

2013 BORDEAUX REPORT

JJ BUCKLEY'S TOP
PICKS FOR 2013

THE RED WINES OF 2013

THE MARKET FOR
2013 BORDEAUX

THAT'S WHY THEY
CALL THEM THE
FIRST GROWTHS

WHY 2013 MATTERS

OVER 200 TASTING NOTES

JUNE 2014

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INTRODUCTION

Each spring for the past eight years, the wine staff at JJ Buckley has travelled to France to partake in the week-long *en primeur* tastings in Bordeaux. The wines from this historic region still maintain their position as the most popular category of wines purchased by our clientele. So it is even more important that we visit Bordeaux to gain a first-hand assessment of the wines in barrel. We believe that our visits to *en primeur* allows us to provide a professional appraisal of the new wines that is unmatched in the industry. Our travels also enable us to meet with winemakers and negociants helping us to secure allocations of the most sought after wines for our clients.

Visiting Bordeaux becomes more important when weather conditions make it difficult for wineries to make the best wines possible. 2013 was just such a year and our visit allowed us to better understand the style of the vintage and find those wineries that successfully handled the challenges. The difficult conditions tested the skills of every winemaker and quite a few made wines that could stand up to the best examples of great years like 2009 and 2010. Finding these wines and telling their stories is why we visit Bordeaux every year. Happy reading!



Alexandre Thienpont of Vieux Chateau Certan. His wines consistently rank in JJ Buckley's Top 15 Picks.

JJ Buckley's TOP FIFTEEN 2013 BORDEAUX PICKS

1. d'Yquem (Sauternes)
2. Haut-Brion Blanc (Pessac-Leognan)
3. Latour (Pauillac)
4. Smith Haut Lafitte Blanc (Pessac-Leognan)
5. Vieux Chateau Mazerat (St. Emilion)
6. Valandraud (St. Emilion)
7. Mouton Rothschild (Pauillac)
8. Margaux (Margaux)
9. Trotanoy (Pomerol)
10. Calon Segur (St. Estephe)
11. Aile d'Argent (Bordeaux Blanc)
12. Pichon Lalande (Pauillac)
13. l'Eglise-Clinet (Pomerol)
14. Malartic-Lagravière Blanc (Pessac-Leognan)
15. Vieux Chateau Certan (Pomerol)



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All photographs for this report were
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Chateau Palmer

This report was made possible with
the support of:



THE RED WINES OF 2013

This is a year of moderate alcohol where 12.25-12.75% is the norm.

With the difficult harvest finished and the fermentations completed, it was up to the winemakers to work their magic and see the fruit through fermentations and blending. Perhaps it was because winemakers had to deal with a third consecutive difficult harvest that the results were better than expected.

With cloudy weather and cool temperatures, there is always a good chance that grape skins will not receive enough sunlight and warmth. Should the skins be light in pigment, there's less flavors and color in the resulting wine. But there was little to worry about as the colors of the 13's are vibrant garnet with small opaque centers. The top wines of the vintage are much darker in color, saturated through to the rim.

The big worry about Bordeaux's red wines was that the cool weather and the necessity to pick before the rot and

mold set in was a likelihood that the finished wines would end up weedy and herbaceous. But thanks to recent advances in technology, difficult decision-making by winemakers along with the improved financial health of the Medoc's best wineries, most reds tasted at *en primeur* avoided any hint of green, herbal notes. Yes, there was a whiff here and there but aromas and flavors leaned to red fruits with the best wines showing deeper and darker shades. Another potential pitfall to cooler temperatures is elevated acidity in the finished wines. There were more problems with out of balance acidity than herbaceous flavors as most wineries managed to keep things in check. For the most part, **the acids in 2013 added freshness and vibrancy to the palate of many wines, particularly in the Haut-Medoc.**

The acidity of the vintage helped to emphasize the red fruit flavors with notes of cherries and berries



Denis Durantou of Chateau l'Eglise Clinet (r)
with Jacques Thienpont of Le Pin

With the difficult harvest finished and the fermentations completed, it was up to the winemakers to work their magic and see the fruit through fermentations and blending.



Winemakers probably prayed for better weather in 2013. A sculpture at Chateau Haut-Brion.



2013 RED WINES

Given that wineries had to pick a bit earlier than they preferred, sugar levels were much lower than in the past few years resulting in alcohol levels that barely breached 13%. **This is a year of moderate alcohol where 12.25-12.75% is the norm.** In some cases, wineries were forced to chaptalize (done by adding sugar to the must before fermentation) which hasn't been done in Bordeaux for decades. Despite the lower alcohols, the texture and flavors of wines in 2013 did not suffer. This is a year of moderation in fruit weight and palate shape. Only a few wineries ended up with high alcohols and jammy textures.

While the lower alcohol levels did not create a lean, mean appearance to most wines, the moderate levels of fruit ripeness did manifest themselves on the palate. In the riper years of 2009 and 2010, the palates showed broad textures that were almost thick with fruit, in many cases way over the top. This year had the majority of wines showcasing moderately broad textures across the palate and backpalates that ended a touch prematurely. **The more elegant flavor profiles are another indication that these wines will be better suited for near term drinking.**

The biggest gripe to be found in this vintage are the tough and grippy tannins encountered in many wines, a particular problem in the Haut-Medoc and Pessac-Leognan where cabernet sauvignon is the dominant grape. This was a vintage that required gentle winemaking techniques. Wineries that extended their maceration regimes or pressed the mark too hard ran the risk of extracting harsh tannins.

While there are a few wines that rank among the best wines of the last four years, the large majority of Bordeaux's best wines are average to above average in quality. The medium-bodied wines are not going to be candidates for long term cellaring. But they will serve a useful purpose by providing perfect short-term drinking over the next 6-12 years.

The new cellars at Chateau Cheval Blanc

THE MARKET FOR 2013 BORDEAUX



The 2013 Bordeaux futures campaign showed once again that each year's sales efforts have its own personality. No one could have expected as the spring Union des Grand Crus (UGC) tastings approached that the 2013 futures campaign would be a series of unique events never seen before.

The campaign actually started in December 2013 with the explosive news that Robert Parker would break with his tradition of publishing his *en primeur* reviews in the April issue of The Wine Advocate. Citing previous engagements in China, Parker announced that his scores would be published in the June edition. (This date has since been pushed back even further, with a revised date at the end of August.)

A few wine critics observed that Parker had missed his traditional publication date only twice (in 2002 because of the Gulf War crisis and also in 1992) so conspiracy theories abounded about this turn of events. Would this be Parker's swan song as he prepared to retire from writing about Bordeaux? Was this a not-so-subtle communication to the Bordeaux hierarchy that the futures program and high prices were untenable? No matter what his reasons, it was clear that the negociants and winery owners could not depend on Parker's scores to propel sales, they were on their own

The nascent campaign took an even more unusual turn when Alfred Tesseron undertook the unprecedented act of releasing the prices for his 2013 Pontet-Canet several days before the start of the UGC trade tastings. At that point, very few members of the trade had even tasted the wine including negociants who were being asked to purchase the wine sight unseen (or is that "taste untasted"?). Chateau Gazin, a Pomerol estate that is traditionally the first winery to release their prices right after the UGC tastings are concluded, decided to follow suit and released their wines in the middle of *en primeur* week.

The absence of Parker's reviews meant that wineries would not benefit by delaying their offers until the end of April to capitalize on his scores. Consequently, the *en primeur* campaign started quickly in early April and kept up its rapid pace through the month. In the end, the 2013 campaign turned out to be one of the fastest on record with no offers following the first week of May. As this is published, less than a handful of estates have not set their 2013 prices. To contrast this vintage with previous years, negociants offered the last 2011s during the second week of June while the 2012 campaign was finished just before Memorial Day.

As expected, there were small ripples of interest in the 2013s but the overwhelming demand that results from a successful harvest of red wines was never going to happen. Critics and others in the trade argued that a 30% drop in prices would be needed to engage consumers but citing reduced yields and strict selections in the cellar, few wineries offered discounts exceeding 20% with many (like Pontet-Canet) setting prices equal to their 2012 releases.

The best wines of the vintage, dry whites from Pessac-Leognan and the Medoc along with the sweet wines of Sauternes, sparked the most interest from consumers. And with many wineries producing small amounts of wine in 2013, a number of wines, such as first growths and other classic best sellers, caught fire as buyers rushed to secure bottles. The highest demand was for those estates in Pomerol and St. Emilion that make very little wine, even in good years. Fans of these appellations know that buying *en primeur* provides the best opportunity to secure these rare wines.

The *en primeur* campaign now enters a period of uncertainty thanks to the absence of Parker's scores to guide sales. The lack of significant price decreases certainly reduced interest across the broader swath of the Bordeaux red wine production. Sales of any wine in the near future can expect to move along quietly until the end of August when the arrival of The Wine Advocate offers consumers and the trade a chance to revisit the category. Meantime, some 2011s and most 2012s are being pulled from the market by negociants with the expectation that poor scores by Parker will drive buyers to these two vintages which are looking much better after some time in barrel and bottle.



THAT'S WHY THEY CALL THEM THE FIRST GROWTHS

The first growths are so designated because they are considered to have the best terroirs in the Haut-Medoc. (I say this knowing that the Right Bank and Pessac are excluded here.) The argument here is that the land speaks more than the winemaker's hand.

Over the past few years with Bordeaux consistently churning out some incredible wines, the rising tide of quality that comes from a great vintage compresses the distance between the first growths and other top notch estates of the Haut-Medoc. Witness the astounding Pontet-Canets from 2009 and 2010 which arguably give the first growths a run for the money.

But what happens in the more difficult years? Do the supposedly superior terroirs actually allow the first growths to produce wines better than their neighbors? Or has the new money that has modernized so many wineries in combination with whip smart winemakers closed the gap between the first growths and their upstarts? With some of the worst weather in decades, the wines from 2013 would provide a good platform to answer these questions.



Luckily, our schedule was constructed to visit all of the Haut-Medoc first growths in succession. Now let's acknowledge that from a purely hedonistic point of view, this was going to be a pretty awesome experience. We consider ourselves quite lucky to have a morning where we can indulge in some of Bordeaux's best wines, one after the other. This all notwithstanding, we had some work ahead of us!!

Fortunately, that morning followed a couple of days going through many of the wines that comprise the other four classes of the 1855 classification. Domaines like Pontet-Canet, Cos d'Estournel and Palmer are among the 10-20 or so estates that can easily challenge the first growths as one of the best wines of the vintage. Would any of these wines surpass the quality of the first growths in 2013?

A visit to Chateau Margaux showed that 2013 was a test the winery passed successfully. As winemaker Paul Pontallier observed, "*We feel we are quite privileged to have the means to make great wine. But also it is true that in vintages like 2013, great terroirs show their supremacy.*" Parceling much of their merlot into the domaine's other cuvees, this year's grand vin had 94% cabernet sauvignon, 5% cab franc and 1% petit verdot was the first wine made without any merlot and showed graceful power with good length. This vintage shows a richness of fruit that is tempered by Margaux's trademark finesse and was a success for the vintage.

Focusing again on a first growth that possesses a finessed palette, Lafite Rothschild showcased its prettier fruit expression clearly in 2013. Like Margaux, Lafite depended on cabernet sauvignon (98% in this case) to provide the power and foundation of the *grand vin*. One trait of the 2013's is a fresh and vibrant red fruit expression with a crisp and crunchy texture that slowly gives way to more depth and concentration with some air. The wine's fine grained tannins were in balance with the fruit weight keeping the sleek structure that Lafite is known for.

When it comes to power, Mouton Rothschild and Latour traditionally show the full-bodied texture and intensity of flavor that is a foil to Margaux and Lafite's elegance. Once again, these two properties stayed true to their identities pouring 13's that were as good if not better than last year's wines. Depth and concentration abounded, not only in their top cuvees but also in the second wines. Already looking like complete wines, layers of black fruits peeled away to reveal even more nuance and complexity. Just the right amount of acidity added vibrancy and precision to the flavors while the integrated tannins added support contributing to the wine's overall balance. These were thrilling examples that stayed true to the pedigree of each estate. At the same time, these wines proved that excellent wines could be found in this difficult year.

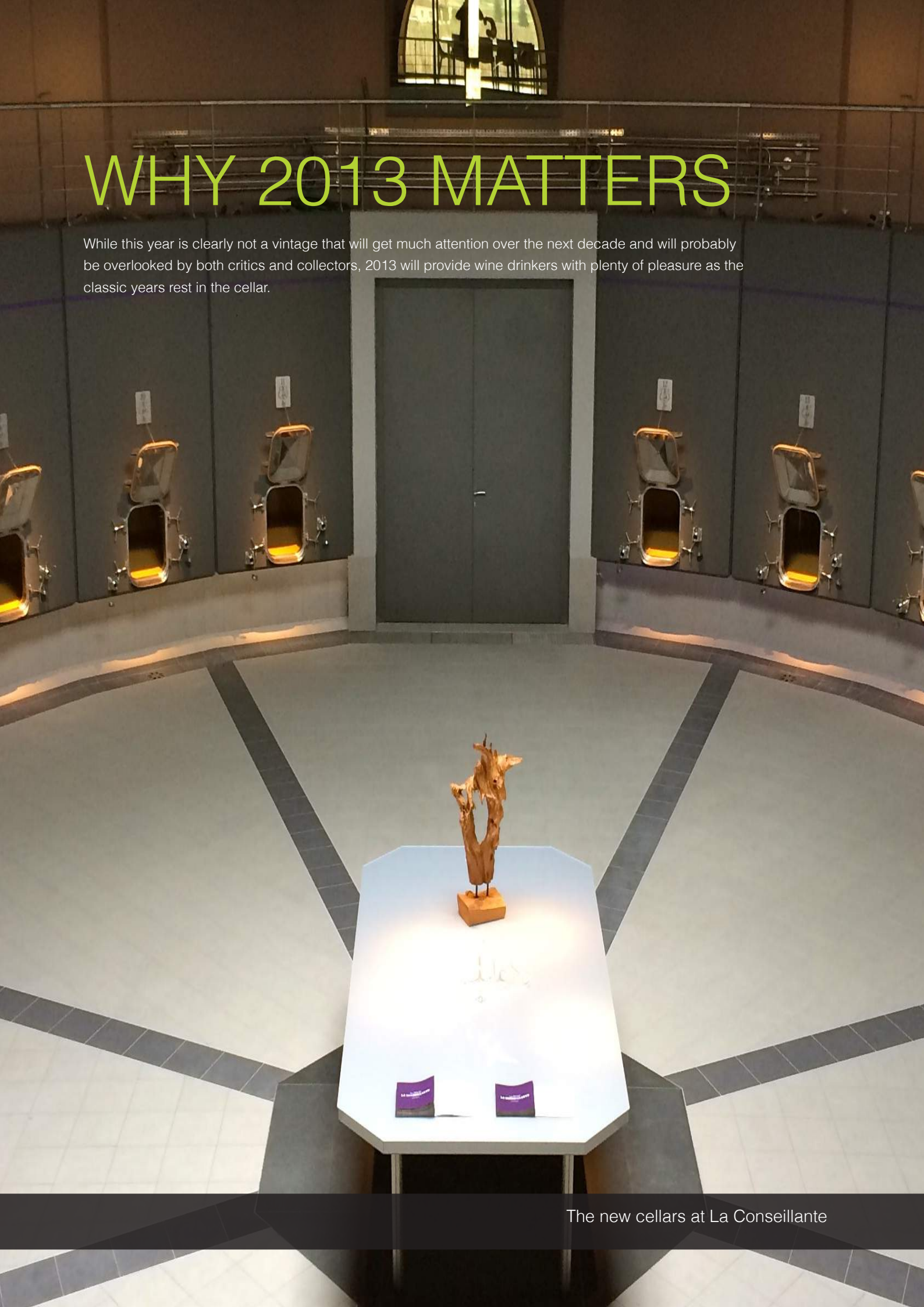
Compared with the wines of the Haut-Medoc tasted during the previous two days, the first growths clearly stole the show. Their 2013s were what you would expect of a first growth, maybe without the potential to age 25+ years, but they were no slouches. The other top chateaux of the Haut-Medoc clearly showed more variability among them with successes mixed with others where the challenges of the harvest proved difficult to overcome.

In the end, it seems that in 2013, the great terroirs of the first growths added that something special to make wines of greater quality than what we found in all the Haut-Medoc wines encountered beforehand. The technical talent and equipment available to Bordeaux's best estates is relatively equal so perhaps it is the terroirs that speak with a stronger voice in challenging years. Why? Who's to say. As those at Chateau Margaux say themselves, "*The genius of great terroirs is difficult to fathom.*" But in 2013, the terroirs of the top estates clearly showed why they are called "The First Growth of the Medoc".



WHY 2013 MATTERS

While this year is clearly not a vintage that will get much attention over the next decade and will probably be overlooked by both critics and collectors, 2013 will provide wine drinkers with plenty of pleasure as the classic years rest in the cellar.



The new cellars at La Conseillante

WHY 2013 MATTERS

On your first visit to London as a novice in the wine business, one might be expected to see legendary vintages of Bordeaux and Port littering the shelves and wine lists of the city. Imagine the surprise when the vintages you encounter would curl the lip of any Wine Advocate subscriber. Years 2002 and 2007 abound throughout. And if there was a good vintage of Bordeaux to be seen, it was from something we would rarely see in America. Who had ever heard of a “third wine” from a property in Bordeaux?

This memory comes to mind when eating in the casual bistros of Paris and Bordeaux. Their wine lists are sprinkled with wines from 2004 and 2007, years that are not in the conversation for most American Bordeaux collectors. If there are any better vintages on the list, one might see 2006 or 2008 but where are the great years of the first decade of the 21st century, the 2000s, the 2005s or the hot wines from 2009 and 2010?

I asked friends who know a bit about Europe’s restaurant scene regarding this seeming disparity. For one, the cost of dining out has changed the way wine lists are constructed. Only the wealthy can afford eating out at Europe’s top restaurants and increasingly, it is an international/global clientele that is supporting these establishments. This is an audience that wants the best wines from the best vintages so the top years tend to congregate on the lists of the most expensive restaurants.

In the meantime, everyday bistros have been forced to revamp their wine lists as they cater to a clientele that is spending less when dining out. With the best wines from the best vintages costing more money, chefs (there are few sommeliers buying wine at smaller restaurants) look to off-vintages of Bordeaux to put on their lists. If they do pick wines from an excellent year, they might purchase a more affordable cru bourgeois.

But the changing economy is only one reason why so-called “lesser vintages” are part of the dining landscape in France. Most importantly, chefs prefer Bordeaux from years like 2004 and 2007 for their ability to complement the food on the table. This was a lesson that came to a light during two very surprising tastings at *en primeur*.

An invitation to an industry soiree at Chateau Ferriere in Margaux and another the following day at Gruard Larose showcased vertical tastings covering every year of the 21st century (plus a slew of other wines going back 30-40 years) allowing us to taste the great vintages of the first decade next to those years with less acclaim.

It was clear that the top years were exceptional wines. Showing power and concentration, these were wines that clearly stood out from their peers. While their intensity was clearly appreciable, these were wines that still needed time to become more approachable. Dense with youthful structure still apparent, the top vintages would be difficult to work with at the table, and even more so with classic, lighter French bistro fare.

But two vintages in each tasting stood out, wines that retained some youthful fruit yet showed just a hint of maturing secondary characters thanks to some time in the bottle. They also possessed softer textures and mild tannins, qualities that make these vintages more adaptable at the table. They were, to be succinct, perfectly mature and ready to drink. The vintages in both cases? 2004 and 2007.

To be fair, the wine industry, especially the press and collectors, tend to focus on the top wines of the best vintages. Those years are the most collectable, the most sought after. No wine writer will gain more readership by writing about off vintages so the focus is continuously on the best years. American importers, faced with wines that are harder to move, also focus on the top vintages making them hard for consumers to buy them, especially when mature and ready to drink. Years, like 2004 and 2007 just tend to fade away from the consumers’ radar.

And that is quite unfortunate for what the two tastings clearly showed is that there is a place for a vintage like 2013. While this year is clearly not a vintage that will get much attention over the next decade and will probably be overlooked by both critics and collectors, 2013 will provide wine drinkers with plenty of pleasure as the classic years rest in the cellar. There’s a place for 2013s: On the table.

TASTING NOTES

MARGAUX



Thomas Duroux in the vineyards of Chateau Palmer

Wines from the commune of Margaux are all about elegance and finesse. Pauillac and St. Estephe to the north are destinations in the Medoc for those who want power and flash. The estates in Margaux had the challenge of picking early and encountering the possibility that their wines would be too subtle or end up without much character. While that was definitely a problem encountered by some domaines, there were a few successes where concentration and flavor were not an issue. But even the top estates will be hard pressed to match the successes of years like last year. 2013 will always be a year where elegance is the hallmark of wines from this appellation.

2013 d'Angludet (Margaux)

Bright red, with a nice nose of licorice, purple fruit and bright red fruit. Has a saline quality on the palate that was apparent in many Margaux wines this vintage yet ends with good sweet fruit on the midpalate. Drink 2016-2021.

89-91 points—Cory Gowan

2013 Brane-Cantenac (Margaux)

84% cabernet sauvignon, 14% merlot and 2% cabernet franc. Pale red, with soft, round, pure ripe fruit. This is clean as a whistle for the vintage, just needs a bit more complexity and depth. Drink 2016-2023.

88-90 points—Cory Gowan

2013 Cantenac-Brown (Margaux)

68% cabernet sauvignon and 32% merlot. Riper and plumper than some of its neighbors, the 2013 Cantenac-Brown has aromas of smoke, chocolate, and oak, with a nice dose of minerality on the palate. Focused on the front, the palate is a bit unbalanced and off-kilter towards the finish. Untamed at this point. Drink 2016-2023.

88-90 points—Cory Gowan

2013 Dauzac (Margaux)

All over the map, with aromas of red fruit and oak, featuring minerality and smoke, but also a saline note. Almost salty on the palate with fat tannins that will hopefully integrate with more time in barrel. Drink 2016-2021.

86-88 points—Cory Gowan

2013 Desmirail (Margaux)

Aromas of ripe red fruit, cherry, chocolate, and dry earth. Saline notes on the palate, though shows a classic Margaux elegance with a soft finish. Drink 2016-2021.

85-87 points—Cory Gowan

2013 du Tertre (Margaux)

Showing a fresher, more precise presence on the nose that avoids any green, herbal references, the relatively simple, juicy attack opens up to reveal some hidden and unexpected power. The weight corresponds nicely with the black fruits that add to the wine's serious nature. The backpalate ends up a bit short leaving the tannins to make the concluding statement. The fruit and tannin almost attain perfect balance as a drying note appears on the finish. Drink 2016-2023.

89-91 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Ferrière (Margaux)

Pale red, with red fruit aromas and a tart entry. This sample was a bit volatile and therefore the fruit was muted, but there were some attractive yet simple cherry flavors. Tasted three times. Drink 2016-2023.

85-87 points—Cory Gowan

2013 Giscours (Margaux)

Purplish red, the nose is a bit muted in this sample. Soft red fruit on the palate, with a nice solid core, but no complexity or layering. Good fruit that is more straightforward than complex at this point. Finishes with dry tannins. Drink 2016-2023.

88-90 points—Cory Gowan

2013 Kirwan (Margaux)

Pale red, the 2013 Kirwan is light bodied with flavors of raspberry, almost like a pinot noir. This has good acidity, but it's not balanced with the fruit and tastes disjointed at this point. Tart and tannic at the finish. Drink 2016-2023.

86-88 points—Cory Gowan

2013 Labégorce (Margaux)

Nice and bright on the nose, with lifted aromas and a touch of blue fruit to complement the red fruit flavors that dominate. Toasted oak and smoky aromas on the nose, too. Saline and minerals on the palate, this shows good balance and length. Complete. Tasted three times. Drink 2016-2023.

90-92 points—Cory Gowan

2013 Lascombes (Margaux)

45% cabernet sauvignon, 5% merlot, 5% petite verdot. Cropped at 25hl/ha with 60% of the harvest going into the grand vin. Lascombes always has a few tools up their sleeve and they used them to fashion one of the top 2013s from Margaux. Ripe red fruit, and a classic Lascombes, displaying a core of minerality in sync with flavors of red fruit and a streak graphite. Soft and pure with a core of fine tannins that will give this good cushion to age. Drink 2016-2025.

91-93 points—Cory Gowan

Wines from the commune of Margaux
are all about elegance and finesse.

2013 Margaux (Margaux)

94% cabernet sauvignon, 5% cabernet franc and 1% petit verdot. Only 38% of the harvest made it into the grand vin. The bouquet is open and elevates easily from the glass with a seamless mélange of dark red fruits, subtle flowers and a touch of smoke. Highlighting incredible poise and balance, the medium- to medium-full bodied flavors are woven into seamless textures of dark red and black fruit flavors. Almost Burgundian in its suppleness and shape, the palate constantly reveals new flavors including haunting notes of exotic spices. Microscopic tannins form a fine thread of structure to the finish. Exciting to see such suave textures in such a difficult year. Enjoy 2019-2024.

94-96 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Marquis de Terme (Margaux)

The blend here is 60% cabernet franc with 40% merlot. Exhibiting a very ripe approach, there are concentrated aromas of dark chocolate and prunes to confirm this wine's intensity. The initial attack has some creamy textures with dark fruit flavors laced with vanilla which continue on to the midpalate. Textured tannins on the finish are noticeable and persistent. This walks a fine line between being ripe or too ripe with the thick, rich palate pushing the envelope here. Enjoy 2019-2024.

88-90 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Monbrison (Margaux)

The bouquet showcases pure aromas with good red fruit on the palate. The smoky notes lead to good minerality, turning a bit sour at the finish. Simple yet complete. Drink 2016-2021.

86-88 points—Cory Gowan

2013 Palmer (Margaux)

51% cabernet sauvignon with 49% merlot. With a thin garnet rim and an opaque purple color, the closed nose shows hints of dark red fruits and smoke that opens slowly on aeration. The palate is much more expressive however with bold red fruits on medium-bodied framework. Showing seamless textures and a pinot noir-like sensibility. Finishes brisk and with balanced tannins. Only 1/3 of the production was designated for the grand vin in this vintage. Enjoy 2018-2022.

91-93 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Prieuré-Lichine (Margaux)

The bouquet, while fragrant and mildly intense, lacks precision with muddled aromas of black fruits evident. What follows on the palate are some medium-bodied, dark red fruited flavors that show more intensity than many peers. There's a bit of breadth across the midpalate with a finish that exhibits a line of firm tannins that leave a drying sensation. Enjoy 2018-2022. 89-91 points--Chuck Hayward

89-91 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Rauzan-Ségla (Margaux)

Showing an elegant frame in line with many wines of the vintage, the quiet attack leads into a broadly textured presence on the midpalate. Medium bodied, shadings of earthy textures mingle with the bright, red fruit flavors. A bit more fruit would help to add some drive to the crisp finish. Drink 2017-2024.

87-89 points—Chuck Hayward



Three faces of Paul Pontellier of Chateau Margaux

TASTING NOTES

ST. JULIEN



Over the past few years, St. Julien has been a source of complex wines that possess an uncanny combination of textured fruits and integrated tannins. A number of properties there have also improved their winemaking over the past few years but prices have held steady making St. Julien a source for great values. 2013, however, proved to be a difficult vintage for the appellation with few wines that challenged the best examples from the Medoc. There were a number of overripe examples this year, a problem unique to St. Julien, while other wines showcased tannins that were more expressive than the fruit. The best wines (Leoville Poyferre, Gruaud Larose) exhibited those qualities that make up the best St. Juliens and are among the top wines of the year.

2013 Beychevelle (St. Julien)

54% cabernet sauvignon, 38% merlot and 8% petit verdot. Very ripe black fruit aromas are the name of the game with this vintage of Beychevelle with a bouquet that recalls ripe zinfandel along with a raisiny character. Almost over-the-top, the syrupy texture of the full-bodied palate has a sweet presence that becomes more subtle and elegant on the finish. Drying tannins contribute to a firm finish. A bit blowsy this year. Enjoy 2016-2024.

87-89 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Branaire-Ducru (St. Julien)

63% cabernet sauvignon, 31% merlot, 5% petit verdot and 1% cabernet franc. The bouquet is marked more by dusty herbs with hints of dried leaves and straw than with fruit, yet there's plenty of juiciness to be found on the palate. Round on the entry, there are some ripe red/black fruits on a medium-full bodied frame that give way to a softly textured backpalate. Slightly drying tannins are spicy and herb flavored, but ultimately leaving a disjointed impression thanks to the subtle fruit on the finish. Enjoy 2015-2021.

87-89 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Ducru Beaucaillou (St. Julien)

90% cabernet sauvignon and 10% merlot. The vibrant garnet color with a slight darkening at the center is an indicator of the elegant style of this year's Ducru. The moderately intense nose of lifted red fruits is dusted with fresh earth notes. The fresh fruit aromas carry through onto the palate where some integrated acids add lift and some zip. Medium bodied with a compact shape, there's a firm tannic spine that adds some grip. Quite different than other St. Juliens in 2013, this Ducru has more freshness and vibrancy. Enjoy 2016-2022.

89-91 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Gloria (St. Julien)

68% cabernet sauvignon, 23% merlot, 5% petit verdot and 4% cabernet franc. With very ripe fruit on the attack that's more akin to a vintage port, the palate quickly takes on a more elegant shape towards the tight finish. A layer of firm tannins leave a drying impression thanks to the quiet fruitweight on the backpalate. There's lots of power here compared to past vintages but there's a bit too much ripeness. Drink 2016-2024.

86-88 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Gruaud Larose (St. Julien)

77% cabernet sauvignon, 21% merlot and 2% cabernet franc. Exhibiting plenty of dark fruit characteristics that are ripe and juicy, the medium-full bodied palate also possesses a sense of grace. The supple entry gives way to layers of flavors that cascade from front to back. Extremely approachable right now, this is even more special thanks to the poised tannins that mingle seamlessly into the lengthy finish. An excellent showing and a pleasant surprise as well. Enjoy 2015-2025.

92-94 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Lagrange (St. Julien)

75% cabernet sauvignon, 21% merlot and 4% petit verdot. There's a slightly disjointed sensibility to the bouquet as roughly hewn earth scents clash with black cherry aromas. Quite ripe with port-like black fruit flavors, the sweet and juicy palate reveals a thread of dusty chocolate on the more delicate backpalate. Finely ground tannins are slightly grippy leaving a firm impression. Drink 2016-2024.

87-89 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Langoa Barton (St. Julien)

65% cabernet sauvignon, 30% merlot and 5% cabernet franc. With a youthful, vibrant purple rim surrounding an opaque center, the quiet bouquet focuses on spicy herbs and fresh earth atop aromas of dark red cherries and berries. An intense wave of black fruit flavors forms the attack, fading slightly on the midpalate where tangy acids appear. With a bit of air, an unobtrusive line of chocolate-laced tannins appear. Unfortunately, the intense acidity leaves the palate disjointed and out of balance. Enjoy 2016-2022.

86-88 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Léoville Barton (St. Julien)

85% cabernet sauvignon and 15% merlot. Opaque from the core to the narrow purple rim, the closed bouquet does not offer much in the way of aromas. But there's more intensity where the palate is concerned as ripe black fruits form the core of this medium-full bodied wine. Showing considerable power, there's some potential for this to possess too much extract but some nicely appointed acidity adds structure on the edge of the palate. Tannins help to add some firm spine to the backpalate leaving a blocky presence. It would be good to see a bit more nuance and finesse. Enjoy 2016-2024.

2013 Léoville Poyferré (St. Julien)

65% cabernet sauvignon, 26% merlot, 6% petit verdot and 3% cabernet franc. Black-purple in color and opaque to the rim, the bouquet has a faint whiff of dusty herbs atop a core of dense black fruits. Showing some admirable ripeness on the palate, there's some breadth of fruit but it refrains from any over-the-top jamminess. Medium-full bodied, the vanilla-laced black fruit flavors compose this very complete and approachable wine. The tannins are fine-grained and leave just a whisper of firmness on the long finish. This is the top wine of the appellation. Tasted twice. Enjoy 2015-2027.

92-94 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Saint-Pierre (St. Julien)

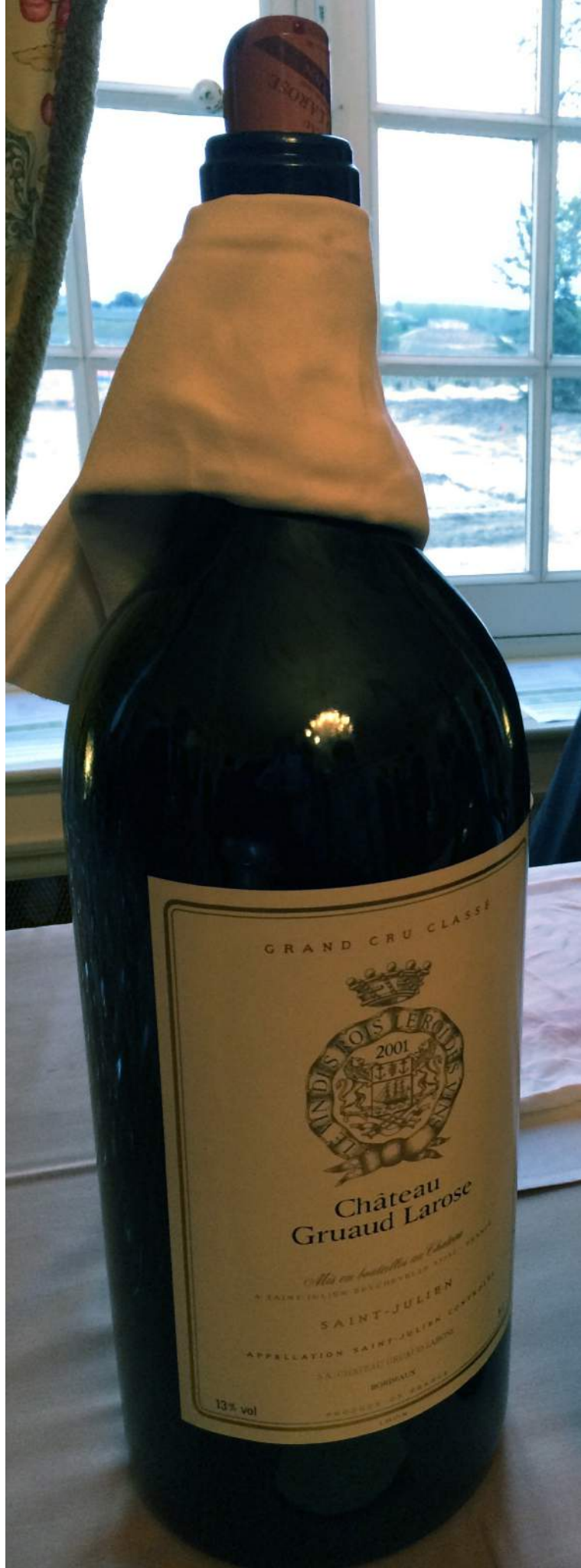
The closed bouquet offers up the barest hints of fruit and earth which are dusted by a whiff of spicy herbs. Ripe and brooding black fruits form the attack which is fairly straightforward in flavor. Intense at first, the flavors fade and a combination of tangy acids and finely hewn tannins kick in leaving a disjointed impression on the finish. What the palate possesses in power it lacks in nuance and complexity at this point. Drink 2016-2024. 88-90 points--Chuck Hayward.

89-90 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Talbot (St. Julien)

80% cabernet sauvignon, 16% merlot and 4% petit verdot. Despite the closed shape to the bouquet, it's not hard to discern some ripe black fruit aromas with a bit of coaxing. Broad shouldered with very ripe black fruit flavors reminiscent of ruby port, the syrupy textures on the midpalate clash with a line of vibrant acidity. Thankfully, more balance is achieved on the backpalate where the fruit and fine tannins combine seamlessly continuing on to the rich finish. Enjoy 2016-2024.

88-90 points—Chuck Hayward



TASTING NOTES

PAUILLAC



The most famous appellation of the Medoc and the home to the most renowned first growths, Pauillac's wineries had more in common with their southern neighbors in St. Julien. And by that, each commune had some very ripe examples along with a number of pleasant wines but the peaks in Pauillac were much higher thanks to stellar wines from Mouton and Latour. There were also some "super-seconds" (Pichon Lalande, Lynch Bages) that pulled their respective rabbits out of the hat. All in all, Pauillac's success in 2013 is due to the ability of their terroirs to ripen cabernet sauvignon which is the reason the appellation is considered the best one as well.

2013 Batailley (Pauillac)

94% cabernet sauvignon, 4% merlot and 2% petit verdot. Aromas of black cherry candy can get coaxed out with some aeration but not much else. Showing some breadth across the midpalate that tightens in shape towards the back, the dark red fruit flavors are intense and bright. The focused and narrow backpalate allows the tannins to stick out on the short finish. A correct and straightforward wine for the vintage. Drink 2016-2013.

87-89 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Clerc Milon (Pauillac)

58% cabernet sauvignon, 27% merlot, 12% cabernet franc and 2% petit verdot and 1% carmenère. An initial whiff of vanilla quickly gives way to superripe black fruit aromas bordering on prunes. This intense ripeness carries through to the palate where the darker shades of red fruit flavors are broadly shaped with a distinct sense of sweetness. The richness fades to a tighter, more structured finish thanks to some integrated acidity and a layer of super-fine tannins. Tasted three times. Drink 2016-2024.

90-92 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Croizet-Bages (Pauillac)

58% cabernet sauvignon with 42% merlot. Dark garnet and completely translucent, there's a varietally correct bouquet accentuating fresh spicy herbs over fruit aromas. The attack is fairly straightforward as vibrant, red fruits progress towards a medium bodied midpalate. In doing so, there's slightly more concentration and structure revealed. Spicy tannins leave a drying note on the savory finish. A correct Pauillac for the vintage. Drink 2015-2021.

88-90 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 d'Armailhac (Pauillac)

59% cabernet sauvignon, 28% merlot, 12% cabernet franc and 1% petit verdot. Opaque at the center with a narrow garnet robe, the open-knit bouquet is moderately intense with herb and spices atop a hint of red fruits and cocoa powder. The dark red fruit flavors continue on seamlessly to a mildly broad midpalate that also shows a bit of ripeness as well. While there is some expressiveness now, the palate is rather coiled and tensed up. The fruit fades towards the back where spicy, herb-laced tannins mix with saline notes. Tasted three times. Drink 2018-2025.

90-92 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Duhart-Milon Rothschild (Pauillac)

80% cabernet sauvignon and 20% merlot. Aromatically, there are seductive aromas of pure red fruits that slowly reveal this wine's potential with hints of graphite and black spices also appearing. The shape is compact and elegant with darker, red fruit flavors flowing effortlessly from front to back. Once again, some latent concentration appears with air as the palate reveals notes of chocolate and black fruits on the medium to medium-full bodied frame. Whisper-like tannins and a hint of spicy herbs form a very subtle support to the fruit on the finish. Here we have an almost complete, elegant, medium weighted effort that has just enough stuffing while gaining complexity in barrel. Drink 2016-2026.

92-94 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Grand-Puy Ducasse (Pauillac)

Open and aromatic, there's some enticing complexity as black fruit aromas align with smoke and minerals adding spice to the bouquet. Here we have a classic Bordeaux with medium-full bodied black fruits and a mildly tannic presence. There's just enough ripeness and density of fruit here to stand out amongst its peers in this vintage. This straddles the line between a balanced, moderately intense Pauillac and some of the richer examples of the appellation and is great for short-term drinking. Drink 2016-2022.

90-92 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Grand-Puy-Lacoste (Pauillac)

80% cabernet sauvignon and 20% merlot. With savory aromas more prevalent, fresh earth and subtle herbs can be coaxed out with some swirling. The medium-bodied palate has hints of ripeness and richness but never gets exuberant. The mellow black fruit flavors show a bit of cocoa powder shadings that are revealed on the backpalate where chunky tannins are drying and slightly bitter. Hopefully these tannins can get resolved. Drink 2018-2024.

87-89 points —Chuck Hayward

2013 Lafite Rothschild (Pauillac)

98% cabernet sauvignon with 2% merlot. A thin pinkish rim surrounds an opaque purple core. The nose is quite tight and unyielding yet one can sense a bit of earth and dark red fruits. Medium-bodied with an elegant shape that is classic Lafite, the fruit aromas are shared on the dense and compact palate. The backpalate tightens and contributes to the lean finish. A line of acidity adds some drive but also leaves an impression of tartness. A note of saline combined with the subtle red fruits make for a very taut finish. There's lots to like about the purity of fruit but hopefully the fruit will fill out and subsume the acids. Enjoy 2017-2026.

91-93 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Latour (Pauillac)

95.3% cabernet sauvignon, 4.3% merlot and .3% petit verdot. Densely packed and concentrated, the bouquet shows that this vintage had little impact aromatically as it is stunning. Vanilla, stones and graphite grace the ripe black fruits that are more firm than soft. Precise and delineated red and black fruit flavors swirl around, complex and full-bodied. There's a seamless transition from the front to backpalate and perfect balance between the layered fruit and Latour's classic structure. The tannins are present, precise and proportioned. Simply stunning this vintage and one of the best reds in 2013, Latour is back on track after a 2012 that did not rise to their usual pinnacle. As per the policy of the winery, this will probably not be released for another 8-10 years. It's a shame that consumers will not be able to taste this in its youthful state. A thrill to witness. Enjoy on release and for another 10-15 years.

95-97 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Lynch Bages (Pauillac)

72% cabernet sauvignon, 20% merlot, 6% cabernet franc and 2% petit verdot. With elusive aromas of sage and rosemary spices combining with grilled meats on the nose, the bouquet is just beginning to show some complexity. The palate, however, is a testament to balance as ripe dark red fruits are placed on a medium-full bodied frame. The perfect amount of acidity acts to add just the right amount of vibrancy providing some lift to the dense fruit. The tannins are also in line leaving a presence and support to the fruit on the slightly firm finish. A success for the vintage, Lynch Bages in 2013 has classic Bordeaux textures while avoiding the delicacy or overripeness of many neighbors. Drink 2016-2026. 91-93 points--Chuck Hayward

91-93 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Mouton-Rothschild (Pauillac)

Initially fragrant with hints of mushrooms and fresh earth, the nose slowly reveals more intriguing notes of soy, worstershire and umami leaving one with the impression of a grand cru burgundy. Attractive and complex black fruits form the foundation of the medium-full bodied palate with a moderately broad shape. While this is a touch reined in, there's considerable concentration that will open up if you give this some time. The subtle tendency to more elegance on the palate is also carried through to a finish that sees a layer of fine tannins that carry all the way through. A

youthful Mouton that is still finding its place, there's no doubting that there's plenty of stuffing in the tank here. Beaten to the top this vintage by a slightly better Latour. A great success for 2013. Drink 2018-2030.

94-96 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Pichon Longueville Lalande (Pauillac)

100% cabernet. The bouquet is closed, grudgingly revealing pure aromas of blackberry syrup and cassis. The real excitement comes from the palate where complex and layered black fruits swirl about. Soft at the core, medium to medium full bodied, the purity and elegance of the black cherry and blackberry flavors is thrilling to witness. The acids add just the right amount of brightness to the core of fruit while the tannins support, not overwhelm, the backpalate. This is the first time that Pichon-Lalande has not included any merlot in the grand vin. Thanks to yields of 13hl/ha and 80% less fruit versus last year, this Pichon Lalande has great concentration. A complete and complex wine. Drink 2016-2026.

93-95 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Pichon-Longueville Baron (Pauillac)

82% cabernet sauvignon and 18% merlot. There's heaps of ripe, juicy black fruits on the medium-bodied palate just hinting at some complexity and layering as the backpalate is revealed. The finish is a bit short allowing some spiky tannins to appear leaving a subtly firm note that masks the fruit. More foursquare than elegant in this vintage. Drink 2017-2025.

88-90 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Pontet-Canet (Pauillac)

65% cabernet sauvignon, 30% merlot, 4% cabernet franc and 1% petit verdot. Concentrated and dense, the bouquet has prunes and other riper black fruits scented with vanilla and hints of green spice. Juicy textures are more tangy than velvety thanks to a line of acid that weaves across the palate. More soft than structured, there are some faint, finely ground tannins that add some spine to the backpalate and finish. This is a juicy vintage for Pontet-Canet that brings to mind the fruit structure of an old-vine Zinfandel. While there is no shortage of fruit here, it's a bit loose-knit and unfocused. A bit more structure and spine would be helpful. Maybe this will firm up in barrel. Drink 2015-2025.

89-91 points—Chuck Hayward

The most famous appellation of the Medoc and the home to the most renowned first growths, Pauillac's wineries had more in common with their southern neighbors in St. Julien. And by that, each commune had some very ripe examples along with a number of pleasant wines but the peaks in Pauillac were much higher thanks to stellar wines from Mouton and Latour.

TASTING NOTES

ST. ESTEPHE



With cabernet sauvignon as the core varietal for wines from St. Estephe as well as the appellation's tendency to produce wines with robust tannins, wineries from this appellation had to work diligently to make balanced wines. For many domaines, the firm tannins created wine that were rough on the backpalate yet those estates that mastered the tannins (Calon Segur and Cos d'Estournel among them) also had the requisite fruit ripeness to make some of the top wines of the Medoc. There are few sleeper wines (Capbern-Gasqueton and Tronquay-Lalande among them) that have good value potential which would be worth checking out upon release.

2013 Capbern-Gasqueton (St. Estephe)

60% merlot and 40% cabernet sauvignon. With a classic St. Estephe nose, the bouquet possesses attractive depth and power, something not seen in much of the Medoc. Dark red fruits, tilled earth and pepper/spice aromas are focused and concentrated. Fresh, vibrant dark fruits lead the way on the palate with the medium-bodied flavors supported by perfectly honed tannins. This is almost a complete wine, well-made and a success for the vintage. From the owners of Calon-Segur. Enjoy 2018-2024

91-93 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Calon-Segur (St. Estephe)

92% cabernet sauvignon along with 6% merlot and 2% petit verdot. Deeply colored through to the rim, the bouquet is a bit closed yet there's an attractive core of pure dark red fruits laced with smoke and graphite to keep things interesting. It's on the palate where things improve with round and polished black cherry and berry flavors on a broad framework.

Expansive and reminiscent of a ripe grenache in texture, there's some richness here not seen in many other 2013s. Calon-Segur has been on a roll lately and remains one of Bordeaux's hidden values. Enjoy 2018-2023.

92-94 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Cos d'Estournel (St. Estephe)

78% cabernet sauvignon, 20% merlot and 2% cabernet franc. The nose starts off with a good whiff of oak that is quickly swept away by some black cherry syrup. Red fruits make up the attack with darker flavors coming through, all on a round and supple midpalate. Lush and soft, layers of flavors are revealed, ramping up the complexity. Almost a complete wine at this point with impeccable balance, there's a layer of pliant tannins to add some structure to the finish. Drink 2019-2026.

92-94 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Lafon-Rochet (St. Estephe)

70% cabernet sauvignon and 30% merlot. Initially closed, the bouquet reveals some fragrant herb and spice aromas that gain intensity with air. Initially broad and juicy on the palate, the black cherry flavors build up intensity towards the backpalate where the tannins make their appearance. The flavors of this medium-full bodied wine lack complexity and are more straightforward in nature. The fuzzy textured tannins kick in on the finish yet are in overall balance. Enjoy 2018-2023.

88-90 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Montrose (St. Estephe)

68% cabernet sauvignon, 29% merlot and 3% petit verdot. A small opaque center is surrounded by a translucent garnet robe. With a closed bouquet showing Rhone-inspired aromas, there's some complexity lurking underneath. The attack is subtle, emphasizing vibrant and fresh red and black cherries, but as the flavors carry through to the backpalate there's an increasing presence to be found. The tannins on the finish are appropriate to the weight of the wine, finely textured and slightly grippy. This is all about the hidden power that's packed into the backpalate so should require some time to come around. Enjoy 2020-2024.

90-92 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Ormes de Pez (St. Estephe)

48% cabernet sauvignon, 42% merlot, 10% cabernet franc and 2% petit verdot. The bouquet is a bit feral and wild leaving the impression that the cab franc component is dominant. The ripe and juicy attack is quickly subverted by some strong acidity leaving the wine quite tart on the finish. Strong tannins also appear and contribute to a firm, disjointed finish. Drink 2019-2024.

86-87 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Phélan Ségur (St. Estephe)

60% cabernet sauvignon with 40% merlot. Showing off classic Bordeaux aromas of fresh, loamy earth, those notes come through on the palate supplemented by some black cherry flavors. Medium-bodied with a more elegant shape to the palate, the fruit falls away to reveal some fuzzy tannins that take over the finish leaving a drying sensation. A bit too grippy here which will hopefully get resolved in barrel. Enjoy 2018-2023.

87-89 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Tronquay-Lalande (St. Estephe)

52% merlot, 8% petit verdot, 38% cabernet sauvignon and 2% cabernet franc. No need to worry about color here with an opaque core that extends to the rim. With a bouquet that is narrow and focused, there's still plenty of density and concentration where fresh earth and dark red fruits have some lifted red berry aromas to add some lift. Medium-bodied, this classic 2013 highlights bright red fruit flavors and a moderately broad midpalate. The crisp, fresh flavors give way to a short finish where some tannins leave a drying note. From the owners of Chateau Montrose. Drink 2019-2023.

89-91 points—Chuck Hayward

TASTING NOTES

PESSAC-LEOGNAN



Negociant Jeffrey Davies chats with Veronique Sanders of Chateau Haut-Bailly

The best red wines of Graves are traditionally renowned for their full-bodied, slightly earthy flavors with a newer, more contemporary style led by wineries like Domaine de Chevalier bring forth a juicy, more fruit centered wine. In 2013, however, the wineries that hewed towards the modern approach fared best. A number of wines resembled red burgundies with their clear colors and fresh, crisp red fruits placed on a medium-bodied frame yet they lacked the structural elements so typical of Pessac-Leognan. Tannins were another challenge and the successful wines possessed enough fruit to leave a balanced statement on the palate.

2013 Bouscaut (Pessac-Leognan)

60% merlot, 30% cabernet sauvignon, 10% malbec. A bit simple on the nose, with soft aromas of chalk and tar. The fruit is a bit underripe on the palate, with tart berry flavors and dry, disjointed tannins.

86-88 points—Cory Gowan

2013 Branon (Pessac-Leognan)

1/3 each cabernet sauvignon, merlot, and cabernet franc. Purple color, with a big nose full of oak, vanilla, and blue flowers. Sweet fruit on the palate, this is a 2013 to sink your teeth into given admirable ripeness for the vintage. Enjoyable while young. Tasted twice. Enjoy 2018-2026.

90-92 points—Cory Gowan

2013 de Chevalier (Pessac-Leognan)

85% cabernet sauvignon with 15% merlot. The moderately intense bouquet reveals a lot compared to its peers with an array of scents including sweet spices, sandalwood and cinnamon atop a kernel of dark red fruits. Medium-bodied with a core of ripe fruits that gains a bit of weight at the back, there's nice complexity on the palate. A layer of textured tannins supports the slightly short finish. Stephane Derenoncourt consults. Tasted three times. Drink 2017-2027.

91-93 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Clos Marsalette (Pessac-Leognan)

55% merlot, 43% cabernet sauvignon and 2% cabernet franc. Open and aromatic, the nose shows off tangy red fruits laced with cinnamon and other sweet spices. Ripe berry fruit flavors dominate the attack leaving an initial impression of softness but the palate is quickly overtaken by some sharp-edged acids leaving some awkwardness on the finish. Enjoy 2017-2025.

84-85 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 de Fieuzal (Pessac-Leognan)

45% cabernet sauvignon, 20% merlot, 10% cabernet franc, 5% petit verdot. A big, open nose of good pure fruit loaded with oak at this young stage. Nice and bright on the palate with loads of black fruit and dry extract. Serious for the vintage. Enjoy 2016-2023.

90-92 points—Cory Gowan

2013 de France (Pessac-Leognan)

50% cabernet sauvignon, 50% merlot. Bright and fragrant on the nose with some primary aromas and scents of stewed fruit. A bit unbalanced, it has nice ripeness on the palate with sweet fruit and a solid core, turning dry and grippy on the finish. Enjoy 2017-2025.

88-90 points—Cory Gowan

2013 Ferrande (Pessac-Leognan)

65% merlot, 30% cabernet sauvignon, 5% petit verdot. Translucent red. A pure core with soft ripe red fruit and aromas of chalk, but ultimately lacking balance and completeness. Drink 2017-2023.

87-89 points—Cory Gowan

2013 Haut-Bailly (Pessac-Leognan)

64% cabernet sauvignon, 34% merlot and 2% cabernet franc. Complex and aromatic if toned down in intensity, the strength of the pretty bouquet is the core of pure red-black cherries. Medium-bodied, the red fruit flavors are bright and vibrant due to some lift from the crisp acids. Almost pinot-like in its attitude, this is a fresh and quaffable wine with an intriguing undercurrent of cocoa. A pleasant wine but quite different than the more structured wines than is typical for this appellation. Drink 2019-2023.

90-92 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Haut-Bergey (Pessac-Leognan)

60% cabernet sauvignon with 40% merlot. Nice and balanced on the nose, this shows good ripeness with chocolate notes combined with mint and spice. A bit leafy on the palate, this has some cherry fruit to it and is sweet with a long finish. Tasted twice. Drink 2017-2025.

90-92 points—Cory Gowan

2013 Haut-Brion (Pessac-Leognan)

50% merlot, 45.5% cabernet sauvignon and 4.5% cabernet franc. There's a small opaque center to the bright, crimson color. Pure dark red fruit aromas show a bit of concentration on a tightly wound and compact frame. With supple textures and a bit of layering apparent, the dark red fruit flavors are coiled up and focused. Underneath lies a thread of earthy, fuzzy textured tannins. There's a bit more intensity and complexity here compared to the La Mission making this wine the most successful red wine of the portfolio. This shares with that wine a fresh, pinot-like expression but with more structural elements. Enjoy 2019-2024.

91-93 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 La Louvière (Pessac-Leognan)

70% cabernet sauvignon, 30% merlot. Translucent red, with aromas of oak and currants. Bright fruit with good acids, there's a lack of ripeness and the overall effect is tart and lean. Enjoy 2016-2021.

85-87 points—Cory Gowan

2013 Larrivet Haut-Brion (Pessac-Leognan)

56% cabernet sauvignon, 35% merlot and 9% cabernet franc. A serious nose of iron and tar, with oak and chalk rounding it out. This has good purity with soft and bright red fruits. Taut and chalky at the end, this will need some time. Drink 2017-2023.

90-92 points—Cory Gowan

2013 Laspault-Martillac (Pessac-Leognan)

Opaque throughout, the quiet nose offers up dark red fruits with fresh earth accents. With a fruity attack that leads to a small core of ripe, creamy textured fruit, there's some medium-bodied weight here. Fairly straightforward with some fine tannins at the end, this will provide some nice short-term drinking. Owned by Olivier Bernard of Domaine de Chevalier. Enjoy 2016-2021.

89-91 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Latour-Martillac (Pessac-Leognan)

60% cabernet sauvignon, 32% merlot, 8% petit verdot. Bright, thick, and viscous on the palate, this has grapey, slightly stewed aromas but is also complemented by pleasing elements of chocolate and violets. Chewy with serious structure, this has loads of dry tannin, heft, and length. Drink 2017-2025.

91-93 points—Cory Gowan

2013 Les Carmes Haut-Brion (Pessac-Leognan)

45% cabernet franc, 40% merlot, 15% cabernet sauvignon. Wow! A nice bright nose with aromas of flowers and cassis and a great cabernet profile. Sweet and lifted, the red fruit here turns tart and chalky towards the finish. Good effort for the year. Tasted four times. Enjoy 2017-2023.

91-93 points—Cory Gowan

2013 Malartic-Lagravière (Pessac-Leognan)

45% merlot, 45% cabernet sauvignon, 8% cabernet franc, 2% petit verdot. Smokey on the nose, with aromas of tar, oak, dry earths, and leaves. Blue fruit on the palate that's soft and pure, this turns taut and tannic at the finish but with good

length. Enjoy 2017-2023.

90-92 points—Cory Gowan

2013 La Mission Haut Brion (Pessac-Leognan)

65% merlot, 32% cabernet sauvignon and 3% cabernet franc. Moderately intense, the aromas here accentuate juicy red fruits with pure expressions of crisp berries. With medium-bodied flavors, the texture resembles more of a youthful Burgundy than a classic Bordeaux with bright, fresh red fruits enlivened by some crisp acidity. The zesty flavors continue towards a narrow finish that is complemented with some spicy tannins. Very youthful at this stage, it would be nice to see some more traditional structural elements here. Drink 2017-2025.

90-92 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Olivier (Pessac-Leognan)

60% cabernet sauvignon, 40% merlot. Smokey on the nose, with a nice dose of garrigue and damp earth. This is wild on the nose, with cab franc aromas. Weighty and pure in the mouth, this features minerality and red fruit on the palate. A bit tannic on the finish at this young stage, but well done for the vintage. Drink 2017-2023.

91-93 points—Cory Gowan

2013 Pape Clément (Pessac-Leognan)

40% merlot, 54.5% cabernet sauvignon, 5.5% cabernet franc. Dark and pure in color, with serious red fruit and vanilla aromas on the nose. The palate is super pure, with soft red fruits and a terrific long finish. Enjoy 2017-2025.

91-93 points—Cory Gowan

2013 Picque Caillou (Pessac-Leognan)

62% cabernet sauvignon and 38% merlot. Super tart and open for business, with primary fruit and a soft, earthy midpalate. Wild at this stage, with a dry, tarry, tannic finish. Drink 2016-2020.

87-89 points—Cory Gowan

2013 Smith Haut Lafitte (Pessac-Leognan)

60% cabernet sauvignon, 35% merlot, 4% cabernet franc, 1% petite verdot. Dark in color, this stands out in the Pessac-Leognan lineup for good reason. Deep and chocolatey on the nose, with serious pure red fruit, layered and stacked giving it complexity. Cherry flavors too at some points. Long in the finish, this shows complexity missing in some of its peers. Drink 2017-2023.

91-93+ points—Cory Gowan

TASTING NOTES

POMEROL



This small appellation has been on a hot streak of late thanks to a unique terroir that has allowed many wineries to successfully handle the challenges of difficult years like 2011 and 2012. Because Pomerol depends on the earlier ripening merlot grape, some wineries were able to get a bit of ripeness to the fruit that made it to the cellar. But the storms on the horizon required the fruit to be picked a bit earlier than preferred so we are left with many pleasant, medium-bodied wines at lower alcohols than the past few years. There's just a shade less concentration compared to the successful wines from the previous two years. The best examples (l'Eglise-Clinet, Trotanoy, VCC) have velvety textures, a purity of fruit and long, lingering finishes. It's just unfortunate that a few more days of sunshine were not in the cards.

2013 Beauregard (Pomerol)

With a narrow pink-hued rim and a subtle nose that reveals hints of red fruits and earth, this medium-bodied Pomerol showcases softly textured red fruits and berries. The finish is a touch dilute with a thread of rounded tannins providing support. This is a classic if simple Pomerol for the vintage whose final impression is somewhat rustic thanks to the finish. Enjoy 2019-2023.

88 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Le Bon Pasteur (Pomerol)

Although quite closed and not showing much on the nose, it's still possible to sense the latent power and concentration lurking underneath this backwards bouquet. As is usual for this estate, there's plenty of black fruit flavors to be found here, compact and medium bodied. Not as broadly textured as in past vintages, the fruit narrows towards the finish where some tannins kick in, finely textured yet substantial. This is a typical, modern styled Le Bon Pasteur, hopefully the tannins will get resolved. Formerly owned by Michel Rolland, he remains as a consulting winemaker. Tasted twice. Enjoy 2017-2025.

89-91 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Certan de May (Pomerol)

A small robe of translucent garnet is complemented with soft aromas of lifted red fruit aromas tinged with vanilla. Medium-bodied, the red fruit flavors exhibit soft edges and textures. Here's an example of the tendency of some 2013s to display a palate with a pinot noir style. A pretty Pomerol, this lacks the spine and density of fruit at the core of the palate seen in the best 2013s from Christian Moueix. Drink 2020-2024.

87-89 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Clinet (Pomerol)

90% merlot, 9% cabernet franc and 1% cabernet sauvignon. Just about opaque, purple-black color through to the rim, the closed-in nose has earth and black fruits trying to appear. Medium bodied, this vintage of Clinet is dense and backward at this point with the wine's structure speaking more loudly than the black fruit flavors. Nicely appointed acids add a touch of lift to the palate core. Firm at the back with some readily apparent tannins leaving a drying note, here's a wine that needs some time to show some finesse. Enjoy 2019-2024. Tasted twice.

91-93 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Clos l'Eglise (Pomerol)

80% merlot with 20% cabernet franc. Initially closed on the nose, hints of black cherry emerge slowly. Ripe and juicy on the attack, the black fruit flavors build leaving a broad statement on the medium- to medium-full bodied midpalate. The richness connects seamlessly to the backpalate, supported by fine tannins that are in balance with the weight of the wine. This is a very complete Pomerol at this stage and is quite approachable. Well done. Tasted twice. Enjoy 2016-2026.

91-93 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 La Conseillante (Pomerol)

82% merlot with 18% cabernet franc. The profile and shape of the bouquet is classic La Conseillante, reined in yet revealing a pure and bright nose of dark and black fruits, vanilla and coffee bean along with a sweet floral note. Dark, black fruit flavors are placed on an elegant frame, the sleek palate transitioning to a long finish with superfine tannins. Despite the elegance here, the fruit here is polished and intense. Should gain a bit of weight during its time in the cellar. Love the purity and the poise here. Tasted twice. Enjoy 2016-2014.

92-94 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 l'Eglise-Clinet (Pomerol)

90% merlot and 10% cabernet franc. Purple-black in color, the bouquet is reticent and reserved and the subtlety is reflected in the palate's quiet attack. Nevertheless, there's a precision and clear delineation to the black fruit flavors that are coiled up at this point. Showing a keen balance of fruit and structure, licorice and spice notes soon appear with air. Finely ground tannins add a thread of firmness while acids lash the black fruits to the framework of the finish. Denis Durantou continues his string of successes with this winning 2013. Compared with the superlative 2012 which possessed much more density and length, this is, perhaps, not as showy as last year's bottling, yet this will shine with a few years in bottle. Enjoy 2016-2026.

93-95 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Feytit-Clinet (Pomerol)

95% merlot with 5% cabernet franc. The bouquet is a bit disjointed appearing out of whack and lacking harmony. The dark, red fruits are tinged with herb-laced spices with fine tannins adding a firm edge to the finish. All in all, a nice wine but seems a bit reined in and lacking some of the exuberance in years like 2011. Worth taking a more serious look on release. Enjoy 2016-2025.

89-91 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Gazin (Pomerol)

100% merlot. The restrained nose exhibits some subtle spices and a dash of tilled earth atop a dose of ripe red cherries. The attack is juicy with red fruit flavors showing some breadth across the palate. Medium-bodied, the only fault to be seen now are some slightly drying tannins that could be resolved with time. Overall, though, a success given the vintage. Enjoy 2018-2026.

90-92 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Lafleur Gazin (Pomerol)

The nose here is quite closed with little to show of itself along with a palate that shares a similar reined in quality. There's some attractive black fruit flavors that are firm yet don't overwhelm the fine tannins. This is a well-put together wine made in a more restrained style with balance and finesse, the hallmarks to be found in 2013. Drink 2016-2025.

89-91 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 La Fleur-Petrus (Pomerol)

At this point, the closed bouquet reveals quiet notes of firm dark red fruits. Medium-bodied, initially there's a small kernel of concentrated fruit at the palate core. This slowly opens to reveal a bit more interest where notes of coffee and mocha show a darker shade of flavor to the wine. The sleekly profiled palate is supported by fine grained, yet firm tannins that are in balance with the fruit. Drink 2020-2025.

92-94 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Latour-a-Pomerol (Pomerol)

There's a more open and perfumed bouquet to this bottling compared to other Moueix wines along with a darker hue. There's a youthful sensibility here as well, with darker red fruits aromas to be found. Medium-bodied with an elegantly shaped palate, the core of firm black fruits exhibits concentration in proportion to the wine's structure. This is already a drinkable wine that is quite approachable with pinot-like qualities supported by tannins that align with the fruit. The fruit concentration here is admirable. Drink 2019-2027.

92-94 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Petit-Village (Pomerol)

70% merlot, 20% cabernet franc and 10% cabernet sauvignon. The subtle bouquet is classic in style, maybe even a touch rustic with notes of mint, fresh earth and a whiff of leaf swirling about. The palate is compact in shape with a modicum of sweet red fruits supported by some slightly spicy tannins. The medium bodied wine has some nice

length as well. A well made, correct Pomerol. Enjoy 2020-2024.

88-90 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 La Petite Eglise (Pomerol)

100% merlot. Quite aromatic with polished aromas of red fruits that carry on to the palate. Maybe a bit more of a pinched profile on the palate, there are layers of supple flavors to be found in a wine that does lack for power or concentration. This so-called "second wine" from Denis Durantou of l'Eglise Clinet is actually from another property that borders La Grave a Pomerol. There are only 800 cases of this wine to be made in 2013 and they will only be available in magnums. This is a great deal en primeur and the only way to secure this wine. Drink 2016-2028.

92-94 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Plince (Pomerol)

Mostly opaque at the core with a hazy, translucent garnet rim, some soft red fruit aromas present themselves with attractive vanilla notes leading the charge. There's a small core of darker, sweeter red fruits at the palate's center with the medium weighted palate showing some depth on the long finish. Fine tannins complement the wine's elegant frame. This is a pretty wine, and while it could use a bit more complexity, is nonetheless a success in this difficult harvest. Enjoy 2019-2024.

90-92 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Trotanoy (Pomerol)

The 2013 starts with subtle aromas of soft berries of mild intensity that leads into a medium to medium-full bodied palate that showcases a round shape with layered flavors. The creamy attack is supplemented with soft edges and a slow revealing of more density of flavors in the backpalate. While this may not be a showstopper based on weight or extract, what makes this a thrilling wine is its perfect proportions and seamless textures. The ability of this wine to balance ripeness, palate weight and tannins is enthralling. This will go 15 years easily. Enjoy 2017-2026.

93-95 points—Chuck Hayward

This small appellation has been on a hot streak of late thanks to a unique terroir that has allowed many wineries to successfully handle the challenges of difficult years like 2011 and 2012.

TASTING NOTES

SAINT EMILION



Jonathan Maltus of Chateau Teyssier and Le Dome discusses the 2013s.

This sprawling appellation has been an excellent source for forward and accessible wines over the past few years thanks to the region's dependence on merlot. This early ripening varietal fared better than cabernet sauvignon as the October rainstorms arrived allowing these wines to have a modicum of ripeness. Few wines from here exhibited the pinot-like colors and textures that were seen in the Medoc. This year's wines largely avoided the overripeness and high alcohol levels that's been encountered in previous years. The result has been a plethora of wines that will provide pleasurable drinking over the next decade along with a few candidates (Valandraud, Vieux Chateau Mazerat) for wine of the year.

2013 Angelus (St. Emilion)

Showing off some attractive complexity on the nose, the elegant, mildly intense bouquet showcases shitake mushrooms, soy and other umami scents. This contrasts with the very ripe palate where juicy black fruits occupy the breadth of the palate. With flavors and vibrant acids more akin to a vintage port, there's also some creaminess to the textures here. The tannins are softly textured and leave some drying notes under the rich fruit on the finish. Drink 2017-2025.

91-93 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Les Asteries (St. Emilion)

83% merlot and 17% cabernet franc. Closed on the nose, firm black fruit aromas are complemented by notes of toasted oak. More foursquare than supple on the palate, flavors of black cherries are concentrated and dense. There's some latent complexity lurking within the compact shaped palate with tannins adding even more firmness on the lengthy finish. This is a stablemate with the "Le Carre" bottling in Jonathan Maltus' portfolio that exhibits more structure and ageworthiness. Drink 2018-2028.

93-95 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Ausone (St. Emilion)

55% cabernet franc and 45% merlot. Very closed in aromatically, there's a beautiful sheen to the firm black fruit aromas that are complemented with spice and licorice notes. The sense of restraint is also found on the attack where the subtle yet concentrated black fruit flavors slowly build increasing amounts of intensity in the transition to the back. There's a sleek and refined sensibility to the palate leaving no trace of fat or overly broad textures. The latent richness is held in by perfectly aligned acids while microscopic tannins add some subtle structure on the long finish. Not as obvious as past vintages, this will unfurl beautifully with delineated flavors peeling away over time. Lots of potential here. Drink 2017-2028.

93-95 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Barde-Haut (St. Emilion)

90% merlot and 10% cabernet franc. The oak component is more pronounced at first but some aeration reveals concentrated black fruit aromas. The juicy attack highlights bright black fruit flavors that are seductive and balanced. Placed on a medium-full bodied frame, black cherry flavors are concentrated and viscous in texture. There are appropriate levels of acidity that add some tension towards

the back while firm tannins provide structure. Some layering of flavors is present that along with the concentrated fruit indicates good potential for medium-term development.

Drink 2018-2026.

91-93 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Bellevue Mondotte (St. Emilion)

Opaque and purple-black in color from the center to the rim. The entry possesses a core of ripe, black fruits while gaining in richness and texture as the flavors transition to the backpalate. A sense of firmness dominates the finish thanks to a layer of fine grained tannins that appears once the softly textured core gives way. A very correct wine from the Perse family in 2013. Drink 2018-2023.

90-92 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Beasejour-Duffeau (St. Emilion)

There's lots of complexity and sophistication to be found in the aromatics with plenty of dark red fruits. Round and supple on the attack, the supple textures on the medium to medium-full bodied palate continue to the back. The palate shows great poise and balance with lots of immediate appeal. Further complexity comes from the superfine tannins that are in perfect balance with the weight of the fruit. Tasted twice. Drink 2016-2026.

93-95 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Berliquet (St. Emilion)

The moderately intense bouquet shows off dark red fruits complemented by mineral notes. There's an explosive presence of fruit on the palate with flavors reminiscent of vintage port. Juicy with layered textures on the attack, the medium-full bodied palate turns more structured and drier towards the finish. An array of tannins combine with a line of tangy acid on the firm finish. Tasted twice. Enjoy 2017-2025.

87-89 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Le Carre (St. Emilion)

85% merlot and 15% cabernet franc. Opaque purple-black to the rim, the powerful and concentrated bouquet is quite appealing. Round and supple on the attack, the dark red fruit flavors are medium-weighted and transition seamlessly towards the backpalate. Here some structural elements appear as superfine tannins are perfectly integrated and meshed with the rounded fruit on the palate. A Jonathan Maltus wine. 300 cases produced. Drink 2017-2025.

92-94 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Cheval Blanc (St. Emilion)

52% cabernet franc and 48% merlot. The bouquet is quite refined and elegant, perfumed in the manner of bright, youthful burgundies. This freshness comes through on the palate where high-toned red fruit flavors are elegantly shaped. Seamless from front to back, there's a bit more concentration developing on the backpalate with air. A thread of spicy tannins adds a touch of firmness to the finish. This is an elegantly styled Cheval Blanc that is more pretty than powerful and brings to mind the 2013 Haut-Brion. Drink 2017-2023.

91-93 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Clos Fourtet (St. Emilion)

Exhibiting an open and complex bouquet, there's a lot to like here with rich notes of dark red fruits and fresh mushrooms. The attack is soft with appealing round edges to the front of the palate. The shape remains balanced with a line of bright acidity infiltrating the midpalate. As the finish tightens up, spicy tannins comprise the wine's final statement. This should open up nicely. Stephane Deroncourt consults. Drink 2017-2023.

90-92 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Le Dome (St. Emilion)

80% cabernet franc and 20% merlot. Lifted and bright aromas of soft black cherries and other red fruits are more diffused than precise with some lactic notes with air. Medium-bodied and round textured, notes of sweet red cherries have some feral, sauvage qualities on the fringe of the palate. Like the nose, the palate lacks a delineated or focused flavor profile with mild tannins in support. Compared with the more powerful and precise wine from Maltus' Vieux Chateau Mazerat, this Le Dome could use a touch more structure to rein in the palate's diffused flavors, especially on the midpalate. Tasted twice. Drink 2017-2025.

92-94 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Gracia (St. Emilion)

65% merlot, 30% cabernet franc with 5% cabernet sauvignon. Compact and dense, there's not much currently being offered on the nose. This year's Gracia has classic dark red fruit flavors but they are placed on a compact palate that lacks the estate's classic breadth and richness. A tight finish follows on from the focused palate with tannins in balance with the fruit. This is a more restrained Gracia that lacks the showy opulence that has made past vintages

so attractive in their youth. There is, nevertheless, plenty of concentrated fruit that will be revealed with time. Drink 2018-2025.

91-93 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Lafarge (St. Emilion)

92% merlot and 8% cabernet franc. Opaque to the rim with purple-black color. The bouquet is very complete and intriguing with oak notes framing intense black fruits. Broadly textured, there are plenty of black fruit flavors to occupy the palate that are supported by poised and balanced tannins. This is more structured than fruity on the palate with great intensity. Drink 2016-2026.

91-93 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Larcis Ducasse (St. Emilion)

The bouquet is closed and reserved with subtle dark fruit aromas emerging with air. There's a small kernel of fresh ripe black fruits on the attack that's followed up with some even richer and riper textures that border on being syrupy. Firmer textures come through on the backpalate along with an undercurrent of firm tannins. A classic Larcis Ducasse. Stephane Deroncourt consults. Tasted three times. Drink 2016-2026.

89-91 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Lucia (St. Emilion)

There's not much to offer on the bouquet except for some whiffs of fresh earth and black cherries. There's much more on the palate however as a juicy attack highlights a line of menthol and minerals in the vibrant, concentrated black fruit flavors. A sheen of vanilla adds to the layered textures that are broad yet balanced. Finely grained tannins work to the benefit of the wine adding some structure to the finish. Drink 2016-2025.

91-93 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Monbousquet (St. Emilion)

Muted aromas of earth and dark fruits comprise the subtle bouquet but ripe black fruits are the name of the game on the attack. Medium-bodied, there's a touch of sweetness to the dark red fruit flavors that occupy a subtly shaped presence on the palate. The tannins are slightly roasted and though finely grained, add some grip to the finish. Drink 2018-2026.

88-90 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Pavie (St. Emilion)

Opaque and purple-black in color to the rim, the bouquet is initially dominated with oak though dark red fruit aromas slowly appear with air. A combination of dark red and black fruit flavors form the basis of a midpalate that is almost viscous in texture. The shape of the palate is more compact and focused and a sense of firmness appears as the flavors progress towards a backpalate supported by fine, firm tannins. A bit unyielding at present, this classic Pavie will need some time. Drink 2018-2026

91-93 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Pavie Decesse (St. Emilion)

Opaque purple-black in color from core to rim, charry oak initially dominates the bouquet that later reveals some fresh earth. Black fruits form the core of the attack and as the flavors progress on the focused palate, there's more firmness and focus here than breadth and width. A substantial layer of fine tannins offer more firmness on the finish. A bit of juicy, round textural elements would make this a more supple and approachable wine. Hopefully, the tannins and oak will integrate over time. Drink 2018-2026.

87-89 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Pavie Macquin (St. Emilion)

There's lots of complexity to be found here with a foundation of black fruits topped with mint and powerful roasted coffee aromas. Dark fruits that are juicy and soft edged dominate the attack with structural firmness following. The tannins are firm and laced with flavors of cocoa and coffee yet are in overall balance. Tasted twice.

90-92 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Rol Valentin (St. Emilion)

Classic Rol Valentin on the nose, the black fruit aromas are deep and concentrated, scented with fresh loamy earth and black truffles. There's some creamy vanilla oak on the attack as the fruit expression broadens across the palate. Well appointed acids and tannins help keep the broad textures in check. There's some attractive layering of flavors and tannins that are firm and slightly grippy. Known for their intense style, Rol Valentin reined in the textures this vintage and showed some elegance to their approach. Drink 2017-2024.

90-92 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Quintus (St. Emilion)

Closed on the nose, some hints of black cherries slowly emerge with air. Roundly textured on the attack, the weight of the wine swells up nicely as the moderately intense red fruited flavors progress across the palate. Attractive notes of black cherries show intriguing shadings as layers peel away with a profile resembling pinot noir. The tannins are quite subtle and contribute a faint sense of structure to the finish. Definitely geared towards a delicate interpretation of the appellation this vintage. This is a new wine (first vintage was 2011) from the Luxembourg family, owners of Chateau Haut-Brion. The wine is made from vineyards that provided fruit to Chateau l'Arrose and Chateau Terte Daugay. Drink 2016-2023.

90-92 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Sansonnet (St. Emilion)

There's little doubt as to the weight of this wine thanks to the powerful and ripe bouquet. As expected, the rich, full-bodied palate possesses gobs of ripe black fruit flavors that acquire more intensity towards the back. Grippy tannins add some firmness to the blackberry flavors on the finish. Drink 2016-2026. 89-91 points—Chuck Hayward

89-91 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Teyssier (St. Emilion)

70% merlot and 30% Cabernet franc. Purple-black in color almost through to the rim, the mildly intense bouquet is full of plush red and black fruits. Polished and complex, layers of bright cherries form the attack revealing even more depth and concentration. Medium-full bodied, this is an almost complete wine with attractive flavors and textures on a soft finish. Tasted twice. Enjoy 2017-2027.

91-93 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Trimoulet (St. Emilion)

The youthful opaque core is surrounded by a translucent garnet robe. The bouquet is subtle and slightly aromatic with faint herbal notes atop some aromas of black cherries. The medium bodied palate showcases delicate red fruits that are supported by herb laced tannins. While the fruit is dilute on the finish, the subtle tannins are appropriately balanced to the weight of the palate. A pleasant, elegantly styled wine for short-term drinking. Enjoy 2016-2023.

87-89 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Valandraud (St. Emilion)

Despite initial reticence, there's plenty of power and concentration that will be revealed with time. Closed in black fruit aromas lurk underneath more open aromas of vanilla-laced oak. Exhibiting impressive breadth and depth on the palate, there's no sense of over-ripeness thanks to balanced acids that add vivacity and freshness. Swirling dark fruit flavors and textures are exciting to witness and meld seamlessly with the polished tannins. An excellent wine and one of the best for the vintage, this is talented winemaking combined with perfect fruit. Bravo! Drink 2015-2029.

94-96 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Vieux Chateaux Mazerat (St. Emilion)

65% merlot and 35% cabernet franc. The bouquet here is not short on intensity as dark fruit aromas complemented with smoke tones leap from the glass. The mouthfilling palate is densely packed showing off lots of black fruits yet is no way overwhelming thanks to a suppleness on the edges and finish. Licorice, smoke and spice add to the blackberry and black cherry flavors on the full and rounded finish. For those who think 2013 is awash with wines of subtle intensity comes this structured yet balanced St. Emilion from Jonathan Maltus. This is a bigger, masculine wine compared to the Le Dome and will probably outshine its more illustrious stablemate down the track. Easily one of the top reds of the year, Maltus has shown his skills in making a wine like this in 2013.

95-97 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Vieux Tallifer (St. Emilion)

Showing some complex aromatics, the bouquet is quite refined and leans towards a more classic, savory approach. The palate shows an opposite approach as juicy and ripe flavors form the attack. The transition from the front to the backpalate is seamless with the textures held in check by integrated acids. The black fruit flavors are focused towards the finish where some classic, herb laced tannins lend a final presence. Drink 2017-2023.

90-92 points—Chuck Hayward



Jean-Luc Thunevin of Chateau Valandraud (r) with his export manager Xavier Serin

TASTING NOTES

WHITE BORDEAUX



With sauvignon blanc and semillon ripening in mid- to late September, the region's white wine producers avoided the bad weather that plagued Bordeaux's red varieties. Able to pick clean fruit at optimum ripeness, the white wines of Bordeaux are the unqualified success story for the vintage. Small yields helped to concentrate flavors and the cool temperatures preserved the acidity to add length to the palate while guaranteeing improvement for those who want to cellar their wines. Indeed, the 2013 whites have such powerful flavors that, in many cases, the acids seem masked by the rich textures. Expect the puppy fat to die away a bit between now and bottling so that briskness and complexity will become the hallmark of the wines upon release.

2013 Bouscalt Blanc (Pessac-Leognan)

With a nose more resembling a chardonnay than a Bordeaux blanc, there's plenty of creamy oak evident here. The palate, however, is more about angles than roundness with a compact shape to this medium-bodied wine. Herbal spices and a touch of green-tinged citrus flavors are arrayed on the tight frame followed up by some bitter notes. Some fruit to fill out the palate would help here. Drink 2015-2020.

86-88 points—Chuck Hayward.

2013 de Chevalier Blanc (Pessac-Leognan)

80% sauvignon blanc and 20% semillon. With a bouquet that exhibits medium-light intensity, there are scents of flowers, citrus and spice that are delicate and subtle. There's more to the palate with flavors of apples and pears leading a broad attack that turns firm on the edges. This one highlights structure over creaminess with a firm, compact finish that nevertheless shows good concentration of flavor. Drink 2015-2025.

92-94 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Clos Marsalette Blanc (Pessac-Leognan)

50% semillon and 50% sauvignon blanc. The riper fruit aromas here are supported by some noticeable oak. With a bouquet that is straightforward and not overly complex, the palate tends to follow with a similar profile. There's plenty of ripe and juicy pear and apple flavors, just not enough complexity. Spice on the finish is complemented with a thread of acidity to add some line and drive. Enjoy 2015-2020.

89-91 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 de Fieuzal Blanc (Pessac-Leognan)

65% sauvignon blanc and 35% semillon. Open and forward aromas of ripe citrus mingle with spice and pear scents. There's some breadth and creaminess on the midpalate, flavored with soft apples, sweet spices and smoke. The round, soft finish is a touch dilute and straightforward. Could use a bit of tension here but this is still a great quaffing wine. Drink 2015-2020.

90-92 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Haut-Bergey Blanc (Pessac-Leognan)

Subtle aromas of citrus and other floral elements are hinted at on the restrained and straightforward bouquet. There's a bit more to offer on the palate with a core of creamy melon flavors showing some breadth. Things tighten up towards the finish as the focus turns to tightly wound citrus and minerals. A bit more complexity and intensity would make this a winning wine. Tasted twice. Enjoy 2015-2020.

91-93 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Haut-Brion Blanc (Pessac-Leognan)

66% sauvignon blanc with 34% semillon. Quite reticent and backwards on the nose, there's a hint of classic minerals and sea shells laced into the quietly complex bouquet. There's much more richness on the palate, however, which shows a deft balancing act between ripe textures and acid-driven tension. Showing a hint of generosity, the coiled up fruit stands in perfect contrast. Hints of creamy vanilla mix with pears and apples adding some roundness to the long and lingering finish. A masterful wine that is maybe a bit more open than past vintages and clearly stands above its stablemate. Enjoy 2016-2033.

94-96 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Larrivet Haut-Brion Blanc (Pessac-Leognan)

70% sauvignon blanc, 18% semillon and 12% sauvignon gris. The restrained bouquet hints at some creamy stone fruits and spice and perhaps a bit of complexity. Showcasing a focused and linear shape to the palate, notes of stones, tight citrus and minerals drive the flavor profile. This approach continues on the finish where the balanced acids drive the lengthy finish. This wine is all about the tension and drive on the palate; those looking for fruit forward richness and textures should look elsewhere. Enjoy 2015-2025.

92-94 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Laspault-Martillac Blanc (Pessac-Leognan)

80% sauvignon blanc with 20% semillon. Very enticing on the nose, attractive coconut laced sweet oak is contrasted by a line of pear and shell aromas. Tight and hinting at some complexity, the shape of the palate follows the bouquet with crisp, tightly wound fruits on the attack surrounded by zippy acids. With pears, spice and minerals on the tight finish, there's an underlying salty note to get the palate salivating.

2013 Latour-Martillac Blanc (Pessac-Leognan)

79% sauvignon blanc with 30% semillon. Aromatic and quite powerful, spicy wood aromas quickly give way to an attractive thread of sea shell minerality dosed with lemon cream. Currently showing a bit of width in the palate, there's still some tightness and focus to this medium bodied wine. Spicy on the finish, the fresh acidity propels the citrus infused flavors along as a line of mineral notes appear. This is an excellent wine with lots of flavor in reserve that will appear over the next few years. Drink 2015-2025.

93-95 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Malartic-Lagravière Blanc (Pessac-Leognan)

90% sauvignon blanc and 10% semillon. Tightly wound yet expressive, the bouquet is dominated by citrus notes complemented by subtle pear and spice aromas. The palate is another matter with explosive ripe fruits and complex textures combining to make a very approachable wine. Creamy on the attack, there's appropriate acidity to add some lift and vibrancy to the core of fresh tree fruits. While lacking a touch of acid to add some drive to the finish, the soft landing will make for some delicious early drinking. Enjoy 2015-2020.

93-95 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 La Mission Haut Brion Blanc (Pessac-Leognan)

76% semillon with 24% sauvignon blanc. There's a whiff of fresh, New Zealand inspired sauvignon aromas on the tight and focused bouquet. Showing off a hint of tropical fruit notes, the attack is juicy and almost viscous with a broad presence on the palate. Some underlying acidity adds tension to the backpalate and bit of drive on the finish. Delicious stuff but maybe a bit more obvious than its

neighbor, which at this point is more coiled up and seems to have more in reserve. Enjoy 2015-2025.

93-95 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Olivier Blanc (Pessac-Leognan)

68% sauvignon blanc, 20% semillon and 2% muscadelle. There are some green tinged fruits to be coaxed out of the glass on the initial whiff. With flavors that are a bit simple, there's still a lot of textural complexity with minerals, crisp acids and a core of spicy fruit mixed about. The spices continue on the finish. A bit more interesting fruit could ratchet up the excitement level of this wine. Enjoy 2015-2020.

90 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Pape Clément Blanc (Pessac-Leognan)

44% sauvignon blanc, 37% semillon, 16% sauvignon gris, and 3% muscadelle. There's not much to notice on the bouquet as subtle scents of pear and apple try to expand from the tight nose. This compactness is also exhibited on the palate which is firm on the edges surrounding a small core of apple/pear fruit. This is a quite different expression for Pape Clement showing a more tighter shape and less influence of oak. Tasted twice. Drink 2015-2025.

91-93 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Smith Haut Lafitte Blanc (Pessac-Leognan)

Powerful and forward fruit aromas are ripe and creamy, though maybe not as complex as some, but still the intensity is engaging. Ripe citrus and pear flavors are placed on a round midpalate showing more complexity than the bouquet. A line of acidity adds some tension to the textured fruit flavors contributing some line and drive while adding some focus to the finish. This is a richer, hedonistic example of

Both Haut-Brion and La Mission Haut-Brion set the standard for the whites of the vintage but there are some compelling wines from a number of other estates in Leognan are worthy candidates for your attention.

BORDEAUX BLANCS

2013 Aile d'Argent (Bordeaux Blanc)

56% sauvignon blanc, 43% semillon and 1% muscadelle. Very intense and ripe aromas of apples and green melons are laced with citrus and enveloped with threads of honeyed oak. More round and blended than precise, the bouquet is quite enthralling at this point. With a voluptuous character more akin to a white Burgundy, layers of flavors peel away revealing more nuance and complexity. Broadly textured with powerful flavors, the pears and apples mesh with tropical notes of pineapple core, mango and coconut. This is not just a rich, medium-full and approachable wine as a line of acids creates some line and drive to the finish. Probably showing the most texture of the white Bordeaux from this vintage, this has lots of upfront hedonistic qualities. From Chateau Mouton-Rothschild. Drink 2015-2023.

93-95 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Cos d'Estournel Blanc (Bordeaux Blanc)

76% sauvignon blanc with 24% semillon. Bright and zippy lime and apple flavors make up a tight entry as more weight and ripe textures follow on the midpalate. A strong undercurrent of minerals and acids forms underneath the ripe lemon and pear flavors and continues on to the tight and focused finish. There's lots of potential here with this vintage clearly benefitting from the maturing vines (planted in 2001). Showing less saline characters and more fruit concentration than previous years, this is the best example yet from this estate. Made in very small amounts. Enjoy 2016-2024.

92-94 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Monbousquet Blanc (Bordeaux Blanc)

The moderately intense bouquet possesses primary aromas focused on honeydew melons and pears. Round and juicy

on the attack, the softly edged textures continue towards the backpalate. This is not an overly complex wine as the riper tree fruit flavors are straightforward and pleasantly presented. A line of citrus-laced acids helps to add some mineral infused tension to the finish. This will be a good drink in the short-term. Drink 2015-2021.

90-92 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Pavillon Blanc du Chateau Margaux (Bordeaux Blanc)

Made entirely from sauvignon blanc. The bouquet is focused and compact in shape with more high-toned notes of grapefruit and citrus skin. More tightly wound than broad, there's a classic shape to this medium-bodied wine with lemon and lime flavors framed by mildly brisk acids. The finish retains this focused frame. Pavillon Blanc has been moving towards a lower alcohol style with less oak and obvious texture than what was produced at the chateau in the past. This will require and reward some short-term cellaring. Drink 2016-2013.

92-94 points—Chuck Hayward

2013 Valandraud Blanc (Bordeaux Blanc)

50% sauvignon gris with 50% semillon. Quite closed aromatically, there are hints of tropical fruit aromas and touches of spice wafting out with some air. Very complex, the textures are much broadened and intense than what's indicated by the bouquet. Ripe pears and other stone fruits make up the seductive and complex palate avoiding any overripe or syrupy texture thanks to a layer of enmeshed acids. This is a richer style than most whites from Pessac-Leognan and will provide lots of pleasure over the near term. Drink 2015-2021.

93-95 points—Chuck Hayward

SAUTERNES

2013 was an excellent year for Sauternes, and the wines rank among the best wines produced in this difficult vintage. The succession of rain squalls followed by sun and high temperatures provided the perfect conditions for the development of botrytis. This vintage sees many wines with an extra dimension of richness on the palate, an almost viscous texture that masks the line of acidity that ensures a long life in the bottle. Due to scheduling conflicts, we were unable to taste through the entire range of 2013 Sauternes presented by the Union des Grand Crus. Samples that we tried at visits to negociants had been bottled 3-5 days earlier so we decided to exclude those notes for this report. We did get a chance to taste a fresh sample of the 2013 Chateau d'Yquem and that tasting note follows.



2013 d'Yquem (Sauternes)

70% semillon with 30% sauvignon blanc. Clear at the rim, there's a hazy yellow-gold color at the core. Intense notes of honeyed tree fruits and citrus waft out easily from the glass. Already showing layers upon layers of texture, the palate core shows off a gelatinous viscosity rarely seen in past years. Concentrated and complex with flavors of marmalade, mandarin oranges and honey, the palate avoids any overripe or flabby sensibilities. Instead, the underlying acidity appears on the thrilling finish to provide length and drive along with a thread of chalky minerals. Always an exciting experience to taste *en primeur*, this vintage ratchets up the quality level if that can be believed. Enjoy 2016-2043+.

96-98 points—Chuck Hayward