

WINE News

Vive la Bordeaux! Storm our summer supplement for the best Bordeaux futures and wines in stock now.



JULY 8, 2019 FEATURES

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| 1 | 2018 Bordeaux Pre-Arrivals | 5 | Steve's In-Stock Standouts |
| 2 | Ralph's World-Class Values | 6 | Drink Today with Jacques |
| 3 | 2016 Pre-Arrival and In Stock | 7 | Clyde's Top In-Stock Picks |
| 4 | Alex Advocates for l'Avocat | 8 | Older Classics; Great Guiraud |

Everyone Loves Bordeaux

By Clyde Beffa Jr.



We have just finished the exciting 2018 pre-arrival campaign, and now we can focus on all of Bordeaux, from the newest to the oldest wines. So, I will start page 1 with some of my highlights from the 2018 vintage, and Ralph will talk about his favorite value wine of 2018 on page 2. Then on page 3, I will talk about 2016 Bordeaux both in stock and pre-arrival. This excellent vintage is not to be

missed. Alex, on page 4, focuses on the delicious 2007 vintage, and the old and new wines from Château L'Avocat. Steve's page 5 is a mix of 2016 values and 2009–2012 values. Jacques will fill page 6 with older vintages from 1998–2007, and I will finish pages 7 and 8 with some great young Bordeaux and then older Bordeaux, and white wines. We do not have a lot of space, so let's begin.

2018 Bordeaux Pre-Arrivals — Clyde Loves These

2018 Potensac, Haut-Médoc (\$26.99) I really loved this 2018. Could this be the next 1997 Potensac for K&L? We sold more than 20,000 bottles of that beauty—and for the same price as this 2018! This was, and is, the best-tasting out-of-barrel Potensac I have ever had. It was very fruity and sweet on the palate. A great Northern Medoc in 2018.

2018 Couvent des Jacobins, St-Emilion (\$34.99) This is the first vintage of this property we have carried since about 2006. So sweet on the nose, showing boysenberry aromas that follow to the sweet and sexy, fruity palate. Very elegant.

2018 Réserve de Comtesse Lalande, Pauillac (\$46.99) To me, one of the best second wines in *all* of Bordeaux—including the second wines of the first growths! This is so good, with toasty nuances and sweet fruit throughout. You just want to drink it right now—but wait a few years.

2018 Branaire-Ducru, St-Julien (\$54.99) Elegant wine with ripe roses on the nose and palate. Lush wine with sweet, ripe tannins. Fresh and full. 2018 Bordeaux from St-Julien are exceptionally good.

2018 Duhart-Milon, Pauillac (\$79.99) Again, this was one of the best Duharts I have ever tasted. Superb balance and sweet cassis fruit. No hard edges. Awesome!

2018 Léoville-Barton, St-Julien (\$89.99) The *best*, or *one of the best*, values in all of 2018 Bordeaux. The Cabernet sings here—this wine may well receive this property's first 100-point rating. And all for under \$100! It is selling very well. Say a little prayer for our great friend and consummate gentleman-owner, Anthony Barton.

2018 Lynch-Bages, Pauillac (\$129.99) Their 2018 is quite similar to their excellent 2014 and 2016. Pencil lead and graphite aromas with toasting oak. Outstanding structure and packed with ripe cassis fruit.

2018 Pichon-Lalande, Pauillac (\$189.99) Pichon-Lalande is on a roll—just like their golden years of the 1980s. This wine could be as good as their otherworldly 1983. So elegant and sweet. This is a must-buy among the 2018 Bordeaux wines.

(Continued on page 7)

Cover: Summer at K&L fave Château Lanessan.

World-Class Values from the 2018 Vintage!

By Ralph Sands



We hear the same thing repeatedly: “Bordeaux is so expensive.” This is a huge misconception. But I understand, since I also have many wines in my collection that I no longer buy. Times change, prices change, and I have moved on.

Bordeaux has over 9,000 wineries, and most of them are hundreds of years old. No other fine wine region in the world features such astonishing diversity, from luxury brands to phenomenal, affordable wines that offer tremendous, world-class value.*

I’ve always been a value guy and I get very excited talking about these estates to my customers. I firmly believe these are some of the wines you should absolutely get to get to know and personally experience.

Get to know the wines of third growth Calon-Ségur! I have a great memory of the 1926, the oldest wine I have tasted, as well as the 1995 and 2003. Vines have been grown here since the Middle Ages, and after a five-year renovation by new ownership and sharp administration, Calon returns to its place as one of the crown jewels of the commune of St-Estephe along with **Cos (\$199.99)** and **Montrose (\$179.99)**. Even during the renovations, they made an outstanding wine in 2014, 2015, and 2016. Pay special attention to the second wine, **Marquis de Calon (\$29.99)**, as it drinks earlier. Their Cru Bourgeois estate, **Capbern (\$24.99)**, is also outstanding and a top-selling wine here, to drink young. I buy this wine in magnum and serve it at family and holiday parties—everybody is happy; most importantly, me! It disappears quickly, as it is high-quality wine.

In my 53 visits to Bordeaux I must have asked a million questions. One I always ask to people in the trade is: outside of the super-famous wines, what is your favorite wine? A high percentage have quickly answered **Château Lafon-Rochet**, the fourth growth also from St-Estephe. I recently enjoyed a great bottle of the 2000, which is teasing and tempting me to get into my 2005s. The dark-fruited and serious 2018 is one of my tip-top recommendations at **\$44.99**.

The commune of Margaux is absolutely exploding with great value! Stunning wines are being made by Marjolaine de Coninck at **Château Marquis D’Alesme (\$44.99)** and **Labégorce (\$29.99)**. Edouard Miaillhe has **Siran (\$29.99)** on a huge roll of quality in the last five years. The exact same can be said for Sophie Schyler and her new cellar at **Château Kirwan (\$44.99)**. I know I’m not offending anyone by saying those wines, with the help of modern technology and state-of-the-art viticulture, are by far the finest wines in the history of those estates.

Any conversation of great value Bordeaux must include **Poujeaux (\$31.99)** and **Cantemerle (\$29.99)**, two properties with many vintages buried in my cellar. But there is no way we can leave out **Malescot-St-Exupery (\$57.99)**, by far the greatest value in Margaux. Malescot gives

Margaux, Palmer, and Rauzan-Ségla more than a run for the money, and gets my money every year!

St-Julien is a sweet spot for me in 2018. **Branair-Ducru (\$54.99)** is just a beautiful wine, with lovely cassis fruit, freshness, and elegance! The Barton family wines were strong and impressive. **2018 Langoa-Barton (\$49.99)** performed all three times tasted and the **Léoville-Barton (\$89.99)** showcased the powerful blue-purple fruit that has made it a top-selling wine here for decades. In 2018, for the very first time in my career, **Léoville-Poyferre (\$94.99)** is my top Léoville! Deep, rich wine, with layers of sweet fruit, great middle fruit texture, flesh, and rounded tannins. It’s the complete package, and just superb!

Let’s not forget about Pessac-Léognan, where the great **Domaine de Chevalier** comes in at **\$79.99** and the 2018 may well turn out like the fantastic 1988. Another wine that flies under the radar, and price, of their famous neighbors, is **Latour-Martillac (\$39.99)**. Deep, silky and lush, it is a delicious wine that, I believe, may turn out like their 2000. **Malartic-Lagravière (\$49.99)** is another jewel, making **white (\$54.99)** and red wine of elegance, purity, freshness, and great taste.

Right Bank values include **Tour-St-Christophe (\$29.99)** and **Canon-la-Gaffelière (\$89.99)**. From Pomerol, **La Cabanne** is a lovely drink for **\$39.99!**

You can certainly begin to build a fantastic wine collection with these world-class values.

Cheers and Go Giants!



Ralph Sands, left, and Clyde Beffa, center, sample the 2018 vintage at Château Pontet-Canet, which produced one of the top wines of 2018.

*To put this in perspective, the two great California emulations of Bordeaux wine, Opus One and Dominus, were established in 1979 and 1983, and the current vintage prices are \$329.99 and \$299.00, respectively.

My Picks for 2016 Bordeaux — Pre-Arrival and In Stock

By Clyde Beffa Jr.

Pre-Arrival 2016

2016 Bellevue, St-Emilion (\$49.99) Hubert de Boüard has turned this property into one of the best values in St-Emilion. **97 JS:** “A dense and layered red with ripe plums and blueberries, as well as hints of wet earth and moss. Full-bodied, velvety and layered with fantastic fruit and creamy, velvety tannins. Plush and deep. Great wine.”

2016 Fonplegade, St-Emilion (\$54.99) Keep your eye on this property—they are on a roll. **95 JS:** “A very suave, modern-style St-Emilion with fine blackberry aromas and some bitter chocolate. Excellent balance of fruit, generous velvety tannins and lively acidity on the rich palate. Long, clean and supple finish.”

2016 Léoville-Barton, St-Julien (\$109.99) This wine blew us away when we tasted it out of barrel.

97 JS: “Terrific intensity of dark berries, almost peppery blackcurrants and violets with attractive and integrated, spicy oak and an earthy edge. The palate has a super powerful and long, linear core with plenty of fruit flesh strapped in tight for a long and thrilling ride into the finish.”



Team vintage 2016 heads in to meet the Bartons—Langoa and Léoville.

2016 Pontet-Canet, Pauillac (\$159.99) Another smashing success from Alfred Tesseron. Close to the 2009 and 2010 in quality, and almost half the price. Jean-Michel Comme says it is the best vintage in recent years, a reference point for the estate, with more definition and precision than the 2010 Pontet-Canet.

2016 Lynch-Bages, Pauillac (\$169.99) The 2016 Lynch-Bages was a study in quiet power, confident and self-assured. “Perhaps the best we have ever made from a technical perspective,” noted owner Jean-Michel Cazes. A wine of extraordinary concentration—one of the wines of the vintage. An epiphany in a glass. **97 RP**

2016 Cos d’Estournel, St-Estephe (\$229.99) One of our biggest sellers in 2016. We just got a bit more to sell. **100 JS:** “This is muscular yet so well defined and toned. Full-bodied with deep and dense fruit on the palate, yet powerful and rich at the same time. So much sandalwood and blackberry character. Chewy and rich at the finish.”

2016 Figeac, St-Emilion (\$249.99) My notes when tasting it from the barrel: “Off the charts here—top ten of the vintage. A must buy. These guys are on a roll. Fabulous wine.” **100 VN:** “The stunning 24-carat bouquet rivets you to the spot with brilliant delineation and mineral-rich red fruit that articulates its terroir as well as any Right Bank you will find.”

In-Stock 2016

These wines are starting to arrive. Do not miss this vintage! Here are a bunch under \$50 and a couple of classics.

2016 Puygueraud, Francs-Côtes de Bordeaux (\$19.99) **94 JS:** “This is so good! I want to drink it now. Iodine, mushrooms, dark fruit and orange peel on the nose and palate. Full-bodied, yet polished and fresh. Lovely tension.”

2016 Cap St-George, St-Georges-St-Emilion (\$22.99) **90-91 JS:** “A solid red with lots of ripe-fruit and stone character. Mineral. Medium body, juicy fruit and a savory finish. Shows potential.”

2016 Clarke, Lustrac (\$23.99) **92 JS:** “Currant and cherry aromas are underlined with iron and rust. Medium-to full-bodied, firm and chewy yet polished and poised. Tension and style at the end.”

2016 Bellegrave, Pauillac (\$24.99) Great terroir near Latour and Pichon-Lalande. I fondly remember the years we stayed at this property, compliments of that great Bordeaux lover and dear friend, the late Henry van der Voort.

2016 La Fleur de Boüard, Lalande-de-Pomerol (\$29.99) **93 JS:** “Fragrant and spicy, ripe and juicy with a ton of crushed berry character. The generous, supple tannins nicely support the full body and long, silky finish.”

2016 Sansonnet, St-Emilion (\$44.99) We love this wine. In fact, many years ago we did our Kalinda label with this property. **96 JD:** “An estate that has been firing on all cylinders recently, the Merlot-dominated wine sports a saturated ruby color as well as a beautiful bouquet of macerated black cherries, blackcurrants, smoked earth, spice, and tobacco.”

2016 Fleur Cardinale, St-Emilion (\$49.99) One of our favorites since the 2009 vintage. Lovely wine. **95 JD:** “Deep ruby/purple-colored, with a stunning nose of smoked black fruits, classy oak, violets, and camphor, this beauty hits the palate with full-bodied richness, beautiful purity, ripe, present, polished tannins, and a great finish. It’s a beautiful wine from this tip-top estate that has the class to keep for two decades or more.”

2016 La Gaffeliere, St-Emilion (\$74.99) Here is a property to watch now, and in the future—the terroir is outstanding, and the new team is superb. This one has received several 94–97s from the writers.

2016 Clos Fourtet, St-Emilion (\$119.99) **97 JD:** “One of the gems in the vintage that should be snatched up by readers is the 2016 Château Clos Fourtet.”



Advocating l'Avocat; Sweet and Savory 2007

By Alex Schroeder



It is always a great pleasure for a wine merchant to share a particularly under-the-radar value to his customers. And, upon tasting a flight of wines from Château l'Avocat in Graves, it is clear that such an opportunity is upon us!

Château l'Avocat is located in Cerons, just north of Barsac and Sauternes, and offers Bordeaux enthusiasts a unique value in terms of quality: it is family-owned and operated; its vineyards lie on an elevated plateau just a few meters from the Garonne river, and its soils are chock-full of gravel and limestone that impart notable minerality and drain quite well.

Before being purchased and renovated by the Allison family in 2002, the fruit produced there was sold to the Mouton Rothschild group, meaning that this relatively new and unestablished family-owned label is still available to consumers at a great price.

Take the **2004 Château l'Avocat "Cuvée Speciale" (\$29.99)**, for example. It is made using the painstaking "vinification integrale" process, where the hand-picked fruit is macerated on the skins inside the barrel for three weeks, then aged in new oak for 18 months. After 15 years, this wine is one seriously sexy sipper for \$29.99. It has a rich, dark fruit core framed by toasty oak, with hints of smoked meats and aged leather. The tannins are round and silky smooth, and the wine is overall still



The tower at Château l'Avocat.

very fresh and vibrant. As our resident Bordeaux expert Ralph Sands put it after tasting it blind, "We thought it was Margaux, Margaux."

The **2009 l'Avocat "Cuvée Speciale" (\$29.99)** is from one of the best vintages of that decade, and it shows. It has pure, rich wild berry fruits on the nose with a hint of toast. It is a rich, plush wine but still has plenty of freshness and verve, and a pleasant finish that goes and goes. Again, at \$29.99 this would easily hold its own at any high-end dinner party.

The **2016 Château l'Avocat, Graves (\$17.99)** is the château's current release. It is very expressive, with loads of fresh berries, cranberries, and a hint of orange peel on the nose. The fruit is fresh, with just a pleasant hint of vanilla from the oak. It is bright, ripe and fresh, with great acidity and balance.

Savoring the '07s

2007 is indeed one of the "Clyde vintages." When the wines came out in early 2008, critics were quick to dismiss them overall because of the cool spring and summer conditions. After thirty years in the wine business, however, the K&L team knows better. This is the type of vintage Bordeaux value-seekers love, and 12 years later, these diligently found over-performers show why.

2007 Haut-Bailly, Pessac-Léognan (\$89.99) This is the best price on a great, classic Pessac powerhouse that I've seen. It has an intoxicating nose that includes red cherry, cigar box, dusty minerals, smoke, and cedar. Sweet cherry kirsch comes out on the palate along with silky tannins and a wonderful integration of flavors. This will continue to age gracefully.

2007 La Prade, Côtes de Francs (\$15.99) What a knockout in the under-\$20 category! Rich plummy fruit, smoky game, leather, and an incredibly robust, silky texture. Despite the richness, it has great balance at 13.5% abv and grippy tannins that coat the mouth on the long finish.

2007 Lanessan, Haut-Médoc (\$19.99) This is what we call "old-school Bordeaux" at its best. It has plenty of lovely earthy flavors in addition to the dark-currant core: cloves, smoke, minerals, and a nice peppery freshness. The tannins are soft, and converge with the acidity on the finish for a surprisingly long finish.

2007 Branas Grand Poujeaux, Moulis (\$24.99) From the famed Grand Poujeaux vineyard in Moulis, this Merlot-dominant Left Bank blend has plenty of ripeness! It boasts rich red fruit with hints of tertiary leather and smoke. It has thus far aged very well. The tannins are big and ripe and coat the mouth, keeping the sweet red fruit on the palate for quite a long time. This is a very good wine for the price.

The Sweet '07s

Unlike their red counterparts, the sweet wines of 2007 were immediately universally acclaimed. The dry autumn conditions allowed growers to wait for botrytis to develop, with low, concentrated yields and great freshness from the cool autumn nights.

2007 Raymond-Lafon, Sauternes (\$29.99) Rich, lush, and sweet with honeycomb, dried apricots and tangerine notes, and great acid-to-sweetness balance. This is a remarkably on-point, aged Sauternes for \$29.99.

2007 Rieussec, Sauternes (\$69.99) The Lafite group took Rieussec to the next level in 2007. Rich and layered with notes of dried honey, lemon citrus, apricots, and white flowers, it definitely has great sweetness but also lift and vibrancy from the acidity. This is definitely one of the most drinkable Sauternes on our shelves right now.



Steve's In-Stock Standouts

By Steve Bearden



While the trickle of wines from the stellar 2016 Bordeaux vintage becomes a steady flow here at K&L, we have also been able to re-load on some of the great 2009s, as well as a trio from one of our favorite St-Emilion

producers. The following list of standout Bordeaux in stock now should have something for all palates and budgets.

2016 Baron de Malleret, Haut-Médoc (\$13.99)

This screaming deal encapsulates everything that is great about the 2016 Bordeaux vintage. This is smooth, sweet, and glossy, with lush raspberry fruit accented by cocoa and vanilla shadings. There is plenty of freshness and length along with ideal ripeness in this easy-drinking beauty.

2016 Beausejour "Cuvée Prestige" Fronsac (\$14.99)

Hearty, chewy, and packed with earthy blackberry fruit, this is a monster mouthful of Merlot that drinks well above its price. Tannins that are thick, ripe, and smooth hold down the finish and keep this from being more than just a fruit bomb. This is a substantial bargain to drink now or cellar for up to five years.

2016 La Fleur de Boüard, Lalande-de-Pomerol (\$29.99) This is a surprisingly suave and sophisticated version of this wine, probably due to the impeccable balance of the 2016 vintage. The red fruit, berry, and chocolate cherry flavors in the supple mid-palate flow effortlessly into a lingering finish of persistent herbal nuance and fine tannin. A wonderful marriage of weight, texture and elegance.

2015 Barde-Haut, St-Emilion (\$44.99)

A bit more flamboyant than many Barde-Haut offerings and showing the richness of the vintage, but with plenty of tension and telltale mineral on the finish. This shows off ripe raspberries, fig, and dark plum fruit in the dense middle before the tannin and mineral buried underneath pull the finish along.



2014 Barde-Haut, St-Emilion (\$34.99) This is filled with ripe red fruits, cedar, and milk chocolate in a rich but clean style that shows off the structure of the vintage. Hints of savory herb, light tobacco and subtle spice show up on the finish. Delicious now but with a long life ahead.

2012 Barde-Haut, St-Emilion (\$26.99) A little extra time in the bottle has softened the harder edges of this bargain. This is grapy and bright, with firm, dark plum fruit, and hints of damp soil. Though noticeably resolved since release, the finish remains clean and fresh. Drink tonight or age many more years.

2009 Paloumey, Haut-Médoc (\$19.99)

It's easy to see why this somewhat flashy but well-proportioned wine has been such a huge seller here at K&L. This is rather lush, with aromas of damp earth, oak and tobacco mingling with oodles of baked plum and blackberry fruit. A hint of warm cranberry cobbler on the finish keeps this lively and fresh tasting.

2009 Priban, Haut-Médoc (\$19.99)

A few years of bottle age have done wonders for the sumptuous, plump 2009 Bordeaux wines, and this one has really benefited. This is earthy and fruity, with generous cherry pie and warm fig flavors filling the middle, and touches of spice bathing the gentle finish of ripe tannins. Rather opulent, and a delicious drink for tonight.

2009 Guiraud, Sauternes (\$59.99)

Here is a substantial wine that impresses more with richness than sweetness. This fat and waxy wine is crammed with honey, orange oil, papaya, saffron, ginger, and tarragon, in a creamy and mouth-filling style. Opulent, exotic and one of the stars of the appellation.



Aged, Ready-to-Drink Wines to Please any Palate—and Pocket!

By Jacques Moreira



What do we look for in a bottle of aged wine—Bordeaux wine, to be more precise?

For most of us, it is a sense of a perfect balance, nothing sticking out anymore—it's a round sensation. And most definitely, those captivating tertiary components on the nose and the palate, i.e., leather, tobacco, dried leaves, and exotic spices. Although it is no longer about the fruit, that still has to be

present—just not on the forefront anymore.

It is an altogether different experience than drinking a young, succulent wine. For me, an aged wine conjures up images of a fireplace, a calm and elegant dinner, close friends, polite conversation, and even meditation!

It is not easy to find such wines routinely available, and above all, with an affordable price tag. And even when you do, you might not know the producer well, or the vintage, etc. So, I hope to be able to guide you by introducing these exciting aged wines, from an array of vintages and appellations in Bordeaux. Voici les vins:

1998 De Viaud, Lalande-de-Pomerol (\$35.99)

I could not describe this wine without mentioning how excellent 1998 was for the wines of St-Émilion, and (especially) Pomerol. Indeed, the Merlot and Cabernet Franc grapes were harvested under exceptional conditions that year, and that clearly shows in this bottle. The fruit is very much still there—cassis, plums—but the emphasis is squarely placed on the overall quality of this wine. Rich, velvety, but never heavy. I wholeheartedly recommend this for those trying, perhaps for the first time, an aged Bordeaux.



2000 De Viaud, Lalande-de-Pomerol (\$26.99) Another great vintage for Bordeaux and this wine shows a bit more structure than its 1998 counterpart, with ripened tannins, firmly framing its also perfectly ripened fruit! It sure is ready to be enjoyed, but you could easily keep this Right Bank beauty for another five years or so.

2001 Coufran, Haut-Médoc (\$19.99) This mostly Merlot wine, a fact that is quite unusual for being in the heart of the Haut-Médoc, is displaying a firm, earthy character, with the fruit very much in the background. A style of Merlot that will surprise those accustomed to a fleshier, soft, fruity wine, the 2001 Coufran is certainly for those that appreciate an old-school Bordeaux that is ready to be enjoyed with a hearty dinner.



1999 La Closserie du Poujeaux, Moulis (\$29.99)

First time tasting this small producer that borders Chasse-Spleen. And word on the street is that the 1999 was their best vintage ever. The wine is ready to go, with lots character. Our Champagne buyer, Gary Westby, wrote a great article on our [blog](#) about it, and you should take a look.

2002 Lanessan, Haut-Médoc (\$19.99) From a very cool vintage, the 2002 Lanessan offers a very “classic” experience. Medium-bodied, with notes of cherry, tobacco, forest floor, and an earthy edge that I find irresistible. To be drunk now, no need of decanting. Also sure to please the admirers of old-school claret.



2002 Matras, St-Émilion (\$29.99) From a difficult vintage that's all but forgotten—I must confess I wasn't expecting much. Yet I could not contain my surprise upon tasting this perfectly developed wine that still has a delicious, sweet fruit core with plenty of plums, along with coffee, and even a touch of kirsch and chocolate! It is rich, approachable, and picture-perfect aged Bordeaux. The 2002 Matras is a candidate for a case or two in the cellar.

2005 Haut-Bergey, Pessac-Léognan (\$44.99)

One of my favorite wines of 2005 that is just about perfect to enjoy now! Impeccably made, with a generous amount of fruit surrounded by the elegant aromatics of leather, dark chocolate, and tobacco. Ripe tannins as well. It is showing beautifully right now, but without a doubt it will keep aging (and getting better) for another 10 years or so. It is also a wine to consider purchasing by the case and enjoy for many years to come.



1997 Rieussec, Sauternes (\$89.99) We had the pleasure and honor of tasting at this Rothschild property with none other than Saskia Rothschild, along with the 2000 and 2015 Château Lafite Rothschild, among others from their portfolio of properties. Needless to say it was a memorable tasting. The 1997 Rieussec showed very attractive notes of poached pears, orange cream, vanilla, and spices. It is thick but perfectly balanced by its acidity. Saskia suggests trying it with fresh oysters with cracked black pepper. I must do so soon!



Bordeaux In Stock from \$14 to \$300

By Clyde Beffa Jr.

Younger Bordeaux (2009-2016) to collect or drink. There is something here for every pocketbook.

2015 Fleur la Mothe, Haut-Médoc (\$17.99) Ugly label, but delicious value Bordeaux. The 30% new barrels really show in this toasty, spicy wine. This intense wood aging is saved by the rich underlying fruit that delivers great concentration and blackberry flavors.

2016 l'Avocat Rouge, Graves (\$17.99) This has just arrived—vibrant, lively, and a superb value. Ask Ralph about it. The texture is silky and elegant—there's rich, plummy fruit, graphite, and seamless oak. Is this vintage their best to date?

2016 Haut-Musset, Lalande de Pomerol (\$17.99) Haut-Musset is one of the up-and-coming Bordeaux properties you'd be wise to keep an eye on. A small estate of ten acres, it's run by husband-and-wife team Véronique Abbadie and Jérôme Aguirre. Fruity, vibrant, lively. A pure delight.

2009 Priban, Haut-Médoc (\$19.99)

The vineyards of Château Priban cover less than one hectare in the Haut-Médoc. A classic Bordeaux blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Petit Verdot. The property is very close to Château Cantemerle. Do not confuse with the Pauillac brand, Pibran. Elegant and sweet here.

2015 Siaurac, Lalande de Pomerol (\$21.99) A beautiful château that we visited in 2017. This wine is soft and fruity with some plummy characteristics

2015 Lilian Ladouys, St-Estephe (\$24.99)

If you're searching for an amazing value from a top Left Bank commune, try this one. It has rich cherry and licorice notes, with considerable power and structure from the tannins. This will undoubtedly age gracefully for at least another 20 years. We also have their great-tasting 2014 for the same price—it is less opulent and maybe has better acid and balance. You must buy a magnum of their 1989 that is due in. Sublime.



2015 Moulin du Cadet, St-Emilion (\$27.99) This is another serious example of the value potential from 2015. It has plush, soft tannins, ripe fruit flavors of red currants and cranberries, and a touch of vanilla and oak. I loved their 1970 and I love this one also.

2015 Potensac, Médoc (\$28.99) Well, we sold more than 24,000 bottles of their 1997, and this one is even better. Lots of richness on the palate and a lingering finish.

2016 Belgrave, Haut-Médoc (\$39.99) Our good friend James Suckling scores it **94** points: "Very perfumed with lots of Cabernet character, such as flowers and blackcurrants. Full body, a pretty core of fruit and very polished tannins that fold into the fruit. Extremely well crafted."

2015 and 2016 Roc de Cambes, Côtes de Bourg (\$54.99) Do not miss these two beauties from the Tertre Roteboeuf people. The 2016 Roc de Cambes is powerful, tightly wound, and closed—it needs another year in bottle. The '15 is much softer on the palate; forward and fruity.

2010 Léoville-Las Cases, St-Julien (\$299.99)

Crème of the crop here. **100 WE**: "A hugely powerful wine, full of dark, brooding tannins. It's a wine for seriously long-term aging, a sculptural vision of classic Bordeaux structure with classy, ripe blackberry fruits. It has fresh acidity and an immense full-bodied character, cut through with mineral acidity. A great wine, with great potential."

Large Format Bordeaux (3.0L to 6L) from Château Labégorce (1988-2001)

No wine shop in America sells more Labégorce than K&L. We love the old ones and we just got some in-direct from the property. Party time—old school, for sure.



(Continued from page 1)

2018 Ducru-Beaucaillou, St-Julien (\$199.99) Another fabulous St-Julien for 2018! Seamless, lush, sexy wine. Better than their 2015? Time will tell. Bravo, Bruno Borie.

2018 Figeac, St-Emilion (\$239.99) This is truly an A-rated wine and one of my favorites for 2018. Black and red fruits shine. Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon team up here. Will age for a long time, but very accessible now.

2018 Lafite Rothschild, Pauillac (\$679.99) Yes, it is expensive. Lafite always is expensive! This, for our group, was (along with Latour) the best wine we tasted in 2018 Bordeaux. Enough said—if you can afford a bottle, put one in the cellar.

Bordeaux Oldies, Values, and Classics—Plus a Top Sticky

By Clyde Beffa Jr.

1996 Lynch-Moussas, Pauillac (\$69.99) Lovely wine from a great property that flies under the radar. Toasty aromas, sweet Cabernet fruit. Over 20 years old and still fresh as a daisy.

1998 Pavie-Decesse, St-Emilion (\$169.99) 96 RP: “Full-bodied, concentrated and packed with rich exotic spice and black fruit preserves layers. Incredible!”

1998 Clos de Sarpe, St-Emilion (1.5L \$199.99) A must-try 20-plus-year-old. **94 RP**

2000 Clos de Sarpe, St-Emilion (1.5L \$289.99) 96 RP: “The 2000 Clos de Sarpe is medium to deep garnet-purple in color and very meaty on the nose with scents of charcuterie and beef drippings over a core of Black Forest cake, plum pudding and tobacco. Wow—medium to full-bodied, it absolutely fills the palate with sweet, rich, ripe fruit, supported by satiny tannins and oodles of freshness, finishing long and earthy.”

2002 Lanessan, Haut-Médoc (\$19.99), 2007 Lanessan, Haut-Médoc (\$19.99) Two fabulous values. K&L is the Lanessan headquarters of the US. We have sold thousands of their older wines (1981–2007). These are the last old-school Lanessans around. Real Bordeaux with no frills.

2005 Mouton Rothschild, Pauillac (1.5L \$1,750) 98 WS: “Gorgeous, with singed alder and juniper notes starting to strut their stuff, while the immense core of steeped red currant, blackberry and plum fruit continues to wait in reserve. A light sanguine thread weaves in on the back end, which is driven by a serious bolt of iron. Shows terrific grip, length and cut. A brick-house Pauillac built for the long haul.”

2006 Cantemerle, Haut-Médoc (1.5L \$109.99) One of the truly great Cantemerles. Great value wine for the cellar. Our favorite 2006 value.

2009 d’Yquem, Sauternes (\$579.99), 2015 d’Yquem, Sauternes (\$399.99) Two perfect 100-point Sauternes. Your choice.

2009 Les Forts de Latour, Pauillac (\$289.99) 2018 Release from the property. **95 JS:** “The aromas are so floral, with currants and blueberries as well. Succulent. Full and very balanced, with super velvety tannins and a long and lovely finish. I like the word gorgeous as well.”

2010 Pontet-Canet, Pauillac (\$289.99; 6-pack OWC \$1,650.00) Here we have **100** from both **JS** and **RP**. Is it better than the 2009? Let’s check in twenty years.

2015 Lafite Rothschild, Pauillac (\$699.99) 100 WE: “This is a great vintage from Lafite. The profile is rich in feel, with a seriously firm tannic structure. Solid, complex and with great authority, this Cabernet Sauvignon-dominant wine, is impressively dense in dark-fruit tones.”

Château Guiraud, Sauternes

Our biggest-selling Sauternes property. We love the balance and richness of this property. Unfortunately, there is no 2018 Guiraud because of the weather problems. Here are four great value stickies.

2001 Guiraud, Sauternes (\$64.99) 96 WS: “Golden yellow. Butterscotch and vanilla with hints of ripe apples; full-bodied, with lots of sweetness and a spicy apricot and honey aftertaste. Excellent concentration and balance. Loads of botrytis character on the finish. Intense. Hard to refrain from drinking it now, it’s so luscious and rich.” The best sticky vintage of the 21st Century.

2005 Guiraud, Sauternes (\$49.99) 97 WS: “Delivers lots of botrytis spice, with lemon tart and cooked apple. Full-bodied, with loads of cream and vanilla and an intense tropical fruit and honey aftertaste. Long and viscous, with a layered and beautiful spicy finish. Hard not to drink it now.” We sold more Guiraud 2005 than any other Sauternes, bottle-wise, with over 6,000 bottles sold.

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

2011 Guiraud, Sauternes (\$64.99) 99 JS: “This wine has exceptional clarity, balance and freshness, with lots of spicy botrytis character. Full body, medium-sweet and a crisp finish. It’s racy and refined. What’s impressive is the intensity of noble rot that makes the wine feel almost dry. This is the greatest wine ever made here.”



K&L REDWOOD CITY

3005 El Camino Real, Redwood City, CA 94061
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