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Primeurs 2010 Tasting notes  
 by Roger Bohmrich Master of Wine

## Primeurs 2010



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**Château Margaux***1er cru classé*

The 2010 Margaux has the highest proportion ever of Cabernet Sauvignon (90%) combined with 7% Merlot and 1.5% each of Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. It could easily be argued that the 2010 is the equal of the sublime 2009, yet it has a very different profile. The nose, while restrained, is extraordinarily impressive, offering extraordinary authority and depth. The palate reveals the black fruit expression associated with Cabernet Sauvignon of the highest caliber and perfect maturity. It is very firmly defined by ripe, fresh acidity and fine ripe tannins, finishing with subtle lingering cassis-black plum fruit. This noble, pure wine will no doubt have a very long life ahead.

**Château Rauzan-Ségla***2e cru classé*

The 2010 of this property is an assemblage of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot. From barrel, the wine is a dense cassis purple and reveals a complex, seductive black fruit and berry aroma, with flowery and dusty highlights. The polish of the wine at this stage is particularly striking and speaks of ideal fruit maturity and careful selection. Offering great purity and class, it is very long and well-balanced with finely-calibrated acidity and ripe, subtle tannins. Superb.

**Château Rauzan-Gassies***2e cru classé*

Overwhelmingly Cabernet Sauvignon in composition (85% of the blend, with Merlot and Petit Verdot), the 2010 Rauzan-Gassies is ripe, highly concentrated and reserved, showing muted black fruits, well-married new oak, and an accent of blackberry liqueur. Warm, ripe and expansive, this wine boasts a long, sweet finish with a pronounced fruit expression and cocoa-mocha touches. Based on this barrel sample, this could well be the very best wine from this chateau in memory.

**Château Lascombes***2e cru classé*

Saturated in color, the 2010 Lascombes is concentrated, warm and very ripe in the aroma with notes of fruit liqueur and cocoa. The taste is rich, flashy but controlled with sweet, liqueur-like flavors and ripe, concealed acidity. The 2010 continues the stylistic direction of the property and will no doubt be one of the best modern Lascombes.

**Château Giscours***3e cru classé*

Giscours' 2010 is a mix of 71% Cabernet Sauvignon and 29% Merlot and reveals a high-toned aroma of dark berries and black fruits with new oak accents. There are ripe, sweet dark fruits on the palate and an attractive texture. The finish has lasting ripe fruits and an overlay of new wood. This is a Giscours with plenty of flavor interest at this stage.

**Château Cantenac-Brown***3e cru classé*

Cantenac-Brown's 2010 barrel sample indicates that this property has broken through to a very high standard. A blend of 66% Cabernet Sauvignon and 34% Merlot, this Margaux is ripe and high toned, offering dark berries, spice and a mentholated note in the aroma. It follows through with a ripe, fresh and beautifully-defined palate with flair and elegance. This could well be Cantenac-Brown's finest modern vintage in the making.

**Château Palmer***3e cru classé*

Palmer's 2010 is instantly attractive to the eye with its opaque black plum-purple color. A blend which is very similar to 2009 (54% Merlot, 40% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Petit Verdot), the wine exhibits a reserved yet profound aroma with notable concentration and density. There is an immediate impression on the palate of sweet fruit and richness, though youthfully withheld. This is a large-scaled Palmer defined by ripe, superbly integrated acidity and very fine tannins. The wine is noble and harmonious already, with no austerity despite its structure.

**Château Desmirail***3e cru classé*

The nose of this 2010 is quite forthcoming, with smoky oak concealing dusty black fruits. It is focused and more controlled on the palate with a firm backbone of acidity and tannin.

**Château Prieuré-Lichine***4e cru classé*

The 2010 Prieure-Lichine combines 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and 5% Petit Verdot in the signature style of this property. Aromatically, the wine is very finely nuanced, very focused and fresh with notable intensity. It is absolutely lovely for its polish, poise and elegance, behind which are perfectly ripe black fruits and a ripe structure. This is an outstanding vintage of this chateau.

**Château Marquis de Terme***4e cru classé*

The 2010 Marquis de Terme is assuredly the finest, most complete vintage from this chateau for many years. The barrel sample reveals a saturated black plum-purple color and a high-toned nose of penetrating black fruits and berries with a fruit liqueur undertone. It is wonderfully ripe on the palate, very pure and very fresh as well. The flavors are held in but there is elegance and finesse while not missing concentration. A blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot and 5% Petit Verdot.

**Château du Tertre***5e cru classé*

An assemblage of 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot and 10% Petit Verdot, the 2010 du Tertre has a focused aroma of lifted black fruits and berry accents. It is ripe, fresh and clean and gains in expression through a long finish with classic dusty Cabernet notes. There is ripe, integrated acidity and tannin. The 2010 vintage of du Tertre is more concentrated than usual for this property.

**Alter Ego de Palmer**

A 50/50 blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot, Alter Ego conceals its richness (14.5% alcohol) within a firmly defined format. The wine is strikingly pure to the nose, with perfectly ripe, nuanced black fruits (cherry, plum). Quite closed on the palate, it conceals rich, layered fruit with an elevated level of acidity and tannic grip. Alter Ego has reached a very high level with its 2010 and, with its concentration and structure, the wine will have considerable aging potential.

**Château Labégorce**

Equal proportions of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot (45% each) along with Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot make up the 2010 Labégorce. Dense cassis purple, the wine exhibits muted ripe, rich black fruits and berries with a liqueur highlight. Far more forthcoming on the palate, it is ripe, full and expansive, refreshed by a firm column of acidity at the end.

**Château Monbrison**

This is a focused Margaux with lifted dark red and black fruits in a fresh, medium-weight style. Monbrison's 2010 has elegance rather than power.

**Château Siran**

The barrel sample of Siran shows real promise. Concentrated and intense aromatics are marked by dusty black fruits. Fresh and focused as it enters the mouth, the wine gains in generosity in the finish and shows a soft, textured mouthfeel. The flavors are carried by long, fresh acidity and firm tannins. The 2010 is a blend of 47% Merlot, 42% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 11% Petit Verdot. This vintage follows the highly-successful 2009 and may well be superior.

**Pavillon Rouge**

*2nd wine of Ch. Margaux*

Pavillon Rouge represents a selection of 38% of the year's output and is composed of 66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and 4% Petit Verdot aging in 55% new oak. The nose is muted, then reveals pure, ripe black fruits with considerable depth and hidden strength. In the mouth, the wine reveals concentration backed by fresh, defining acidity and firm tannin, though not at all hard. This wine has real presence and substance, and is certainly one of the most authoritative, promising vintages of Pavillon Rouge.

**Saint-Julien****Château Léoville Las Cases**

The 2010 Leoville Las Cases is a vintage of impressive potential. Dominantly Cabernet Sauvignon (82% of the assemblage), the wine possesses a saturated, very black plum-purple color and is very much masked and reserved. There is an impression of profound richness, and the composition of the wine is marvelous, noble, broad and beautifully calibrated with very fine tannins and acidity hidden in the flesh and fruit. This is a very high class, long-term wine, based on the barrel sample, and one which collectors of this chateau will not want to miss.

**Château Léoville Poyferré**

*2e cru classé*

The aroma of this 2010 is restrained, soft, pure and seductive with exciting creamy black fruits. The taste has a fabulously sensual, silky texture along with a faultless balance of fruit and backbone. At the same time, the wine is not lacking in strength as it possesses a firm column of acidity and muscular, ripe tannin. A truly outstanding wine which places this property in the elite of Saint-Julien.

**Château Léoville Barton**

*2e cru classé*

Saturated cassis purple, Leoville Barton's 2010 barrel sample is very rich and very pure, offering wonderfully ripe, high class black fruits and berries with a note of fruit liqueur. Its concentration is impressive as is its generosity and structure. This Saint-Julien is largely closed at this stage, but highly promising. The blend is 77% Cabernet Sauvignon, 21% Merlot and 2% Cabernet Franc produced at 40 hectoliters per hectare, and the wine is aging in 60% new oak barrels.

**Château Gruaud Larose**

*2e cru classé*

The 2010 of this estate is focused and fresh with very good concentration of dark fruits and well-judged new oak. It is ripe, pure and firmly defined, and there is excellent concentration and intensity.

**Château Ducru-Beaucaillou**

*2e cru classé*

Ducru's 2010 is extremely impressive and promising. Composed of 90% Cabernet Sauvignon and 10% Merlot, this Second Growth has a striking, expressive nose of ripe black fruits which have reached ideal maturity. The aroma is already complex, suggesting black plum, cherry, and boysenberry. The wine is extraordinarily expansive on the palate, very generous with notable complexity, ending with a subtle touch of high caliber new oak. This is a full-bodied, rather powerful Ducru which does not lose its customary grace and harmony.

**Château Lagrange**

*3e cru classé*

This 75/25 assemblage of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot offers a warm, lifted nose of red and black fruits with very good concentration and expression. Clean, fresh and elegant, the 2010 Lagrange has style and poise, a soft center and ripe structure.

**Château Saint-Pierre**

*4e cru classé*

Dominantly Cabernet Sauvignon (78%) with Merlot, 2010 Saint-Pierre reveals ripe, lifted black cherry, blackberry fruit with oak accents. The taste is intense and ripe, rather reserved, with very good concentration, finishing tightly wound.

**Château Talbot***4e cru classé*

2010 Talbot is an assemblage of 62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 33% Merlot and 5% Petit Verdot. The wine drawn from barrel reveals ripe red and black fruits with a textured palate, which has a soft, sensual feel with sweet fruit at the end. There is well-matched ripe acidity and well-managed tannin.

**Château Branaire-Ducru***4e cru classé*

This is a superbly pure Branaire offering ultra-clean, scented red and black fruits. An assemblage of 70% Cabernet Sauvignon and 23.5% Merlot with Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc, the wine possesses beautiful focus and is precise and tense. The barrel sample suggests that this is a Branaire of a very high standard.

**Château Beychevelle***4e cru classé*

The 2010 Beychevelle is a very pure, clean wine, fresh and reserved with finely-nuanced red and black fruits. While largely closed, it has a polished attack and center and is wrapped up by a pronounced acid frame, with very fine tannins. The 2010 is 54% Cabernet Sauvignon and 38% Merlot with Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. The alcohol content of 14.3% is not visible.

**Château Gloria**

A consistent performer, Gloria has made a 2010 with a great deal of promise. A blend of 63% Cabernet Sauvignon, 26% Merlot, 6% Petit Verdot and 5% Cabernet Franc which is maturing in 38% new barrels, Gloria has a reserved, nuanced nose of dark fruits with lift and spice and a dusty Cabernet undertone. It is ripe and fresh and expands in a warm, enveloping finish.

**Château Lalande-Borie**

Bruno-Eugène Borie's Lalande-Borie 2010 is a dense black plummy purple with an atypically ripe, rich aroma offering a mélange of small red fruits and black plum. The palate is marked by ripe, sweet fruit tones and is textured and supple, ending with fine acidity and gentle tannins. This is a very generous vintage of Lalande-Borie.

**Clos du Marquis**

Clos du Marquis, produced by Domaines Delon, comes from plots to the west of the village of Saint-Julien which do not figure in Leoville Las Cases. The 2010 is 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 17% Merlot and 8% Cabernet Franc and is maturing in 37% new oak. Aromatically, the barrel sample showed ripe, nuanced red and black fruits with a note of berry jam. While largely non-expressive, the palate reveals a sweet, ripe texture and has breadth and excellent weight. Structurally, Clos du Marquis has fine-grained tannins and integrated ripe acidity. The 2010 is a ripe, classy wine with superb potential for aging.

**La Croix de Beaucaillou***2nd wine of Ch. Ducru-Beaucaillou*

The second wine of Ducru-Beaucaillou, Croix de Beaucaillou relies on a similar blend to the grand vin (85% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot). The wine shows restraint from barrel, with subtle black fruits balanced by very fresh acidity and a grip of tannin. It is a very good second wine.

**Château Latour***1er cru classé*

Impenetrable and nearly all black in color, the 2010 Latour is immense, powerful and broad-shouldered. The assemblage in 2010 is 90.5% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8.5% Merlot, and .5% each of Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. The nose hints at black fruits (plum, blackberry, black currant) with a note of creme de cassis. The palate is massive and muscular with an imposing structure. The tremendous potential of this vintage is obvious even though the wine is largely non-expressive as a barrel sample. This is a Latour which is likely to demand many years in bottle to come around, and it will surely have decades of life. A great classic in the making.

**Château Mouton-Rothschild***1er cru classé*

The 2010 Mouton is dense blackish red with a purple rim and is an assemblage dominated by Cabernet Sauvignon (94%) with a minor Merlot component (6%). The nose impresses immediately with its complexity and concentration even though it is quite reserved. It offers enticing red fruit and spice notes together with a whiff of vanilla from quality new barrels. There is an intriguing, faint herbal-olive accent. The palate exhibits great presence, poise and reserve, opening slowly to show multidimensional though restrained aromatics. The generous center is wrapped up by a well-integrated framework of acidity and fine tannin. The 2010 Mouton, as a barrel sample, is a challenge to taste given its primary state, yet all its attributes indicate that this is will be a great wine with a very long life.

**Château Pichon Baron***2e cru classé*

This assemblage of 79% Cabernet Sauvignon and 21% Merlot is opaque cassis purple in appearance with a concentrated, deep, pure nose of black fruits. In the mouth, the 2010 boasts solid maturity along with freshness and an imposing, powerful presence. This is a highly impressive Pichon Baron which has great nobility and potential.

**Château Pichon Comtesse de Lalande***2e cru classé*

The utterly-convincing Pichon Lalande is a marriage of 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc and 3% Petit Verdot. Concentrated and very subtly complex, the aroma of this 2010 has great intensity and reserve with an inviting mix of red and black cherry, plum, and black currant. It has amazing focus on the palate with ample sweet fruit along with a well-calibrated backbone of elevated acidity and firm, gripping tannin. The wine possesses extraordinary length despite its youthful state. The 2010 Pichon Lalande will certainly be a monumental vintage of this property.

**Château Pontet-Canet***5e cru classé*

Chateau Pontet-Canet has recently become the first of the 1855 classified growths to achieve biodynamic certification, only one aspect of the commitment to the highest standard of quality at this top Pauillac property. It is common to see horses working the vineyard when you visit the estate, and horse-drawn equipment has been introduced for numerous vineyard-maintenance functions at Pontet-Canet. Their 2010 barrel sample was opaque black plum-purple, incredibly rich and dense to the nose with muted blackberry, black plum and boysenberry. The wine exhibits fabulous concentration and a rigid, muscular frame, with restrained ripe, rich fruit qualities. The 2010 is a large-scaled, powerful wine which joins the series of consistently outstanding examples made at this property in recent vintages.

**Château Batailley***5e cru classé*

This predominantly Cabernet Sauvignon wine (78%) offers an aroma of red and black fruits with dusty and sweet notes. In the mouth, the wine reveals more and has expansive, expressive flavors and is very well-balanced.

**Château Haut-Batailley***5e cru classé*

A blend dominated by Cabernet Sauvignon (78%) with Merlot (22%), the 2010 Haut-Batailley has very good depth and generosity although is youthfully held in. It is largely reserved on the palate with a ripe, sweet undertone of black fruits. There is an attractive texture on entry and in the center, and the wine finishes with a firm structure. A very good and very typical Pauillac.

**Château Grand-Puy-Lacoste***5e cru classé*

Opaque blackish plum purple, the 2010 Grand-Puy-Lacoste is largely closed from barrel, with ripe, dense black fruits and evident concentration and depth. Mainly Cabernet Sauvignon (83%) with Merlot (17%), this vintage was produced at 42 hectoliters per hectare and is aging in 75% new oak barrels. While reserved overall, the wine shows underlying flesh and power with a firm but not aggressive tannic frame. The 2010 will join other highly successful vintages from this chateau which show magnificently after two decades or more of bottle aging.

**Château Grand-Puy Ducasse***5e cru classé*

The 2010 Grand-Puy Ducasse, a 60/40 blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot, has a saturated black plum purple color and is rich and quite potent in the aroma, offering blackberry liqueur and new oak. There is generous volume although the wine is held in, with expressive black fruits complemented by new oak, finishing with a fresh, clean frame. This has excellent potential.

**Château Lynch-Bages***5e cru classé*

This classic Lynch-Bages is broad, dense and brooding but also pure and high class. Very large-scaled with profound black fruits, this 2010 barrel sample is very full-bodied with a muscular structure. The acidity and tannin are concealed in the mass of fleshy, chewy fruit. The 2010 has the makings of a great Lynch-Bages and is made up of 79% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Merlot (matching the highest proportion since 1995) and a minor addition of Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. It is being matured in 70% new oak barrels.

**Château Lynch-Moussas***5e cru classé*

This dominantly Cabernet Sauvignon wine (76% of the blend) offers attractive, revealing red and black fruits. The wine is ripe and textured with more generous flavors than the nose suggests, and the aftertaste is quite lasting, melding fruit and oak elements. A success for this chateau.

**Château D'Armailhac***5e cru classé*

Dense black plum purple as a barrel sample, Armailhac shows a composed, pure nose with reserved strength and muted black fruits, quality oak and a faint spiciness. The palate offers ripe, sweet black fruits and is supple, harmonious and beautifully balanced. At the end, fine-grained tannins and a defining edge of acidity are noticeable. The 2010 blend is 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot.

**Château Haut-Bages Libéral***5e cru classé*

This 2010 Pauillac, a marriage of 72% Cabernet Sauvignon and 28% Merlot, is concentrated and focused with black fruits and berries. Well-defined in the mouth, the wine is very clean and finishes with clean grip of acidity and ripe tannin in a lengthy finale. Very well done.

**Château Clerc Milon***5e cru classé*

With a dense dark cherry-purple color, 2010 Clerc Milon reveals an aroma of ripe berries and red fruits with spice accents which is particularly layered and concentrated. Ripe and polished from entry to finish, the palate has great presence and purity and is very long and fresh with fine acidity and tannin. This high-class, beautifully-composed wine is a blend of 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36% Merlot and 11% Cabernet Franc, with a small addition of Petit Verdot and the rarely-seen Carmenère.

**Château La Fleur Peyrabon**

Dense black plum with a purple rim, the 2010 La Fleur Peyrabon may well be the finest and most ageworthy of recent vintages of this rising star among the non-classified wines of Pauillac. While rather closed as a barrel sample (as are most of the many excellent 2010's in this appellation), the wine hints at a core of black fruits and berries with a complement of oak at this early stage. The wine exhibits a fleshy center hiding fine-grained tannins along with surprising harmony and charm. La Fleur Peyrabon 2010 is a prominent en primeur value.

**Les Forts de Latour***2nd wine of Ch. Latour*

The 2010 Forts de Latour is opaque and almost black to the eye. Nearly three-fourths Cabernet Sauvignon, the wine is impressively concentrated although reserved as a barrel sample, with a suggestion of black plum and boysenberry. In the mouth, it appears full and dense with the structure to match, finishing with fresh acidity and muscular tannic grip. This is an outstanding vintage of Les Forts which will no doubt reward lengthy cellaring.

**Le Petit Mouton de Mouton-Rothschild***2nd wine of Ch. Mouton-Rothschild*

Dark reddish mulberry purple, the 2010 Le Petit Mouton, the second wine of Mouton Rothschild, is striking for its lovely fresh, clean, lifted aroma showing a complex of ripe red apple, cherry, plum and high-quality oak. With an assemblage relying on 68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot and 8% Cabernet Franc, this very fine Pauillac boasts noteworthy class and understatement along with particularly pure fruit qualities. The palate is clean, supple and harmonious with fine, integrated acidity and tannins. A superb Petit Mouton.

**Lacoste-Borie***2nd wine of Ch. Grand-Puy-Lacoste*

The second wine of Grand-Puy-Lacoste is restrained from barrel, with an undercurrent of ripe, scented black fruits. Medium weight, it has appealing ripeness which surfaces slowly on the palate, backed by a balanced structure of acidity and tannin.

**Château Cos d'Estournel***2e cru classé*

The 2010 Cos represents an assemblage of 78% Cabernet Sauvignon and 19% Merlot along with Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. From the barrel, it is opaque and quite closed initially, then reveals a very rich, broad, dense nose with subtle red and black fruits. In the mouth, the wine is very rich and expansive from entry to finish, which is strikingly long, sweet and spicy. There are elevated, well-judged tannins and a fine edge of acidity. Although it has a 14.5% alcohol content, a pH of 3.5 suggests in part why the 2010 Cos retains a sense of freshness despite its fat and opulence.

**Château Lafon-Rochet***4e cru classé*

The 2010 of this Saint-Estephe chateau shows excellent concentration and focus. While rather restrained, the wine is polished from attack to finish with noteworthy balance and definition. Highly promising, the 2010 has elegance and intensity.

**Château Les Ormes de Pez**

Saturated cassis purple, Ormes de Pez 2010 is very concentrated and very ripe but not excessively so; the nose shows liqueur-toned black fruits with an attractive overlay of oak. Blended from 57% Cabernet Sauvignon and 34% Merlot with additions of Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot, this wine commands attention with its volume in the mouth, despite being mostly closed, and the fruit is matched by a firm frame. Ormes de Pez continues a series of exceptional vintages with this well-endowed 2010.

**Château Phélan Ségur**

The 2010 Phelan-Segur blends Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot in a 51:49 ratio and is aging in 50% new oak. Saturated in color, the wine has a sweet, high-toned aroma with appealing ripe black fruits and berries. The palate follows, showing a full, mature, generous center. This wine has a great deal of early charm and does not have an aggressive structure.

**Les Pagodes de Cos***2nd wine of Ch. Cos d'Estournel*

The 2010 Pagodes, the second wine of Cos d'Estournel, represents a selection of 45% of the crop and is a combination of 62% Cabernet Sauvignon and 38% Merlot. The wine is opaque to the eye, very rich and ripe aromatically as well as generous and broad, with sweet black plum and cassis notes along with new oak spices. The quality of the fruit is especially noteworthy, and the wine is simply gorgeous in mouth, beautifully-proportioned, with hidden ripe acidity and fine-grained tannins. An outstanding second wine.

**Château La Lagune***3e cru classé*

Lagune's 2010 is composed of 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot and 10% Petit Verdot. The wine from barrel has a muted nose of black fruits and a sense of depth and solidity. The taste is ripe, fullish, soft and textured. There is a long fruit-filled aftertaste with fine acidity and tannin at the end. This is a promising wine with charm and, very likely, early appeal.

**Château Belgrave***5e cru classé*

Chateau Belgrave 2010 is a dense black purple plum color and exhibits an aroma of black fruits and new oak. The wine is ripe and substantial with noticeable new oak as a barrel sample. Sweet fruit lingers in the aftertaste with a fresh, dry finale.

**Château Camensac***5e cru classé*

The 2010 vintage of Camensac is a two-variety blend (55% Cabernet Sauvignon and 45% Merlot) and reveals a high-toned nose of red cherry and red currant, expressive and attractive. The palate is poised, fresh, balanced and elegant with a lasting aromatic expression. Very well done.

**Château Cantemerle***5e cru classé*

The 2010 Cantemerle is a dark reddish black plum with purple and reveals a ripe, scented, clean and very attractive nose. This medium-weight wine is poised, fresh and persistent with a particularly long, aromatic finish. A highly successful vintage of this reliable value.

**Château Belle-Vue**

Chateau Belle-Vue, located in Macau close to Chateau Giscours, has made a very promising 2010 with a fresh nose of pure, clean black fruits and a well-defined palate. The barrel sample reveals very attractive composition, poise and equilibrium. This is another successful vintage from this outstanding Haut-Medoc.

**Château Peyrabon**

The 2010 Peyrabon offers concentrated black fruits with a modest oak overlay, and the wine shows very good substance and presence on the palate, backed by the fresh, firm, dry backbone of the vintage. Peyrabon normally requires a few years in bottle to become accessible and revealing, and the substantial 2010 will no doubt follow that path. A notable value, Peyrabon has a strong record in recent years, and the 2010 represents another step forward.

**Château Citran**

The 2010 Citran is a blend of 55% Merlot, 42% Cabernet Sauvignon and 3% Cabernet Franc. The barrel sample is saturated in appearance, with a ripe, fullish, fruit-dominated aroma. The palate follows in a similar fashion: ripe, plump, softly textured, and ending with well-managed tannins and a note of freshness.

**Château Sénéjac**

This 2010 has a saturated cassis color with a purple rim. It is very ripe and full with marked black cherry and black currant fruit. There is above-average richness, and the wine is full and plump, with fine, hidden acidity and well-handled tannins. A highly successful vintage from this property.

**Château Pierbone**

*2nd wine of Ch. Peyraron*

This attractive second wine of Chateau Peyraron offers ripe red fruits in the aroma with a faint leafy-peppery note. It is fresh and dry and offers good substance for a very affordable price.

**Medoc****Goulée By Cos d'Estournel**

From the north of the Medoc, Goulée is a dramatic, modern, full-flavored example which stands apart from its peers. Based on an 80/20 blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot, the 2010 barrel sample is opaque and viscous with a super-ripe, super-concentrated yet still subdued aroma. The palate reveals the same degree of concentration but is more controlled and less flamboyant than the nose suggests. This is a fat, mouth-coating wine with muscular ripe tannins and ripe acidity providing definition.

**Moulis****Château Maucaillou**

Maucaillou's 2010 is somewhat difficult to assess as a barrel sample, being fairly non-expressive. There is underlying fruit and a fresh, dry aftertaste. The wine will no doubt come out of its shell as it undergoes further barrel aging.

**Château Poujeaux**

The 2010 barrel sample of Poujeaux is moderately dense black plum with purple. Quite hidden, its aroma hints at subtle dark fruits and berry notes while the taste is more forthcoming, with good energy and length. There is an aftertaste of dark red fruits and oak spice.

**Château Fonréaud**

The 2010 of Fonreud is an assemblage of 53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 44% Merlot and 3% Petit Verdot. It exhibits an inviting aroma of sweet, ripe black fruits and smoky oak. In the mouth, there is ripeness and suppleness with particularly attractive length. The wine does not have the weight of some 2010's but is expressive and elegant.

**Château Fourcas-Hosten**

This 56% Cabernet Sauvignon/44% Merlot assemblage is a bit closed aromatically from barrel, but the taste shows ripe, sweet dark fruits and considerable roundness and easy charm, finishing quite soft in the context of a firmly structured vintage.

**Pomerol****Château Clinet**

The 2010 Clinet is opaque black cherry purple and quite reserved aromatically, suggesting ripe red and black fruits with a broad softness. The nose is especially lovely. In the mouth, the ripeness and richness are immediately apparent even though the flavors are rather non-expressive. The mouthfeel is fairly soft, and the finish closes up quickly.

**Château La Conseillante**

The 2010 vintage of La Conseillante is already distinguished as a barrel sample. To the nose, this Pomerol has focus and concentration with a subtle complexity. The aroma is particularly fine and marked by red currant and red cherry fruit and a touch of vanilla. The wine delivers a focused, freshly-defined palate with subtle, ripe, integrated tannins and an overlay of new oak. Although reserved, it is clear that this is a high-class example with a distinctive personality among Pomerol wines.

**Château Gazin**

Gazin 2010 is aromatically nuanced, showing accented, high quality dark red fruits, quite reserved, but with gentle lift. There is ripeness and texture as the wine is tasted, and the wine impresses with its freshness and persistence. This Pomerol, always a high-class example, shows budding complexity and a sensation of elegance and balance.

**Château La Pointe**

La Pointe's 2010 may well be the best wine this property has ever made, based on its quality from barrel. Aromatically, it is immediately fresh, clean and very attractive, boasting dark red fruits accented by oak with gentle lift and focus. The palate follows, offering a fresh, focused, positive impression. The wine is rather tightly wound in the mouth at this stage and muted in its expression, but there is very good concentration and elegance. Serious work has been accomplished at this chateau to make a 2010 of this potential quality.

**Château-Figeac***1er grand cru classé B*

The purity and class of the 2010 Figeac barrel sample are quite evident. There are fully mature dark red fruits with lift, subtle nuances and an overall sense of freshness. In the mouth, the wine impresses even more, revealing a layering of fruit in an elegant format. This is a very fine wine combining the ripeness of the vintage with noteworthy finesse.

**Clos Fourtet***1er grand cru classé B*

The 2010 is an outstanding vintage of Clos Fourtet in its infancy. Concentrated and intense in its aromatics, the nose is fully ripe, but not to excess, and very clean. The palate again shows deliciously mature dark fruits with a sweet tone from start to finish. This is already engaging and deceptively easy even though it is still in a primary stage. The tannins are especially fine-grained, and there is perfectly integrated ripe acidity in the finale. This has all the qualities to become a very high class wine.

**Château Pavie-Macquin***1er grand cru classé B*

Boasting an aroma of fully-matured cherry and plum joined with notes of smoke, mocha and vanilla from new oak barrels, 2010 Pavie Macquin is flashy and expressive with heightened highlights of ripe fruits and new oak in the mouth. Nonetheless, the extroverted personality is given definition and focus by a firm acid frame and moderate, mature tannins. This is very well done in an opulent, modern style.

**Château Troplong Mondot***1er grand cru classé B*

Troplong Mondot always tends toward rich, opulent styling, and in vintages with heightened maturity, their wine can be particularly powerful. This super-ripe 2010 fulfills that expectation, being highly concentrated with a heady note of cherry liqueur. Ultra-rich, mouth-coating, and possessing bountiful red fruit qualities, this vintage is nevertheless kept under control by the elevated acidity of the year. This provides a refreshing counterpoint to its opulence.

**Château Trotteville***1er grand cru classé B*

Trotteville always strikes a unique stance among the top wines of St. Emilion due to its limestone-rich terroir and an assemblage with a high proportion of Cabernet Franc. Their 2010 barrel sample is characteristically less dense in color than most, and the nose is at first clean and fresh and without any exaggeration. Red cherry, red currant and other small red fruits and berries are visible with a peppery accent. The palate is similarly focused, fresh, clean and rather closed, and it offers an elegant, well-defined personality.

**Château Canon La Gaffelière***Grand cru classé*

From barrel, Canon La Gaffelière's 2010 delivers the promise of an exciting wine. The aroma is quite evidently ripe, clean and pure. There is beautiful lift and an undertone of fully ripe red cherries. Similarly, the palate opens with a ripe, textured feel and presents excellent purity. This wine is flattering and sensual even now, in this primary state. The wonderful mature dark fruits remain for a very long time on the palate, and only at the very conclusion are the ultra-fine tannins and acidity visible. A real beauty.

**Château La Couspaude***Grand cru classé*

Saturated black cherry with a small purple rim, the 2010 Couspaude explodes aromatically with ultra-ripe dark fruits and noticeable oak treatment. The palate is potent and has not come together fully given its immense richness and breadth. This wine has enormous potential and should be outstanding after barrel aging.

**Château Larmande***Grand cru classé*

The 2010 Larmande reveals a scented aroma of mature dark red fruits and very good concentration. The wine is both ripe and fresh with excellent underlying fruit and clean, dry grip. Though still early in its development, the cask sample offers notable length of flavor with an imprint of new oak in the finale. This is a fine Larmande in the making.



**Château Carbonnieux***Cru classé*

The 2010 red of Carbonnieux is an assemblage of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc. The barrel sample is opaque black plum purple and is initially restrained, then reveals warm, lifted black fruits and a fruit liqueur note. On entry, the ripeness of this wine is quite evident, and the wine is full at the center, but also noticeably fresh. There is a long, warm, expansive finish. This is a highly promising and substantial vintage of Carbonnieux red.

**Domaine de Chevalier***Cru classé*

The 2010 red wine of Domaine de Chevalier is opaque in appearance and boasts a rich, warm, generous nose of very ripe dark fruits. It is very generously flavored and gains in amplitude, showing seductive, perfectly mature dark red fruit tones and a sensual texture. The generosity is matched by a framework of acidity and tannin of great finesse. This has all the ingredients to be a sublime vintage of Chevalier red.

**Château de Fieuzal***Cru classé*

A 60/40 blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot, Fieuzal's 2010 red is at first quite reserved, then shows a concentration of blackberry and cassis fruit with oak accents. The palate does not disappoint with its beautiful concentration and persistence and display of ripe fruits and textural appeal. Fieuzal closes up in the finish, indicating that it possesses the structure for aging.

**Château Haut-Bailly***Cru classé*

Haut Bailly always seems to make one of the best red wines of Pessac-Leognan every vintage, and their 2010 is no exception. Gorgeous, pure, delicately scented black fruits and berries greet the nose. The wine has everything on the palate with the same fabulous, perfectly-matured fruits and a caressing texture. Impeccably balanced, the firm frame seems to be in ideal harmony with the rest of the wine. It is remarkable that Haut Bailly shows so beautifully at this early point in its life.

**Château Latour-Martillac***Cru classé*

This 2010 red from Latour-Martillac is a saturated cassis-purple and appears closed at first, with a subtle undertone of very ripe blackberry and black plum. This is a wine picked at the limits of ripeness, and it is ample, expansive and also well-structured. It will no doubt gain in refinement as it matures in barrel.

**Château Malartic-Lagravière***Cru classé*

This 2010 blends equal parts - 45% each - of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot with equal portions - 5% each - of Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot in a saturated cassis example of the vintage. The nose is both very concentrated and very reserved with hidden, deep, mature black fruits. The palate is largely mute with an underlying ripe sweetness and pronounced grip in the finale. This barrel sample is reticent, yet the substance of this wine augurs for a wine of excellent stature in due course.

**Château Olivier***Cru classé*

Saturated cassis-purple, the 2010 Olivier rouge, a blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon and 40% Merlot, shows a reserved, high-class aroma of creamy black fruits with a note of black currant liqueur. There is tremendous volume and lift in the mouth with budding complexity and firm but not hard tannins. This is an outstanding Olivier in its infancy.

**Château Pape Clément***Cru classé*

Produced at 32 hectoliters per hectare, the 2010 Pape Clément rouge combines Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot in equal parts. The flattering nose offers new oak and is high toned, concealing mature black fruits and berries. Super-concentrated and flashy, this red has been given ample new oak at this stage, yet there are beautiful fruit qualities as well. The wine ends fresh and dry. This 2010 red surely offers enormous potential in a full, opulent style.

**Château Smith Haut Lafitte***Cru classé*

This 2010 is concentrated and reserved, showing great purity and freshness. Even though quite closed, there are very subtle black fruits and a lovely textural quality along with noteworthy equilibrium and poise. This is a fine and promising red.

**Château Les Carmes Haut-Brion**

This 2010 possesses a warm, lifted aroma with evident richness and concentration. Rather slow to open, the wine becomes gradually revealing through a long, generous aftertaste of red and black fruits. There is plenty of extract, and a touch of drying tannins at this stage, indicating this wine will surely gain from barrel aging.

**Graves Pessac-Leognan white****Château Carbonnieux***Cru classé*

A blend of 65% Sauvignon Blanc and 35% Semillon, the 2010 Carbonnieux has an enticing nose, quite high toned, complex and richer than usual. The palate is held in but has obvious richness backed by a ripe acid backbone. This is a very fine, very complete wine.

**Domaine de Chevalier***Cru classé*

Pale straw-white gold to the eye, Domaine de Chevalier blanc has an exciting nose, ultra-pure and very intense, with tantalizing highlights of pear, lemon pith and white mint. This superb white is highly focused on the palate and exhibits an ideal balance of ripeness and structure. There is stunning length marked by a soft texture and a fine spinal column. Simply fabulous.

**Château Latour-Martillac***Cru classé*

A 63/37 assemblage of Sauvignon Blanc and Semillon, this 2010 white is a transparent straw color and shows a very expressive, pure aroma with lemony, and stony flowery highlights. Fresh and vivid to the taste, it is not lacking in concentration, and is balanced and complete.

**Château Malartic-Lagravière***Cru classé*

Malartic-Lagravière's 2010 white combines 85% Sauvignon Blanc and 15% Semillon in a high-toned, highly expressive wine with a particularly attractive aroma with a note of sweet white fruits and a peppery accent. It surprises with considerable volume in the mouth and is as well strikingly long, displaying a sweet undertone of ripe fruits and a finely integrated backbone.

**Château Olivier***Cru classé*

Essentially almost three-fourths Sauvignon Blanc and one-fourth Semillon with a touch of Muscadelle, Olivier's 2010 white is pale straw with a restrained yet intensely rich nose of primary white fruits. The wine explodes in the mouth, displaying multidimensional aromatics and impressive volume, and the taste remains on the palate for a long time with a fine column of acidity at the very end. A highly promising Olivier blanc.

**Château de Fieuzal**

Fieuzal's 2010 white blends Sauvignon Blanc and Semillon in a 70:30 ratio and has the appearance of pale straw with white gold reflections. Enticing, pure and ripe in the aroma, this promising wine offers scented white fruits. Both ripe and fresh, Fieuzal possesses a beautiful expression in the mouth with complex aromatics which gain in intensity through the finish. There is a wonderful defining counterpoint of acidity at the end. A very fine Fieuzal blanc.

**Château Pape Clément**

A four-variety blend of Sauvignon Blanc (40%), Semillon (35%), Sauvignon Gris (16%) and Muscadelle (9%), the 2010 Pape Clément blanc is viscous yellow gold in appearance and boasts an extremely rich nose of notable complexity showing notes of white peach, apple and pear. Fat and enveloping in the mouth, the wine is very full with a hidden backbone which appears only in the aftertaste.

**Château Smith Haut Lafitte**

Nearly all Sauvignon Blanc (90%) with the rest Semillon and Sauvignon Gris, this pale straw white has not as yet come together, but it certainly seems ample and rich. There is no question that it is generous and full of fruit with a ripe, fleshy mouthfeel. Only further barrel maturation will reveal how the wine will come together.

**Bordeaux dry white****Pavillon Blanc***The white wine of Ch. Margaux*

Pavillon Blanc, like its red counterpart, is a selection of 38% of the crop, or at most 1,000 cases of finished wine. A model of purity and precision, Pavillon Blanc is a transparent pale straw with an aroma which is largely held in, showing a budding intensity along with grapefruit pith and an oily note. It is vividly etched, racy and tightly wound and does not show its 13.8 alcohol content. This is a paradigm in the expression of pure Sauvignon Blanc in Bordeaux.

**Château La Tour Blanche***1er cru classé*

An assemblage of 83% Semillon, 16% Sauvignon Blanc and 1% Muscadelle, the 2010 La Tour Blanche is a yellow gold color as a barrel sample, and offers ample concentration aromatically with candied yellow fruits and citrus notes. The attack is quite forceful, then the wine closes up. Sweetness reappears with a firm acid frame.

**Château Lafaurie-Peyraguey***1er cru classé*

A marked gold with yellow highlights, this 2010 Sauternes has a gorgeous, imposing nose of candied yellow fruits with fantastic concentration. The palate delivers the same tremendous presence with an overtone of yellow fruits in syrup. There is considerable sweetness countered by defining acidity, and the wine has both youthful energy and a sense that there is still more in reserve. Very high potential quality.

**Clos Haut-Peyraguey***1er cru classé*

Nearly all Semillon with just a touch of Sauvignon Blanc, the 2010 Haut-Peyraguey has a well-defined nose with lifted lemon peel and an oily accent. Light on its feet, the wine offers a fine interplay of alcohol, acidity and residual sugar, finishing with an etched finale marked by an elegant spinal column.

**Château de Rayne-Vigneau***1er cru classé*

In 2010, Rayne-Vigneau employed a blend of 85% Semillon and 15% Sauvignon Blanc. The color of the barrel sample is dark yellow with gold highlights. The nose is not immediately forthcoming, showing an undertone of ultra-ripe yellow peach along with honey and mango notes. Very rich and broad on the palate, this youthful Sauternes has enormous flavor interest and an unctuous mouthfeel without the tension of some of its counterparts.

**Château Suduiraut***1er cru classé*

Yellow gold to the eye, Suduiraut's 2010 is flashy and high toned as soon as you put your nose to the glass, with a sensation of peach liqueur highlighted by ripe lemon peel. The palate is opulent from the first taste, and the impression of intense sweetness remains through a persistent aftertaste, hiding a very fine edge of acidity. This is a Suduiraut of immense richness and opulence.

**Château Coutet***1er cru classé*

The 2010 Coutet delivers stunning promise from barrel. The aromatics are fantastic, focused and ultra-pure and reveal superb botrytis notes while keeping bright yellow fruits and lemony accents. Sweet and unctuous from the start, the wine increases in intensity across the palate and possesses an incredibly long finish. Coutet's 2010 is uncommonly rich and lasting. It is a wine of outstanding potential.

**Château Guiraud***1er cru classé*

Very attractive to the eye in its bright yellow color with gold highlights, 2010 Guiraud has a beautiful, very pure and perfumed nose of profound, rich yellow peaches in syrup with tropical notes. The palate follows with the same multidimensional fruit profile and an opulent sweetness which gains through the long conclusion. A very high class Guiraud.

**Château Rieussec***1er cru classé*

Nearly entirely Semillon (90%) with small additions of Sauvignon Blanc (7%) and Muscadelle (3%), the 2010 Rieussec has a pronounced yellow gold color and a profound nose of controlled richness with an undertone of yellow peach and mango. Ultra-rich, indeed opulent, the wine coats the mouth and has a dramatic, stunningly long finish marked by yellow fruits and spice. The flavors seem to go on and on... This is a Rieussec of outstanding potential.

**Château Rabaud-Promis***1er cru classé*

This 2010 Sauternes is a blend of 80% Semillon and 20% Sauvignon Blanc. Deeper yellow gold than most of its counterparts as a barrel sample, the aromatics are held back at first and then reveal pure, finely-complex candied lemon and peach. The palate is impressive and expressive, its richness and residual sugar matched by an equivalent acid backbone which carries the flavors. A wine of great promise.

**Château Doisy-Védrières***2e cru classé*

Palish yellow gold in appearance, the 2010 Doisy-Védrières is an 80/20 assemblage of Semillon and Sauvignon Blanc. The aroma is distinctly intense and concentrated, showing very enticing candied lemon-white peach scents. Rich, sweet and nuanced as it enters the mouth, with attractive fruit accents, the wine has a long, sweet aftertaste.

**Château Nairac***2e cru classé*

The 2010 Nairac is nearly all Semillon (92%) with minor parts of Sauvignon Blanc and Muscadelle. Yellow gold, this decidedly unctuous Sauternes exhibits a honeyed aroma with evident botrytis - more than many of its peers - with engaging highlights of candied lemon, spices and peaches in syrup. The impression in the mouth is immediately fat and generous, more subdued than the nose, leaving a sweet coating and subtle underlying acidity.

**Château de Fargues**

Fargues' 2010 marries 80% Semillon and 20% Sauvignon Blanc in what is, as usual, a highly-promising example. The aroma is superb and high toned, exhibiting beautiful lift and class together with subtle, complex botrytis influences. Immediately sweet, then wrapped up by elevated acidity, the wine does not appear viscous or heavy. The finish is stunning, very persistent and elegant, leaving a signature of candied yellow fruits. This has everything!