and matured in 30% new oak. It has a surprisingly backward bouquet that demanded some coaxing, a succinct nose with just a touch of pencil lead. The palate is well balanced with succulent black fruit, a light grip in the mouth and a very Margaux-like finish. The 2015 was very fine, but I think this might turn out to be even better. This comes recommended.*

### CHÂTEAU SÉNÉJAC 2016

Haut Médoc

First payment \$20.74 Estimated Second Payment \$7.87

Estimated total \$28.61 Availability - Good

**92-93 James Suckling** *Dense and layered with blueberry and chocolate character. Medium body, fine tannins and a flavorful finish. Racy and refined already.*

**91-93 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Sénéjac has an attractive bouquet with floral-tinged red and black fruit—strawberry pastilles and just a touch of bay leaf, nicely defined and gaining intensity with aeration. The palate is very well balanced with fine tannin, well-judged acidity, very harmonious with assiduous use of new oak. This is a very stylish Haut-Médoc, one of the best that I have tasted in many years. This comes highly recommended.*

### CHÂTEAU CITRAN 2016

Haut Médoc Cru Bourgeois

First payment \$24.23 Estimated Second Payment \$8.55

Estimated total \$32.78 Availability - Good

**90 Decanter** *A super-reliable, good quality name in the Haut-Médoc category. Ground coffee flavours run right through the extremely elegant black fruits, liquorice and charcoal, with a lovely seam of freshness. The tannins are just a touch too solid, but it yet again shows the brilliant quality in this vintage at different levels. The blend is 50% Merlot, 45% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Cabernet Franc.*  
*Jane Anson*

**91-92 James Suckling** *Firm and chewy red with plum and berry character. Medium to full body and dense fruit. Structured now. Better than 2015.*





## CHÂTEAU CANTEMERLE 2016

Médoc Grand Cru Classe

First payment \$46.63 Estimated Second Payment \$12.89

Estimated total \$59.52 Good

**94-95 James Suckling** *Dense and chewy already with plenty of ripe tannins and bright fruit. Vivid acidity. Full body, a firm and silky texture and a flavorful finish. Lots going on. Excellent follow-up to the great 2015!*

**90-92 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Cantemerle has a tightly wound bouquet and it never quite delivers the detail and mineralité that some of its peers have produced in this vintage. There are attractive undergrowth scents and a touch of tobacco, but it does not leap from the glass with joy. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin, good depth of fruit, blackberry laced with cedar and graphite. One sample was missed a little precision, however, a second and third demonstrated much more precision and tension. My score reflects this. notes on the end.*

## CHÂTEAU SOCIANDO MALLET 2016

Médoc Cru Bourgeois

First payment \$55.26 Estimated Second Payment \$14.56

Estimated total \$69.82 Availability - Good

**92 Decanter** *Inky black in colour, with a beautiful graphite and black fruit nose. This is undoubtedly a great Sociando this year, with precise yet juicy graphite and black fruits on the palate, from a fairly even blend of Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon with a touch of Cabernet Franc too. - Jane Anson*

**93-94 James Suckling** *Tight and chewy yet polished and beautiful. Medium to full body, a pretty core of fruit within the center palate and a flavorful finish. Better than 2015 and on the same level as the excellent 2014.*

**92-94 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Sociando-Mallet has a refulgent purple/black color. It has a very intense and rich, you might say "ambitious" bouquet with layers of small black cherries, blueberry and a touch of sloes, less tertiary than previous vintages and certainly more opulent. The palate is medium-bodied with juicy ripe tannin that almost disguise the firm structure underneath. I admire the completeness of this Sociando-Mallet, the neatly embroidered new oak and the freshness on the finish. The 2015 Sociando-Mallet did not fire on all cylinders last year, but this 2016 is totally convincing. It comes highly recommended as one of the best wines produced at this estate in the northern Médoc. This is an outstanding wine from Mon. Gartreau.*

## CHÂTEAU POTENSAC 2016

Médoc Cru Bourgeois

First payment \$38 Estimated Second Payment \$11.22

Estimated total \$49.22 Availability - Good

**90-92 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Potensac is a blend of 39% Cabernet Sauvignon, 44% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot, cropped at 55 hectoliters per hectare between 5 and 19 October (11 days of picking), then matured in 30% new oak. Jean-Hubert Delon told me that his team was selective in the winery and so the Grand Vin only comprises 55% of the total production. It actually shares the potent marine/estuarine influence of the Chapelle de Potensac, plenty of black fruit here, maybe a little rustic but with plenty of character. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, quite linear at first, opening nicely in the mouth to reveal a spicy and lively middle and finish. This has a little more panache than the 2015 Potensac, more detail towards the finish, and it should give plenty of drinking pleasure over the next decade or more.*

## CHÂTEAU POUJEAUX 2016

Médoc Cru Bourgeois

First payment \$45.4 Estimated Second Payment \$12.65

Estimated total \$58.05 Availability - Good

**91-92 James Suckling** *A red with a tight palate of dark fruit and spices plus chewy tannins. Medium body, integrated tannins already and a chewy finish. Solid.* **91-93 Wine Spectator** *The 2016 Poujeaux has an impressive bouquet with plenty of blackberry, briary and cigar box aromas that are very well defined. The palate is medium-bodied with grainy tannin on the entry. This is a "smoky" Poujeaux with commendable depth and structure, a little more "solid" than recent vintages with good depth on the black pepper-tinged finish. The 2015 Poujeaux was very good, but this may well surpass that and achieve the level of some of the legendary wines from yesteryear.*

## CHÂTEAU CHASSE SPLEEN 2016

Médoc Cru Bourgeois

First payment \$45.4 Estimated Second Payment \$12.65

Estimated total \$58.05 Availability - Good

**92-93 James Suckling** *A solid and linear young wine with blackcurrant and berry character, a medium to full body and a savory finish. Another excellent, young Chasse-Spleen.*

**92-94 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Chasse-Spleen has a very elegant bouquet with neatly integrated oak, the terroir really showing through here, hints of cedar and smoke emerging with time. The palate is fresh as a button on the entry. It is cut through with a superb line of acidity that engenders superb tension, the tannins firm but fine with a subtle marine influence towards the persistent finish. This is a fabulous Chasse-Spleen, the best I have ever tasted from the estate. It could end up at the top of my banded score.*

## CHÂTEAU CHARMAIL 2016

Médoc Cru Bourgeois

First payment \$24.03 Estimated Second Payment \$8.51

Estimated total \$32.54 Availability - Good

**91-92 James Suckling** *Blueberry and blackberry character with hints of stones and minerals. Medium to full body and firm and silky tannins. Wonderful tannin quality here.* **90-92 Wine Spectator** *The 2016 Charmail is a blend of 12% Cabernet Franc, 10% Petit Verdot, 36% Merlot and 42% Cabernet Sauvignon cropped between 3-21 October and matured in one-third new oak. It has a slightly leafy bouquet that is nicely detailed, good depth with cracked black pepper emerging with time. The palate is medium-bodied with rustic tannin, great depth and grip, very fine salinity with a Saint-Estèphe-like structure on the finish. The 2015 Charmail was excellent and this is likewise.*

## CHÂTEAU CAMENSAC

Médoc

First payment \$44.17 Estimated Second Payment \$12.41

Estimated total \$56.57 Availability - Good

**92-94 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Camensac is an equal blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot, picked from 27 September until 18 October at 42 hectoliters per hectare. There is a pastille-like purity on the nose: blackberry, briary and a light floral note coming through with time. The quality of the vintage shows through on the palate, which is very harmonious and demonstrates both excellent backbone and intensity. It builds in the mouth, maintaining plenty of freshness and with a mineral-driven finish. This is an excellent Château de Camensac and fingers crossed it will represent great value in the market once released.*

## CHÂTEAU FONREAUD

Listrac. Médoc

First payment \$20.23 Estimated Second Payment \$7.77

Estimated total \$28.00 Availability - Good

**91-93 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Fonreaud is certainly a Listrac that is worth checking out. The bouquet is very well defined with supremely well-integrated oak that allows the terroir to show through. There is a subtle Margaux-like floral scent coming through. The palate is very well balanced with fine tannins and a very good backbone. This Fonreaud is one of the most precise that I have tasted and there is tangible tension all the way through to the refined finish. This Listrac has produced some very fine wines recently and this 2016 could be the best yet.*

**17/20 Jancis Robinson** *Deep crimson. Rather gorgeously ripe and glossy on the nose. Very sweet black fruits on the palate followed by really quite a charge of ripe tannin. Maybe not the longest-laster, but overall well done! A delicate touch*

## CHÂTEAU LANESSAN 2016

Médoc

First payment \$21.15 Estimated Second Payment \$7.95

Estimated total \$29.1 Availability - Sold Out

**91 Decanter** *This is an ambitious take on 2016, pushing the vintage but successfully so, going for a cerebral 2010 feel rather than the generosity of 2009. Classic liquorice and slate, tight cassis fruits and an extremely well paced delivery of fresh tight tannins lead into a gorgeous, lifted juicy fruit finish. From a blend of 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, 10% Petit Verdot and 5% Cabernet Franc. I like this a lot.* - Jane Anson

**90-92 Neal Martin** *A structured young red with currant and berry character. Medium body, velvety tannins and a savory finish.* **92-93 Wine Spectator** *The 2016 Lanessan has a perfumed, quite floral bouquet with graphite tinged black fruit—fine delineation with impressive focus, even if it is not the most complex Haut-Médoc that I encountered in this vintage out of barrel. The palate is medium-bodied with smooth tannin, well-judged acidity, plenty of black fruit with a harmonious, engaging and slightly tarry finish. This is a great Lanessan that should give 20 years of pleasure. This comes highly recommended and I expect it will land at the top of my banded score once in bottle.*

## CHÂTEAU GRAND VILLAGE 2016

Médoc

First payment \$16.22 Estimated Second Payment \$7

Estimated total \$23.22 Availability - Good

**89-91 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Château Grand Village, Mouillac (the second smallest village in Bordeaux—fact!) is a blend of 86% Merlot and 14% Cabernet Franc picked 3 October and on 18 October, respectively. The bouquet is open and expressive with scents of mulberry and black plums, with the oak nicely integrated. The palate is medium-bodied with grainy tannin, a fine line of acidity, displaying more ripeness than the 2015 last year with a tang of spice on the finish. This represents a more sophisticated Grand Village from the Guinaudeau family.*

**16.5 Jancis Robinson** *Clean and fresh on the nose. Very rich start and pretty exciting for the appellation. Pretty smart for the appellation. Amazingly long. (Cool soils, Fronsac-like.)*

**Glengarry Review** *Last year we sold all the 2015 En Primeur and with the quality of this wine now well recognised globally, there's no wine to be sold on the open market. The moral. Buy it en primeur. The 2016 is superb, sweet red fruit, firm tannins and a dense core. Great weight and balance. Very good value.* Liz Wheadon

## CHÂTEAU LA TOUR DE BY 2016

Médoc

First payment \$24.44 Estimated Second Payment \$8.59

Estimated total \$33.03 Availability - Good

**89-90 James Suckling** *Linear and tight with firm and silky tannins, bright acidity and a clean finish. Medium body and a fresh finish.*

## CHÂTEAU FOURCAS DUPRE 2016

Médoc

First payment \$19.92 Estimated second \$7.71

Estimated total \$27.63 Availability - Good

**91 Decanter** *This is tasting beautiful this year, very enjoyable fruit extraction that manages to be intense but not overdone. The tannins are firm but could perhaps be a little more pliable to fully open up the structure of the wine. Classic, with lovely menthol notes and a good example of the work being done in Lustrac right now. Planted to 44% Merlot, 44% Cabernet Sauvignon with the rest Cabernet Franc and a splash of Petit Verdot.* - Jane Anson

**91-93 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Fourcas-Dupres has a very elegant bouquet without shortchanging on fruit. The aromatics here are packed with blackberry, raspberry and light cassis aromas, the oak nicely integrated and with a subtle estuarine note emerging with time. The palate is medium-bodied with crisp, grainy tannin. There is plenty of fresh, energetic black fruit here laced with black olive and a pinch of brine, fanning out towards the satisfying, long finish. Here is a great Lustrac hot on the heels of their great 2015 last year.*

## CHÂTEAU LA LAGUNE 2016

Médoc Cru Bourgeois

First payment \$73.75 Estimated Second Payment \$18.14

Estimated total \$91.89 Availability - Good

**93 Decanter** *Now certified organic, and converting to biodynamics from this year. It displays a confident weight to the damson fruits that are hugely elegant and well placed. A little closed when tasted on two occasions, and the high Petit Verdot content of this wine is no doubt contributing to its slight austerity at this stage, but it also brings that beautifully welcome whoosh of black fruit spicing. Very good quality, elegant and long-ageing, just a dash below the exceptional 2015. - Jane Anson*

**93-95 Neal Martin** *At least for this writer, the 2016 La Lagune is a return to form after their 2015 did not light my fire last en primeur. Lucid purple/black in color, it has a very intense bouquet with blackberries and sloes, whilst maintaining delineation and focus, almost pastille-like in style. The palate is medium-bodied with quite firm tannin, perhaps just a little brittle on the entry, though it is commensurate with others 2016s that I tasted in barrel. I appreciate the focus and the "correctness" of this La Lagune, notwithstanding the freshness and tension that defines the persistent finish. This is a long-term wine, so do not be afraid to give this four or five years in the cellar. This is an excellent La Lagune, one of the best in recent years.*

## CHÂTEAU FOURCAS HOSTEN 2016

Médoc

First payment \$25.57 Estimated Second Payment \$8.81

Estimated total \$34.38 Availability - Good

**90-91 James Suckling** *Tight and chewy with medium body, medium tannins and a savory finish. Firm yet round and juicy texture. A mineral, wet earth undertone makes it complete.*

**16 Jancis Robinson** *Slightly weak rim on deep crimson. Interesting nose with a real undertow of sophistication (top-quality oak?). Then it's a tad severe on the palate and drying on the end. Lots of effort...*

**Glengarry Review** *Bright red, very clean fruit. Vibrant aromatics. 55% Merlot, 44% Cabernet Sauvignon, the balance Cabernet Franc. Generous plum aromatics, supple and round. Juicy fruit, fine grippy tannins and great balance. Lovely supple finish. Liz Wheadon*





## MARGAUX

Margaux has the largest surface appellations of the big five areas of the left bank of Bordeaux with 1413 hectares. Margaux boasts no fewer than 21 classed growths: one first (Château Margaux), five seconds, ten thirds, three fourths and two fifth growths. In such a large appellation, the soil varies a lot but produces wines that are softer, have less backbone and develop sooner than the appellations to the north.

### ALTER EGO DE PALMER 2016

Margaux

First payment \$101.7 Estimated Second Payment \$23.55

Estimated total \$125.25 Good

**95-96 James Suckling** *This is very concentrated yet soft and fresh in texture. Full-bodied and round and mouth-filling. So impressive how it fills your mouth yet remains fresh. It's so framed.*

**Glengarry Review** *40% Merlot, 48% Cabernet and 12% Petit Verdot. Intense colour, plummy juicy fruit nose. The palate is all fruit with a very fine line of tannin. This is a generous style; a luscious, appealing wine. There's more Cabernet than normal and 13% abv this year.*  
Liz Wheadon

### CHÂTEAU LA TOUR DE MONS 2016

Margaux Cru Bourgeois

First payment \$30.60 Estimated second \$9.78

Estimated total \$40.38 Availability - Good

**93-94 James Suckling** *Dense and chewy with very firm and silky tannins. Full-bodied and powerful. Better than the 2015.*

**16.5 Jancis Robinson** *Very dark crimson with a blueish hint. Very composed, ripe nose. A real pleasure to smell! Ripe fruit and sandalwood. Perfumed and something of mature vintage port about the nose – but not at all porty. Bravo!*

### CHÂTEAU LABEGORCE 2016

Margaux Cru Bourgeois

First payment \$41.7 Estimated Second Payment \$11.93

Estimated total \$53.63 Good

**91-94 Wine Spectator** *Fresh, featuring a racy edge of mesquite that melds with the energetic plum and boysenberry fruit flavors. Stays focused through the finish, picking up alluring spice notes.*

**93 Decanter** *Deep, rich extraction, black cherry in colour with very well controlled aromatics of damson and creamy cappuccino. This is a gorgeous wine and there are going to be many many fans of the contemporary but utterly controlled and well judged flavours on display here. Luscious and big, but everything has a reason for being where it is, nothing superfluous. One of the best ever from this property.*  
- Jane Anson

**94-95 James Suckling** *This may be the best Labégorce ever. Full-bodied and dense yet vivid and energetic. Greatness in the making.*

**94-96 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Labégorce is a blend of 38% Cabernet Sauvignon, 52% Merlot, 6% Cabernet Franc and 4% Petit Verdot picked between 4-21 October and matured in 45% new oak. What I like about the bouquet is that it is quintessential Margaux--it could not come from anywhere else. Crushed violets infuse black cherries, blueberry and iodine. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin, very well-judged acidity, an elegant and very charming Margaux with pencil lead and a touch of spice on the long finish. What a brilliant wine from a Margaux estate that has really upped its game.*

### CHÂTEAU MONBRISON 2016

Margaux Cru Bourgeois

First payment \$52.18 Estimated Second Payment \$13.96

Estimated total \$66.14

**90-92 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Monbrison is a Margaux that has performed splendidly this vintage, one that did not shine as benevolently as other appellations. It has a vigorous, delineated bouquet with blueberry, raspberry and crushed violets, the new oak neatly integrated. The palate is nicely structured and though there is a touch of hardness to the tannin on the entry, that will soften by the time of bottling. The acidity is well judged and there is good grip on the finish. Monbrison is often well-priced en primeur and as such, this comes recommended*

**Glengarry Review** *Attractive perfumed nose, floral and very fragrant. Great fruit, juicy with ripe spice and interest on the palate. Soft gentle finish, nice balance.* Liz Wheadon

## CHÂTEAU DU TERTRE 2016

Margaux Fifth Growth

First payment \$61.42 Estimated Second Payment \$15.75

Estimated total \$77.17 Availability - Sold Out

**92 Decanter** *A beautifully smooth, silky du Tertre in 2016, with an emphasis on subtle spicing, full of subtle but unmistakably exotic black chocolate, white pepper and cloves. Elegant and slightly restrained with generously silky tannins, a lovely wine. -Jane Anson*

**94-95 James Suckling** *A dense and tight red with currants, blueberries and hints of walnuts. Changes from pure fruit and then back to wet earth. The purity in the cabernet, the linear tannins and the drive with acidity behind it makes it one of the best Tertres ever. Better than 2015?*

**Glengarry Review** *75% Cabernet, 10% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc and 5% Petit Verdot. Lifted fragrant wine, gorgeous; aromatically brilliant. Purity of Cabernet with red fruits dominating. Bright and lively with freshness and energy. The 2016 has the X factor, this is a great wine. Du Tertre is now 50% biodynamic and since 2008 has the technical director from Latour at the helm. Liz Wheadon*

## CHÂTEAU DAUZAC 2016

Margaux First Growth

First payment \$65.12 Estimated Second Payment \$16.47

Estimated total \$81.59 Availability - Good

**93 Decanter** *Tucked into the southern tip of the Margaux appellation in the commune of Labarde, home to Dauzac, Siran and Giscours, there are some increasingly interesting things happening here. This, for me, is one of the few Margaux that is clearly better than its 2015 counterpart. Planted to 63% Cabernet Sauvignon and the rest Merlot, they have introduced a second wine for the first time in 2016 and unveiled new cellars, both helping to focus on upping selection for the main wine. You get a full and frank attack of powerful black fruits, tannins with an astringency and life that is extremely promising, and acidity that absolutely accompanies and plays off the other components. There is a slatey minerality and salinity on the finish. A wine to watch under the direction of Laurent Fortin. - Jane Anson*

**92-93 James Suckling** *Tight and chewy with polished tannins and a extremely deep and dense center palate of fruit. Minerally and intense too. Really fine and precise. A nice follow through after the excellent 2015.*

**Glengarry Review** *Intensely spicy red fruit nose, great ripe tannins, a concentrated rich style with fine poise. Liz Wheadon*

## CHÂTEAU MARGAUX 2016

Margaux First Growth

First payment \$863.99 Estimated Second Payment \$171.23

Estimated total \$1035.22 Availability - Good

**98-99 James Suckling** *A purity of fruit marks this Margaux with lots of currant and berry character. Full body, bright acidity and round tannins. It's a larger and more expanded style of Margaux. A wine with a heart and body. Strong.*

**97-99 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Château Margaux is a blend of 94% Cabernet Sauvignon, 2% Merlot and 3% Cabernet Franc, plus 1% of Petit Verdot, representing 28% of the total production. This is the highest proportion of Cabernet Sauvignon apart from 2013, which was due to the poor Merlot. It was cropped around 50 hectoliters per hectare depending on the grape variety, for example it could be up to 65 hectoliters per hectare in some sectors. Lucid in color, it has a detailed and precise bouquet with mineral-rich blackberry, raspberry coulis and limestone scents. It feels very perfumed, though not powerful like many Grand Vins in 2016. The palate is a different creature to the aromatics. Here is the intensity of the vintage with shimmering black fruit laced with spice, a killer line of acidity and an irresistible crescendo on the finish. Then, graphite lingering on the aftertaste, a nod to Pauillac perhaps. The aftertaste is so long you could probably write a letter to your friend enthusing about this wine before the aftertaste fades. Doubtless it is destined to be compared to the magnificent 2015 Château Margaux and to be truthful, there's a hair's breadth between them. In a word: crystalline.*

**Glengarry Review** *The Grand Vin only made up 28% of production this year, with very strict selection to ensure quality. 94% Cabernet this year. Fragrant and charming. Intense cassis red fruit characters with very fine tannins. This is elegant with a fine long finish. Exceptional balance, nothing stands out; fine, elegant and refined, so classic. There's a long life ahead of this wine, it is classically Margaux. Amazing ripe fruit. Liz Wheadon*

## CHÂTEAU BRANE CANTENAC 2016

Margaux Second Growth

First payment \$107.04 Estimated Second Payment \$24.59

Estimated total \$131.63 Availability - Good

**96-98 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Brane-Cantenac is a blend of 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc and 1% Carmenere picked from 22 September until 17 October (the tiny parcel of Carmenere picked three days later). The yields came in at 51 hectoliters per hectare and it is matured in 75% new oak and 25% one-year-old barrels, the final alcohol level 13.3%. It has a beautifully defined, very detailed bouquet with mineral-rich black fruit laced with cedar and graphite notes, living up to its nom de plume as the "Pauillac of Margaux." The palate is simply the best that I have ever tasted at the estate, without question. This has presence, but also weightlessness, filigree tannin and perfectly pitched acidity, with real intensity and drive. The tension here is outstanding and the persistence is incredibly long. It is not the showiest of all the 2016s by a long stretch, and yet it is everything you could possibly want from a Margaux. Like Beychevelle this year, the 2016 Brane-Cantenac puts recent vintages in the shade, thanks not only to the growing season, but also a new punching down system in their gravity-fed winery that was completed in 2015. The 2016 is a benchmark against which future vintages will be compared.*

## CHÂTEAU LASCOMBES 2016

Margaux Second Growth

First payment \$119.37 Estimated Second Payment \$26.98

Estimated total \$146.35 Availability - Good

**90-93 Wine Spectator** *Solidly built, with a note of baker's chocolate adding heft to the mix of plum and blackberry fruit. Velvety, but showing persistent grip through the finish.*

**93-94 James Suckling** *Full, focused and precise with dark berries, intensely fine tannins and a fresh finish. Medium to full body and a persistent finish. More refined than in the past, yet it remains very well structured.* **89-91 Wine Spectator** *The 2016 Lascombes has a decadent, but pure bouquet with layers of black cherry and blueberry fruit, the new oak conspicuous and (as usual) quite glossy and extroverted in style. The palate is very ripe with saturated tannin, bold and extravagant with a voluminous middle of blackberry, graphite and blue fruit. There is a powerful and heady finish; what it just lacks is finesse and that sense of personality. I tasted this Margaux on several occasions and it was one of the most variable samples, hence the question mark against my score.*

## CHÂTEAU MALESCOT ST EXUPÉRY 2016

Margaux Second Growth

First payment \$85.26 Estimated Second Payment \$20.37

Estimated total \$105.63 Availability - Good

**98-99 James Suckling** *This is a superb wine. I didn't think it could be better than the 2015 but indeed it is. Full, layered and sexy. It goes on for minutes with dense fruit, yet it's also vivid and showcases sublime tannins and acidity balance. Great finish.*

**94-96 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Malescot-St-Exupéry has an opulent, lavish and pure bouquet with billowing black cherry and blueberry fruit, a touch of mint and graphite emerging with time. I love the delineation to this Margaux. The palate is very well balanced, sensual and voluptuous in style, but that does not detract from the fine structure here and the precision towards the finish. Everything seems to be in its right place here; it is one of the best Malescot-St-Exupéry that I have tasted and it is wonderful.*

## CHÂTEAU RAUZAN GASSIES 2016

Margaux Second Growth

First payment \$81.15 Estimated Second Payment \$19.57

Estimated total \$100.72 Availability - Good

**91 Decanter** *An estate that delivered an excellent wine in 2015. As ever with Rauzan-Gassies, the team goes for a floral-scented, soft and effortless take on the vintage that prioritises classicism over power, and is a fine reflection of the feminine signature of the appellation. Fragrant, floral nose, with a lovely persistency in the mouth that is gentle but juicy and full of clean, ripe fruits. Enormous drinking pleasure, without the intensity of some of its classified neighbours. - Jane Anson*

**90-91 James Suckling** *A little tight with currant and blackberry character, a medium body and a chewy finish. Slightly lean, but this should fill out nicely in barrel.*

## CHÂTEAU RAUZAN SEGLA 2016

Margaux Second Growth

First payment \$124.3 Estimated Second Payment \$27.93

Estimated total \$152.23 Availability - Good

**96-97 James Suckling** *A solid red with currant and blackberry character. Full body, soft tannins and a flavorful finish. Shows richness and excitement. Juicy and sexy undertone to this.*

**95-97 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Rauzan-Segla (Rausan-Segla) is a blend of 68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and 2% Petit Verdot picked between 20 September and 15 October at 45 hectoliters per hectare. The wine is being aged in 60% new oak for 18 months. It has 13.2% alcohol. It has a very powerful and intense bouquet with layers of blackberry, kirsch, cedar and a touch of mint. The palate is medium-bodied with plenty of fruit concentration: layers of ripe blackberry and boysenberry, segueing into what feels like a very spicy and peppery second half that seems to calm down and attain more nuance with aeration in the glass. It is a wonderful follow-up to the 2015 last year, although not quite with the same audacity and bravado. Tasted twice with consistent notes.*

## CHÂTEAU CANTENAC BROWN 2016

Margaux Third Growth

First payment \$81.15 Estimated Second Payment \$19.57

Estimated total \$100.72 Availability - Good

**92-94 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Cantenac Brown comes from a Margaux estate that has upped its game in recent years. It has an intense bouquet with floral aromas filtering through the black cherries, cassis and boysenberry notes, in an odd way almost Saint-émilion in style. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin. Silky smooth with very well-judged acidity, there is a sorbet-like freshness imbued into this Margaux and it just glides across the palate towards the quite sensual finish. This is certainly equal to the impressive 2015 Cantenac Brown.*

**Glengarry Review** *A very classic Cantenac Brown, there's a great savoury aspect to the wine, together with elegance and fine tannins, beautiful balance. Liz Wheadon*

## CHÂTEAU FERRIÈRE 2016

Margaux Third Growth

First payment \$62.66 Estimated Second Payment \$15.99

Estimated total \$78.65 Availability - Good

**92 Decanter** *Beautiful, deeply extracted but elegant and restrained through the body. Things here are extremely precise, the floral frame to the aromatics is clear, and you practically tiptoe through the tannins that are without doubt present. I like this enormously, although it felt a little more generous in 2015. Ferrière has been certified organic since 2015 and in official conversion to biodynamics since 2016.*  
- Jane Anson

**92-94 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Ferrière is an accomplished Margaux for the vintage. It has a feminine, refined bouquet with blackberry, wild strawberry and light rose petal aromas, just a hint of vanilla from the new oak that is neatly integrated. The palate is medium-bodied with ripe, quite juicy tannin. This is very harmonious with fine tannin, impressive depth and a sense of mineralité that is in tune with this vintage. I thought that the 2015 Ferrière was excellent, but this is another step up. Bravo, Clare Villars Lurton!*

## CHÂTEAU GISCOURS 2016

Margaux Third Growth

First payment \$92.24 Estimated Second Payment \$21.72

Estimated total \$113.96 Availability - Good

**96-97 James Suckling** *This is extremely long and linear with a powerful and refined texture of superfine tannins. Full-bodied, yet so tight and polished. The finish is very, very impressive. Snaps at the end. Better than the 2015?*

**93-95 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Giscours is a blend of 81% Cabernet Sauvignon and 19% Merlot, the highest percentage of Cabernet in recent years, picked between 26 September and 20 October. It was cropped at 45 hectoliters per hectare with 13.2% alcohol, which is a little less than in 2015. Naturally that dominant proportion of Cabernet drives the aromatics with blackberry, cedar and graphite aromas. The palate is very well structured, more masculine than the 2015 and maybe without quite the same level of precision, but there is great density and length to this Giscours. I found that improved in the glass, gaining more energy from the ether. It is an impressive follow-up to last year's Giscours.*



## CHÂTEAU KIRWAN 2016

Margaux Third Growth

First payment \$65.74 Estimated Second Payment \$16.59

Estimated total \$82.33 Good

**17- Jancis Robinson** *Dark purplish crimson. Some freshness on the nose with a hint of ink and pencils. A certain 'mineral' scent. A very slight green note but not bad at all, and certainly not forced. Real Margaux charm. Lift and pleasure in a dry idiom.*

**Glengarry Review** *55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 33% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc and 5% Petit Verdot. The sample prepared for tasting was from 2 barrels, one new and the second used, to reflect the 50% new oak in the final blend. The percentage of Petit Verdot is usually between 5-8%. There are two plots, one very old and one younger vines; this year, the younger vines went into Charmes de Kirwan. The nose is lifted and bright, fresh and elegant, the palate well balanced and with generous ripe tannins. Super elegant and charming, not at all over extracted. Long, fine, finesse and charm on the finish. Liz Wheadon*

## CHÂTEAU PALMER 2016

Margaux Third Growth

First payment \$494.14 Estimated Second Payment \$99.58

Estimated total \$593.72 Good

**98 Decanter** *The grand vin represents 65% of production in 2016, the highest ever. It has many similarities in style with the 2001 and 1986, being a classically styled wine full of soft slate, fern, liquorice and cassis, but from the modern era where you can achieve so much more precision. This is a wine that makes you smile from the first sip, and keeps on getting better, caressing you gently across the palate. There is never any let up through the mid-palate, and the biodynamics that have been practised here for the past few years are clearly paying off. Elegant, utterly silky and precise, the structure is just effortless with reasonably fresh alcohols that are the result of late ripening. A perfect example of the appellation, it has the florality, density and slow tannic pace that means it takes you right along with it as the flavours build. The blend is 47% Merlot, 47% Cabernet Sauvignon and 6% Petit Verdot. Intellectual without being overbearing, and built to age. This is impressive stuff. - Jane Anson*

**99-100 James Suckling** *I wrote that the 2015 was incredible, and this 2016 is again. It's equally structured and powerful as the 2015, yet there's an underlying intellectual serenity to this wine. You taste it, and you want to know and experience it even more. Full and tannic yet ever so polished and beautiful. Mesmerizing. Made from biodynamically grown grapes.*

**Glengarry Review** *47% Merlot, 47% Cabernet and 6% Petit Verdot, the blend incidentally is exactly what is in the vineyard though not a typical Palmer blend. Merlot performed very well for Palmer in 2016 and is higher in the blend. Yields were low 29 hl/ha, in discussing this, being biodynamic Palmer did have challenges with some parts of this year's crop, yield was low and selection strict. There's gorgeous concentrated ripe red fruits, elegant fine almost silky tannins that coat this generous style. A captivating wine that leaves you wanting more, a must buy from the 2016 vintage. Liz Wheadon*

## PAVILLON ROUGE DU CHÂTEAU MARGAUX 2016

Margaux

First payment \$235.25 Estimated Second Payment \$49.43

Estimated total \$284.68 Good

**91-93 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Pavillon Rouge du Château Margaux contains the highest proportion of Cabernet Sauvignon ever at 84%, with 13% Merlot and 3% Petit Verdot, representing 26% of the total harvest. Matured in 50-60% new oak, it has a very pure redcurrant and cranberry scented bouquet with a touch of graphite. The palate is medium-bodied with quite firm tannin on the entry, thanks to the high percentage of Cabernet, and it is saline in the mouth with a pinch of white pepper towards the finish. It will need three or four years in bottle.*

**Glengarry Review** *84% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13% Merlot the balance Petit Verdot. Dense, cassis berries on the nose, very fine tannins, not grippy at all. Elegant balance with finesse plus leading to an incredible long, fine, elegant finish. Liz Wheadon*

## MAROJALLIA 2016 MARGAUX

First payment \$71.29 Estimated Second Payment \$17.66

Estimated total \$88.95 Good

**93-94 James Suckling** *Dense and solid red with blueberry, stone and blackberry character. Full and layered. Very pretty texture. Excited to watch this develop in barrel.*

## CHÂTEAU DESMIRAIL 2016

Margaux

First payment \$56.49 Estimated Second Payment \$14.8

Estimated total \$71.29 Availability - Good

**92-93 James Suckling** *A chewy and rich red with plenty of currant and black-cherry character. Tannic. Should come together nicely with some barrel aging.*

## CHÂTEAU PRIEURÉ-LICHINE 2016

Margaux Fourth Growth

First payment \$62.66 Estimated Second Payment \$15.99

Estimated total \$78.65 Availability - Good

**91-94 Wine Spectator** *This captures the essence of the vintage, with a mix of dark plum and currant flavors, accented by cherry and raspberry fruit, all backed by energetic, brambly tannins and mouthwatering underlying acidity.*

**93-94 James Suckling** *Layered and rich with plenty of ripe fruit and ripe tannins. Full body, round and chewy tannins and a citrusy finish. Excellent like the 2015.*

**90-92 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Prieuré-Lichine took a little encouragement from the glass, eventually revealing blackberry, blueberry and violet aromas, just a touch of earthiness in the background. The palate is medium-bodied with firm tannin cloaked in plenty of succulent black fruit tinged with graphite and smoke. I admire the linearity of this classic Margaux, quite persistent in the mouth with satisfying freshness from start to finish. I am sure this will reside at the top of my banded score once in bottle.*



## PESSAC LÉOGNAN

The appellation was only created in 1987 having been changed from what was known as Graves. Its most famous wine, Château Haut-Brion is a first growth and one of Bordeaux's most noble wines. The wines are generally not as full bodied as the other Médocs, though made with more or less the same blends, however, they are similar in weight to those of Margaux. Much of the production here is of white wine - very uncommon in Bordeaux.

### DOMAINE DE CHEVALIER BLANC 2016

Pessac Léognan

First payment \$144.02 Estimated Second Payment \$31.75

Estimated total \$175.77 Availability - Good

**94 Decanter** *This is clearly one of the more impressive whites on display here. They have teased out a sense of verticality, and you can feel the walls and scrape the flesh of the citrus. If it wasn't for the heights that we know Domaine de Chevalier can ascend to, you would be sighing over the structure of this wine. White peach and rich pear are seasoned with beautiful spicing, but it just lacks the grip and drama of the best vintages.* - Jane Anson

**96-97 James Suckling** *A white with sliced apple, pear and lemon character. Medium to full body, layered and so long. Tight and exciting. So salty and mineral. Structured. Phenolic intensity and all wound up. What a white!*

### CHÂTEAU HAUT BRION 2016

Pessac Léognan

First payment \$863.99 Estimated Second Payment \$171.23

Estimated total \$1035.22 Availability - Good

**100 James Suckling** *This is a monument for Haut-Brion and reminds me of the great 1998 but in a modern and bright style. Full-bodied, very tannic and superbly structured yet always agile and vivid. Its energy and dynamic nature grabs you by the shoulder and tells you it's great. Staggeringly precise. It can't get better than this, can it?*

**97-99 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Haut Brion is a blend of 56% Merlot, 37.5% Cabernet Sauvignon and 6.5% Cabernet Franc that was picked between 19 September and 13 October. Jean-Philippe Delmas told me that this represents a touch more Merlot than last year's vintage. It clearly has a more powerful and intense bouquet compared to the La Mission Haut-Brion, although maybe not the same killer level of detail and delineation. The palate is beautifully balanced with arching tannins that insistently grip the mouth. There are layers of black fruit, minerals, sea salt and a touch of crushed violets. Unlike the 2015 Haut-Brion, this is more linear, stricter and you could argue more nimble on its toes. Yet maybe it does not quite have the same depth and labyrinthine complexity that made the 2015 such an astonishing wine. Nevertheless, this 2016 is not far behind and it will be fascinating to compare in the future.*

### LA MISSION HAUT BRION 2016

Pessac Léognan Grand Cru Classe

First payment \$691.39 Estimated Second Payment \$137.79

Estimated total \$829.18 Availability - Sold Out

**96-97 James Suckling** *The texture to this is very beautiful with chewy yet very polished tannins. Full-bodied, tight and mouth-filling. Starts very slowly and then takes off. Love the energy in this.*

**98-100 Neal Martin** *The 2016 La Mission Haut Brion is a blend of 57.5% Merlot and 42.5% Cabernet Sauvignon picked between 19 September and 14 October, one of the longest ever. "We had to be patient and wait for each plot," Jean-Philippe Delmas told me. "It took longer than usual." As is customary, I allowed my sample, and likewise all the wines poured at this tasting, around 40-45 minutes to open since they always transform in the glass. It has a clean and precise, quite understated bouquet with fine mineralité, cold stone aromas infusing the black fruit. This has incredible precision, perhaps even more pixelated than the "gaff over the road" Haut-Brion. The palate is medium-bodied with supple and lithe tannin. I appreciate the line of acidity here, the smoothness and harmony that takes your breath away. Every atom is infused with life-affirming freshness. It is a wine bridled with incredible focus and delineation. I thought that the 2015 La Mission Haut-Brion flirted with perfection. The 2016 has that extra edge, a "je ne sais quoi" that leaves you reaching for the thesaurus looking for superlatives.*

## CHÂTEAU PAPE CLEMENT 2016

Pessac Léognan Grand Cru Classe

First payment \$136.63 Estimated Second Payment \$30.32

Estimated total \$166.95 Availability - Good

**94-97 Wine Spectator** *Intense, with vivacious cassis, blueberry and boysenberry confiture notes, while tar, anise and warm fruitcake flavors pulse underneath. Offers seriously flashy toast at the end, but has the density to soak it up. A big wine.*

**94 Decanter** *Pape Clément retains its customary oak and black fruit impact on the nose in 2016, but without doubt they have sculpted the body. This has thrillingly bright dark berry fruits and a sharp shot of vitality that takes you through from beginning to end. Beautiful touches of minerality on the powerful palate, wrought into an elegant style without losing its texture and sense of depth. This is a step-change in many ways from the vintages where Pape Clément went all-out for power. - Jane Anson*

**97-98 James Suckling** *This is phenomenal with a density and finesse that are hard to remember for this wine. Full-bodied, tight and polished. Seamless texture and salty undertones. Goes on for minutes. Truly great. What a barrel sample.*

**Glengarry Review** *Juicy red fruits jump out of the glass; this is concentrated with bright acidity and firm tannins, not overly, this is all about balance. Very good indeed. Liz Wheadon*

## CHÂTEAU SMITH HAUT LAFITTE ROUGE 2016

Pessac Léognan Grand Cru Classe

First payment \$158.82 Estimated second \$34.62

Estimated total \$193.44 Availability - Good

**95-98 Wine Spectator** *Seductively fleshy and creamy in feel, with alluring dark plum and fig notes laced with singed bay, black tea and dark earth hints. The broad finish has the grip and cut for definition. A beautiful wine in the making.*

**97 Decanter** *This is gorgeous, extremely ripe, tight, fresh and rich. It has clear, deep tannins and a thrilling tension that slices right through the ripe, autumnal fruit and teases out the finish. There are true layers to the wine, with flavours of cassis, liquorice and charcoal, demonstrating a reserved power that keeps on delivering. The tannin count is at a full 100IPT, a touch higher than in 2010 but they just float along, offering the perfect resistance and interest in your mouth. Technical director Fabien Teitgen used 10% stems in the vinification for 2016, utilising organic winemaking methods. The blend is 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 4% Cabernet franc and 1% Petit Verdot, aged in 60% new oak barrels. 3.6pH. - Jane Anson*

## DOMAINE DE CHEVALIER ROUGE 2016

Pessac Léognan Grand Cru Classe

First payment \$109.5 Estimated Second Payment \$25.07

Estimated total \$134.57 Availability - Good

**93-96 Wine Spectator** *Intense raspberry and boysenberry fruit drives along, flecked with anise hints and scored with roasted apple wood details. A touch toothy on the finish, with a loamy note, but the fruit takes an encore, which is a great sign for the future.*

**96 Decanter** *Rich, round and beautiful, there really is distance between red and white this year. This has all the signature welcome and power of the very best vintages of Domaine de Chevalier, one of the 'clue' châteaux you should follow to track the quality of reds and whites in Bordeaux in any given vintage. Here you see that 2016 hits it out of the park with the reds. Rich damson, deep black cherry, slate, wet stones and curls of cold ash - this has beautiful complexity and texture. Stunning. - Jane Anson*

**96-97 James Suckling** *A dense and tight DC with minerals, crushed stones, cement and blackcurrants. Full, tight and racy. Gorgeous. Leaf and tobacco undertones. Very tannic. Tight. So structured. Complex.*

## CHÂTEAU BROWN ROUGE 2016

Pessac Léognan

First payment \$40.47 Estimated Second Payment \$11.69

Estimated total \$52.16 Availability - Good

**92-95 Wine Spectator** *This delivers some lovely dark plum and blackberry fruit, backed by black tea hints and an alluring singed alder note buried deep on the finish. Long and caressing in feel.*

**92-93 James Suckling** *Some pretty depth of fruit to this wine with lemon and slice-green-apple undertones. Stones, too. Medium to full body and a vivid finish. Better than the 2015? Wine Spectator*



## CHÂTEAU CARBONNIEUX BLANC 2016

Pessac Léognan

First payment \$45.4 Estimated Second Payment \$12.65

Estimated total \$58.05 Availability - Good

**90 Decanter** *Clever use of extremely subtle oak that gives structure and body without being intrusive. This doesn't have the mineral directness and depth of, say 2011 or 2014, but it is a very good wine that will bring lots of pleasure. It majors on white flowers, touches of honeysuckle and white pepper spicing. Christophe Ollivier has taken the baton from Denis Dubourdieu who consulted here for 28 years.- Jane Anson*

**90-91 James Suckling** *Linear and solid white with sliced-apple, pear and lemon character. Full body. Little old style but I like it — as always.*

## CHÂTEAU DE FIEUZAL BLANC 2016

Pessac Léognan

First payment \$70.05 Estimated second \$17.42

Estimated total \$87.47 Availability - Good

**93-94 James Suckling** *A rich and dense white with a creamy texture defined by flavors of cooked apples and pears with lots of stones as well. Full and flavorful. Big wine here. Perhaps not the 2015 but excellent nonetheless.*

**90-92 Neal Martin** *The De Fieuzal 2016 Blanc has a rich, tropical tinged bouquet with scents of guava, pineapple and mango, nicely defined and probably one of the most commercially minded dry white bordeaux. The palate is well balanced with crisp acidity, with subtle notes of orange rind and nectarine dovetailing into a lightly spiced, stem ginger finish. Certainly this is one of the better examples of its kind this year.*

## CHÂTEAU HAUT-BERGEY BLANC 2016

Pessac Léognan

First payment \$40.47 Estimated Second Payment \$11.69

Estimated total \$52.16 Availability - Good

**90-91 James Suckling** *Rich and oily with dried-lemon, pear and apple character. Full body. Savory, salty finish.*

## CHÂTEAU HAUT-BERGEY ROUGE 2016

Pessac Léognan

First payment \$31.84 Estimated Second Payment \$10.02

Estimated total \$41.86 Availability - Good

**90-93 Wine Spectator** *Offers a grippy, slightly extracted feel, with a layer of plum skin around the core of steeped blackberry and black currant fruit. Delivers ample tarry grip through the finish.*

**90 Decanter** *This estate, owned by Paul Garcin, has produced a successful red in 2016 with a lovely sense of restrained power and a fresh delivery with well-paced, well-rounded tannins. It is not as juicy as some in this vintage, but it has presence and good persistency, and is expertly handled. This has all five of the main Bordeaux varieties: Merlot, both Cabs, Malbec and Petit Verdot from clay and gravel soils, aged in 33% new oak over 16 months. - Jane Anson*

**92-93 James Suckling** *A firm and chewy red with blackberry, currant and light walnut character. Full body and a structured finish.*

## CHÂTEAU HAUT BRION BLANC 2016

Pessac Léognan

First payment \$1233.83 Estimated Second Payment \$242.88

Estimated total \$1476.71 Availability - Sold Out

**95 Decanter** *This opens very beautifully in the glass with a high level of aromatics, but just needs a few minutes to reveal these tight citrus peel and pink grapefruit flavours. Haut-Brion have navigated a tough year for whites far better than most, as you would expect. This has volume through the mid-palate and a well constructed, dancing minerality on the finish. 30% grand vin for the white, from a blend of 70.5% Sauvignon Blanc and 29.5% Sémillon aged in 35% new oak. - Jane Anson*

**96-97 James Suckling** *Layered with a round and rich texture and body. Full and flavorful. Lots of dried-apple and pineapple character. Very long finish. Exotic and ripe. We will see which is better.*

## CHÂTEAU HAUT BAILLY 2016

Pessac Léognan

First payment \$173.61 Estimated second \$37.49

Estimated total \$211.10 Availability - Good

**97 Decanter** *Hugely successful, a wine where the architecture becomes clearer with every minute that it remains in your mouth. Each strand of those softly-spun tannins really stands out, giving effortless support to the cassis, charcoal, tobacco and slate. Over it all, the most appealing, gently curling woodsmoke comes right on up through the palate. The whole effect is of a soft, caressing texture that manages to also be hugely intense. A wonderfully complex layering of flavours, absolutely no doubt that this is going to age beautifully. Harvest lasted for 12 days but was spread out over four weeks. Alcohol levels are the same as last year because they had no blockages of ripening. The blend is 53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, 4% Petit Verdot and 3% Cabernet Franc aged in 50% new oak. 3.7pH. - Jane Anson*

**98-99 James Suckling** *This young wine shows such pinpoint precision with a full body, dense fruit and gorgeous intensity. Muscular yet toned and beautiful. It really builds on the finish. Very fine-grained. So long and beautiful. Sophisticated power. Oyster shell and iodine undertones. Traditional style yet with a modern interpretation. Savory.*

## CHÂTEAU LA LOUVIERE BLANC 2016

Pessac Léognan

First payment \$40.47 Estimated second \$11.69

Estimated total \$52.16 Availability - Good

**92-93 James Suckling** *A juicy and thick white with lots of cooked-apple and pear character. Full body and an intense finish.*

**16.5 Jancis Robinson** *Racy and with lots of acidity. Spice and menthol. Cool. Dry end. Some real energy. Long.*

## CHÂTEAU LARRIVET HAUT BRION BLANC 2016

Pessac Léognan

First payment \$47.86 Estimated Second Payment \$13.13

Estimated total \$60.99 Availability - Good

**89-92 Wine Spectator** *This sports a racy edge, with verbena and thyme flavors out front followed by lime pith and green plum notes. Good energy through the finish.*

## CHÂTEAU LARRIVET HAUT BRION ROUGE 2016

Pessac Léognan

First payment \$52.79 Estimated Second Payment \$14.08

Estimated total \$66.87 Availability - Good

**90-93 Wine Spectator** *Lively cassis and damson plum fruit gives this a fresh feel, while light sanguine and singed alder notes add contrast through the finish. Score range: 90-93*

**93-94 James Suckling** *Solid red with a lovely core of ripe fruit and hot-stone character. Full body and soft and juicy tannins. Pretty young wine. May be the same level as the 2015.*

## CHÂTEAU LES CARMES HAUT BRION 2016

Pessac Léognan

First payment \$132.93 Estimated second \$29.61

Estimated total \$162.54 Availability - Good

**93-96 Wine Spectator** *This has the grippy, licorice-accented edge typical of the AOC, along with sappy kirsch and cherry paste flavours. Good energy supplies lift and cut through the finish, putting this half a step ahead of the pack.*

**96-97 James Suckling** *Extremely long and erudite with crushed stones, blackberries and blueberries. Hints of fresh herbs. Full-bodied, tight and polished. The balance and beauty are amazing. Salty and mineral. More polished than the 2015. Wait and see. From biodynamic grapes.*

## CHÂTEAU OLIVIER 2016

Pessac Léognan

First payment \$45.4 Estimated Second Payment \$12.65

Estimated total \$58.05 Availability - Good

**90-93 Wine Spectator** *Lively, with lightly mulled plum and cherry notes, backed by licorice root and roasted apple wood details. Fleshly, but lively throughout. Just a touch extracted in feel through the finish. Score range: 90-93*

**94 Decanter** *This is generous, well judged and jam-packed with the luscious black fruits that 2016 specialises in. Beautifully juicy, the aromatics are very clean, with a deeply spicy side to the cassis and blackberry. Well worked tannins, very classic Pessac. Excellent.*  
- Jane Anson

**91-92 James Suckling** *Tight and chewy young red with plum and berry character plus hints of tobacco. Medium body and a solid core of fruit and tannins. Wine Spectator They 2016 Château Olivier has a well-defined bouquet with blackberry, black olive and a touch of undergrowth, quite nuanced at first but unfurling with confidence within a couple minutes of aeration. The palate is medium-bodied with crisp tannin, a pleasant salinity and fine structure, a touch of edginess here and a dash of spice towards that finish, which maybe just cuts away a little sooner than expected. That said, up until then, everything bodes well for a strong follow up to the 2015 Château Olivier.*

## CHÂTEAU SMITH HAUT LAFITTE BLANC 2016

Pessac Léognan

First payment \$148.95 Estimated second \$32.71

Estimated total \$181.66 Availability - Good

**92-95 Wine Spectator** *Bright and engaging, with a nice crackle of fleur de sel along the edges of the salted butter, white peach and chamomile core. There's a flash of shortbread on the finish, but it hangs well back for now. Really good freshness for the vintage.*

**94 Decanter** *This grips you from the first moment, a significant and striking jump up in quality when you get to this grand vin, representing 55% of white production. Rich and controlled, this fills out on the mid palate with lime and lemon zest, then floods it with gentle saffron spicing and grilled almonds, full of the SHL signature richness and control. Stephane Derenoncourt and Michel Rolland both consult. 90% Sauvignon Blanc, 5% Sémillon and 5% Sauvignon Gris.* - Jane Anson

**96-97 James Suckling** *A dense and powerful white with wonderful depth and phenolic tension. Shows very pretty sliced-apple, lemon and pear character. Excellent finish. 90% sauvignon blanc with the rest semillon and sauvignon gris. Excellent follow-up to the 2015.*

## CHÂTEAU BROWN BLANC 2016

Pessac Léognan

First payment \$39.23 Estimated Second Payment \$11.45

Estimated total \$50.68 Availability - Good

**90-93 Wine Spectator** *Lemon peel and salted butter notes give this some zip, while the core of yellow apple, fennel and melon rind flavors has good weight. Well done. Score range: 90-93*

## CHÂTEAU PAPE CLEMENT BLANC 2016

Pessac Léognan

First payment \$208.13 Estimated Second Payment \$44.17

Estimated total \$252.3 Availability - Good

**91-94 Wine Spectator** *Creamy-edged, with alluring brioche, white peach and wet straw flavors, this has a broad feel but keeps good cut thanks to a light verberna thread. The brioche note takes over on the finish.*

**92-94 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Pape Clement Blanc is a blend of 55% Sauvignon Blanc and 45% Sémillon that was cropped at 45 hectoliters per hectare between 12-27 September. It has quite an understated bouquet, stony and a little distant at first but then opening up with lime flower, kiwi fruit and a touch of limestone. The palate is fresh on the entry, the Sauvignon Blanc driving this Pape Clement along, perhaps less flamboyant and viscous in style than previous vintages, but I appreciate the tautness and delineation here, the persistent and slightly saline finish. This is excellent.*

## CHÂTEAU CARBONNIEUX ROUGE 2016

Pessac Léognan

First payment \$53.21 Estimated Second Payment \$14.16

Estimated total \$67.37 Availability - Good

**90-93 Wine Spectator** *Lively, with a bouncy edge to the mix of plum, cherry and cassis notes. A light tarry echo shows on the finish, but this relies more on juicy acidity. Solid length.*

**92-94 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Carbonnieux has a gorgeous, beautifully defined bouquet with pure black fruit, hints of sous-bois and pressed flowers, the new oak seamlessly integrated. What a nuanced and sensual bouquet! The palate is medium-bodied with plenty of ripe, black, graphite-tinged fruit, supremely well-judged acidity and a level of harmony that frankly, I have never encountered on a Carbonnieux. This is a brilliant wine from this Pessac-Léognan estate that has threatened to make a wine this good in the past.*

## CHAPELLE DE LA MISSION HAUT BRION 2016

Pessac Léognan

First payment \$136.63 Estimated Second Payment \$30.32

Estimated total \$166.95 Availability - Good

**93 Decanter** *The success of La Mission is even more impressive as this was not an easy vintage for the Haut-Brion stable. They are close to the city here, and things got hot on their gravel soils. It is one of the main reasons that alcohols are lower than in recent years, because various plots shut down and stopped accumulating sugar. Although yields were high at 52hl/ha, the extra volume was mostly put towards the third wine. They have performed an amazing sleight of hand here, as La Chapelle has plenty of the signature of its brilliant big brother. There is less persistency but still plenty of juicy, ripe fruits and a toasty edge to the aromatics that is a classic signature of the house. There is a gap between the two wines, perhaps more than in some other years, but it's a space where you would be very happy to sit and enjoy the view. From a blend of 42% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36.5% Merlot and 21.5% Cabernet Franc, aged in 25% new oak. 3.6pH. - Jane Anson*

**92-93 James Suckling** *Minerals and blueberries with plenty of blackcurrant character. Medium body and silky tannins. Pretty second wine of La Mission.*

**91-93 Neal Martin** *The 2016 La Chapelle de la Mission Haut Brion is a blend of 36.5% Merlot, 21.5% Cabernet Franc and 42% Cabernet Sauvignon picked from 19 September to 14 October. Matured in 23% new oak, it has a very succinct bouquet with tensile black cherry and pressed flower aromas, subtle at first but soon gaining intensity in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with crisp tannin, very precise and focused with razor-sharp definition. This is one of the most sophisticated La Chapelle de la Mission Haut Brion releases that I have tasted from barrel and it bodes well for the future. I expect this will nudge past the 2015 once in bottle. Let's see!*

## LA MISSION HAUT BRION BLANC 2016

Pessac Léognan

First payment \$987.27 Estimated Second Payment \$195.11

Estimated total \$1182.38 Availability - Sold Out

**94 Decanter** *They have the weight of expectation here, of course, with this wine known to be one of the greatest whites in Bordeaux, and you can feel the battle against the summer drought. It's still stunning though, riven with rich citrus, white pepper and soft grilled almonds, and it grips the sides of your mouth, keeping up the pace. This is the first time since it changed its name from Laville Haut-Brion where there is more Sauvignon Blanc than Sémillon, chosen because it helped to capture the freshness. 30% of the production went into this, 40% to Clarté, and a full 30% into Clarendelle. The blend is 62.7% Sauvignon Blanc and 37.3% Sémillon aged in 37% new oak. - Jane Anson*

**98-99 James Suckling** *This is dense like a Montrachet yet so minerally with crushed-stone undertones. Full-bodied, layered and powerful. A great glass of white wine. First time they used a majority of sauvignon blanc.*

**91-93 Neal Martin** *The La Mission Haut Brion 2016 Blanc is a blend of 62.7% Sauvignon Blanc and 37.3% Sémillon picked from 5-13 September. It has a crisp bouquet with kiwi, grapefruit and cold stone aromas, although it does not convey the vigor or complexity of the 2015, due to the lower proportion of Sémillon. The palate is well balanced with a pleasant texture; there is orange zest, lime, a touch of stem ginger and a very satisfying, quite persistent finish. It is a well-made La Mission Haut Brion Blanc that should give 10-20 years of drinking pleasure.*



## ST JULIEN

This appellation lies on the southern border of Pauillac. The commune is compact and dominated by its eleven classed growths, all of which produce high quality wine and many of which produce excellent wine. There are five second growths, two thirds and four fourths. The Saint-Julien soil is mainly gravel, particularly near the river. The wines are more like Pauillac and contain high levels of Cabernet Sauvignon, however, the wines mature faster than they do from Pauillac. The top estates here can produce superb wines.

### CHÂTEAU GLORIA 2016

Saint Julien Cru Bourgeois

First payment \$62.66 Estimated Second Payment \$15.99

Estimated total \$78.65 Availability - Good

**93-96 Wine Spectator** *Shows a flash of mint before giving way to a torrent of blueberry, blackberry and cassis flavors, pushed by energetic acidity and juicy, brambly grip. Plum cake and anise line the finish, along with a flash of tobacco. Lots going on here.*

**94 Decanter** *Immediately on the nose you get the rich structure of the fruit, rippling with texture and life. It has just the right amount of drama, offering a tight and well-focussed delivery. This is beautiful, showing great underlying freshness and grip with real tension and minerality.*

### CHÂTEAU BEYCHEVELLE 2016

Saint Julien Fourth Growth

First payment \$116.9 Estimated Second Payment \$26.5

Estimated total \$143.4 Availability - Good

**94 Decanter** *An extremely successful Beychevelle this year, a carefully drawn wine where the fruit register is deep and dark, the tannins a little brooding, and a seam of freshness runs right through and picks things up. Excellent persistency, a beautiful wine. - Jane Anson*

**96-98 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Beychevelle is a blend of 47% Cabernet Sauvignon, 47% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot and 1% Cabernet Franc cropped at 45 hectoliters per hectare between 3 October and 18 October. It is matured in 50% new oak. Furthermore, it is the first vintage to be matured in the new chichi winery whose glass exterior overlooks the passing traffic on the D2. It has a very pure, fragrant bouquet with black cherries, cassis, cedar and wet limestone, extremely precise to the point where you might think it was from the Right Bank (logical given the proportion of Merlot in the blend). The palate is sensational: understated at first and bridled with ultra-fine tannin, it is a Beychevelle armed with a disarming sense of symmetry. It builds in the mouth towards a fabulously tensile finish that is so fresh and full of energy that the senses are almost overwhelmed. Frankly, it leaves all the other Beychevelles in recent years standing. This is an electrifying 2016 from winemaker Philippe Blanc and his right-hand man, technical director, Romain Ducolomb.*

### CHÂTEAU BRANAIRE DUCRU 2016

Saint Julien Fourth Growth

First payment \$91.97 Estimated Second Payment \$19.73

Estimated total \$111.7 Availability - Good

**94-97 Wine Spectator** *A fresh bay leaf note leads off, followed quickly by pure, enticing layers of cassis, blackberry and black cherry fruit that emerge steadily through the long finish. Offers lovely mouthfeel and purity. A very pretty expression of St.-Julien.*

**95-96 James Suckling** *This is clearly the best wine I have tasted from Branaire-Ducru. Exquisite depth and richness are on offer, yet this is always framed and focused. Layers of fruit and tannins. So deep and long. Incredible quality.*

**92-94 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Branaire-Ducru is a blend of 64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot, 6% Petit Verdot and 3% Cabernet Franc picked from 28 September until 19 October at 50 hectoliters per hectare, one of the longest harvest periods at the estate. The nose is quite intense with black fruit infused with pencil shaving and a touch of tobacco, unashamedly classic in style, a little distant compared to some other Saint Juliens but undeniably well defined and full of character. The palate is structured and masculine, exerting a firm grip in the mouth, spicier than its peers with cracked black pepper complementing the black fruit, tobacco and smoke towards the structured finish. There is great length here, very persistent in the mouth, a little rougher in texture than others, but that will be smoothed out during élevage and in bottle. Give this Branaire-Ducru five or six years in bottle because it has great potential, one of the best produced at the estate in recent years. (NB This sample was taken from a new barrel, though the final blend will be 60%.)*

**Glengarry Review** *A very elegant and poised Branaire Ducru. Red fruits, long driven tannins, with excellent concentration, great wine.*  
Liz Wheadon

## CHÂTEAU SAINT PIERRE 2016

Saint Julien Fourth Growth

First payment \$94.71 Estimated Second Payment \$22.20

Estimated total \$116.91 Availability - Good

**92-95 Wine Spectator** *Beautifully done, with ample grip but a polished, fresh feel around the core of blueberry, cassis and warm plum flavors. Lovely anise and singed apple wood accents show on the finish.*

**95 Decanter** *Structured and measured with grippy tannins, this is a subtle yet extremely successful wine. Fully ripe black fruits are joined by gentle spices that slowly curl up through the palate. These guys have been delivering such a fantastic run of vintages and continue to do so here - for me yet another St-Julien that is clearly better than the 2015. Drinking Window 2027 - 2045 - Jane Anson*

## CHÂTEAU TALBOT 2016

Saint Julien Fourth Growth

First payment \$87.31 Estimated Second Payment \$20.77

Estimated total \$108.08 Availability - Good

**93-96 Wine Spectator** *Pure, with a core of cassis and blueberry fruit streaming through, carried by ample yet embedded graphite-edged grip. Keeps a fresh feel through the finish. Lovely.*

**93-94 James Suckling** *A full-bodied red that stays in check with a firm and lightly chewy tannin backbone. Full body and an intense finish. Shows excellent potential.*

**Glengarry Review** *With savoury rustic charm, this has great acidity and balance, fruit subdued right now. Classic style. Liz Wheadon*

## CHÂTEAU GRUAUD LAROSE 2016

Saint Julien Second Growth

First payment \$109.4 Estimated Second Payment \$25.05

Estimated total \$134.45 Availability - Good

**95-96 James Suckling** *Full-bodied, layered and juicy young wine. Very tannic yet ripe and intense. Powerful finish. This will be excellent. Better than the 2015.*

**93-95 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Gruaud Larose is a blend of 69% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot and 2% Cabernet Franc this year, picked between 29 September until 15 October (with the Petit Verdot) and matured in 80% new oak, the remainder one or two years old. The alcohol is a modest 13.02%. It has a generous bouquet with scents of blackberry, briary, a touch of sandalwood and tobacco, gaining more precision as it aerates in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, certainly one of the most finessed Gruaud Larose in recent years, with perfectly judged acidity. I love the focus here, a little understated at first but you cannot deny the intensity and precision on the finish. Moreover, this seems to be a slightly more detailed Gruaud, nuanced and long in the mouth. Excellent—and I suspect it might be a little more approachable than some of its peers.*

**Glengarry Review** *69% Cabernet, 29% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc. Very fragrant with attractive floral notes. Generous ripe tannins, the cassis red berry characters are smooth and round. The tannins are very ripe, lovely balance and finish. Fine and elegant with a super persistent long finish. Liz Wheadon*

## CHÂTEAU LÉOVILLE BARTON 2016

Saint Julien Second Growth

First payment \$131.69 Estimated Second Payment \$29.37

Estimated total \$161.06 Availability - Good

**96 Decanter** *Restrained but textured, a confident delivery of lashings of cassis, bilberry and blackberry fruits. This is an exceptional Léoville-Barton that sacrifices none of its St-Julien signature while delivering a powerful, beautifully sculpted wine. This is a total triumph, my favourite for years at this property. Drinking Window 2027 - 2050 - Jane Anson*

**93-95 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Léoville-Barton is a blend of 86% Cabernet Sauvignon and 14% Merlot picked from 29 September until 13 October, matured in 60% new oak and delivering 13% alcohol. It has a more intense bouquet compared to the Langoa-Barton, plenty of intense blackberry and raspberry fruit, minerals, cedar and a hint of licorice. The palate is a little chewy on the entry with good grip in the mouth. This demonstrates the backbone of the finish, just the right amount of spiciness with excellent salinity on the long finish. It is not a once-in-a-lifetime Léoville Barton, but (as usual) it just seems to do everything right. Maybe it's not quite up there with the stellar 2015 Léoville Barton, which I re-tasted at the time, but it is not far off.*

## CHÂTEAU LÉOVILLE POYFERRÉ 2016

Saint Julien Second Growth

First payment \$136.63 Estimated Second Payment \$30.32

Estimated total \$166.95 Availability - Good

**95-98 Wine Spectator** *The deep well of gorgeous cassis, blueberry paste and blackberry puree flavors will carry this for the long haul. Shows a terrific graphite underpinning and a flash of cold charcoal. This is a big one.*

**95-96 James Suckling** *The buildup on the palate is impressive with blackberry and blueberry character. Plenty of currants, too. Full-bodied, linear and tight. Racy tannins and a long finish. Shows tension, depth, real raciness and pure finesse. A combination of the best from both 2009 and 2010. 95-97 Wine Spectator The 2016 Léoville-Poyferré is a blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 33% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot and 2% Cabernet Franc. Didier Cuvelier told me that color leached out naturally and he conducted an 8 day pre-fermentation maceration. Matured in 80% new oak with some malolactic in barrel, it has a typical bouquet for this estate with opulent but neatly controlled, billowing scents of black cherries, black plum, crème de cassis and violets. The palate is beautifully balanced with fine tannin, a killer line of acidity and perhaps one of the most harmonious Poyferré that I have encountered at this juncture. It just glides across the mouth and slips down the throat with consummate ease. Superb.*

## CHÂTEAU LAGRANGE (ST JULIEN) 2016

Saint Julien Third Growth

First payment \$72.52 Estimated Second Payment \$17.9

Estimated total \$90.42 Availability - Good

**95-96 James Suckling** *Powerful red with a rich and tannic center palate. Full body, lots of depth and a long and chewy finish. Indeed, this shows potential. Much better than the 2015.*

**94-96 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Lagrange is a blend of 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot and 6% Petit Verdot that is matured in 50% new oak. The yield came in at 46.5 hectoliters per hectare, lower than in 2015. It has a very well defined bouquet with intense black cherry, red plum, touches of cedar and with continued aeration, a hint of blueberry. It certainly is one of the most expressive Lagrange that I have tasted (and I write that having tasted them all back to the early 1980s). The palate is extremely well balanced with tensile tannin, vibrant and animated with blackberry, crème de cassis, a hint of orange zest. This is a great Lagrange, one that almost zings around the senses, barely able to contain the energy. A superior Lagrange to the 2015, this may well rank as the finest produced.*

**Glengarry Review** *Beautiful concentrated red fruits, a very smart wine. Brilliant intensity, engaging palate, long length. Very good.*  
Liz Wheadon

## CLOS DU MARQUIS 2016

Saint Julien

First payment \$82.38 Estimated Second Payment \$19.81

Estimated total \$102.19

**93-96 Wine Spectator** *This is stacked, with dark plum, cassis and blueberry reduction notes forming the core. The serious spine of graphite and tar is thoroughly embedded, so the finish is long and polished. A beauty.*

**94-95 James Suckling** *The clarity and beauty of this young red are brilliant with blackberry, blueberry and mineral undertones. Full and racy. Long and wonderfully polished. Racy. Better than the 2015.*

## CHÂTEAU DUCRU BEAUCAILLOU 2016

Saint Julien

First payment \$287.03 Estimated Second Payment \$59.46

Estimated total \$346.49

**97 Decanter** *Another exceptional success for St-Julien in 2016, following the longest growing season in the recorded history of the property. Reasonable alcohols, because of the slow maturation, emphasise the juiciness of the fruit. Hugely intense and concentrated black brambly fruits, with layer upon layer of stunning liquorice, dark chocolate, rich black cherry and graphite. This is an utterly beautiful wine and it approaches the essence of what owner Bruno Borie must want for this estate, I am sure. It is easy to imagine uncorking this with excitement in 10 or 15 years. The final blend is 85% Cabernet Sauvignon and 15% Merlot, with a high tannin index of 80IPT and a 3.71pH, aged in 100% new oak for 18 months - Jane Anson*

**97-98 James Suckling** *Very focused and reserved with a mineral, blackberry, licorice and blackcurrant character. Full and refined. Walking a tightrope between steely tannins and dark fruit. This is highly intellectual and unique. Great finish. Remake of the extraordinary 2014? Stronger than the 2015, for sure.*

## SARGET DE GRUAUD LAROSE 2016

Saint Julien

First payment \$35.54 Estimated Second Payment \$10.74

Estimated total \$46.28 Availability - Good

**90-91 James Suckling** A medium-bodied red with blackberry and plum character, fine tannins and a fresh finish. Second wine of Gruaud-Larose.

**Glengarry Review** Cabernet 51%, Merlot 31%, Cabernet Franc 6% Petit Verdot 4%, 12.66 abv. Impressive vibrant colour that is captivating. Gentle palate with luscious cassis and plum characters. Very good this year. - Liz Wheadon

## CHÂTEAU LÉOVILLE LAS CASES 2016

Saint Julien

First payment \$370.86 Estimated Second Payment \$75.70

Estimated total \$446.56

**97-100 Wine Spectator** A brick house, with layers of cold charcoal, smoldering tobacco, warm cassis, dark plum and blueberry reduction flavors all working seamlessly together. The charcoal edge underscores the entire finish, which is focused and ridiculously long.

**99 Decanter** Cabernet Sauvignon makes up 75% of the main blend, with 14% of 80 year old Merlot and 11% of Cabernet Franc, and aged in 90% new oak. It is hard to think of a vintage when this is not a great wine, but in 2016 it is exceptional, comparable to the majestic 1996. It has all the intensity, richness and depth, but it lets the light in. The yield is fairly high at 40hl/ha, with 3.66pH balancing a tannin index of 82IPT. This is the highest ever at this property and yet the wine is elegant, gorgeous and juicy, with an endless array of black fruits and graphite. The tannins are right there pushing at the front of the mouth, but remain pliable. No need to worry about this ageing long into the future. 98-100 points. Drinking Window 2027 - 2050 - Jane Anson

**98-99 James Suckling** A unique Las Cases that harkens back to some of the great classics such as 1985 or 1986 with its solid backbone of tannins and a walnut, licorice and blackcurrant character. Full and powerful, characterized throughout by a steeliness that shows its strength and energy. Better than the 2015. Ultra-classic.

**98-100 Neal Martin** The 2016 Léoville-Las Cases comprises 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14% Merlot and 11% Cabernet Franc picked between 30 September and 19 October, during which the harvesters were out in the vines for 16 days. It is matured in 90% new oak and delivers 13.60% alcohol and an IPT of 82. It is initially tightly coiled on the nose and needed coaxing from the glass. There are scents of small black cherries, boysenberry, crushed violets and a slight flintiness that emerges with time. The definition is very impressive—you can almost pick the aromas out one by one. The palate is awe-inspiring. The tannins are so filigree, in fact not dissimilar to their neighbor across the border at Château Latour. That seam of graphite lends this Léoville Las-Cases a Pauillac-like personality, but ignoring stylistic similarities, it is the intensity, depth and arching structure that astounds, with detail on the finish that rivets your feet to the spot. Then the finish is ultra-precise, one of the most mineral-driven that I have encountered in almost 20 years visiting the estate, plus it is endowed with one the longest aftertastes you will find in 2016. Yeah, it's good.

**Glengarry Review** This wine stopped me in my tracks, it is sensational. Intense red fruit characters dominate the nose, very concentrated with a bold structure and firm tannins. 75% Cabernet, 15% Cabernet Franc and 10% Merlot. Vine age varies between 40-90 years. The palate has a wonderful savoury richness, a core of red fruits and a wonderful texture. Very complex, this is sensational Bordeaux. Liz Wheadon





## SAINT-ÉMILION

On the right bank of the river Dordogne lies the large Saint-Émilion commune. Unfortunately Saint-Émilion was omitted from the 1855 Classification so Saint-Émilion made its own classification in 1954 and is now revisited every ten years or so (in 1984, 1995 and 2006). Château have been promoted and demoted during these reclassifications. Merlot and Cabernet Franc lead the grape varieties in terms of importance with Cabernet Sauvignon playing a support role. Soil profiles in this large appellation are diverse with a mix of gravel, sand and alluvial soils in some areas to gravel and limestone in the best areas

### CHÂTEAU CHAUVIN 2016

Saint-Émilion

First payment \$55.26 Estimated Second Payment \$14.56

Estimated \$69.82 Availability - Good

**90 Decanter** *Plump, ripe black fruit packed with tension and bristling tannins. Successful this vintage, as it was in 2015, it goes for impact and pulls it off. This was the longest and latest harvest in memory, completed on 20th October. - Jane Anson*

**92-93 James Suckling** *This is really solid and concentrated with tight-grained tannins and an impressive density of ripe and cool fruit. Muscular. Could rival the wonderful 2015.*

**92-94 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Chauvin, owned by Sylvie Cazes, has a nicely detailed bouquet with blackberry, iris and bay leaf aromas, more understated than the 2015 Chauvin and perhaps more detailed. The palate is medium-bodied with fine, supple tannin, plenty of slightly tarry black fruit but with great structure and focus on the lightly spiced finish. This may be the best vintage that I have tasted in recent vintages, and it should age with style.*

### CHÂTEAU FAUGERES 2016

Saint-Émilion Grand Cru Classe

First payment \$62.66 Estimated Second Payment \$15.99

Estimated total \$78.65 Availability - Good

**92-95 Wine Spectator** *This sports loganberry and raspberry fruit, with a lively savory streak and menthol echo on the finish. Stays polished and sleek in feel, with the fruit winning out in the end. Score range: 92-95 - Jm*

**92 Decanter** *The black fruit here is beautifully ripe and juicy, deeply fleshed out and offering control without losing impact. It's a great wine, love it. A Silvio Denz property. - Jane Anson*

**92-94 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Faugeres is a blend of 85% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon matured in 60% new oak. It has a ripe black cherry and cassis scented bouquet, just a touch of volatility although that should disappear by the time it is in bottle. The palate is medium-bodied with a gentle grip on the entry. This has good backbone and fresh acidity, nicely focused with a taut, quite linear finish that feels more restrained and classic in style than previous vintages. Superb.*

### CHÂTEAU LA COUSPAUDE 2016

Saint-Émilion Grand Cru Classe

First payment \$68.82 Estimated Second Payment \$17.19

Estimated \$ 86.01 Availability - Good

**89-92 Wine Spectator** *This delivers a big ball of blackberry, fig and boysenberry confiture notes backed by a lively licorice streak. Singed mesquite on the finish. Flirts with overripe, but holds the line in the end. Score range: 89-92 - JM*

**91 Decanter** *This absolutely has personality and impact, and they have done a great job of controlling the extraction. A contemporary take on the vintage, with plump, ripe fruit and big drama. Coffee bean, tar, swirling mocha and chocolate. - Jane Anson*

**92-93 James Suckling** *Tight and tangy with a medium body, a solid core of fruit and a savory finish. Minerally undertones. Shows power and finesse already. We will see which is better: 2015 or 2016.*

## CHÂTEAU LA FLEUR (SAINT-ÉMILION) 2016

Saint-Émilion Grand Cru Classe

First payment \$45.40 Estimated Second Payment \$12.65

Estimated \$58.05 Availability - Good

**92-93 James Suckling** *Excellent density and tannin backbone for the vintage with chewy, polished tannins and plenty of fruit. Full body and a fresh finish. One to follow.*

**15.5 Jancis Robinson** *Dark crimson. Pretty ripe nose. Just the wrong side of overripeness unfortunately and then pretty demanding and pinched on the finish. Tarry and not much fun.*

## CHÂTEAU LA SERRE 2016

Saint-Émilion

First payment \$62.66 Estimated Second Payment \$15.99

Estimated total \$78.65 Availability - Good

**95 Decanter** *Up on the plateau, La Serre's vines are planted on clay over limestone and showcase just why this soil type is such a success in this vintage. Juicy and restrained without withholding or begrudging. Gentle caffè latte oaking that emphasises a creamy mid-palate without ever starting over the line to sweetness. I always love this château and it is a huge success in 2016. 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc aged in 50% new oak. 3.5pH. Stephane Toutoundji consults. - Jane Anson*

**91-92 James Suckling** *Chewy and juicy with lots of fruit and walnut character. Hints of vanilla. Full to medium body, a round texture and a flavorful finish. Like it.*

**Glengarry Review** *Aromatically forward, the concentrated red fruits that greet you on the nose follow through to the palate. Intense firm tannins, generous plum on the mid palate which is ripe and abundant though not juicy and overt. A wonderful fine and elegant finish. Liz Wheadon*

## CHÂTEAU LARCIS DUCASSE 2016

Saint-Émilion

First payment \$109.5 Estimated Second Payment \$25.07

Estimated total \$134.57 Availability - Good

**94-97 Wine Spectator** *This is really flattering, offering crushed raspberry, boysenberry and plum fruit stitched with dried anise, bramble and chalky threads. Long, elegant, spice-infused finish. Score range: 94-97 - James Molesworth*

**95-96 James Suckling** *This is very polished and beautiful with ultra-fine tannins and a long, linear finish. It has a density and beauty that seduces you.*

**93-95 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Larcis-Ducasse is a blend of 87% Merlot and 13% Cabernet Franc picked between 12-19 October, matured in 225- and 500-liter barrels. It matured in 50% new oak, which is a lower proportion than you would have found in 2009 or 2010. It has a lively, expressive bouquet with detailed blackberry, briary and cranberry aromas that are neatly embroidered with the new oak, allowing the terroir to show through. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin, very well balanced, quite spicy and peppery in the mouth but maintaining satisfying tension from start to finish. This is a very well crafted Larcis-Ducasse although I hope that during the élevage it will just gain more persistence on the aftertaste. One to watch.*

## CHÂTEAU PAVIE DECESSE 2016

Saint-Émilion Grand Cru Classe

First payment \$198.27 Estimated Second Payment \$42.26

Estimated total \$240.53 Availability - Good

**94 Decanter** *A Perse wine from up on the limestone plateau where the vines never suffered from dry water stress in 2016, and so this has juice, tension and depth, plus a quite amazingly low 3.43pH. Gorgeous - the best that I remember. 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc. - Jane Anson*

**98-99 James Suckling** *This has beautiful presence and finesse with lovely fruit, mineral and light walnut character. Center palate is gorgeous. Long and refined. Perhaps better than the superb 2015.*

## CHÂTEAU PAVIE MACQUIN 2016

Saint-Émilion Grand Cru Classe

First payment \$123.70 Estimated Second Payment \$27.71

Estimated \$151.41 Availability - Good

**94-97 Wine Spectator** Juicy and alluring, with dark fig, cherry and currant fruit that has melded together, while lively minerality and anise notes course underneath. The long, refined finish has a gorgeous yin-yang between cashmere and chalky threads. Score range: 94-97 - JM

**94 Decanter** This is a Derencourt-Thienpont wine, working together as a consultancy. Deep, intense, autumnal berry fruits make for a great St-Émilion delivering huge impact. It veers towards chunky, but the tannins are not solid and there is a freshness and life to them that makes them present without being choking. Very good indeed. - Jane Anson

**97-98 James Suckling** This is a really fantastic PM! The licorice, fresh mushroom, sous bois and stone character is so exciting. It's full and very layered with exceptional depth and length. Compressed and focused. Pure silk.

**94-96 Neal Martin** The 2016 Pavie-Macquin is a blend of 82% Merlot, 16% Cabernet Franc and 2% Cabernet Sauvignon matured in 50% new oak, picked from 7 October (with the young Merlot vines) until 22 October. The pH is 3.35 and it has 14.4% alcohol. I appreciate the intensity of this Pavie-Macquin. This is no shy retiring flower but comes out with cylinders pumping while maintaining the delineation, the detail that you look for. The palate is smooth and sensual on the entry, velvety in texture with plenty of luscious red berry fruit, vanilla and a hint of blueberry. It glides across the palate, the new oak neatly integrated. This is easily my pick of Nicolas Thienpont's 2016s and one of the best Pavie-Macquins that I have tasted at this stage.

## CHÂTEAU PUY BLANQUET 2016

Saint-Émilion Grand Cru Classe

First payment \$21.97 Estimated Second Payment \$8.11

Estimated total \$30.08 Availability - Good

**Wine Spectator** Pretty, with red currant and plum fruit bouncing along, backed by enticing floral and spice notes. Stays fresh on the finish, with a light mineral accent. Lot of pretty charm. Score range: 88-91 - JM

**90-91 James Suckling** A firm and structured young wine with blackberry, berry and dark-chocolate character. Medium body and fine tannins. Lovely energy and clarity.

**Glengarry Review** Wow, this stood out in the midst of a big tasting, this is a super impressive Puy Blanquet. Intense colour, super ripe firm tannins, bold red fruits, spicy and a rich mid palate. The finish, soft and supple. Superbly well made. Liz Wheadon

## CHÂTEAU ROL VALENTIN 2016

Saint-Émilion Grand Cru Classe

First payment \$49.10 Estimated Second Payment \$13.36

Estimated total \$62.46 Availability - Good

**90-93 Wine Spectator** Ripe and pure, with polished edges that let the plum and cassis notes stream along unencumbered. Fresh acidity drives the finish, which is sneaky long. Score range: 90-93 - JM

**92-93 James Suckling** A bright and vivid red with blueberry and cherry character. Bright and lively acidity. Firm and silky tannins. Shows reserve and harmony. Could be even better than now with time.

**90-92 Neal Martin** The 2016 Rol-Valentin, owned by Nicolas and Alexandra Robin, has a very well defined bouquet with blackberry and crushed strawberry fruit, subtle tobacco and iris aromas developing in the glass. This is a more classically ""trained"" Rol-Valentin. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, crisp acidity but it just clams up a little towards the finish where I want it to spread its wings. I'll keep my eye on this, as there is certainly good potential and it is a worthy follow-up to the 2015.

**16.5 Jancis Robinson** Stéphane Derenoncourt consulting. Clay limestone. 90% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc. Bright crimson. Easy, comfortable, well-integrated nose. Great freshness on the end. Almost more like a red Loire! Dry end but crunchy and appealing. Not remotely over the top."

## CHÂTEAU TROPLONG MONDOT 2016

Saint-Émilion Grand Cru Classe

First payment \$210.59 Estimated Second Payment \$44.65

Estimated total \$255.24 Availability - Good

**94-97 Wine Spectator** *Beautifully pure and expressive, with creamy-textured cassis, raspberry and boysenberry puree notes streaming through, gilded by a violet note and backed by refined minerality on the finish. There's a backdrop of alluring spice-infused toast, but the fruit takes center stage here. Score range: 94-97 - James Molesworth*

**96-97 James Suckling** *Tar and blackberries here on the palate with very polished tannins and dense, beautiful fruit. Tight and centered. Wow. Can it be better than the 2015? We will see.*

**93-96 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Troplong-Mondot is a blend of 89% Merlot, 9% Cabernet Sauvignon and 2% Cabernet Franc cropped at 48 hectoliters per hectare between 3-27 October, matured in 77% new oak. It has a decadent bouquet that seems to carry more alcohol than its peers, very pure and floral and miraculously managing to maintain satisfying delineation. The palate is underpinned by enormous tannins! This is a massive Troplong Mondot that is very dense and sinewy, a bit of a "bruiser" in its infancy. It exerts a vice-like grip in the mouth with layers of fruit laced with black pepper on the prolonged finish. What's the Spinal Tap quote about turning everything up to eleven? This is a Saint Emilion that will either transform into a legend or will topple over by the sheer weight of the tannins, which is why I gave a slightly enlarged banded score. I'll be fascinated to re-taste this in bottle.*

## CLOS FOURTET 2016

Saint-Émilion 1er Cru Classe

First payment \$171.14 Estimated Second Payment \$37.01

Estimated total \$208.15 Availability - Good

**96-99 Wine Spectator** *Gorgeous from the get-go, with plum sauce, cassis and violet notes streaming through, showing ample richness yet relying more on cut, while anise, black tea and chalky mineral flavors persist on the finish. A beauty in the making. Score range: 96-99 - JM*

**95-97 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Clos Fourtet is a blend of 90% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Sauvignon and 2% Cabernet Franc aged in 60% new oak. It has a generous, well defined licorice-tinged fruit that is very focused. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, blackberry and boysenberry fruit with that salted licorice theme continuing. This Clos Fourtet has impressive concentration, yet there is real elegance and persistence, fanning out wonderfully towards the finish. Mathieu Cuvelier has overseen another outstanding Clos Fourtet. Tasted twice, with a second bottle demonstrating a tad more backbone but equally admirable.*

**16.5 Jancis Robinson** *Very sweet nose. Something a little dead about this sample. Not enough freshness. Smooth tannins but just a bit of lack of life on the mid palate. Obviously ambitious. I'd love to taste another sample. A saliva-sucker.*

## CLOS ST MARTIN 2016

Saint-Émilion Grand Cru Classe

First payment \$103.75 Estimated Second Payment \$23.95

Estimated total \$127.7 Availability - Good

**92/100 Decanter** *Located between Beauséjour Duffau-Lagarosse and Beau-Séjour Bécot on the plateau in hard limestone territory. This has stunning intensity, with a real salinity on the finish. Lovely, powerful, but austere right now, this will age well. 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc, 20% aged in clay amphorae that allow for fruit-focussed maturation. - Jane Anson*

**95-96 James Suckling** *This is really excellent. Deep and rich with a beautiful depth of fruit and silky tannins. I am excited about this one. Big upgrade in quality.*

**90-92? Neal Martin** *The 2016 Clos St Martin has a very opulent and powerful bouquet with layers of kirsch, crème de cassis and a tang of seaweed. The palate is sweet and chewy on the entry. There is a lot of new oak here that lends it a smooth sheen, although I find it too domineering towards the finish where I wanted to see more fruit. Hopefully, that will be addressed during the barrel maturation because this could be a great Clos St Martin. Just a little prudence here would not go amiss to contain that powerful Merlot.*



## CHÂTEAU FIGEAC 2016

Saint-Émilion 1er Cru Classe

First payment \$309.22 Estimated Second Payment \$63.76

Estimated \$372.98 Availability - Good

**98 Decanter** 2016 keeps Figeac on the trajectory set out in recent vintages, and is proof once again that power does not have to mean sacrificing precision and juiciness if it is done right. This is a great wine, with purity and focus from the balanced black fruit delivery. You don't feel anything drop through the palate - each element is held in suspension and it finishes strong with a mouthwatering flourish. 38% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36% Merlot and 26% Cabernet Franc aged in 100% new oak. 3.67pH.

**96-97 James Suckling** Splendid texture and finesse to this young Figeac with a pure silk texture. Full-bodied and ultra-fine. Lovely combination of fruit and freshness. The polish is gorgeous to this. Precision redefined. Pretty follow-up to the 2015.

**98-100 Neal Martin** The 2016 Figeac is a blend of 36% Merlot, 26% Cabernet Franc and 38% Cabernet Sauvignon, picked from 23 September until 20 October at 49 hectoliters per hectare with 13.9% alcohol. The acidity is 3.67 pH, and it matured in 100% new oak (focused on five cooperages). This is a property that opened a new chapter in 2013, when Michel Rolland's services as a master blender have been called upon and engendered far greater harmony between the three grape varieties, now all singing from the same hymn sheet. It has a crisp blackberry nose, a little closed at first, opening nicely in the glass and offering raspberry coulis, pencil box and subtle mint aromas—classic Figeac in many ways. The palate is extraordinarily well balanced with a fine lattice of tannin sculpted to perfection. There is a slight edginess to this Figeac that I adore, the Cabernets very expressive, more so than the 2015, with graphite infusing every pore of the black fruit. This Figeac has an outstanding structure and a saline finish that beckons you back for another sip. The 2015 Figeac was stunning and the 2016 no less. Tasted on four separate occasions, and in the end, only one (banded) score became inevitable.

**19 Jancis Robinson** 36% Merlot, 26% Cabernet Franc, 38% Cabernet Sauvignon. No pigeage, more like an infusion with gentle remontage. Lively and very Figeac. Just as it should be. Zesty and confident and of the place. Rich palate entry and then lovely freshness. Firm and glorious. Like an arrow. Very pure. Frédéric Faye and the Manoncourt family should be very proud. Classic. Racy and juicy and beautifully balanced. Long.

**Glengarry Review** 36% Merlot, 26% Cabernet Franc and 28% Cabernet Sauvignon. Intense colour, the aromatics are forward and very fragrant. There's a generous bouquet of plum and black currant. Elegant and persistent, this is very fine indeed. - Liz Wheadon



## CHÂTEAU PAVIE 2016

Saint-Émilion 1er Cru Classe

First payment \$605.09 Estimated Second Payment \$121.08

Estimated total \$726.17 Availability - Good

**97 Decanter** *One of the most thrilling surprises of the vintage, here a new approach to a more finely-wrought Pavie has collided with a vintage that has natural freshness and acidity. The result shows the potential of this terroir. Without a doubt the best Pavie that I have ever tasted, and one where I have not had to say, 'yes, but...'. Let's not pretend that it's night and day from the old regime, but nor should it be - Pavie needs to keep its signature black fruited glamour and intensity, as that is part of what delivered its new status, but to my mind this is a far better balance than in the past. The blend is 60% Merlot, 22% Cabernet Franc and 18% Cabernet Sauvignon, the lowest amount of Merlot since Perse arrived. This still has reams of intense fruit, but the tannins are not immovable as they have been in some years, and pulses of minerality leap up on the finish to make your mouth water. Gorgeous. It is also fascinating to learn the technical details that have helped bring out the vintage character - besides the lower Merlot content, there were 10 days less maceration than last year and only 70% new oak.* - Jane Anson

**99-100 James Suckling** *This is more compressed and tighter than the 2015. It's full-bodied, but very tight and focused. So linear and long. Love the gorgeous finesse. Goes on for minutes. All about finesse...new profile.*

**98-100 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Pavie is a blend of 60% Merlot, 22% Cabernet Franc and 18% Cabernet Sauvignon cropped at 38 hectoliters per hectare between 10 and 20 October. The alcohol this year is 14.55%, and it is matured in 80% new oak and 20% one-year-old wood. As Gérard Perse explained, this is a Pavie that has taken stock and shifted in direction in recent years, reflecting more of its exceptional terroir instead of winemaking. It has a very intense bouquet that is extremely well-defined and shrugs off that higher alcohol level. You can find the graphite vein courtesy of the Cabernet Sauvignon and the underlying tension, while a second bottle had a soupçon more florality. The palate is medium-bodied with succulent, ripe, supple tannins that gently caress the mouth. It feels beguiling and charming, totally different in style compared to say Cheval Blanc, offering a more sensual take on the 2016 growing season. It is a very impressive follow-up to the 2015 Pavie and may surpass it once in bottle.*

## CHÂTEAU LA GAFFELIERE 2016

Saint-Émilion Second Growth

First payment \$97.59 Estimated Second Payment \$22.76

Estimated total \$120.35 Availability - Good

**92-95 Wine Spectator** *Lively, with light savory and spearmint hints flecked throughout, while the core of currant and fig fruit sits atop some medium-weight brambly grip. A good juicy edge through the finish pulls it together. Very solid. Score range: 92-95 - JM*

**92-94 Neal Martin** *The 2016 La Gaffeliere has a reserved bouquet at first, one that gradually unfurls with quite intense black cherry and sloes, yet there seems to be a welcome restraint, a Saint Emilion that knows how important it was to not "push" the fruit too much. The palate is medium-bodied with very smooth and rounded tannin. The acidity here is nicely judged, and it feels very cohesive, with dark berry fruit mixed with a little cola and plenty of black pepper towards the satisfying finish. Maybe it would benefit from more on the aftertaste, but otherwise this is an excellent La Gaffelière, a château that is now beginning to deliver the goods.*

## CHÂTEAU BEAUSEJOUR BECOT 2016

Saint-Émilion

First payment \$104.57 Estimated Second Payment \$24.11

Estimated total \$128.68 Availability - Good

**94 Decanter** *Right on the limestone plateau, this has a lovely delivery of extremely ripe black fruits dotted through with minerality and little pulses of electricity. Extremely successful, this will age well thanks to elongated tannins that are chalky in all the right places. Again, we have this slight austerity on the finish, a reminder that 2016 is not the right bank party we saw in 2015, but this is excellent with such a beautiful balance.*

**93-95 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Beau-Sejour-Becot is a blend of 80% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon cropped at 40 hectoliters per hectare, picked between 3-20 October. It has a very pure and precise bouquet, pure with joyful black cherries, blackcurrants, cedar and incense that is beautifully defined. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin, very well balanced, sensual and lively with a gentle, caressing finish of cedar and tobacco. There is good structure here, a Saint Emilion that should age with style. This continues the upswing of Beau-Sejour-Becot.*

## CHÂTEAU ANGELUS 2016

Saint-Émilion

First payment \$605.09 Estimated Second Payment \$121.08

Estimated total \$726.17 Availability - Good

**94 Decanter** The level of precision in the cellar at Angélus is always impressive, but they have taken it to new levels in recent years. Parts of the harvest undergo cold soak, plots are vinified at different temperatures, and undergo different lengths of post-fermentation maceration depending on tannic or fruit potential. The cellar is kept cooler than normal to preserve aromatics. This wine is delicious, with a hugely aromatic freshness in the mouth, showing griotte cherries, gourmet spice and floral notes of violets and white flowers. This is 70% new oak, a little more than usual, but a mark of the vintage is this ability to take new oak very well. Blend of 75% Merlot and 25% Cabernet Franc. - Jane Anson

**99-100 James Suckling** Incredible depth of fruit to this Angélus, which is dense yet also agile and energetic. There's just so much dynamic fruit and tannin structure. Makes you want to taste and taste. What a young wine! We will see if 2016 is better than 2015. Both are great.

**96-98 Neal Martin** The 2016 Angelus is a blend of 40% Cabernet Franc and 60% Merlot with much of the production zoning in on the more clayey soils that are ideal in a dry growing season like this. Picked from 4 to 21 October and matured entirely in new oak, it has a very intense bouquet with multilayered blackcurrant, blueberry and floral notes, very refined and precise, not unlike the 2010 in some ways, but I would argue this is more sophisticated. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, crisp acidity, symmetrical in terms of focus with just the right amount of sappiness on the saline finish. It is a superb Angelus from the de Boüard family, destined to give pleasure over many, many years. Once in bottle, I expect it to land towards the top of my banded scale.

**17++ Jancis Robinson** Strong balsam notes. Rather luscious fruit and lots of life and interest. Real vivacity. In this wine, in this stable, although it has a drying finish, the fruit is so overwhelming that it distracts from the drying finish. Well done in a distinctly modernist style. Though the finish is a little weak.

## CHÂTEAU AUSONE 2016

Saint-Émilion

First payment \$1213.28 Estimated Second Payment \$238.90

Estimated total \$1452.18 Availability - Good

**99 Decanter** The incredible succulent power in Ausone puts a different perspective on other wines, as it so often does. The epitome of perfumed finesse. The yield is up at 40hl/ha, high for these poor limestone soils, and the remarkable clarity of expression that runs right through the delicate but fleshy raspberry and smoke-tinged palate is helped by a pH of 3.5 (compared to 3.6 last year). In my book this counts as one of the truly exciting signatures of the vintage and that is only boosted by the limestone terroir. Stunning, with enormous persistency and a finish that just doesn't want to quit. From a blend of 50% Merlot and 50% Cabernet Franc, aged in 80% new oak barrels. 98-100 points.

**97-98 James Suckling** This is one of the most subtle and ethereal Ausones I have encountered in a while. It's a full-bodied wine, yet one that's very refined in texture, all the way to the extremely long finish. Shows real dignity and character. A throwback to the great years of the 1950s.

**98-100 Neal Martin** The 2016 Ausone is a blend of 50% Merlot and 50% Cabernet Franc picked 10-14 October and 14-19 October, respectively, at 40 hectoliters per hectare. It is matured in 80% new oak with a light toasting, a move that Alain and Pauline Vauthier have made in recent years just to lessen the impact of the oak. There is a palpable...stateliness about the Ausone this year. It is extraordinarily pure and articulates its terroir as well as any vintage that I can remember over the last 20-odd years. It is not as flamboyant as other Saint Emilions, more correct and precise. The palate is very elegant and precise. I adore the exquisite balance of this Ausone, the precision and fineness of the tannin, the effortlessness that it conveys. This is classy and sophisticated, satin-like in texture with a long and sensual finish. Not an Ausone that is going to blaze across the sky, this is a cerebral, intellectual Ausone that will entrance for many years to come.

**18+ Jancis Robinson** Deep crimson. Very ripe nose and then rather chewy end. Drying finish. Not charming for the moment - even a little exaggerated. Though there is a broad panoply of fruit flavours that come rather precipitously to a drying end.

## CHÂTEAU BELAIR MONANGE 2016

Saint-Émilion

First payment \$185.94 Estimated Second Payment \$39.87

Estimated total \$225.81 Availability - Good

**96 Decanter** *The epitome of St-Émilion plateau power and elegance, this is beginning to rival Canon. It has the deftly worked berry fruits, the creamy caress of cappuccino oak, the dancing minerality that gives focus, and a touch of austerity to the finish. An utterly lovely wine. 92% Merlot and 8% Cabernet Franc from 23.5ha consisting of Asteries limestone on the plateau and blue clay over limestone on the slopes.*

**95-96 James Suckling** *A very dense and pretty centre palate of dried fruit, spices and dried tobacco. Medium to full body, chewy tannins and a savoury finish. Linear and racy. Tight and reserved now but wait to see the structure develop fabulously.*

**94-96 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Belair-Monange, the home of Edouard Moueix and his family, is a blend of 92% Merlot and 8% Cabernet Franc. It has a tightly wound bouquet with red and black fruit, touches of cedar and smoke developing in the glass, reticent at first but unfolding nicely in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with grippy tannin, a more structured and rigid Belair-Monange compared to recent vintages, adorned with fine salinity on the finish. It will require several years in bottle to show its best, but it will be worth waiting for.*

**Glengarry Review** *One of the superstars of the JP Moueix stable of wines. Concentrated Black Doris plum aromas leap out of the glass. There's great fruit concentration and intense sweet fruits. This is very ripe with impeccable balance to match. Not a block buster, this is a supple well poised wine that has been very well made. A long engaging finish. Liz Wheadon*

## CHÂTEAU CANON 2016

Saint-Émilion

First payment \$148.95 Estimated Second Payment \$32.71

Estimated \$181.66 Availability - Good

**97-99 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Canon makes it a double slam-dunk for head winemaker Nicolas Audebert and his team, as it is the second of two ethereal wines that will put the estate right at the top of the Saint Emilion tree. This year is a blend of 74% Merlot and 26% Cabernet Franc picked from 22 September until 10 October at 45 hectoliters per hectare. It delivers 14.02% alcohol and an IPT of 65. Matured in 65% new oak, it has a compelling bouquet with intense black cherry and blueberry fruit, a tincture of oyster shell, all with exquisite definition. The palate is medium-bodied with filigree tannin, and again, there is stunning, almost ineffable precision. It is attired in a seamless texture with real density yet weightlessness on the finish. The persistence on the aftertaste is extraordinary. I composed this entire tasting note after spitting out the wine, but I can still feel my mouth tingling now. The 2015 was magnificent, but could this 2016 surpass that? "The 2016 is more Canon in style, more classic," commented Nicolas, and he could be right, although intuition tells me that the 2015 might be a hair's breadth better. I would not refuse either if they were opened before me.*

**18.5 Jancis Robinson** *Lively dark crimson. Very smart and complex on the nose - distinctively different. Really focused and rich but not sweet. Real lift and drive. So complete! Opulent on the nose but nothing remotely simple and sweet. Throbs with excitement.*

**95-98 Wine Spectator** *Vivacious and integrated already, with plum, raspberry and cassis notes matched by a bright floral hint and a flash of rooibos tea. Refined minerality through the finish. Ample depth, but it is defined by its purity and drive. Score range: 95-98 - James Molesworth*

**98 Decanter** *This vintage delivers a beautiful, classic style of Canon that is right at the top of what St-Émilion can offer. Compact and dense without being hard, it is finely structured both in terms of the texture of the cassis and blackberry fruits and in the shape of the tannins. It demonstrates a clear minerality and a feather-brushing of violet notes. This is less obviously sexy than 2015, but is a wine that offers a masterclass in what limestone terroir can convey - salinity, succulence, hints of austerity and reserves of power. I retasted it a few times, and the main take away of what to expect is layers of flavour and huge persistency. The details of how they worked the vintage are an added bonus to understanding how they achieved this result. When it started getting hot and dry, they left all green cover on the vines, and did no green harvesting except tidying up in September. The result was loading the vines to avoid over-concentration. 72% Merlot and 28% Cabernet Franc, with the final blend aged in 70% new oak. 3.6pH. - Jane Anson*

**Glengarry Review** *Fragrant and perfumed, this is immensely agreeable. Gorgeous red fruits and incredible aromatics. The palate has super fine tannins, bright red fruit characters and a leathery savoury note to the finish that balances very well with the perfumed nature of this wine. Great length. Super smart this year. Liz Wheadon*



## CHÂTEAU CHEVAL BLANC 2016

Saint-Émilion

First payment \$1135.2 Estimated Second Payment \$223.77

Estimated total \$1358.97 Availability - Good

**98 Decanter** *Another excellent Cheval, this is a wine that every year stands among the greatest in the region. The main impression is of a softly-spun silky texture with complete focus and clarity through the palate. There is some of the density of 2010 here, with the florality of 2005. Gorgeous. Many people spent a long time picking in 2016, but at Cheval Blanc everything came in within just 10 days, rather unusually picking grapes on gravel and clay at the same time. The blend is 59% Merlot, 38% Cabernet Franc and 3% Cabernet Sauvignon aged in 100% new oak. - Jane Anson*

**98-99 James Suckling** *This is very powerful Cheval with searing tannins and bright fruit, acidity and mineral undertones. Full and muscular yet beautifully formed and polished. It's all about the form to this. Better than 2015.*

**97-99 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Cheval Blanc is a blend of 59% Merlot, 38% Cabernet Franc and (the return of) 3% Cabernet Sauvignon from the gravel soils since in this vintage the vines showed absolutely no stress. It delivers 14.25% alcohol with an IPT of 75 and a pH 3.67, which Pierre Lurton told me is a little lower than normal. As usual, it is matured in 100% new oak. It has a very pure, correct and quite penetrating bouquet with black cherries, blackcurrant, graphite and a touch of wild mint. It is bashful at first but opens with confidence with aeration (incidentally, I allowed my sample 40 minutes to open). The palate is medium-bodied with filigree tannin and a killer line of acidity that imparts so much freshness from the starting gun. That soupçon on Cabernet Sauvignon does make a difference, lending a subtle vein of graphite that runs throughout the wine. It remains linear, with laser-like focus towards the extraordinarily persistent finish, pencil lead on the "HB" aftertaste. This is a classic and intellectual Cheval Blanc, not as charming perhaps as the 2015 Cheval Blanc, but it will unquestionably age gracefully over decades not years.*

**18.5+ Jancis Robinson** *The property is divided into 45 different plots and each plot has made some grand vin in the last five years. This is from 33 plots. 38% Cabernet Franc, 59% Merlot. The remaining 3% is Cabernet Sauvignon, from a parcel that has been replanted with Cabernet Franc successively. But they have decided to recover this gravelly plot by the road to St-Émilion with Cabernet Sauvignon. This is the first year it's in the grand vin as a reflection of the traditional assemblage of Cheval Blanc. Tasty floral start and then quite rich. A bit of grainy astringency (from those concrete vats?) in terms of texture - by no means unpleasant. Lots of floral notes, hint of putty and then lovely richness underneath. Quite a contrast between nose and palate. Smudgy palate and precise nose. Tannins really present on the end. Very floral on the nose. Big gap! Not sweet!!*

**Glengarry Review** *59.5% Merlot, 37.2% Cabernet Franc, 3.3% Cabernet Sauvignon. The Cabernet Sauvignon in the blend is from a new vineyard planted 3 years ago, already deemed of the quality to be in the Grand Vin. It is very rare to see Cabernet Sauvignon in the blend of Cheval Blanc. The perfume is amazing, lifted, fragrant and immense. Wow, this has such concentration, it is dense and brooding. Complex, rich, chocolatey, bold, intense and gorgeous. Very good integration. Amazing typicity and perfume, so charming and brilliant. Despite all the power, there's perfect balance between the charm and structure. Distinctly Cheval and typical of Cheval Blanc and Cabernet Franc. Liz Wheadon*



## CHÂTEAU FOMBRAUGE 2016

Saint-Émilion

First payment \$37.63 Estimated Second Payment \$11.14

Estimated total \$48.77 Availability - Good

**91-93 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Fombrauge is a blend of 93% Merlot and 7% Cabernet Franc picked from 30 September to the 22 October, clearly more expressive on the nose compared to the 2016 Magrez-Fombrauge with attractive blackberry, raspberry coulis and cold stone aromas. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, linear but fresh with a grippy, slightly tarry finish that lingers in the mouth. It needs to find a little more "lightness" in terms of personality rather than intensity, perhaps not take itself quite so seriously. But I still find much to enjoy here and I look forward to tasting it in bottle. Tasted twice with consistent notes.*

## CHÂTEAU FONROQUE 2016

Saint-Émilion

First payment \$46.63 Estimated Second Payment \$12.89

Estimated total \$59.52 Availability – Good

**93 Decanter** *Rich damson in colour, with a clear vibrancy to the nose. This must be one of the best ever wines from this property, combining an almost menacing depth and power with an unmistakable St-Émilion raspberry fruit ripeness, a brush of fern and violet florality and the saline lick of limestone. 85% Merlot and 15% Cabernet Franc. Organic and biodynamic. - Jane Anson*

**93-95 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Fonroque, part of the portfolio of Alain Moueix, put in a killer performance this year. It has a lighter bouquet compared to its peers with dusky black fruit, quite tertiary and introverted at first, although it does gain more expression and vigor with time in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin on the entry, very refined and poised without compensating in terms of fruit. I adore the finish here, really sleek and stylish with very fine mineralité and classicism. Bravo Alain Moueix!*

## CHÂTEAU HAUT BRISSON 2016

Saint-Émilion

First payment \$29.85 Estimated Second Payment \$9.7

Estimated total \$39.55 Availability - Good

**94/95 James Suckling** *Soft and velvety wine with blackberry, blueberry and raspberry character. Full body, a dense center palate and a long and pure finish. Another winner.*

**90-92 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Haut Brisson is a blend of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc was cropped at 42 hectoliters per hectare picked from 5-15 October, matured in 35% new oak. It has a rich and slightly heady bouquet with intense black cherry and crème de cassis notes, although I find that the Tour St Christophe, which is also owned by Peter Kwok, has far more detail. The palate is full-bodied with dense ripe tannin, quite intense with a touch of dried blood infusing the black fruit with a structured, gently grippy finish. I would just like to see more finesse come through once this is bottle.*

**17 Jancis Robinson** *Deep crimson. Scented and peppery on the nose and then gently sweet on the palate. Much less drying than most. Charming!*

## CHÂTEAU PEBY FAUGERES 2016

Saint-Émilion

First payment \$247.58 Estimated Second Payment \$51.82

Estimated total \$299.4 Availability - Good

**93-96 Wine Spectator** *Vivid, with racy acidity from the start that allows the copious raspberry and plum confiture flavors to pump along with energy. Very enticing spice treatment on the finish. Has a lavish edge, but its energy offsets that nicely. Score range: 93-96 - JM*

**97-98 James Suckling** *This has an incredible finish to it and shows such energy and intensity. Full-bodied yet vivid and energetic. Chewy tannins. Goes on for minutes. Merlot magic.*

**90-92 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Peby Faugeres is pure Merlot cropped at 22 hectoliters per hectare and matured in 65% new oak. It has a very intense, opulent bouquet with licorice-tinged black and red fruit, although I find more personality in the Faugeres, more terroir expression. The palate is medium-bodied with grippy tannin. It feels spicy and opulent, orange rind infusing black fruit, powerful and intense on the finish. I would just like to see more personality. How does the song go? "I know you got soul." I just want to see it here.*

## CHÂTEAU QUINAULT L'ENCLOS 2016

Saint-Émilion

First payment \$49.92 Estimated Second Payment \$13.52 Estimated \$63.44 Availability - Good

**90 Decanter** *A vintage forged in the extremes', they say poetically here. This has an unforced, fresh style, with fairly closed dark fruits but riven through with finesse. A touch short, but pleasurable drinking. - Jane Anson*

**92-93 James Suckling** *A very fine bead of tannin runs through the entirety of this wine. Medium to full body, fresh acidity and a juicy finish. Polished. Straight and firm.*

**91-93 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Quinault l'Enclos is a blend of 20% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Cabernet Franc and 68% Merlot, continuing the team's program of increasing the proportion of Cabernet, picked from 20 September and finishing on 7 October. It is matured in 50% new oak (500-liter barrels) and one-year-old barrels. It has a very pure bouquet with macerated black cherries, a touch of blueberry, a subtle flinty note just tucked underneath. The palate is medium-bodied with grainy tannin on the entry. This feels very fresh and lively in the mouth, perhaps a little more compact than others I tasted, although that is probably because it had been taken from barrel less than an hour before my visit. It is very precise on the brisk, punctual graphite-tinged finish, an almost clinical Quinault l'Enclos that will benefit from five or six year aging in bottle.*

**16.5/20 Jancis Robinson** *Cheval Blanc, the new owners, are increasing the proportion of Cabernet Sauvignon. 20% Cabernet Sauvignon planted in 2011, 12% Cabernet Franc, 68% Merlot. 50:50 new and one-year-old barrels. 500 litre (new approach at Cheval Blanc). Round and very fruity with some spice and cumin. Much better balanced than it used to be when aged in new oak and heavily extracted, though some sandpaper tannins on the end. Just a little bitter on the end."*

## CHÂTEAU QUINTUS SAINT EMILION GRAND CRU 2016

Saint-Émilion Grand Cru Classe

First payment \$198.27 Estimated Second Payment \$42.26

Estimated total \$240.53 Availability - Good

**94 Decanter** *The sixth vintage under the wing of Haut-Brion. The vines didn't block in the heat here, which is why the alcohols are generous, but this is absolutely perfectly balanced. The generosity of the ripe blackberry and cassis fruit stretches out with the juice running right through it, joined by some exotic spice and grilled oak touches through the mid-palate. But they never overwhelm the gentle extraction, and overall this is an extremely successful Quintus that leaves a beautifully fragrant quality in the mouth. 70% Merlot and 30% Cabernet Franc. - Jane Anson*

**94-95 James Suckling** *A tight and concentrated young Quintus with blackberry, blueberry and salt character. Medium-to full-bodied, firm and lightly chewy. Grows on the finish.*

**92-94 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Château Quintus, of course under the umbrella of Domaine Clarence Dillon (Haut Brion, La Mission Haut Brion), is a blend of 70% Merlot and 30% Cabernet Franc picked between 3 and 20 October. This is the highest proportion of Cabernet Franc since the debut in 2011. Matured in just under 30% new oak, it has a slightly broody bouquet at first with black fruit and hints of allspice and clove. The palate is nicely structured, with the Cabernet Franc lending this impressive backbone (more than the 2015) and a slightly masculine, grippy finish that suggests it will be a long-term proposition. Excellent.*

**17/20 Jancis Robinson** *Dark purplish crimson. Silky and appetising and now it's getting really good! Fresh and zesty. Polished and very successful in this sixth vintage. Appetising and sophisticated. Croquant. Long. Spicy.*



## CHÂTEAU BELLEVUE (ST EMILION) 2016

Saint-Émilion

First payment \$67.79 Estimated Second Payment \$16.99

Estimated total \$84.78 Availability - Good

**Decanter 93** *From the Angélus stable, this lovely property has a 0.5ha slice on the top of plateau, with the remaining 6ha on clay limestone top slopes. Late ripening soils mean that this can be austere when young, even though it is 100% Merlot. Plum fruits, wild berries and a touch of austerity through the mid-palate. Needs time in the glass, but it opens to reveal lovely elegant mineral notes that layer over the top of restrained power.* - Jane Anson

**97-98 James Suckling** *This is very exciting this year with a profound depth and power of fruit in addition to mineral undertones. Full and intense. Great finish. Better than the 2015?*

**90-92 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Bellevue has an attractive bouquet with bright redcurrant and cassis notes although not as complex as either the Angelus or Carillon d'Angelus. The palate is medium-bodied with smooth tannin, silky to the touch with a touch of oyster shell tinting the red fruit on the finish. Probably earlier drinking than others, it is a well-crafted Saint Emilion.*

## CHÂTEAU CLOS DE BOÜARD 2016

Saint-Émilion

First payment \$35.74 Estimated Second Payment \$10.78

Estimated total \$46.52 Availability - Good

**93-94 James Suckling** *Vibrant fruit here with plum, berry and blackberry character. Full body, firm tannins and a fresh finish. Lovely subtle fruit and structure here. New wine from Boüard family*

**91-93 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Clos de Bouärd is the Montagne Saint-émilion property owned by Coralie de Boüard and her husband, Loïc Maillat, Coralie already with winemaking experience under her belt having run La Fleur de Boüard in Lalande-de-Pomerol. It was previously known as "Tour Musset" and owned by Castel. It has a pretty bouquet with tightly wound mineral scents with touches of licorice filtering through with time in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with grainy tannin, crisp acidity, quite linear and taut in style with pencil lead and tobacco notes lending complexity towards the classically styled finish. I appreciate both the freshness and the cerebral nature of this 2016, one that will age with style.*

**16.5 Jancis Robson** *Rather savoury and meaty. Rich and sweet. Like essence of St-Émilion! Pretty impressive if you like things sweet and strong. A hint of sweet Marmite (yeast extract). Dry end. Dramatic.*

**Glengarry Review** *Gorgeous aromatics, fragrant and generous. Spicy red fruits dominate the palate, whilst generous, they are well balanced with ripe well structured tannins. The balance is super with a fruit driven long finish.* Liz Wheadon

## CHÂTEAU MONBOUSQUET 2016

Saint-Émilion

First payment \$77.45 Estimated Second Payment \$18.86

Estimated total \$96.31 Availability - Good

**90-91 James Suckling** *A juicy and round white already with dried pineapple and honey. Hints of pears. Full and flavorful.*

**90-92 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Monbousquet is a blend of 60% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Franc and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon cropped at 38 hectoliters per hectare at 14.46% alcohol. It was picked between 6-11 October and matured in 70% new oak, the remainder one-year-old barrels. It offers an opulent but well defined bouquet of black cherries, violets and fresh fig, a little tight initially but soon unfolding in the glass. The palate is quite rich and generous on the opening with layers of blackberry and raspberry laced with graphite and a pinch of cracked black pepper. It tapers in a little towards the finish, completing a bold and assertive Monbousquet that is likely to require four or five years in bottle in order to soften those tannins. Interestingly, the sample tasted at Pavie was a little more flamboyant than the more classically styled one that I tasted elsewhere and preferred.*

**17 Jancis Robinson** *Very dark purple. Rich, red fruits taken to the limit. Raspberry jam initially but rescued by freshness on the end. Great drama and a bit of alcohol on the end. Stylistically Perse rather than St-Émilion but well-done tarry end.*



## POMEROL

This small region lying to the north-west of Saint-Émilion has never been classified as most other appellations have been. It is a tiny place and it takes just minutes to drive around and pass every famous Pomerol name. Merlot rules Pomerol and thrives on its clay soils, with Cabernet Franc lending a hand in blending. Cabernet Sauvignon vines are very rare there indeed. Despite the latter hardly being used, the best wines can age as long as the finest First Growths on the left bank.



## CHÂTEAU BOURGNEUF 2016

Pomerol

First payment \$55.47 Estimated Second Payment \$14.6

Estimated total \$70.07 Availability - Good

**90-93 Wine Spectator** *There's a solid fleshy feel here, with plum and blackberry compote notes backed by a good dose of roasted apple wood and licorice root flavors. A little on the muscular side, but it's a big ball of fruit and has the freshness of the vintage too.* James Molesworth

**92 Decanter** *The Vayron family is in charge here, and straight off the nose you know you are in quality wine territory. This is extremely subdued, a little more than I expected, with ground coffee beans and crushed blackberries that open up to reveal a luscious quality to the fruit. Restrained power from the 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc blend.* - Jane Anson

**92-93 James Suckling** *Linear and racy with pretty berry and blackberry character and hints of walnuts. Medium to full body and firm tannins. Shows intensity and class.*

**91-93/100 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Bourgneuf from the Vayron family is a wine to watch, especially with the talented Frédérique Vayron in charge of winemaking duties. A blend of 85% Merlot and 15% Cabernet Franc, it has an elegant, quite nuanced bouquet with blackberry and black truffle aromas, quintessential Pomerol in many ways. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannins that exert a gentle grip. The acidity is very well judged and there is impressive complexity interwoven into the long finish. What a superb Bourgneuf. This comes highly recommended as one of the best wines I have tasted from Trotanoy's next-door neighbor!*

**16.5/20 Jancis Robinson** *Deep purplish crimson. Lifted nose and really polished. Less dense than some. Elegant almost!*

**Glengarry Review** *Performed fragrant and with super ripe fruit. The tannins are well formed, not grippy, very ripe. There's mocha, plum and dark fruits. A bold structured wine that is fruit driven right to the very end.* Liz Wheadon

## CHÂTEAU CERTAN DE MAY 2016

Pomerol

First payment \$165.39 Estimated Second Payment \$35.89

Estimated total \$201.28 Availability - Good

**90-93 Wine Spectator** *Lovely plum cake and melted licorice flavors lead the way, backed by plum and cherry compote notes. Fruit-forward, with just a light woody hint for spine, while the finish lets perfumy tea and floral accents hang.* James Molesworth

**91 Decanter** *This is a little more stately and measured than some, with ground coffee and deep extraction of blackberry and bilberry. There is slightly less vibrancy running through the palate, but it remains a solidly impressive wine. 65% Merlot, 31% Cabernet Franc and 4% Cabernet Sauvignon from clay and deep gravel.* - Jane Anson

**97-98 James Suckling** *This is really powerful with big tannins and strong acidity. Full and intense. A wine for long-term aging yet one that offers accessibility at the same time. This estate is on a roll now.*

**17+ Jancis Robinson** *Dark crimson. Particularly rich, curranty nose. Really quite intense. And then on the palate it's all freshness and light. Should be a long-distance runner. Lots of sinew.*

## CHÂTEAU LA CHENADE 2016

Pomerol

First payment \$25.67 Estimated Second Payment \$8.83

Estimated total \$34.5 Availability - Low

**91 Decanter** *A Denis Durantou favourite, always worth following. This is a major buy, so juicy with cooling fruit on the finish, it softens and lifts at the same time. Some floral character caresses the fruit. 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc on gravel picked between 24th and 29th September, and aged in 40% new oak. - Drinking Window 2022 - 2038 Jane Anson*

**92 James Suckling** *Lots of iron, fresh wood and blueberries. Some strawberries, menthol and eucalyptus. Full and quite intense on the palate with juicy acidity and good length. Nice texture but firm tannins need to be resolved over time. Try in 2016.*

**90-92 Neal Martin** *The 2016 La Chenade is a blend of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc from Denis Durantou's estate in Lalande-de-Pomerol. It was picked 24-29 September for the Merlot and 6 October for the Cabernet Franc at 39 hectoliters per hectare and then matured in 40% new oak. It has a lovely nose that needed some coaxing from the glass, eventually revealing black cherries and touches of bergamot with Earl Grey following later. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin, fresh right from the start, very harmonious with an elegant, quite minerally finish. Very elegant, very suave, very promising.*

## CHÂTEAU CLINET 2016

Pomerol

First payment \$148.95 Estimated Second Payment \$32.71

Estimated total \$181.66 Available on request

**94-97 Wine Spectator** *Dark in profile, with plum, blackberry and black currant fruit melded together, while wood spice and bramble hints run along the edges. Plenty of depth and length here, with lively tobacco and tar notes on the finish. This fleshes out with air too. Impressive, in the richer style.*

**97 Decanter** *The colour on this is deep and inky and a blast of cassis and black cherry fruit greets you on the nose. It has undeniable oak impact, but also a lovely lift that carries right through the palate, and that incredible Clinet precision. A fantastic 2016, not as exuberant as 2015 but showing the quality of the vintage where even the big-shouldered wines have a stunning lift, and a feeling of an invisible gossamer curtain holding them in place. Not a hedonist's vintage like 2009 or 2015, but cerebral in the style of 2001 and 2010. Strong coffee and grilled caramel on the finish. - Jane Anson*

**94-95 James Suckling** *The linear character to this is so impressive with beautiful blackberries and blueberries. Crushed stones and minerals. Medium to full body. Very pretty.*

**96-98 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Clinet is a blend of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon that was picked from 22 September for the young vines, the older vines picked 1 and 2 October, finishing with the Cabernet Sauvignon the following day. It was cropped at 49 hectoliters per hectare and matured in 70% new oak and the remainder in second-fill barrels. It has 14.15% alcohol and a record-breaking 94 IPT. It has a very linear bouquet, quite strict and intense with a light iodine and marine scent merging with the black fruit. This is a more "aristocratic" nose for Clinet, sophisticated and one of the most nuanced I have encountered. The palate is medium-bodied with filigree tannin that forms the foundation of a more masculine Clinet, complex and focused with a subtle spiciness coming through on the finish, which fans out with confidence and leaves a disarming, saline tang in the mouth. Yes, this is a magnificent Clinet, cool and mineral-soaked, both cerebral and lip-smackingly delicious.*

## CHÂTEAU CLOS L EGLISE 2016

Pomerol

First payment \$148.95 Estimated Second Payment \$32.71

Estimated total \$181.66 Availability - Good

**92-95 Wine Spectator** *Fresh, bouncy blueberry and boysenberry fruit is hard to resist, while lively anise and fruitcake notes fill in behind it. Has a gloss of spice-infused toast on the finish, but that should meld with the élevage, as the fruit is copious.*

**93-95 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Clos l'Eglise is a blend of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc, and was the first to be picked by the Garçin-Léveque family (before Barde-Haut, d'Arce and Poesia). It has a high pH of 3.65 and it was matured in 100% new French oak. It has a very intense bouquet with macerated small black cherries, raspberry coulis, oyster shells and crushed violets, well defined and quite penetrating in style. The palate is medium-bodied with grainy tannin, layers of black fruit laced with black pepper and a touch of black pepper. There is a little chewiness to the texture towards the harmonious finish, which is one of the most primal that I have encountered in recent years. The barrel maturation will lend a little more sheen to this Pomerol--a long-term prospect that will deserve several years in bottle.*

## CHÂTEAU GAZIN 2016

Pomerol

First payment \$124.3 Estimated Second Payment \$27.93

Estimated total \$152.23 Availability - Good

**91-94 Wine Spectator** *Ripe and engaging, with a pretty display of cherry, raspberry and blueberry fruit flavors that stay fresh, carried by silky structure through the inviting finish. Not super-dense, but really lovely fruit. James Molesworth*

**94 Decanter** *Classic, almost savoury fruits here, among the most left bank in style of all the Pomerols with cassis and black pepper spice. It's a wine that steals up on you - I tasted it several times and became increasingly impressed by the construction and the measured delivery of excellence. A full 13% of Cabernets here, split between 5% Cabernet Franc and 8% Cabernet Sauvignon, the highest proportion of the latter for many years. - Jane Anson*

**94-95 James Suckling** *Tight and silky with plum, blackberry and blueberry character. Medium-to full-bodied, firm and silky. Very linear and bright. A pretty follow-up to the stupendous 2015.*

**Glengarry** *Wow, how do you get that much structure in a glass, it's a massive wine but has the fruit concentration and balance to carry it off. Super long length, complex red plum character to finish. Massive, lingers on and on in the finish, sweet, supply, lovely big wine. Liz Wheadon*

## CHÂTEAU HOSANNA 2016

Pomerol

First payment \$161.28 Estimated Second Payment \$35.1

Estimated total \$196.38 Availability - Good

**93-96 Wine Spectator** *Delightfully ripe and pure, with cassis, cherry puree and creamed raspberry notes gliding through, carried by a polished structure and ending with a floral hint. Remarkably integrated already. James Molesworth*

**93 Decanter** *Just a beautiful dense, rich, perfumed Pomerol, with supple coffee and chocolate touches and ripe tannins. 85% Merlot and 15% Cabernet Franc from 4ha of gravel and red clay on iron-rich subsoil. - Jane Anson*

**96-97 James Suckling** *This really shows a lot at the end of the palate with a powerful, tannic finish. Even so, the fruit and flavor profile are very, very impressive. Lots of dark fruit and walnut undertones. Muscular Hosanna.*

**92-94 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Hosanna is a blend of 85% Merlot and 15% Cabernet Franc. It has a clean, detailed bouquet with truffle-tinged black fruit, fine mineralite and impressive vigor, certainly less opulent than some of the Hosannas from the noughties. The palate is medium-bodied with grainy tannin, a masculine Hosanna with fine tension, a little savory with black truffle and white pepper sprinkled liberally over the finish. I would have liked more flesh to show on the finish, although that should develop to an extent during its barrel maturation. Give this three or four years in bottle.*

**18 Jancis Robinson** *Very deep crimson. Heady and seductive nose. Both rich and lifted. Real substance and richness. Polish and depth. Massive dimension. Panoply of spice and fruit. Very exciting.*

**Glengarry Review** *Sensational this year. The nose is all about the fruit, bold and forward. There's intensity and power plus. Mocha coffee notes spice and super intensity. The firm ripe tannins and red fruit concentrated mid palate with plums leads through to a generous fruity finish. The length is long and lingering. Liz Wheadon*

## CHÂTEAU L EGLISE CLINET 2016

Pomerol

First payment \$463.32 Estimated Second Payment \$93.61

Estimated total \$556.93 Availability - Good

**94-97 Wine Spectator** *A flash of spearmint gives this a fresh feel, while the core of raspberry and boysenberry fruit follows up quickly, carried by lively acidity. The long, fruitcake-filled finish keeps a sense of elegance. Very enticing.*

**98-99 James Suckling** *This has so much violet and black-olive character to it. It's full-bodied and powerful with incredible power and depth of old-vine tannins. It just rolls on and on. What a finish.*

**97-99 Neal Martin** *The 2016 L'Eglise-Clinet is a blend of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc picked between 21 September and 4 October for the former and on 6 October for the latter. It was cropped at 43 hectoliters per hectare and matured in 80% new oak, with around 14.2% alcohol. Lucid in color, it has a quintessential L'Eglise-Clinet bouquet with blackberry, raspberry coulis, liquid minerals and hints of iris and incense. The palate is very precise and crisp, some of the finest tannins that you will encounter in Pomerol, tensile right from the beginning, taut and linear with immense precision towards the extended mineral-soaked finish. This is nothing less than a brilliant wine from Denis Durantou, undoubtedly one of the stars of the vintage.*

## CHÂTEAU LA FLEUR DE BOUARD 2016

Pomerol

First payment \$41.70 Estimated Second Payment \$11.93

Estimated \$53.63 Availability- Good

**91-93 Neal Martin** *The 2016 La Fleur de Bouard has a generous bouquet with ample black cherry and cassis scents, with a touch of oyster shell and cold flint in the background. The palate is medium-bodied with smooth and supple tannin. The tannins grip the mouth though it does not become too overpowering, while there is an attractive tobacco note that complements the dusky black fruit on the finish. A more classically styled Lalande-de-Pomerol from the de Boüards, it has more personality than previously vintages, and it will give 15-20 years of drinking pleasure. 16.5 Jancis Robinson Very dark crimson. Bit of sandpaper on the nose. Very rich and sweet. Almost over the top but there is freshness at the end. This is a strong statement! Drying and rather cool on the end.*

## CHÂTEAU LA FLEUR DE GAY 2016

Pomerol

First payment \$151.42 Estimated Second Payment \$33.19

Estimated \$184.61 Availability - Good

**91-94 Wine Spectator** *Gorgeous creamed raspberry and blackberry fruit glides along, carried by a fine mineral edge while letting alluring spice and black tea notes skitter through. Dreamy. Score range:*

**90-92 Neal Martin** *The 2016 La Fleur de Gay is a little richer than the La Croix de Gay, but unusually, I found that the latter—its “kid brother”—was showing more delineation and terroir expression. The palate is medium-bodied with chewy tannin on the entry, layers of blackberry and bilberry fruit tinged with clove and truffle, although going back and forth between the two, I just found myself more drawn to the brightness of the La Croix de Gay this year.*

## CHÂTEAU LA FLEUR PÉTRUS 2016

Pomerol

First payment \$278.40 Estimated Second Payment \$39.87

Estimated total \$318.27 Availability- Good

**95-98 Wine Spectator** *This has seamless layers of cassis, plum sauce and raspberry reduction notes carried by remarkably velvety structure through a long, graphite-fueled finish. The minerality is there, buried for now. The fruit is gorgeous.*

**98 Decanter** *It's been fascinating to watch the progression of this wine over the past few years as they have pushed out the less interesting parcels and pulled in those of Guillot and Providence. It is now a very complete footprint of 18.7ha around the 'plateau', not dropping below 30 metres (their definition of a plateau). This is now without a doubt one of the true stars of the appellation, planted to 91% Merlot and 9% Cabernet Franc on gravel and deep clay on an iron-rich subsoil. There are no corners cut here at all. It pulls you in with a seductive caress of violet and peony notes, then fills up the mid-palate with black cherry and bilberry, rounding it off with slate and cool ash. Tightly controlled and perfectly extracted.- Jane Anson*

**98-99 James Suckling** *So much to this and it shows the magic of Pomerol. Full-bodied, layered and tannic with all the energy and focus of a great vintage from this estate. Superb.*





## CHÂTEAU LAFLEUR 2016

Pomerol

First payment \$884.53 Estimated Second Payment \$175.21

Estimated \$1059.74 Availability - Good

**99 Decanter** *Lafleur manages to deliver extremely ripe fruits without being in the slightest bit sweet. You could almost be on the left bank if it wasn't for the silkiness of the tannins and the floral aspect on the aftertaste. Cabernet dominates at this stage, a gorgeous, sappy wine with huge, dense curls of liquorice and anise that spiral through the mouth as this wine stretches endlessly out in front of you. Layers of flavour change every minute; first coffee and black chocolate, then tightly fleshed out black fruits, then some Pomerol glamour. Hard to wipe the smile off your face when tasting this! 55% Cabernet Franc and 45% Merlot. Jane Anson*

**99-100 James Suckling** *This is a young wine that just kicks off at the end with fantastic depth of fruit and intensity. Full-bodied, yet very tight and closed at first. Compact and powerful. Incredible power and structure.*

**96-98 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Lafleur is a blend of 45% Merlot and 55% Cabernet Franc picked 24-30 September and 11 October, matured in one-third new oak and around 14.3% alcohol. It has a very backward bouquet that demanded a lot of coaxing from the glass. Here there are introspective black fruit, a touch of shucked oyster shell and Japanese nori, opening reluctantly with time in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with a saline entry, spicier than the 2015 Lafleur when I tasted it from barrel last year, edgy and minerally with a touch of truffle towards the persistent finish. This is a cerebral and yet vivacious Lafleur at this prenatal stage, a great Pomerol that will require a decade in bottle. Baptiste Guinaudeau appeared quietly confident about this latest vintage and he has every right to be. Do afford it plenty of cellaring, though, as it's not a 2016 to appease those without patience.*

**Glengarry Review** *Sensational. Mocha spiced plum characters dominate the nose, the palate is massive. Bright lively acid gives a gorgeous freshness to the dense red plum fruits. Chocolate and spice add immense interest with firm tannins and a superb length. This is concentrated and rich from start to finish. Liz Wheadon*

## CHÂTEAU LAGRANGE 2016

Pomerol

First payment \$41.08 Estimated Second Payment \$11.81

Estimated \$52.89 Availability - Good

**90 Decanter** *Here we have the power from 9ha of vines on gravel over Pomerol clay, particularly deep blue clay, that turbo-charges this wine. It strays close to big-shouldered but veers back towards just flirting with power, doling it out slowly but surely. This is a vintage for people who want to flirt with extremes without ever quite getting to a point of danger. Black cherry fruits with stunning juiciness and coffee bean edging. So luscious. 95% Merlot and 5% Cabernet franc. Moueix distribution. - Jane Anson*

**92-93 James Suckling** *A bright and pretty wine with a walnut-shell, stone and blackberry character. Medium body, linear fruit and polished tannins. Very pretty.*

**Glengarry Review** *This is savoury taut and very typical for Lagrange. There's mocha notes, a very good structure, super intense red fruits and a wonderful long length. Liz Wheadon*

## CHÂTEAU LA VIOLETTE 2016

Pomerol

First payment \$370.86 Estimated Second Payment \$75.7

Estimated \$446.56 Availability - Good

**93-96 Wine Spectator** *Warm and inviting, delivering plum and blackberry compote notes infused with anise and backed by a smoldering alder hint. Suave, exotic juice.*

**91-93 Neal Martin** *The 2016 La Violette is pure Merlot picked from 4 to 7 October at just 29 hectoliters per hectare, de-stemmed by hand and matured in 100% new oak. It has a lower alcohol level than Le Gay at 13.5%, because the terroir is cooler. The bouquet is very opulent and showy, plush red cherries intermingling with crème de cassis and blueberry jam, missing the delineation of some of its peers. This is strange because with that lower alcohol level, I was expecting something more terroir-driven. The palate is full-bodied, although certainly not as glossy or as flamboyant as older vintages of La Violette. It is well balanced, overtly modern in style and very polished as always. However, it is missing that complexity and engaging personality that other Pomerols possess on the finish. I probably have a preference for the 2015 La Violette, even though this is a very attractive, if slightly predictable wine.*

## CHÂTEAU LE BON PASTEUR 2016

Pomerol

First payment \$116.08 Estimated Second Payment \$26.34

Estimated \$142.42 Availability - Good

**90-93 Wine Spectator** *A rich, inviting style, with warm blueberry, fig and blackberry compote flavors backed by a solid dose of roasted apple wood. Flirts with extracted, but stays polished and fresh enough on the finish. For fans of the style.*

**89 Decanter** *The tannins are a touch chunky, and notes of coffee grounds suggest oak influence. This is full bodied and juicy, and will bring plenty of enjoyment. Formerly owned by Michel Rolland and now under Chinese ownership. - Jane Anson*

**96-97 James Suckling** *Reminds me of the splendid 1998. Full-bodied yet balanced and rich, showing velvety tannins and a long and beautiful finish. All here. Better than the 2015?*

**92-94 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Bon Pasteur has an atypically modest and almost bashful bouquet at first, one that required coaxing from the glass, eventually offering blackberry, briary and subtle floral aromas that are very classy. The palate is well defined with crisp tannin. This Bon Pasteur is, you might say, more "classic" than the 2015 and more reserved, but displays excellent tension with impressive detail on the finish. It might not quite possess the persistence on the aftertaste of its peers higher up on the plateau, but it is a very, very good Bon Pasteur that I prefer to the 2015. I would not be surprised if this lands at the top of my banded score once in bottle.*

**17 Jancis Robinson** *Purplish crimson. Rather interesting soapy/mineral aromas. Rich with a dry finish and a hint of camembert. Interesting! Good life and vivacity even if it's not in the top drawer.*

## CHÂTEAU LE GAY 2016

Pomerol

First payment \$178.54 Estimated Second Payment \$38.44

Estimated \$216.98 Availability - Good

**92-95 Wine Spectator** *Very expressive, this nearly gushes with warm blueberry, plum and blackberry reduction notes while chocolate and melted licorice flavors fill in the background. Has fruit to burn, but might just be a bit shy on spine for the longer haul. Score range: 92-95 - JM*

**91 Decanter** *The late Catherine Péré-Vergé's sons now run this estate. This has a wonderful depth to the fruit, with coffee grounds balanced by the intense fruit. A little extracted but still very very beautiful. - Jane Anson* **98-99 James Suckling** *One of the best Le Gays in years. Full-bodied and polished with superfine tannins. Layered. Goes on for minutes.*

**92-94 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Le Gay is a blend of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc cropped at 27 hectoliters per hectare between 27 September and 14 October, matured in 100% new oak. The nose handles the new oak in stride with very pure, almost Côtes de Nuits-like red cherry and strawberry fruit, a patina of vanilla emanating from the wood. The palate is silky smooth on the entry with black cherry and blueberry fruit, a fine line of acidity, very polished in style with a gentle grip on the finish. Le Gay hit the high spots in the previous two vintages. I am not sure if in 2016 it quite reaches those levels, although it is still a sensual wine that should age with style over the next 15-20 years.*

**98-99 James Suckling** *One of the best Le Gays in years. Full-bodied and polished with superfine tannins. Layered. Goes on for minutes.*

## CHÂTEAU L'HOSPITALET DE GAZIN 2016

Pomerol

First payment \$44.17 Estimated Second Payment \$12.41

Estimated total \$56.58 Availability - Good

**Glengarry Review** *Gentle fragrance and initial approach for this wine, fragrant, red fruits, then comes the firm tannin and a bold and strong structure. The finish is then driven and very long. It's all there, this just needs time. Liz Wheadon*

## CHÂTEAU LE PIN 2016

Pomerol

First payment \$3341.91 Estimated Second Payment \$652.07

Estimated \$3966.98 Availability - Good

**98 Decanter** *I tasted through a blend of five barrels, but they may not be the final ones. There is significant gravel in the Le Pin soils, so they suffered a little from the heat, but the Merlot still has incredible finesse and elegance. The astonishing thing is the grilled, smoked damson and ripe wild blackberry and hawthorn perfume that rises out of the glass effortlessly. This wine is deft, elegant, and rich. A naturally low yield of 28hl/ha due to the drought, with a pH of 3.72. - Jane Anson*

**99-100 James Suckling** *There is something decadent and wild about this Le Pin. Medium to full body, yet somehow wild and crazy—exotic. What a finish! This is real Le Pin. The dry weather reduced the production. 18 hectoliters. Reminds me of the unique 1986. Yeah...!*

**96-98 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Le Pin was made from ten different lots from the usual six, because the drought affected the different parcels and vines needed separating (indicated by paint mark on the pole). It was cropped from 4 October, the first time that picking has begun that month, at 28-30 hectoliters per hectare and there is 14.5% alcohol. It has a fresh and generous bouquet with red cherries, cranberry and pomegranate scents, the oak beautifully integrated, touches of black truffle and even a hint of smoke tucked in just underneath. The palate is medium-bodied with filigree tannin, tightly wound and taut, with a stunning sense of focus. I cannot remember a Le Pin with such tension and detail at this early juncture, perhaps even quite understated towards the saline finish, but very very precise. This is a sophisticated Le Pin from Jacques Thienpont, one that I am certain will age with style. Tasted twice with consistent notes. 19 Jancis Robinson *Glowing crimson. Smudgy sweet ink on the nose. Very pure nose. Lifted and lively and real energy. Round and quite delicate and burgundian. Real drive and elegance and polish. This is a real winner!"**

## CHÂTEAU L'EVANGILE 2016

Pomerol

First payment \$370.86 Estimated Second Payment \$75.70

Estimated \$446.56 Availability - Good

**97 Decanter** *This absolutely stands up to be counted amongst the greatest of the Pomerols this year. It has shots of minerality and elegance darting right through its autumnal fruits, and touches of sexy, bitter chocolate. Persistent, rich and succulent. 92% Merlot and 8% Cabernet Franc.- Jane Anson* **98-99 James Suckling** *This is a remake of the great 2015 but it's much finer and more sophisticated. Such great quality and very sexy. Full body and ultra-polished and clean tannins. Salty, dark fruit. Superb length. Want to drink it!*

**94-96 Neal Martin** *The 2016 L'Evangile is a blend of 92% Merlot and 8% Cabernet Franc; the latter suffered more stress than the Merlot this year, especially the younger three and ten-year-old plantings. It was picked from 26 September until 10 October, which is earlier than many other Right Bank properties. It has a clean and precise bouquet with mineral-infused black fruit, more ""distant"" than the 2015 last year. With time, that small proportion of Cabernet Franc becomes more evident. The palate is medium-bodied with firm and grainy tannin. This is very structured as this Pomerol is wont to be, a gentle grip in the mouth, touches of tar and tobacco towards the finish that needs a little more flesh. I feel that this will develop during its élevage. This is excellent, although I do miss the contribution of the Cabernet Franc.*

## CHÂTEAU FEYTIT CLINET 2016

Pomerol

First payment \$102.72 Estimated Second Payment \$23.75

Estimated \$126.47 Availability - Good

**94-95 James Suckling** *This is layered and beautiful with blackberries, spices and hints of cedar. Full body, polished tannins and a gorgeous finish. Sexy. Better than 2015. Best ever?*

**93-95 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Feytit Clinet, a blend of 93% Merlot and 7% Cabernet Franc, has such purity on the nose that you would almost consider this to be a Grand Cru Burgundy! It unfolds in the glass, black cherries mixed with raspberry coulis, just a little new oak to be integrated as it will during its barrel maturation. The palate is medium-bodied with ripe blackberry and bilberry notes, here certainly in Pomerol territory with sage and black truffle emerging towards the persistent finish. J  r  my Chasseuil has crafted a wonderful follow-up to the impressive 2015 Feytit-Clinet and I cannot wait to taste this from bottle.*

## CHÂTEAU NENIN 2016

Pomerol

First payment \$102.72 Estimated Second Payment \$23.75

Estimated total \$126.47 Availability - Good

**91-94 Wine Spectator** *This is enticing, with a raspberry ganache edge around the core of bright plum and blackberry fruit. Light anise hint through the finish, which is silky in feel but keeps good energy. Score range: 91-94*

**93 Decanter** *Here we have quite a different take on the vintage, where you get the family resemblance to the Delon's left bank properties. There is spiced fruit, cardamon and black pepper, and more physical tannins that close in on you. This is a big expression of 2016, extremely well delivered. It demonstrates how Nénin is taking things up a notch and challenging the more celebrated Pomerols, which it does through power not diplomacy. - Jane Anson*

**95-96 James Suckling** *A linear and dense wine that sneaks up on you with fantastic depth of fruit and structure. Full and racy. Shows finesse and muscle. Better than 2015?*

**92-94 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Nenin is a blend of 75% Merlot and 25% Cabernet Franc picked from 18 September until 8 October at 37 hectoliters per hectare. For the first time, the Grand Vin includes the new selection of Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon from sections on the plateau that were replanted in 1999 and 2000 (last year, the 2015 included only part of the Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon). It has a lifted and generous bouquet with raspberry, wild strawberry and violet aromas, just a hint of clove emerging with time in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin that I feel are finer than I have encountered before at this property. There is a lovely savory/bell pepper note originating from the Cabernet Franc and there is very good depth and persistence on the finish. Whilst this Nenin does not possess the detail and precision of the finest Pomerol growths in 2016, it is certainly a very strong follow-up to the 2015 and suggests that there is better to come.*

**17.5 Jancis Robinson** *75% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Franc and only 35% new oak – same as in 2015. Some vines on sand suffered so they selected these out as well as the young vines and sold off in bulk. They have been working closely with their coopers as well as with plot specificity. Deep crimson. Very rich on the nose. Interesting blend of sweetness and savour. Very precise wine with great quality of tannins. Very round and polished. Long. Glamorous."*

## CHÂTEAU PETIT VILLAGE 2016

Pomerol

First payment \$111.97 Estimated Second Payment \$25.54

Estimated total \$137.51 Availability - Good

**91-94 Wine Spectator** *Lovely blueberry, raspberry and boysenberry fruit streams through, picking up a light licorice-root hint for spine. Good energy ripples through the finish. Nice showing. Score range: 91-94* **93 Decanter** *Huge density and concentration with incredible elegance and life. A really lovely wine, more fruit than flowers, showing great complexity on the finish. It just seems to be holding itself back. 77% Merlot, 14% Cabernet Franc and 9% Cabernet Sauvignon, aged in 60% new oak and 40% one year old oak for 15 months. - Jane Anson*

**94-95 James Suckling** *Layered and intense with a fantastic depth of fruit and finesse. Full body, very fine yet chewy tannins and a long and flavorful finish. Close to the excellent 2015.*

**90-92 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Petit Village is the second vintage made by Diana Berrouet-Garcia. A blend of 77% Merlot, 14% Cabernet Franc and 9% Cabernet Sauvignon that matured in 60% new oak, it has a fragrant, quite citrus-scented bouquet with hints of orange blossom and blood orange tincturing the dark cherry fruit. The palate is medium-bodied with quite a solid and structured entry. There is a little compactness to this Petit Village at the moment with that Cabernet Sauvignon imparting a slight graphite edge on the finish. This is a fine Pomerol, although I still maintain that this is not reaching its full potential given the terroir.*

**17 Jancis Robinson** *Some real class on the nose here (fancy barrels?). 60% new oak. Then just slightly flat and not quite fresh enough on the palate. Not bad! Definitely not run-of-the-mill right bank. Slightly austere tannins on the end but lovely length. Definitely getting there...*

**Glengarry Review** *77% Merlot, 14% Cabernet Franc, 9% Cabernet Sauvignon. Cabernet Franc performed very well in this year making up a higher percentage in the blend. Bright plum fruits greet you, vibrant with distinct Black Doris notes on the nose. The palate is dense, spicy and rich with chocolate and beautiful red fruits. There's gorgeous fine elegant tannins and a generous round finish. The 60% new oak is well managed. Liz Wheadon*



## CHÂTEAU PÉTRUS 2016

Pomerol

First payment \$2236.77 Estimated Second Payment \$415.78

Estimated \$2652.55 Availability - Sold out

**98 Decanter** *The nose jumps right out, then the palate starts tunnelling down through an array of dark fruit and cut herb expressions, before slowly flattening out on the mid-palate then rising vertically on the finish. An architectural expression of the vintage, ripe and precise but with great freshness. Harvest here took place between 28th September and 11th October, and the challenges of the vintage meant they had to be precise and rigorous at every moment, never letting down their guard. No green harvesting. 40hl/ha yield, 55% new oak. Lots of anthocyanins. This is soft and caressing and majors in those deceptively soft tannins that slowly but surely build up to remind you that this wine has no intention of going away for many, many years. - Jane Anson*

**99-100 James Suckling** *This is a muscular Pétrus that is so compacted and powerful. Full-bodied, yet tight and intense. I haven't tasted something like this for a long time. The tannins are exquisitely fine-grained, the finish mind-binding. It's the combination of violets and dark fruit that's just so enticing. Just crushed grapes and crystal-clear purity.*

**96-98 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Pétrus was picked from 28 September until 11 October and matured in 55% new oak. It has 14.9% alcohol, which is the same as in 2010; however, the pH is much lower at 3.35. For the first 15-20 minutes, the wine was tight-lipped and did not want to come out and play (Olivier passed the time by showing me some interesting videos on his mobile phone). Then it unfolds to reveal very pure blackcurrant and bilberry fruit with a violet and underlying sea spray scent that becomes more and more noticeable. The definition here is very impressive. The palate is medium-bodied with quite juicy and dense tannin, a little edginess on the entry with that marine influence continuing from start to finish. This is a cerebral Pétrus, not unlike the 2010 at this stage, the alcohol disguised towards the finish, but lending this volume and an uncommon flamboyance for the vintage that marks it out from nearly every other Pomerol. The key though, is that it retains that freshness and detail. Whether it will match up to the sensational 2015 Pétrus, we will have to wait and see. What is for sure is that this is a deeply impressive Pomerol that might just have a few tricks up its sleeve.*

**19 Jancis Robinson** *Very very deep crimson. Gorgeous nose. Very intense and rich. Richer than Le Pin and I did not spit. Beautiful balance. More rigour than some vintages. Very long indeed. Unusually structured but no shortage of beguiling flavours. Violets and tar.*

**Glengarry Review** *100% Merlot, since 2010 has always been this way. Whilst tasting at Pétrus, the team mentioned that they don't compare this to the 2010, in fact they don't compare anything to that vintage, a vintage that stands alone, incomparable. Looking at the 2016 aside the 2015 though, the 2016 does have the potential to be longer lived and has an extra dimension to it, it's an intriguing wine to taste for sure. Aromatically intense, this is very concentrated. Alongside that the elegance and balance is super impressive leading to a fine and elegant finish. Then just when you think that you've discovered the wine, there's a freshness and vibrancy on the finish that lingers, for a very long time. Every time I have the opportunity to try Pétrus, it's the perfume that captivates and defines for me Pétrus, it is incomparable. Liz Wheadon*



## CHÂTEAU PLINCE 2016

Pomerol

First payment \$47.24 Estimated Second Payment \$13.01

Estimated total \$60.25 Availability - Good

**89-92 Wine Spectator** *Vivid, with blueberry and boysenberry flavors that glide through, staying fresh and open in feel while pretty spice hints fill in on the finish. A light mineral edge gives this some persistence. Score range: 89-92 - JM*

**93 Decanter** *This pulls off the trick of rising in intensity and restraint at the same time. A true reflection of Pomerol, it has a smoky tar quality against black cherry fruit that is both intense and soft; caressing fingers that nonetheless are ready to close around you. An amazing wine, hard to quibble with this. 79.6% Merlot and 20.4% Cabernet Franc. - Jane Anson*

**93-94 James Suckling** *This is very impressive with layers of ripe tannins that give real density and chewiness. Full and savory. Tight and reserved. Excellent structure. Better than the 2015. 89-91 Neal Martin The 2016 Plince is a blend of 79.6% Merlot and 20.4% Cabernet Franc that has a sensual, very pure bouquet with red cherries and cranberry fruit, a slight confit-like aroma developing. I like the detail here. The palate is medium-bodied with a slightly lactic mouthfeel. The oak comes across a little strongly, although feels more assimilated towards the smooth, dark chocolate tinged finish. It is what you might call a crowd-pleasing, commercially savvy Pomerol.*

**16.5/20 Jancis Robinson** *Very dark purplish crimson. Pure, focused arrow-like nose. Lighter and drier than many a Pomerol. Racy wine. Brisk at the moment, though the persistence is impressive.*

**Glengarry Review** *Another of my stand out wines from this tasting. Mocha notes with brilliant red fruit aromatics. This is quite a bold structure Plince, with an intense core of red fruit, bright acid, charm and charisma on the finish. The fruit is so powerful here that it keeps on going right to the very end.*

## CHÂTEAU ROUGET 2016

Pomerol

First payment \$76.22 Estimated Second Payment \$18.62

Estimated total \$94.84 Availability - Good

**93 Decanter** *This is a plump wine with freshness and clarity of fruit, even on the nose. There are beautiful red fruits, definitely not as upfront as some, but it is authentic and vibrant and you can feel the juice coursing through the tannins. It is restrained on the finish, with a subtle, pure succulence. - Jane Anson*

**94-95 James Suckling** *A red with a full body, round and juicy tannins and plenty of fruit. It's got plenty ahead for its transformation in barrel. Excited with this one. Better than the 2015.*

**89-91? Neal Martin** *The 2016 Rouget was showing a lot of opulence and decadence on the nose with layers of ripe blueberry and crème de cassis scents. The palate is sweet and slightly bitter on the entry. Plenty of saturated tannin here and very structured, but this Rouget needs more freshness and tension towards the finish. It is an ambitious Pomerol for sure, but it seems to be pushing down too hard on the accelerator. I tasted this Rouget three or four times just seeking a sample that articulated the terroir with a little more clarity. Let's see how it performs once in bottle.*

**16.5 Jancis Robinson** *Sister property to Dom Jacques Prieur. Deep, dense crimson. Heady, meaty, very Pomerol. Sweet palate entry and then very rich. Almost too rich! But certainly dramatic. All on the beginning – goes a tad scrawny on the end. Stereotypical Rolland style.*

## CHÂTEAU SIAURAC 2016

Pomerol

First payment \$26.91 Estimated Second Payment \$9.07

Estimated total \$35.98 Availability - Good

**88-91 Wine Spectator** *Light charcoal and melted licorice hints weave amid a core of gently steeped plum and blackberry fruit. Offers a fresh, supple finish. Score range: 88-91 J.M.*

**92 Decanter** *This is the second vintage produced as entirely biodynamic under Latour tutelage. These are good, bright and pliable tannins, and the fruit is extremely dark with good spice through the palate. I really like the cut herbs on the nose. This is a wine that has improved over recent years and is really one to watch. - Jane Anson*

**91-92 James Suckling** *A dense and fruity wine with blackberry, licorice and mineral character. Solid center palate of fruit and tannins here. Fascinated to watch its development.*

**16+ Jancis Robinson** *Firm bright crimson. Very zesty and fresh on the nose. Not that much tannin. Pretty. Gamey energy comes pounding out of the glass. Very sweet start and obviously polished tannins and good quality oak. Round initially with rather sandy tannins on the end. Tasted again on 2 April from a sample taken on 28 February: Very zesty and fresh on the nose. Round and sweet. Not that much tannin. Pretty.*

## CHÂTEAU TROTANOY 2016

Pomerol

First payment \$288.67 Estimated Second Payment \$59.78

Estimated total \$348.45 Availability - Good

**96-99 Wine Spectator** *This is loaded for the long haul, with lots of loam- and graphite-edged grip, and it's a bit backward still. But the core of fruit is prodigious, with layers of warm fig, blackberry confiture and plum sauce flavors still sorting themselves out. The finish ripples with muscle and energy. Score range: 96-99 - JM*

**97-98 James Suckling** *Wow. This is really powerful and structured with a tight and linear backbone of tannins that run through the wine, making it a solid and beautiful thing. Full-bodied, layered and strong. Exciting energy here.*

**96-98 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Trotanoy is a blend of 95% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Franc this year. It easily possesses the finest bouquet within the J-P Moueix portfolio. It blossoms in the glass with exuberant black and red fruit infused with minerals, black truffle and a hint of blood orange, yet there is always something enigmatic about Trotanoy at this primordial stage, something on which you cannot put your finger. The palate is medium-bodied with firm structure, slightly chalky tannins surrounded by wondrous, vibrant black fruit that shimmers in the glass. It is a brilliant Trotanoy that is bound up with energy and tension. Superb from start to finish, this is likely to surpass the 2015 and is one of the stars of Pomerol this vintage.*

**Glengarry Review** *Always one of my favourites and the 2016 was no different. Dense concentrated aromatics of dark plum. Super grippy tannins that hold the supple mid palate in perfect shape. Concentrated red fruits, generous long lingering palate. Ripe tannins, a red fruit core with a long persistent finish. There's great drive and verve. Super. Liz Wheadon*

## VIEUX CHÂTEAU CERTAN 2016

Pomerol

First payment \$403.48 Estimated Second Payment \$81.67

Estimated total \$485.15 Availability - Good

**95 Decanter** *This is a muscular, big wine, more so than in some years, but it is so precise and intellectual, and one of the more austere takes on the vintage at this early stage. The 2015 was more of a crowd-pleaser perhaps, but this has such a gripping, thrilling sense of well drawn out fruit wrapped up in fresh, floral layers. The tannins have an IPT of 82, but are extremely ripe, totally delicious and beautifully constructed. They found more difference between young and old vines compared to the previous year, because of the stress in the summer, so 66% of production made it into the grand vin compared to 75% in 2015. 85% Merlot, 14% Cabernet Franc and 1% Cabernet Sauvignon. - Jane Anson*

**95-97 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Vieux Château Certan is a blend of 85% Merlot, 14% Cabernet Franc and 1% Cabernet Sauvignon that was picked at 40.50 hectoliters per hectare, in three stages of picking: 3-7, 10-11 and 17-18 October. It has a high IPT of 82 and a pH of 3.77. It has a very refined bouquet with blackberry, briary and morello cherries that are tightly wound at first, but open gradually with aeration. The Merlot is fully in control aromatically; this is not a VCC governed by the Cabernet Franc this year, consistent with the 2016 vintage. The palate is medium-bodied with fine-grain tannin. There is plenty of dark berry fruit laced with hints of earl grey and bay leaf, a complex and cerebral Pomerol with a long, precise and (to put it banally) delicious finish. This is another outstanding wine from Alexandre and Guillaume Thienpont.*

## CHÂTEAU VRAY CROIX DE GAY 2016

Pomerol

First payment \$94.71 Estimated Second Payment \$22.20

Estimated \$116.91 Availability - Good

**89-92 Wine Spectator** *Delightful raspberry and red currant preserve notes race through, flecked with light anise and fruitcake hints. Stays fresh through the finish. Score range: 89-92*

**93 Decanter** *Oh this is rather lovely, with bright, zesty red fruits, plums and raspberries. Austere without being drying, this is a balanced wine that has Pomerol sexiness without any sense of being overdone. - Jane Anson* **92-93 James Suckling** *A tangy and mineral red with a salty, chalky character under the blue fruits. Medium to full body and a chewy finish.*

**91-93 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Vray Croix de Gay, now co-owned by Paul Goldschmidt and Artemis Domaines, has a very composed bouquet with attractive, mineral-infused black and red fruit tinged with black truffle and sage. The palate is medium-bodied with a gentle, almost understated opening, almost deceiving as it opens up and gains more and more depth towards the precise and sophisticated finish. Yes, this is a great Vray Croix de Gay that should age in consummate style. This is very fine.*

**17 Jancis Robinson** *Bright glowing crimson. Floral top note. Sweet start and great care taken with tannin quality. Savoury end. Real raciness. Polish and savour. Well done. A pleasure to taste.*

## CHÂTEAU LA CONSEILLANTE 2016

Pomerol

First payment \$309.22 Estimated Second Payment \$63.76

Estimated total \$372.98 Availability - Good

**99-100 James Suckling** *This is the greatest Conseillante in modern times. Full body and incredible tannins that are polished and velvety. The texture lasts for minutes. I am speechless. What a young and awe-inspiring wine!*

**96-98 Neal Martin** *The 2016 La Conseillante is a blend of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc picked from 22 September to 13 October and 12-17 October at 39.5 hectoliters per hectare. Winemaker Marielle Cazaux told me that there is 13.8% alcohol, nearly one degree less than in 2015, with a pH of 3.65 and it is matured in 70% new oak. This has a succinct bouquet that is stylistically not that far removed from its neighbor Vieux Château Certan: detailed and understated at first with scents of blackberry, wild hedgerow and a touch of pressed flowers. The palate is very well balanced with a fine backbone, but what really marks out this La Conseillante is the salinity that comes through on the second half. It exerts a gentle grip in the mouth, reveals a little spiciness towards the finish whereupon it gently fans out, leaving a touch of black pepper on the saline aftertaste. This is a classic La Conseillante and the best since the majestic 2010. Similar to that vintage, it will require several years in bottle, but it will be well worth the wait.*

## CHÂTEAU VRAI CANON BOUCHE 2016

Pomerol

First payment \$29.58 Estimated Second Payment \$9.58

Estimated total \$39.16 Availability - Good

**90-93 Wine Spectator** *Shows good energy throughout here, with a bramble, dried anise and singed juniper hints accenting a mix of currant and raspberry paste flavors. Feels very solid already. Score range: 90-93 - James Molesworth*

**92-93 James Suckling** *Tight and racy with a blackberry and blueberry character. Hints of stones. Minerally. Full and chewy.*

## CHÂTEAU LA CHENADE 2016

Pomerol

First payment \$25.67 Estimated Second Payment \$8.83

Estimated \$34.50 Availability - Good

**92 James Suckling** *Lots of iron, fresh wood and blueberries. Some strawberries, menthol and eucalyptus. Full and quite intense on the palate with juicy acidity and good length. Nice texture but firm tannins need to be resolved over time.*

**90-92 Neal Martin** *The 2016 La Chenade is a blend of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc from Denis Durantou's estate in Lalande-de-Pomerol. It was picked 24-29 September for the Merlot and 6 October for the Cabernet Franc at 39 hectoliters per hectare and then matured in 40% new oak. It has a lovely nose that needed some coaxing from the glass, eventually revealing black cherries and touches of bergamot with Earl Grey following later. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin, fresh right from the start, very harmonious with an elegant, quite minerally finish. Very elegant, very suave, very promising.*

## CHÂTEAU LES PENSEES DE LAFLEUR 2016

Pomerol

First payment \$177.72 Estimated Second Payment \$38.28

Estimated total \$216 Availability - Good

**91-93 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Les Pensees de Lafleur is a blend of 55% Merlot and 45% Cabernet Franc this year, picked 30 September and 12 October and matured in around 20% new oak. It has a very crisp, tightly wound bouquet that opens wonderfully in the glass, revealing blackberry, crushed violets and iris--very nuanced. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, plenty of truffle tinged black fruit fused with pencil lead notes, seguing into a very structured and persistent finish, with a long and peppery aftertaste. "A serious Pensées..." Baptiste Guinaudeau commented. Too right.*

**17.5 Jancis Robinson** *45% Cabernet Franc picked 12 October; 55% Merlot picked 30 September. (The blend of early 21st century in Lafleur!) New vines coming on stream. Dark crimson. Very pure and non second-wine-like. Amazingly sophisticated. Beautiful texture. Just a little short but beautiful on the way. Cool end.*

**Glengarry Review** *A little shy compared to its big brother; there's great fruit and a beautiful balance. Fresh and lively in nature and super well made. A very poised wine with everything in perfect balance. Liz Wheadon*



## BARSAC

In the southern part of the Bordeaux region, Barsac is famous for outstanding sweet wines such as Château Climens and Château Coutet. Barsac, along with its more famous neighbour of Sauternes, produces amongst the best botrytised wines in the world. Wine growers in Barsac have the choice of marketing their wine under the Barsac AOC or Sauternes AOC. This means that all Barsac wines could also be Sauternes wines but Sauternes wines are forbidden from wearing Barsac on their label. The total area is 830ha over gravel, red sand and a clayey-limestone base with approximately the same predominance of Sauvignon Blanc, Sémillon and Muscadelle planted.

### CHÂTEAU DOISY DAENE 2016

Barsac Cru Classe

First payment \$55.26 Estimated Second Payment \$14.56

Estimated total \$69.82 Availability - Good

**92-95 Wine Spectator** *This has a wide range of white peach, yellow apple and green fig flavors that show good zip and brightness for the vintage, with a long honeysuckle note lifting the finish. JM*

**93 Decanter** *I love the ginger-spiced quality that is so evident in the sweet wines this year, a gorgeous addition that deepens the experience. This feels like a drop of luxury, and on a second tasting I covet the seams of minerality that are clearly evident. A rich style. Jane Anson*

**95-97 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Doisy Daene has a generous bouquet with lovely scents of yellow flower and peach infusing the honeyed aromas. The palate is fresh on the entry with tangy orange peel and peachy notes, very harmonious and viscous in texture, leading to a detailed and persistent finish that is one of the most delicious I can remember from this Barsac estate. This wine will always be tinged with sadness, since it coincides with the passing of Denis Dubourdieu. But his legacy will live on in his wines, including this one, which is magnificent.*

**17 Jancis Robinson** *Serious stuff. Very precise. Racy edge that reminds me of something medical – a refreshing pine disinfectant? Lots of energy. Valérie Lavigne has taking an interest in this for some time. A worthy memento of the late Denis Dubordieu.*

### CHÂTEAU NAIRAC 2016

Barsac Grand Cru Classe

First payment \$65.23 Estimated Second Payment \$16.49

Estimated total \$81.72 Availability - Good

**92 James Suckling** *Pretty nose in this Sauternes with white peach, vanilla and patisserie. Some charming mandarin and even strawberries. Medium sweet, fine, fresh and elegant on the palate with good depth and length. Turns slightly bitter in the finish.*

### CHÂTEAU COUTET 2016

Barsac 1er Cru Classe

First payment \$55.26 Estimated Second Payment \$14.56

Estimated total \$69.82 Availability - Good

**94-95 Decanter James Suckling** *Oily and dense with lots of sliced-cooked-pineapple, honey and light spice character. Full body and a long and spicy finish. Lasts a long time on the palate.*

**91-93 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Coutet has an intriguing bouquet, more exotic than I have noticed in the past, scents of tangerine and dried pineapple, not quite the mineral drive that I expect from Coutet. The palate is serviced back to normal: a very fine line of acidity, great delineation, taut and focused with a brisk and precise finish. I just hope that the aromatics get their house in order during the barrel maturation so that it matches the palate. At the moment, I will be prudent with my score.*

**16.5+ Jancis Robinson** *RS 153 g/l, TA 3.8 g/l. Correct but somewhat restrained nose, particularly in comparison with Clos Haut-Peyraguey. Just a little dull. Not the juiciest. Not the sweetest. Very youthful.*

## CHÂTEAU CLIMENS 2016

Barsac 1er Cru Classe

First payment \$100.67 Estimated Second Payment \$23.36

Estimated total \$124.03 Availability - Good

**94 Decanter** *Climens hold blending tastings every few weeks during maturation, and generally the final blend is made in the November of the year after harvest. Climens only needed two 'tries' through the vineyard here, which has been the case for two or three years as it goes so smoothly. The first tri took place on 20th September following 40mm of rain in mid September, which helped to kick-start the botrytis. The overall yield of around 20hl/ha mainly avoided mildew, and importantly proved that biodynamics can withstand difficult climatic conditions. They work with individual lots here to ensure the right balance, and tasting through several lots the homogeneity of quality is really impressive this year. The overall impression is of smooth citrus fruits with a succulent, velvety rich texture and a beautiful creaminess. There are toffee and nut notes and a gorgeous focus, with true salinity on the finish. The 3.7pH is very close to last year's acidity analysis.*  
- Jane Anson

**95-97 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Climens was tasted from the 12 different lots that will go into the Grand Vin, with some selected from the Deuxième Vin, Cypres de Climens. As usual, I had to assemble them in my mind and relate commonalities, though at a négociant a week later I re-tasted four preprepared micro-blends. I found much elegance this year. It is not a powerful Climens in the making and even with the higher alcohol lots that reached 14.9%, you could not feel any warmth and the wines maintained the tension. Some lots displayed saline finishes, perhaps a little more than usual. Perhaps the most important factor was just how 'Barsac' they all tasted. Sometimes some lots can taste more Sauternes-like in style, but not this year.*

**18+ Jancis Robinson** *This year Mathieu Chadronnier of CVBG persuaded Bérénice Lurton of Climens to provide samples of the four main ingredients in Climens 2016 for their tasting at Ch Belgrave in the Médoc, thereby putting it on the itinerary for far more tasters. A much-appreciated initiative.*

**Sample from northern parcels** (picked 30 Sep and 18 Oct, 14.1% alcohol, RS 120 g/l, 16% of the crop): *Liquorice and rich and round and exciting. Thick and round.*

**Sample from the eastern parcels** (picked 29 Sep and 3, 4 Oct, 14.2% alcohol, RS 131 g/l, 27% of the crop): *Toasty, deep and edgy with a green streak.*

**From the western parcels** (picked 28 Sep, 4, 8 Oct, 14.4% alcohol, RS 129 g/l, 14% of the crop): *A bit loose and sweet with bracing acid. Big and bold, with a firm end.*

**From the southern plots** (picked 6, 19, 20, 22 Oct, 14.2% alcohol, RS 141 g/l, 43% of the crop): *Friendly, round, fresh and floral, gorgeous. Bright fruit.*



## SAUTERNES

Sauternes lies to the south of Bordeaux city and is made up of a number of different communes such as Barsac (which is its own appellation), Preignac, Bommes, Fargues and Sauternes itself. All wine produced here is white and virtually all is sweet, influenced to varying degrees by botrytis cinerea, or noble rot. Here the grapes used are Sémillon, Sauvignon Blanc and a little Muscadelle. Yields are tiny compared to further north, with one glass of wine per vine not uncommon whereas one bottle per vine further north is more than common.

### CHÂTEAU RABAUD PROMIS 2016

Sauternes 1er Cru Classe

First payment \$44.17 Estimated Second Payment \$12.41

Estimated total \$56.58 Availability - Good

**91-92 James Suckling** *Very sweet and linear with sliced-lemon and cooked-apple character. Some nice botrytis character.*

**91-93 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Rabaud Promis was a little subdued on the nose compared to its peers when I tasted the wine from barrel. The palate is fresh on the entry with tangy orange peel and marmalade, good depth and acidity, a touch of spice enlivening the finish. It does not quite have the harmony of its peers, but it should gain cohesion during its élevage.*

**17+ Jancis Robinson** *RS 143 g/l, TA 4.25 g/l. Blossomy nose. Lots of richness at first but then masses of grapefruit freshness on the finish. Edgy and chewy for the moment."*

### CHÂTEAU RIEUSSEC 2016

Sauternes 1er Cru Classe

First payment \$87.31 Estimated Second Payment \$20.77

Estimated total \$108.08 Availability - Good

**95 Decanter** *Harvested right through until 10th November, this is a fairly rich, luscious Rieussec with an amazing texture and flavours of fleshy apricots and nectarines, toffee and crème caramel. 83% Sémillon, 12% Sauvignon Blanc and 5% Muscadelle. Drinking Window 2022 - 2050 - Jane Anson*

**92-94 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Rieussec is a blend of 83% Sémillon, 12% Sauvignon Blanc and 5% Muscadelle picked from 26 September until 4 November. It has a much more straightforward bouquet compared to the 2015 with light honeysuckle and white flower aromas. There is good acidity in the mouth thanks to the passerillé berries, nicely balanced with a touch of orange zest towards the linear finish that will hopefully gain more weight during its élevage. It is likely to be an earlier-drinking Rieussec than the 2015.*

### CHÂTEAU FILHOT 2016

Sauternes 1er Cru Classe

First payment \$31.84 Estimated Second Payment \$10.02

Estimated total \$41.86 Availability - Good

**88 Decanter** *Extremely rich and silky with good botrytis character. Although intense and of good quality, I wish it had a touch more bitterness and lift on the finish to balance all the succulence. Drinking Window 2022 - 2050 - Jane Anson*

**88-89 James Suckling** *A pretty young Sauternes with flan, dried-pineapple and lemon character. Medium-to full-bodied, medium sweet and medium on the finish.*

**88-90 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Château Filhot has a clean but rather simplistic bouquet with light waxy aromas, but it needs more botrytis to come through. The palate is well balanced with more body than the 2015 last year, and here there is more botrytis with quite a pretty, lightly spiced finish. It is probably the best Filhot that I have tasted in recent years, even if I still believe there is room for improvement.*

### CHÂTEAU DE MYRAT 2016

Sauternes Cru Classe

First payment \$39.23 Estimated Second Payment \$11.45

Estimated total \$50.68 Availability - Good

**90 Decanter** *I like the pointed citrus on the nose, which is followed by a lovely rich texture and fairly striking citrus flavours. This errs on the luxurious side, and it has great persistency and wonderful depth, but could do with peppering up just a little bit. Drinking Window 2022 - 2050 - Jane Anson*

**93-94 James Suckling** *This shows serious intensity and richness with a medium to full body, lots of sweetness and a rich finish. Oily. Better than the 2015.*

## CHÂTEAU BASTOR-LAMONTAGNE 2016

Sauternes

First payment \$31.43 Estimated Second Payment \$9.94

Estimated total \$41.37 Availability - Good

**88-91 Wine Spectator** *Rather forward, with a fruity mix of tinned pineapple, glazed peach and apricot juice notes. Open-knit feel through the finish. James Molesworth*

**93 Decanter** *This is wonderfully fresh, not in fact that rich but beautifully fragrant and complex wine. In the second tasting, a fresh ginger aspect is more evident. I can really see the improvement in this estate since the Cathiard's winemaking team have come on board, bringing acidity, tension and purity. 80% Sémillon and 20% Sauvignon Blanc. Drinking Window 2022 - 2040 - Jane Anson*

## CARMES DE RIEUSSEC 2016

Sauternes

First payment \$30.81 Estimated Second Payment \$9.82

Estimated total \$40.63 Availability - Good

**89-90 James Suckling** *A fresh and clean Sauternes with dried apples and peaches. Medium body. Off-dry. Pretty.*

**16 Jancis Robinson** *85% Sémillon, 10% Sauvignon Blanc and some Muscadelle. Second wine of Ch Rieussec.*

## CHÂTEAU LA TOUR BLANCHE 2016

Sauternes

First payment \$57.73 Estimated Second Payment \$15.04

Estimated total \$72.77 Availability - Good

**92-95 Wine Spectator** *Lively, with a mix of almond, ginger, peach and apricot notes that have good energy throughout, backed by a honeyed edge on the finish. Nice effort for the vintage. James Molesworth*

**89 Decanter** *Rich and creamy, this opens slowly but beautifully. It has a great silky texture with a creamy character throughout, and flavours of apple tarte tatin. There is good persistency, but it's a touch heavy on the finish. Drinking Window 2022 - 2050 - Jane Anson*

**93-94 James Suckling** *Very rich and dense with dried apples, honey and lemons as well as some spices and richness. Sweet and flavorful. Big wine on the finish.*

**94-96 Neal Martin** *The 2016 La Tour Blanche has a typically rich bouquet with clear honey, orange blossom and a touch of dried mango. The palate is very well balanced with crisp acidity, fine tension, great detail on the finish that lingers long in the mouth. This is a superb La Tour Blanche with style and elegance.*

**17 Jancis Robinson** *RS 135 g/l, TA 3.73 g/l. Broad, massive in scale with exuberant botrytis and then masses of acidity. Pure grapefruit syrup for the moment! Not the subtlest.*

## CHÂTEAU DE RAYNE VIGNEAU 2016

Sauternes

First payment \$65.12 Estimated Second Payment \$16.47

Estimated total \$81.59 Availability - Good

**92-93 James Suckling** *Lovely density and richness with a good amount of botrytis character. Medium to full body and a bright finish.*

**93-95 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Rayne-Vigneau comes from a Sauternes property that I feel is consistently overlooked in the market. Please don't. This has a very elegant bouquet with superb delineation: pure botrytised fruit that has a floral tincture that blossoms with time. The palate is very well balanced with crisp acidity, very fine tension, and quite taut and almost reserved towards the finish, as if biding its time for later when the wine is in bottle. This has great potential. Perhaps not quite there with the outstanding 2015 Rayne-Vigneau, but only a whisker away.*

**17.5 Jancis Robinson** *Bright yellow. Fresh and both rich and energetic. Lots going on here. Exciting!*



## CHÂTEAU DOISY VEDRINES 2016

Sauternes

First payment \$49.3 Estimated Second Payment \$13.4

Estimated total \$62.7 Availability - Good

**92-95 Wine Spectator** *This has good energy for the vintage, with a range of tangerine, clementine, peach and pineapple flavors showing nice definition through the finish. James Molesworth*

**93 Decanter** *Based in Barsac, and has that wonderful spicy tight minerality of a Barsac. A really late harvest this year, right through til the end of October. This has such a beautiful balm yet again for me lacks some pep. It's not a 2007 or 2001 or 2011. But it's gorgeous. The texture of these wines is so crazily seductive and the power and intensity of toasted blood orange slices is stunning, but it would benefit from a lime soaked twist. Drinking Window 2022 - 2050 - Jane Anson*

**91-92 James Suckling** *Tangy and fruity with a honey and lemon-rind character. Lots of orange peel, too. Medium to full body and a sweet finish.*

**91-93 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Doisy-Vedrines was tasted on three occasions. The first, the sample seemed a little subdued, although two further encounters attest to a fine Barsac. The aromatics do not quite convey the sophistication of the Doisy-Daene, yet there is purity here, attractive dried honey and quince-like aromas, perhaps with the flair of the 2015 last year. The palate is well balanced and more refined than the Doisy-Vedrines of the past, a trend I have noticed in recent vintages. It gains plenty of weight towards the finish, delivering enticing honey, tangerine and light apricot notes with satisfying persistence. Good potential here.*

## CHÂTEAU CLOS HAUT PEYRAGUEY 2016

Sauternes

First payment \$50.33 Estimated Second Payment \$13.60

Estimated total \$63.93 Availability - Good

**92-95 Wine Spectator** *This is ripe, with enticing mango, papaya and peach notes carried by a creamy texture through a hazelnut cream—accented finish. Showy. James Molesworth*

**94-95 James Suckling** *This is really spicy and rich with lots of dried-pineapple and honey character. Full-bodied, oily and flavorful. Really captures your attention. Better than the 2015.*

**92-94 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Château Clos Haut-Peyraguey was tightly wound on the nose with hints of melted butter infusing the citrus and honey fruit. It does not quite “flow” at the moment. The palate is well balanced with pure botrytised fruit, very well-judged acidity and although the finish is dominated by a patina of creamy new oak at the moment, everything is in place for a great Sauternes.*

## CHÂTEAU LAMOTHE GUIGNARD 2016

Sauternes

First payment \$30.09 Estimated Second Payment \$9.68

Estimated total \$39.77 Availability - Good

**90 Decanter** *Rich and silky, definitely one for those who love an extravagant, luxurious, and unashamedly powerful Sauternes experience. It is beautifully crafted and well judged, but just a touch heavy through the mid-palate. Drinking Window 2022 - 2050 - Jane Anson*

**90-91 James Suckling** *Layered and dense with cooked-apple and candied-lemon character. Full-bodied and very sweet. Wait and see.*

## CHÂTEAU RAYMOND LAFON 2016

Sauternes

First payment \$55.26 Estimated Second Payment \$14.56

Estimated total \$69.82 Availability - Good

**93 Decanter** *This is without doubt one of the most precise and concentrated Sauternes on the nose this year. The 2015 perhaps showed a little more freshness, but this is beautifully rich, majoring on gorgeous bitter orange flavours. The salinity on the finish slices right through. 3.75pH and 124g/l residual sugar. Drinking Window 2022 - 2050. - Jane Anson*

## CHÂTEAU SIGALAS RABAUD 2016

Sauternes

First payment \$57.73 Estimated Second Payment \$15.04

Estimated total \$72.77 Availability - Good

**90-93 Wine Spectator** *A fresh style, with white peach, green plum and pineapple notes that set it apart from its more typical brethren, with verberna and honeysuckle through the bright and less obviously sweet finish. James Molesworth*

**91-92 James Suckling** *Pretty density to this young sweet wine with cooked apples, pears and spices. Medium to full body and a clean finish. Wait and see how it evolves.*

**92-94 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Château Sigalas-Rabaud felt a little straightforward on the nose, floral but just missing the depth and concentration of its peers. The palate is medium-bodied with tangerine and clementine on the entry, a tang of lemongrass towards the finish that perks things up and suggests that there is better to come once this Sauternes is in bottle.*

**16.5+ Jancis Robinson** *RS 126 g/l. Lots of acidity dominates the nose. Heavy charges of both sweetness and acidity are not yet married – more like lemon cough sweets for the moment."*

## CHÂTEAU LAFAURIE-PEYRAGUEY 2016

Sauternes

First payment \$72.93 Estimated Second Payment \$17.98

Estimated total \$90.91 Availability - Good

**94-96 Neal Martin** *The 2016 Château Lafaurie-Peyraguey has a perfumed, minerally bouquet that is taut and focused, beautifully defined and very precise. The palate is very well balanced with peach, nectarine and honey on the entry. This is a complex Sauternes, armed with superb acidity and bite, leading to a persistent finish that offers a dab of peaches and cream on the aftertaste. This is excellent.*

**17.5/20 Jancis Robinson** *Heady. Big and voluptuous. Masses of botrytised grapes in here, surely? Rich but (just) not too heavy. Quite an impact!*

## CHÂTEAU SUDUIRAUT 2016

Sauternes

First payment \$94.71 Estimated Second Payment \$22.2

Estimated total \$116.91 Availability - Good

**93-96 Wine Spectator** *This has a juicy mix of glazed peach, mango and papaya flavors, with flashes of green tea and ginger enlivening the finish. Good energy for this generally forward vintage. James Molesworth*

**95-96 James Suckling** *This has so much botrytis/spice character. Dried-mushroom powder as well. Full yet round and gorgeous. Exuberant softness. Very sweet and complex. Complete Sauternes.*

**94-96 Neal Martin** *The 2016 De Suduiraut has a complex bouquet with rich and honeyed fruit, superb mineral tension and wonderful detail. The palate is well balanced with crisp acidity, great tension and a lovely touch of spice towards the very persistent finish. What a great Suduiraut in the making here, so full of character and complexity, and yet you still feel as if it has something up its sleeve.*

**18+/20 Jancis Robinson** *94% Sémillon, 6% Sauvignon Blanc. RS 140 g/l, TA 3.7 g/l. Not that much nose but big and ambitious with broad richness and a savoury finish. Waxy and round. Yet again, this shows real superiority. So long! Lots of botrytis and round and spicy. Really luscious and gorgeous and doesn't include any of the dried-fruit wine. Spicy."*

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### IMPORTANT DATES

- The 2016 campaign is in full swing, in fact nearing completion with most of the wines now released.
- Our campaign will remain open until 20th July 2017.
- First payment summaries will then be prepared in July and sent to you, these will be due for payment by the 20th August 2017.
- The 2016 wines will arrive in New Zealand in the middle of 2019. The Estimated second price is paid on the 20th of the month following the second payment summary being prepared or on collection of the wines if that occurs prior.

### THE FINE PRINT

Product availability is limited; products are available as allocated by overseas suppliers and/or whilst stocks last.

In order to purchase alcohol you must be over 18 years old and legally entitled to do so.

All transactions are subject to Glengarry Terms & Conditions, in addition, the Terms & Conditions for En Primeur can be viewed online [www.enprimeur.co.nz](http://www.enprimeur.co.nz)



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- 30 CHÂTEAU DESMIRAIL
- 30 CHÂTEAU PRIEURÉ-LICHINE

## **37 – 40 ST JULIEN**

- 37 CHÂTEAU GLORIA
- 37 CHÂTEAU BEYCHEVELLE
- 37 CHÂTEAU BRANAIRE DUCRU
- 38 CHÂTEAU SAINT PIERRE –
- 38 CHÂTEAU TALBOT
- 38 CHÂTEAU GRUAUD LAROSE
- 38 CHÂTEAU LÉOVILLE BARTON
- 39 CHÂTEAU LÉOVILLE POYFERRÉ
- 39 CHÂTEAU LAGRANGE (ST JULIEN)
- 39 CLOS DU MARQUIS
- 39 CHÂTEAU DUCRU BEAUCAILLOU
- 40 SARGET DE GRUAUD LAROSE
- 40 CHÂTEAU LÉOVILLE LAS CASES

## **41– 52 SAINT-ÉMILION**

- 41 CHÂTEAU CHAUVIN
- 41 CHÂTEAU FAUGERES
- 41 CHÂTEAU LA COUSPAUDE
- 42 CHÂTEAU LA FLEUR (SAINT-ÉMILION)
- 42 CHÂTEAU LA SERRE
- 42 CHÂTEAU LARCIS DUCASSE
- 42 CHÂTEAU PAVIE DECESSE
- 43 CHÂTEAU PAVIE MACQUIN
- 43 CHÂTEAU PUY BLANQUET
- 43 CHÂTEAU ROL VALENTIN
- 44 CHÂTEAU TROPLONG MONDOT
- 44 CLOS FOURTET
- 44 CLOS ST MARTIN
- 45 CHÂTEAU FIGEAC
- 46 CHÂTEAU PAVIE
- 46 CHÂTEAU LA GAFFELIERE
- 46 CHÂTEAU BEAUSEJOUR BECOT
- 47 CHÂTEAU ANGELUS
- 47 CHÂTEAU AUSONE
- 48 CHÂTEAU BELAIR MONANGE
- 48 CHÂTEAU CANON
- 49 CHÂTEAU CHEVAL BLANC
- 50 CHÂTEAU FOMBRAUGE
- 50 CHÂTEAU FONROQUE
- 50 CHÂTEAU HAUT BRISSON
- 50 CHÂTEAU PEBY FAUGERES
- 51 CHÂTEAU QUINAULT L'ENCLOS
- 51 CHÂTEAU QUINTUS
- 52 CHÂTEAU BELLEVUE
- 52 CHÂTEAU CLOS DE BOÜARD

## **53 – 64 POMEROL**

- 53 CHÂTEAU BOURGNEUF – 53
- 53 CHÂTEAU CERTAN DE MAY – 53
- 54 CHÂTEAU LA CHENADE – 54
- 54 CHÂTEAU CLINET – 54

54 CHÂTEAU CLOS L'EGLISE  
55 CHÂTEAU GAZIN  
55 CHÂTEAU HOSANNA  
55 CHÂTEAU L'EGLISE CLINET  
56 CHÂTEAU LA FLEUR DE BOUARD  
56 CHÂTEAU LA FLEUR DE GAY  
56 CHATEUA LA FLEUR PÉTRUS  
57 CHÂTEAU LAFLEUR  
57 CHÂTEAU LAGRANGE  
57 CHÂTEAU LA VIOLETTE  
58 CHÂTEAU LE BON PASTEUR  
58 CHÂTEAU LE GAY  
58 CHÂTEAU L'HOSPITALET DE GAZIN  
59 CHÂTEAU LE PIN  
59 CHÂTEAU L'EVANGILE  
59 CHÂTEAU FEYTIT CLINET  
60 CHÂTEAU NENIN  
60 CHÂTEAU PETIT VILLAGE  
61 CHÂTEAU PÉTRUS  
62 CHÂTEAU PLINCE  
62 CHÂTEAU ROUGET  
62 CHÂTEAU SIAURAC  
63 CHÂTEAU TROTANOY  
63 VIEUX CHÂTEAU CERTAN  
63 CHÂTEAU VRAY CROIX DE GAY  
64 CHÂTEAU LA CONSEILLANTE  
64 CHÂTEAU VRAI CANON BOUCHE  
64 CHÂTEAU LA CHENADE  
64 CHÂTEAU LES PENSEES DE LAFLEUR

## **65 – 66 BARSAC**

65 CHÂTEAU DOISY DAENE - 65  
65 CHÂTEAU NAIRAC  
65 CHÂTEAU COUTET  
66 CHÂTEAU CLIMENS

## **67 – 70 SAUTERNES**

67 CHÂTEAU RABAUD PROMIS  
67 CHÂTEAU RIEUSSEC  
67 CHÂTEAU FILHOT  
67 CHÂTEAU DE MYRAT  
68 CHÂTEAU BASTOR – LAMONTAGNE  
68 CARMES DE RIEUSSEC  
68 CHÂTEAU LA TOUR BLANCHE  
68 CHÂTEAU DE RAYNE VIGNEAU  
69 CHÂTEAU DOISY VEDRINES  
69 CHÂTEAU CLOS HAUT PEYRAGUEY  
69 CHÂTEAU LAMOTHE GUIGNARD  
69 CHÂTEAU RAYMOND LAFON  
70 CHÂTEAU SIGALAS RABAUD  
70 CHÂTEAU LAFAURIE-PEYRAGUEY  
70 CHÂTEAU SUDUIRAUT