

BORDEAUX 2004  
EN PRIMEUR



GOEDHUIS & COMPANY  
FINE WINE MERCHANTS



Bordeaux and Neighbouring Regions

## GOEDHUIS & COMPANY

FINE WINE MERCHANTS

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# BORDEAUX 2004

## A CLASSIC VINTAGE

Over the past month, we have visited Bordeaux several times to taste the young 2004s. We have tasted many wines on half a dozen occasions and have come to the conclusion that, with careful selection, we are able to offer wines of truly classic quality.

After the generosity and exuberance of the 2003s, 2004 sees a return to a more traditional style of claret. These are serious wines, rich in ripe tannin, built for ageing.

Writing in the Financial Times, Jancis Robinson makes the point neatly: "It is my belief that the best red Bordeaux of 2004...will make wine lovers of the world fall in love with tannin again".

It is our view, however, that price is critical and have made this point emphatically to Chateaux owners and negociants alike. As yet, very few prices have been released, although early signs are quite encouraging. If prices are fair – around 2002 levels or below – then this is, without any doubt a vintage to buy.

## THE GROWING SEASON

Winter 2003/4 was, as seems the pattern in these globally warmed days, mild. It was also fairly dry. Spring was beautiful, sunny and dry and the vines flowered quickly and easily in early June.

When the bunches set it became apparent that potential yields were high – perhaps twice 2003 levels. July, cooler than average was particularly dry and the grapes ripened very slowly. At this stage the better Chateaux undertook a first green harvest (removal of bunches to reduce yield). August was rainy and cool, and again, providing they could find enough workers during France's holiday month, vineyard managers ordered a green harvest, such was the amount of fruit.

By late August the grapes were still somewhat under-ripe. However the September weather was magnificent, and records were broken both in temperature and dryness. The grapes ripened gently and steadily and wherever proper green harvesting had taken place, were extremely healthy.

The first Merlots were harvested towards the end of September and the Cabernets began a week or so later, although many Chateaux harvested Cabernet late in October.

## THE WINES

The most successful 2004s are best described as classic clarets. After the richness and ripeness of the 2003 vintage, 2004, whose harvest date was a month or so later, has produced wines of a more traditional, tannic framework, wines that will last for many years. As a pair of vintages they could hardly be more different, yet both should find space in any cellar.

The real quality of the vintage was made by the sunny month of September, which allowed the grapes to mature steadily and fully. Yields were generous and green harvesting in the summer was critical.

There are great wines to be found across the region. While, once again the Medoc and Graves have produced many excellent wines, we were also really impressed by many Right Bank Chateaux – for the first time since 2000. Indeed some Pomerols draw comparison with the famous 1990 vintage.

Overall the vintages that seem to be most similar to 2004 are 1996 and 1988, both of which have proved to be highly successful.

Below our tasting notes we have included, where available, scores from Jancis Robinson (JR), Wine Spectator (WS), Robert Parker (RP).

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## OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

### Wines of the vintage:

Latour, Lafite Rothschild, Margaux, Mouton Rothschild, Haut Brion, Leoville Lascases, Leoville Barton, Pichon Lalande, Pontet Canet, Ausone, Pavie Macquin, Vieux Chateau Certan, L'Eglise Clinet. (Le Pin not tasted)

### Value wines of the vintage:

(wines we hope will be under £20.00 per bottle in bond)

Calon Segur, Pontet Canet, Grand Puy Lacoste, Leoville Barton, Leoville Poyferre, Lagrange, Talbot, Issan, Haut Bailly, Domaine de Chevalier, Bellevue, Canon, Feytit Clinet.

### Bargains of the vintage:

(wines we hope will be under £12.00 per bottle in bond).

Haut Batailley, Haut Bages Liberal, Lafon Rochet, Potensac, Cote de Baleau, Petite Eglise, L'Argilus du Roi, Clauzet, Cambon La Pelouse.

## BUYING EN PRIMEUR

Buying wine "en Primeur" should be the most cost-effective way of laying down a cellar.

A purchase at this early stage guarantees provenance. When the wine is eventually drunk, it is a comfort to know that the case has not spent its life circumnavigating the globe, but remained in one place.

It is also the only chance to choose format. Since the wine is still in barrel there is still the opportunity to instruct bottling in halves, magnums, double magnums and imperials.

Finally, for those wines made in small quantities, this may simply be the only opportunity to buy.



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## FIRST GROWTHS

Estimated £/cs  
In Bond UK

Drinking dates

### CH HAUT BRION, GRAVES

700 – 900 2013 - 2030

In the seventeenth century Samuel Pepys used to repair to the Pontac Arms to drink 'Ho-Bryan', a wine that has always been popular with the British.

The 2004 is excellent. 61% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Sauvignon, 19% Cabernet Franc, this has great opulence and presence. However, true to the vintage the sweet, ripe fruit of the Merlot is tempered by the firm structure of the Cabernets.

Jean-Philippe Delmas is of the opinion that this is the best Haut Brion since 2000.

(JR 18/20. WS 92 – 94. RP 93 - 95)



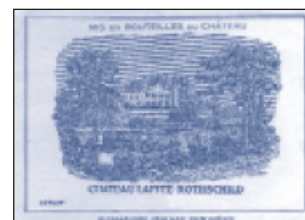
### CH LAFITE, PAUILLAC

700 – 900 2015 - 2035

The tasting room at Ch Lafite is decked with magnificent, huge portraits of the team taken by photographer Richard Avedon. Eric de Rothschild, with an extravagant flower in his buttonhole, Charles Chevalier looking pensive, a maitre de chai with a luxuriant moustache.

However it is the wine that grabs ones attention. This Lafite is utterly delicious. The blend this year is 90.5% Cabernet Sauvignon, 9% Merlot and 0.5% Petit Verdot. Long, fine and elegant but with the serious tannins of the vintage, this is only rivalled by Latour in complexity and class.

(JR 18/20. WS 92 – 94. RP 92 - 95)



### CH LATOUR, PAUILLAC

700 – 900 2015 - 2035

Ch Latour has been associated with great wine for many centuries, thanks to the combination of exceptional terroir and a series of passionate, enthusiastic owners. This fantastic chateau is now owned by Francois Pinault, who has given his manager, Frederic Engerer *carte blanche* to do whatever it takes to make the greatest wine in Bordeaux.

Over the past decade or so, less and less wine has made it to the *grand vin* - 51% in 2004. This wine is particularly characterised by the fact that at 89% this is the highest percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon ever.

Our tasting note reads, simply, "this is brilliant". It is a wine of imperiousness and class, serious but beautifully balanced.

(JR 19/20. WS 95 – 100. RP 95 - 97)



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**CH MARGAUX, MARGAUX** 700 – 900 2013 - 2035

Ch Margaux is one of the last Chateaux to employ their own coopers to make some of the barrels used in the *grand vin*. This is typical of the estate's attention to detail under the ownership of Corinne Mentzelopoulos and the direction of Paul Pontallier.

This is a stunning 2004. It is a wine all about finesse. Perfectly balanced with lots of very pure dark fruit (thanks perhaps to the unusually high 18% Merlot). Paul Pontallier compares it with the 1996, an exceptional Margaux.

Jancis Robinson writes: "This was the only 2004 sample I actually ran out of because I was so keen to taste it. Wonderfully complete".

(JR 19/20. WS 92 – 94. RP 92 – 95)

**CH MOUTON ROTHSCHILD, PAUILLAC** 700 – 900 2013 - 2035

Since 2000 there has been a gradual reduction in the degree of toast used in the barrels at Mouton. The wine still shows a sweetness and velvet texture more associated with warmer climates but there is no denying that this is magnificently appealing wine. 69% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13% Cabernet Franc, 15% Merlot and 3% Petit Verdot, the 2004 bursts with delicious sweet red fruit. Exuberant and flattering it will drink before the other Pauillac First Growths.

Significantly, in his first year in charge, Philippe Dhalluin has reduced yields and been more selective about the wine that makes it into the *grand vin* with the result that there is less 2004 than 2003.

(JR 18/20. WS 92 – 94. RP 91 – 93)



## SECOND GROWTHS

Estimated £/cs  
In Bond UK

Drinking dates

**CH LEOVILLE LAS CASES, ST JULIEN** 400 – 500 2013 - 2028

Only 34% of the estate's production found its way into the *grand vin* this year. With 76% Cabernet Sauvignon it is no surprise that the profile of this great wine is very serious indeed.

Dense, powerful and extremely tightly knit. It is of First Growth quality and clearly a candidate for the wine of the vintage.

James Suckling finds it reminiscent of the stunning 1996, possibly better.

(JR 17.5/20. WS 95 – 100. RP 91 – 93)



**CH COS D'ESTOURNEL, ST ESTEPHE** 300 – 400 2013 - 2028

This is a classic, serious Cos d'Estournel that will take considerable time to evolve. A blend of 74% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot and 3% Cabernet Franc this, along with Leoville Las Cases, shows First Growth potential. Very mineral, packed with intense bilberry and mineral flavours, it is an excellent St Estephe.

(JR 17/20. WS Almost 95 – 100. RP 92 – 94)

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**CH PICHON LALANDE, PAUILLAC** 280 – 350 2013 - 2028

An excellent Pichon Lalande of true *super second* status. Very, very stylish. With a silky attack and firm but ripe tannins it is a classic 2004. The fruit is dark, cherry and damson, with excellent minerals. 53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc and 7% Petit Verdot, this is one of the greatest Pichon Lalandes of recent years.

(JR 17.5/20. WS 89/91. RP 91 - 94)



**CH DUCRU BEAUCAILLOU, ST JULIEN** 280 – 350 2012 - 2025

Despite looking like a man on his way to an engagement as a children's entertainer – all braces and baggy trousers – Bruno Borie is clearly serious about the quality of Ch Ducru Beaucaillou. The style has changed slightly since Bruno took sole control in 2003. This is a broad, fleshy wine with lots of creamy dark fruit and a very firm finish.

In James Suckling's view: "This is a big improvement, like the 2003. Let's wait and see. Ducru is going places".

(JR 16.5 /20. WS 92 – 94. RP 92 – 94)



**CH MONTROSE, ST ESTEPHE** 240 – 280 2013 - 2025

Ch Montrose, with its peacocks, palm trees and the river gleaming nearby, was a beautiful place to be the other day. After the feeding frenzy that surrounded the famous 2003, our hopes were high.

Clearly this is an estate on a roll since we really enjoyed the 2004. This wine shows masses of sweet dark fruit, firm but fine tannins all dressed with very stylish oak and plenty of minerals.

Jancis Robinson writes: "You certainly wouldn't come across this sort of wine anywhere but Bordeaux" and indeed this is classic St Estephe built for the long term.

(JR 17/20. WS 92 – 94. RP 91- 93)

**CH PICHON BARON, PAUILLAC** 240 – 280 2012 - 2025

Englishman Christian Seely is doing a fine job at Ch Pichon Baron, once again making wines that rival Pichon Lalande on the opposite side of the road.

The style could not be more different however. This is a wine of exotic generosity and sweetness with great depths of dark savoury fruit. All this is contained in very stylish oak that make the wine very flattering indeed.

(JR 16.5 / 20. WS 89 – 91. RP 90 – 93+)

**CH LEOVILLE BARTON, ST JULIEN** 200 – 250 2012 - 2025

"You have to like this" writes James Suckling, a note which could be applied to any vintage of Leoville Barton over the past decade. The modest and reasonable Anthony Barton just keeps producing brilliant wine, always one of our picks of the vintage.

This excellent 2004 compares with the 1996. It is rich in minerals with great reserves of blackcurrant fruit and stylish sweet oak. This is excellent.

(JR16/20. WS 89 – 91. RP 92 – 94)



**CH GRUAUD LAROSE, ST JULIEN** 198.00 2013 - 2023

Gruaud Larose describes itself as “ the wine of kings, the king of wines”. This may be true and certainly since Jean Merlaut took over in 1997, quality has been consistently regal.

This is a very good Gruaud Larose. Savoury and complex with good reserves of subtle fruit and silky tannins, it shows off the Merlaut magic.

(JR 16.5/20. WS 89 – 91)

**CH LEOVILLE POYFERRE, ST JULIEN** 180 – 240 2012 - 2020

Quality continues to climb at this famous Chateau. The vineyards were replanted in the early eighties and the winery totally modernised in the early nineties.

This is an excellent Leoville Poyferre. Serious but appealing, with a velvet texture and great reserves of sweet, dark fruit. With its exceptional length and complexity it is quite as good as the so-called ‘super seconds’.

(JR 17+/20. WS 89 – 91. RP 90 – 93)



**CH DURFORT VIVENS, MARGAUX** 140 – 180 2010 – 2018

When Thomas Jefferson visited the Medoc just before the French Revolution he attempted to classify the wines he tasted. His top three were Lafite, Latour and Margaux, with Durfort Vivens fourth.

Under the management of Gonzague Lurton, Durfort Vivens is once again great. He reckons that he harvested his best Cabernet and Merlot ever in 2004. This is very stylish, very precise, with great elegance and poise. With lots of silky, dark fruit this is one of the best Margaux that we tasted.

## THIRD GROWTHS

Estimated £/cs      Drinking dates  
In Bond UK

**CH PALMER, MARGAUX** 400 – 500 2015 - 2025

Ch Palmer seems to be getting itself back together after a few years in the doldrums. This 2004 is excellent, very Margaux, very fine. It is a wine of great sophistication and grace with delicious cherry and currant fruit and a polished, modern structure. Described by Jancis Robinson as “ a great success”, and by James Suckling as “ very good indeed”, it is great to see this famous Chateau back on cracking form.

(JR 18.5/20. WS 89 – 91. RP 90 – 93)



**CH GISCOURS, MARGAUX** 140 – 180 2013 - 2025

Ch Giscours, now owned by a Dutchman, Eric Albada Jelgersma, is once again producing superb wines. This 2004 is extremely classy with great depth of currant and hedgerow fruit. Gently oaky, quite mineral and long, this is as good a Giscours as we have tasted for some years.

(JR 17/20. WS 89 – 91. RP 90 – 92)

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**CH D'ISSAN, MARGAUX****140 – 180 2010 - 2020**

Both Jancis Robinson and James Suckling use the phrase “well done” in their notes on this excellent 2004 Margaux.

Emmanuel Cruse opted for more Merlot than usual this year (40%) and this has produced a wine with lots of sweet dark fruit as well as that tell-tale Margaux finesse. Aged 50% in new oak this is one of the very best Margaux of the vintage.

(JR 17/20. WS 89 – 91)

Highly recommended

**CH LAGRANGE, ST JULIEN****140 – 180 2012 - 2023**

Marcel Ducasse, who runs Ch Lagrange describes this excellent 2004 as “le vrai Bordeaux de qualite”. It is certainly true that this is a real classic. Firm and taut with great precision and very pure Cabernet fruit, this is very stylish indeed.

(JR 16/20. WS 89 – 91)

Highly recommended.

**CH LANGOA BARTON, ST JULIEN****140 – 180 2012 - 2025**

As always Langoa Barton was deceptively flattering and open when we tasted it. With tons of bilberry fruit, perfect balance and great length of flavour it is clearly a wine of enormous class and longevity. With 70% Cabernet Sauvignon it certainly should have the structure to allow it to make old bones.

(JR 16/20. WS 89 – 91)

**CH CALON SEGUR, ST ESTEPHE****220 – 260 2013 – 2025**

Unfortunately ours and Mme Gascqueton’s timetables were unable to coincide, so we have not tasted this wine. However Jancis Robinson has:

“Deep purple. Very concentrated and yet fragrant too. Lively, well balanced, very fine tannins, silky textured. Good balance with lots of fruit on the front palate. Quite integrated with minerality like Latour. Mid weight (lighter than Latour). Confident and vivacious without a hint of tartiness “

(JR 17.5/20. WS 89 – 91. RP 90 – 93)

**CH LA LAGUNE, HAUT MEDOC****120 –180 2013 – 2025**

The more often we tasted this, the more we were convinced that this is a great La Lagune. 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc aged 50% in new oak, it is lovely. Packed with dark fruit, with a creamy, velvet texture with plenty of minerals, it will make delicious drinking

(JR 16/20. WS 85 – 88)

Highly recommended.

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## FOURTH GROWTHS

Estimated £/cs      Drinking dates  
In Bond UK

### CH BEYCHEVELLE, ST JULIEN      140 – 180      2010 - 2020

To visit Ch Beychevelle is to visit one of the finest Chateaux in the Medoc with its beautiful views across the gardens to the river. The Chateau was first famous under the ownership of the flamboyant Duc d'Epemon, a former Grand Admiral of France.

During the 1970s Emile Peynaud advised on the vineyards and his work then ensures that Beychevelle is always a reliable and delicious glass of wine.

This 2004 is soft and sweet, perhaps thanks to the 42% Merlot, and makes friends very easily. Not as powerful and concentrated as some other Medoc 2004s, it will drink relatively early. An unpretentious, easy drinking wine.

(JR 16.5/20. WS 85 – 88.)



### CH BRANAIRE DUCRU, ST JULIEN      140 – 180      2012 - 2022

The success story at Branaire Ducru continues. This splendid Chateau with 50 hectares on the St Julien-Beychevelle plateau is ideally sited to make excellent wine. It also enjoys one of the most modern cellars in the region.

The wine itself was tight and strict when we tasted it but clearly has plenty of fruit that will be enhanced by the barrel over the next 12 months or so.

(JR 14.5/20. WS 89 – 91. RP 90 – 93)

### CH TALBOT, ST JULIEN      140 – 180      2012 - 2022

Richly deserving James Suckling's "well done" for this excellent 2004, Ch Talbot has once again produced a wine that should offer great value as well as quality.

This is packed with lovely, soft fruit, has a sweet velvet texture and is hugely seductive. We recommend this wine very highly indeed.

(JR 15/20. WS 89 – 91)

Highly recommended.



### CH LAFON ROCHET, ST ESTEPHE      132      2013 - 2023

The blend this year is 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 45% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc. However despite the relatively high proportion of merlot this is one of the most powerful wines in the northern Medoc. This lovely wine has a very long life ahead of it but its reserves of sweet dark fruit will ensure that it will make fantastic drinking. This could turn out to be a truly great Lafon Rochet.

(JR 17/20.)

Highly recommended.

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## FIFTH GROWTHS

Estimated £/cs      Drinking dates  
In Bond UK

### CH LYNCH BAGES, PAUILLAC      200 – 250      2012 - 2030

As usual there was a zen-like calm at Ch Lynch Bages where a marvellous 2004 has been made. Although it has a whopping 84% Cabernet Sauvignon, they harvested late and this is a wine of deeply appealing ripeness and sweetness. Apart from great reserves of dark fruit, this wine shows lovely minerals and smoke flavours.

Jean Michel Cazes compares the 2004 to both 1996 and 2001, similarly classic Lynch Bages. We recommend this wine very highly.

(JR 16/20. WS 89 – 91)



### CH GRAND PUY LACOSTE, PAUILLAC      180 – 240      2012 - 2028

A wonderful wine from the hugely talented Francois Xavier Borie. 72% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Merlot it combines the seriousness and precision of Cabernet with the plumpness and softness of the Merlot. This is a wine with plenty of character and will last for many years.

(JR 17.5/20. WS 89 – 91)

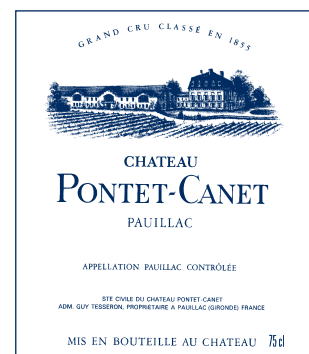
### CH PONTET CANET, PAUILLAC      180 – 240      2013 - 2030

Alfred Tesseron and Pontet Canet are on a roll. Since the mid 1990s, this Chateau has consistently produced wines considered among the picks of the vintage. 2004 is no exception.

Yields in the vineyard were reduced by three green harvests and at 47 hl/ha are amongst the lowest in the Medoc. Immense care was taken over the harvest, which took three weeks. The blend is 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot, and this is a real classic.

This is a big wine but beautifully balanced with great reserves of ripe fruit. Although it has plenty of tannin the structure feels velvety and stylish with just the right amount of oak flavour. A hugely impressive wine.

(JR 17/20. WS 92 – 94. RP 92 – 94.)



### CH HAUT BAGES LIBERAL, PAUILLAC      140      2010 - 2020

Claire Villars-Lurton has worked wonders at Haut Bages Liberal in her ultra modern winery which would not be out of place at Cape Canaveral. However the wines remain firmly rooted in the tradition of top quality Pauillac.

This is without doubt one of our picks of the vintage and also offers excellent value. It is extremely stylish and poised with utterly delicious bittersweet fruit and very fine tannins. Jancis Robinson gives it a great score for a wine at this price.

(JR 17+/20)

Highly recommended.

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**CH HAUT BATAILLEY, PAUILLAC** 120 – 150 2012 - 2022

There is no doubt that Francois Xavier Borie's wines are some of the most exciting in Pauillac. 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot this is a lovely Haut Batailley. Bursting with rich, dark fruit and with very ripe tannin for the vintage.

(JR 16.5/20. WS 85 – 88.)

Highly recommended.

**GRAVES**

Estimated £/cs      Drinking dates  
In Bond UK

**LA MISSION HAUT BRION, GRAVES** 450 – 600 2013 - 2028

Under the Duchesse de Mouchy and her son Prince Robert of Luxembourg, La Mission has regularly made wines that rival its illustrious stable mate, Haut Brion. Quality is always comparable and therefore La Mission tends to look like good value.

This 2004 is excellent. 55% Merlot, 42% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Cabernet Franc this is a silky but serious wine with masses of bittersweet dark fruit. Discreet but complex, it will give enormous pleasure over many years.

(JR 17.5/20. WS 89 – 91. RP 91 – 93.)



**CH PAPE CLEMENT, GRAVES** 240 – 300 2012 - 2020

Under relatively new owner, Bernard Magrez, Ch Pape Clement continues to go from strength to strength. While this delicious wine is undoubtedly the product of very modern winemaking, it manages to remain unashamedly Graves in style. 54% Cabernet Sauvignon (picked until 22nd October) and 46% Merlot, this is a sweet, very ripe wine of great opulence and style.

(JR 17/20. WS 89 – 91. RP 92 – 94.)

**CH HAUT BAILLY, GRAVES** 150 – 200 2011 - 2020

Ch Haut Bailly has always been one of our favourite Graves. It has a dignity and complexity of only the very greatest Chateaux. This 2004 is exceptional. Beautifully balanced with very fine tannins and polished, pure fruit, it is simply delicious.

(JR 17.5/20. WS 85 – 88. RP 91 – 93.)

Highly recommended.



**DOMAINE DE CHEVALIER, GRAVES** 140 – 180 2010 - 2020

The input of winemaker Stephane Derenoncourt has undoubtedly added a slightly modern feel to this famous property's wines. However it is also clearly a wine that will age effortlessly for many years. Jancis Robinson refers to " Rather splendid panoply of black fruits on the nose", and like us James Suckling suspects that it may be better than the 2003.

(JR 17+/20. WS 85 – 88.)

Highly recommended.

## SECOND WINES

Estimated £/cs      Drinking dates  
In Bond UK

**PETIT CHEVAL, CH CHEVAL BLANC**      240 – 300      2012 - 2022

A marvellous Petit Cheval full of grace and harmony. With great depth of dark damson fruit, ripe tannins and remarkable freshness, this was in no way overshadowed by its senior sister.

(JR 17/20. WS 85 – 88.)



**LES FORTS DE LATOUR, CH LATOUR**      180 – 240      2012 - 2025

This is, quite simply, one of the greatest Les Forts de Latour that we have ever tasted. It is a combination of wine made from a separate vineyard and a few barrels that did not quite make the cut for the *grand vin*. Dense with a wonderfully expressive nose and bursting with minerals, this is better than many classed growths.

Jancis Robinson describes it as having “lots of vibration”, but we don't know what that means. Hopefully good news.

(JR 17+/20. WS 89 – 91. RP 90 – 94.)

**PAVILLON ROUGE, CH MARGAUX**      180 – 240      2011 - 2020

Brilliant. As usual this is one of the best wines in Margaux. Very precise, pure and dark with great elegance, this is truly a mini Ch Margaux.

(JR 17.5+/20. WS 89 – 91.)



**CARRUADES DE LAFITE, CH LAFITE**      140 – 180      2012 - 2021

With a stunning, hugely seductive nose and a beautifully silky structure, this is one of the best second wines. Lots of juicy dark fruit and great freshness make this wine memorable. 47% Merlot, 48% Cabernet Sauvignon, 4% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot. An excellent introduction to the *grand vin*.

(JR 17/20)

**BAHANS HAUT BRION, CH HAUT BRION**      140 – 180      2012 - 2012

The Cabernet which did not find its way to the *grand vin* found a home in this very serious Bahans. Bursting with fruit, smoky with lovely ripe tannins, this is delicious. 73% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc.

(JR 17 – 20. WS 89 – 91.)

**PETITE EGLISE, CH L'EGLISE CLINET**      100 – 150      2010 - 2020

Sumptuous with a velvet texture and immediate appeal, this is one of the finest value Pomerols that we tasted. Very intense with oodles of dark cherry fruit, this is a tribute to the brilliant winemaking of Denis Durantou.

Half the grapes come from L'Eglise Clinet, half from a separate vineyard next to La Grave a Pomerol.

(JR 16/20.)



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## CRUS BOURGEOIS/PETITS CHATEAUX

Estimated £/cs      Drinking dates  
In Bond UK

### LA SOURCE, BORDEAUX      149      2011 -2020

There has been something of a revolution at La Source this year. This marvellous estate near St Emilion is now not only under new ownership but has also appointed Patrick Valette, ex Ch Pavie, to oversee the work both in the vineyards and the cellar. Patrick's advice is put into practice by talented new winemaker Sebastien Lamonthe.

Patrick's attention to detail, from severe selection of fruit to micro techniques in the cellar, is legendary, and his first La Source is a wine of amazing quality. Of course with 70 year old vines he enjoys something of a head start. He has also enjoyed the benefit of the new owner's further investment in the cellar.

Aged 100% in new oak, principally merlot, this is a very fine wine, precise and pure. It has layers of polished dark fruit and is beautifully balanced and long.

This year also sees a significant drop in price. A new pricing policy, deliberately designed to help this wine attract a wider audience has been put in place and in our view this wine now offers excellent value. It is one of the purest 2004s that we tasted.



### CLOS DU MARQUIS, ST JULIEN      140 – 180      2013 - 2023

We were massively impressed by this brilliant wine, which showed as appealing and approachable as its stable mate Leoville Las Cases showed restrained and aloof. The fruit is slightly exotic and the texture ripe and seductive. This excellent wine has, in our view, been consistently better than many classed growths. 2004 is no exception.

(JR 16.5 / 20. WS 89 – 91.)

Highly recommended.

### CH GLORIA, ST JULIEN      100 – 150      2012 – 2025

Quality is soaring at this excellent Chateau that really ought to enjoy classed growth status. Situated across the road from Ducru Beaucaillou and Branaire Ducru, its terroir is outstanding. This is a silky, very pure wine with lots of dark cherry fruit. It has a firm but ripe structure and a lovely bittersweet finish.

(JR 15/20. WS 85 – 88.)

Highly recommended.

### CH LABEGORCE ZEDE, MARGAUX      80 – 120      2010 - 2020

Very fine and stylish with great reserves of polished hedgerow fruit, once again Luc Thienpont has made benchmark Margaux.



### CH POTENSAC, MEDOC      80 – 100      2010 - 2020

41% Merlot, 52% Cabernet Sauvignon and 7% Petit Verdot. Typically firm and built for the longterm but with a certain sweetness and grace, this is a very fine Potensac.

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**CH ARGILUS DU ROI, ST ESTEPHE 80 – 120 2010 – 2020**

We discovered this excellent wine last year. The vineyard belongs to the winemaker at Ch Clauzet, Jose Bueno, who cut his teeth at Ch Clerc Milon. Gradually he has built up a single plot of 5 hectares in one of the best areas of St Estephe.

He has also built an exquisite winery that we have seen develop from sketches on the back of an envelope to its almost-complete state today.

The wine itself is stunning. Tightly knit with loads of shiny dark fruit and massive power, it is, quite simply, one of the most impressive wines in its class.

Highly recommended

**CH CLAUZET, ST ESTEPHE 80 – 120 2010 – 2020**

This is a top quality St Estephe whose wines are becoming increasingly sought after. It is owned by a Belgian, Baron Maurice Velge and its plots are next to Chx Meyney, Cos d'Estournel, Montrose, Phelan Segur and Calon Segur. Ripe and rich with masses of sweet dark fruit and just the right amount of stylish oak, this has the quality of a classed growth without the price tag.

Highly recommended

**CH CAMBON LA PELOUSE, HAUT MEDOC 80 – 100 2010 – 2020**

This is certainly one of the most elegant and stylish Haut Medoc 2004s. Very intense, with pure, racy dark fruit and great accessibility for the vintage, it wins friends easily.

**ST EMILION**

Estimated £/cs      Drinking dates  
In Bond UK

**CH AUSONE, 1ER GRAND CRU CLASSE 1000 – 1500 2013 - 2030**

Once again Alain Vauthier's Ausone is a candidate for wine of the vintage, certainly on the Right Bank. This is an ethereal wine that excites and enchants. The 50 year old vines (54% Cabernet Franc, 46% Merlot), only managed yields of 32 hl/ha, and thus this is a wine of remarkable intensity and complexity.

(JR 17+. WS 92 – 94. RP 91 – 93+)

**CH CHEVAL BLANC, 1ER GRAND CRU CLASSE 800 – 1200 2015 - 2035**

Cheval Blanc is often difficult to taste from barrel. However this 2004 showed exceptionally well and is excellent. Very fine and intense with masses of dark raspberry fruit and a hugely appealing bittersweet finish.

(JR 18.5/20. WS 95-100. RP 93 – 95.)

**CH L'ANGELUS, 1ER GRAND CRU CLASSE 450 – 600 2013 - 2023**

This is one of the most concentrated and powerful Angelus of recent years. Rich, opulent with tons of super ripe sweet fruit and great balance, this really is exceptional. 60% Merlot, 40% Cabernet Franc it combines the seduction of the former with the discipline of the latter.

(JR 17/20. WS 92 – 94. RP 92 – 94.)



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**CH FIGEAC, 1ER GRAND CRU CLASSE** 300 – 450 2015 - 2030

Normally Ch Figeac has a very high proportion of Cabernet. However this year it is a blend of 30% Merlot, 35% Cabernet Franc, 35% Cabernet Sauvignon. This has given the wine a marked freshness and intensity whilst the tannins are pretty serious. It's an extremely fine Figeac but it will take time. As Jancis points out: "I urge wine lovers to remember that this is a property that repeatedly hides its light under a bushel early on".

(JR 16.5/20.)

**CH CANON, 1ER GRAND CRU CLASSE** 180 – 250 2013 – 2026

We really enjoyed this excellent Ch Canon, a Chateau that is really hitting the high notes again thanks to the investment of Chanel and the management of John Kolasa. It is a rare example of St Emilion made for drinking and enjoying rather than to win blind tastings. Jancis Robinson wrote:

"A dancing lively wine with real finesse. This is the airiest right bank wine so far. Bravo. Pure pleasure"

(JR 17.5/20. WS 89 – 91.)

**CH PAVIE MACQUIN, GRAND CRU CLASSE** 200 – 300 2013 - 2026

Nicolas Thienpont is making excellent wines at Pavie Macquin, helped by Stephane Derenoncourt. This is superstylish with a lovely velvet texture. Ripe and juicy but with a no-nonsense structure, this is very sophisticated indeed. It should also offer great value.

(JR 16.5/20. WS 89 – 91. RP 92 – 95.)

Highly recommended

**CH TROPLONG MONDOT, 1ER GRAND CRU CLASSE**  
200 – 300 2012 - 2025

A powerhouse St Emilion with a huge density of black fruit, very powerful tannins and plenty of sweet oak. Although it was quite mute when we tasted it, with time it will, doubtless, develop into a showy, appealing bottle of wine.

(JR 17/20. WS 89 – 91. RP 92 – 94.)

**CH ROL VALENTIN, GRAND CRU** 189 2011 - 2020

Another Derenoncourt-managed property that has revelled under his skills. Although it must be classed under the 'garage wine' category it has class and a certain elegance. Only 1600 or so cases are made of this fleshy, sweet wine that offers quality way above its price.

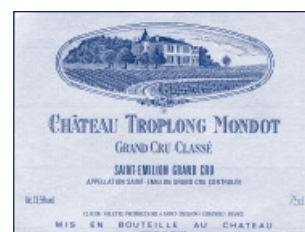
(JR 16. WS 89 – 91.)

**CH BELLEVUE, GRAND CRU CLASSE** 150 – 220 2013 - 2028

This small 6ha estate owned by the de Connick family has arisen phoenix-like since Nicolas Thienpont was appointed as manager in 2000. Since then this exceptional limestone terroir has produced a series of excellent wines.

The 2004 is great. Very fine, very pure with a polished stylish structure, it is proper St Emilion. This is a far cry from the over extracted wines that have enjoyed such fashion in recent years.

(WS 89 – 91. RP 90 – 91?)



**CH BERLIQUET, GRAND CRU** 120 – 180 2011 - 2021

Patrick Valette has dramatically reduced the new oak on this wine and in our view this was inspired. This stood out at the St Emilion tasting this year. In a room full of black, extracted wines, this was a beacon of purity and freshness, a wine made in the tradition of great Bordeaux.

(JR 17/20.)

Highly recommended

**CH MOULIN ST GEORGES, GRAND CRU** 120 – 180 2010 - 2020

This is a spectacular wine from a vineyard adjoining Ausone and made by the Ausone team. Absolutely delicious, packed with autumnal fruit with a deeply attractive texture, this is one of the great St Emilions.

**CH LARMANDE, GRAND CRU CLASSE** 120 – 160 2010 - 2020

This is wine that will give real pleasure. It is a beautifully made, dark juicy wine with lots of super-savoury flavour. Year after year Larmande proves to be delicious in bottle and this will be no exception.



**CH COTE DE BALEAU, GRAND CRU** 80 – 100 2010 – 2018

An absolutely delicious wine laden with sweet currant fruit. Long, very juicy and explosive, this will make excellent, mid term drinking.

Highly recommended

**POMEROL**

Estimated £/cs      Drinking dates  
In Bond UK

**CH LE PIN** 2000 – 3000 2012 - 2030

Having kept us hungry by refusing to bottle a 2003, Jacques Thienpont has apparently made a stunning 2004. It is said to taste like Grand Cru Burgundy such is its balance and sheer approachability. Bursting with dark fruit, with silky tannins and great complexity, this is Le Pin back on peak form.

(RP 93 – 95.)



**CH L'EVANGILE** 500 – 800 2012 - 2025

Made by the winemaking team at Ch Lafite this is the classiest and most sophisticated of Pomerols. This is so enjoyable with a silky palate and masses of sweet damson fruit. Despite its 90% Merlot this magnificent wine benefits from some very attractive Cabernet which adds a real sense of balance.

(JR 16.5. WS 89 – 91. RP 90 – 93.)

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## CH L'ÉGLISE CLINET

450 – 600 2012 - 2025

Denis Durantou was in engaging, smiling form when we popped into his winery next to the Pomerol graveyard the other day. He has been making extraordinary wines at L'Église Clinet since the mid 1980s, wines that are only rivalled by Cheval Blanc and Ausone.

Super-stylish with great intensity of flavour and a polished, svelte structure, it was one of the most exciting wines that we tasted. Very intense and poised it is as Bordelais in style as the 2003 was Mediterranean. Probably our pick of the Right Bank.

(JR 17.5 /20. WS 89 – 91. RP 90 – 92+.)

Highly recommended

## VIEUX CHATEAU CERTAN

350 – 450 2012 - 2025

The team at Vieux Chateau Certan carried out 4 green harvests in 2004 despite the venerable age of this fabulous estate's vines. We cannot better James Suckling's note which says it all:

"This is pure cashmere on the palate. Full-bodied, with incredibly long, silky tannins. An absolute joy to taste. In fact, it is amazing for the vintage. Seductive with a capital "S." This evokes the excellent 2000. The Cabernet Franc made this wine magic. One of the greatest young Vieux-Château-Certans I have ever tasted."

(JR 18.5/20. WS 95 – 100. RP 90 – 93.)



## LA CONSEILLANTE

300 – 450 2012 - 2025

This is a beautifully proportioned Conseillante, discreetly charming, elegant and pure. It was refreshing to taste a Pomerol of such traditional character rather than the overextracted wines that we have had to suffer in recent years. Creamy and plump it will give enormous pleasure.

(JR 16.5+.)

## CH FEYTIT CLINET

220 – 260 2112 - 2025

We have followed this brilliant little Pomerol estate for several vintages and always look forward to tasting the latest wine. Nicolas Chasseuil is justly delighted with his 2004. The blend is 95% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc and both green harvesting and selection in the cellar were severe. The wine is silky and fine with beautifully polished tannins. Thanks to yields of 47hl/ha, this wine also has great intensity and complexity.

Highly recommended.



## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

All wines are offered In Bond England (i.e. all shipping and bottling charges are included). We will arrange shipment in autumn 2005. On arrival your wines can either be delivered directly to you or stored Under Bond at our independent storage company, Private Reserves, at a cost of £7.50 ex Vat per case per annum. If you decide to take delivery, Duty and Vat will be payable. These charges are at present £15.09 and 17.5% respectively. Carriage will be charged at cost.

Unfortunately we are unable to split cases. Payment is due 30 days after date of invoice. We reserve the right to charge interest on overdue accounts.

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"This is a great place to go for Bordeaux from major properties, with a host of offerings from 1986 to the latest vintages. But there's plenty of competition in that arena and more compelling reasons to choose Goedhuis can be found in the ranges from Burgundy, the Rhone, the Loire and Italy. This merchant tries hard to track down excellent little-known producers, and the enthusiasm evident from the short profiles on the list is infectious. The minimum buy is an unmixed case, but while these are all serious, elegant wines they are not all seriously expensive. It is well worth getting on the mailing list for en primeur offers and regular bin-end sales."

*Which Wine Guide 2005*

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