

En Primeur

by **Majestic**

Bordeaux 2021

Majestic En Primeur is an exclusive service designed to help you invest in some of the world's greatest wines, before they're even bottled.

Backed by Majestic's forty years of superb producer relationships, our expert buying team travelled to France in order to track down and secure you a selection of the finest and most promising wines of Bordeaux's 2021 vintage. All available for you to purchase ahead of the crowd.

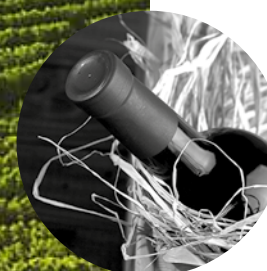
Majestic En Primeur is here to help you expand your cellar – one step at a time.

What is En Primeur?

En Primeur (or "wine futures") is a way of buying wine whilst it's still in barrel. By investing in these brand new vintages, you get first pick – and incredible value – before bottles hit the open market. It's an incredible way of starting your own private fine wine collection – all kept and nurtured in the best possible conditions until they're released.

What's inside?

Over the following pages you'll discover our full collection of En Primeur wines and why they deserve a place in your cellar. This includes a detailed overview of Bordeaux as well as a comprehensive 2021 Vintage Report.



Five reasons why En Primeur is for you

1. If you're a wine fan – it's a must

Buy wine the 'old-fashioned' way. With access to the barrels before the wine is even bottled, En Primeur gives you the inside line on Bordeaux's finest.

2. Barrels of expertise

Majestic is known for having friendly, highly qualified staff – alongside an award-winning buying team. Trust us to sniff you out the best bottles vintage by vintage.

3. It can be extremely good value

You buy the wine before any inflation or extra costs creep in. Although not an exact science, investing in fine wine before it ages can be a great way to secure expensive bottles at lower prices.

4. It makes an extra-special gift

Marking a special occasion or anniversary? Treating the wine lovers in your life? Laying down wine on behalf of someone else is a beautiful thing.

5. Reap the rewards

When you receive your wine in the future, you'll thank yourself for your patience and foresight. Ninety percent of all wine bought in the UK is consumed within a year. But to really appreciate these styles of wine a bit of bottle age is a must. With our expert guidance, you'll have a selection of beautiful bottles to enjoy for years to come.

Meet our Experts



Jake Biggs
En Primeur Buyer

Jake is a true Bordeaux expert with extensive experience in selecting age-worthy wines throughout his long Majestic career. As our man on the ground, he returned from a recent trip to the region with a notebook full of compelling wines he can't wait for you to try.



Emma Biggs
En Primeur Expert

Emma has worked across a range of En Primeur businesses, and knows exactly which wines are sure to fly – and which to avoid. Working with Rob and Jake, she's helped to build our market-leading 2021 offer.



Robert Cooke
Chief Commercial Officer

Rob leads the Majestic buying teams and nothing goes into our range without his nod of approval. His expertise in sourcing top-end wines is truly second to none. You're in very safe hands.

A name you can trust

Originally founded in 1980, our first warehouse was opened in Haringay, North London. Today, with over 200 stores and a history dating back more than forty years, we've come a long way. Our extensive network of supplier contacts, alongside our industry expertise, means we're well placed to give you unprecedented access to some truly exciting wines.

En Primeur by Majestic brings together everything that makes us the number-one UK wine specialist – in one exciting new service.

How does it work?



Read & Discover

Over the following pages you will discover our full collection of En Primeur wines and why they deserve a place in your cellar.



Register

Register your interest by dropping an email to enprimeur@majestic.co.uk or filling out the form at www.majestic.co.uk/enprimeur. A specialist advisor will be in touch to help guide your En Primeur journey.



Discuss your choices

Our expertly-trained advisor will contact you to discuss your options and ease you through the selection process – as well as taking payment and securing your wines (when you're ready).



Wait...

Your secured wines will continue to age in the cellars and barrel rooms of our trusted producers. This is a vital stage in your new wine journey – and can't be rushed. It can take from eight months to three years, and we'll keep you posted on their status.



Shipping

Once your wines have been bottled, they'll be shipped to us here in the UK for further ageing. From this point on we'll continue to store your wines at our specialist storage facility in southern England. We'll recommend when to release your wine, when our experts believe the timing is right.

Please note – once your wines are in the UK, you will be charged a six-monthly storage fee. To read our full terms and conditions head to www.majestic.co.uk/information/terms



Release & Enjoy!

You can release your wines as soon as you'd like. However, our experts will recommend when the best time for this is. We'll send you regular updates including their ideal drinking window. Your wines will be shipped to you using a specialist courier.

To read our full terms and conditions head to www.majestic.co.uk/information/terms

Vintage Report



It may have been a year of contrasts in Bordeaux, but the 2021 vintage is an exciting one to buy now. Whilst global events added an extra layer of complexity and stress for many producers, the weather was equally unpredictable. After the warmer years of 2018–20, this was overall a more 'traditional' Bordeaux harvest.

Key Points

- Frost and mildew drove quantity down
- But a warm, dry end to the growing season ensured good quality fruit
- Overall, a difficult harvest; but some fantastic wines still to be found

Spring

A warm winter was followed by a distinctly chilly April - with temperatures dropping well below freezing in key regions. This had a devastating impact on many vineyards across Bordeaux just as buds were beginning to break. Producers in the Médoc were able to use 'candles' to drive back the frost and preserve vines, but not all were so lucky. This was then followed by a very damp May and June - with mildew entering the picture.

Summer

The hotter months of the year effectively saved the vintage, however. July remained resolutely cool and cloudy, but moving into August and then September the weather fared much better. A warm, dry growing season helped develop the grapes, giving some much needed energy to propel ripeness.

Autumn

Picking was often left as late as possible to take full advantage of the better weather and to allow the grapes to reach full ripeness. With quantities down following the challenges earlier in the season, vineyards were able to focus their attention and energy across a smaller area. The later the picking, however, the greater the likelihood of rot, or botrytis – something many wineries encountered.



Overview of Bordeaux

Key Regions

1. Saint-Estèphe

At the northern tip of the Médoc, and with some of the wine world's most famous names as neighbours, Saint-Estèphe wines can develop beautifully given time – and reward the savvy buyer.

2. Pauillac

Nestled in the Left Bank between Saint-Estèphe and Saint-Julien, Pauillac is a must-have for any Bordeaux collector. It has three of the top-five châteaux in the 1855 Médoc Classification and a legendary reputation.

3. Saint-Julien

A go-to for many, Saint-Julien is smaller than its three Médoc neighbours – but should not be overlooked. A hallmark for consistency and quality, it often offers some enviable value-for-money credentials.

4. Margaux

Margaux is home to some of Haut-Médoc's most famous wines. The 1855 Bordeaux Classification saw 21 properties granted cru classé status – more than any other Left Bank appellation. Today, Margaux continues to produce elegant wines of excellent quality. Like the majority of Bordeaux's Médoc, Cabernet Sauvignon dominates blends.

5. Pomerol

Pomerol contains many small estates producing supple, approachable wines primarily made using Merlot. Pomerol's wines are as esteemed as the grand Left Bank châteaux.

6. Saint-Émilion

Saint-Émilion produces the finest expressions of Merlot. With its 82 classed growths, Saint-Émilion is as iconic as it is beautiful.

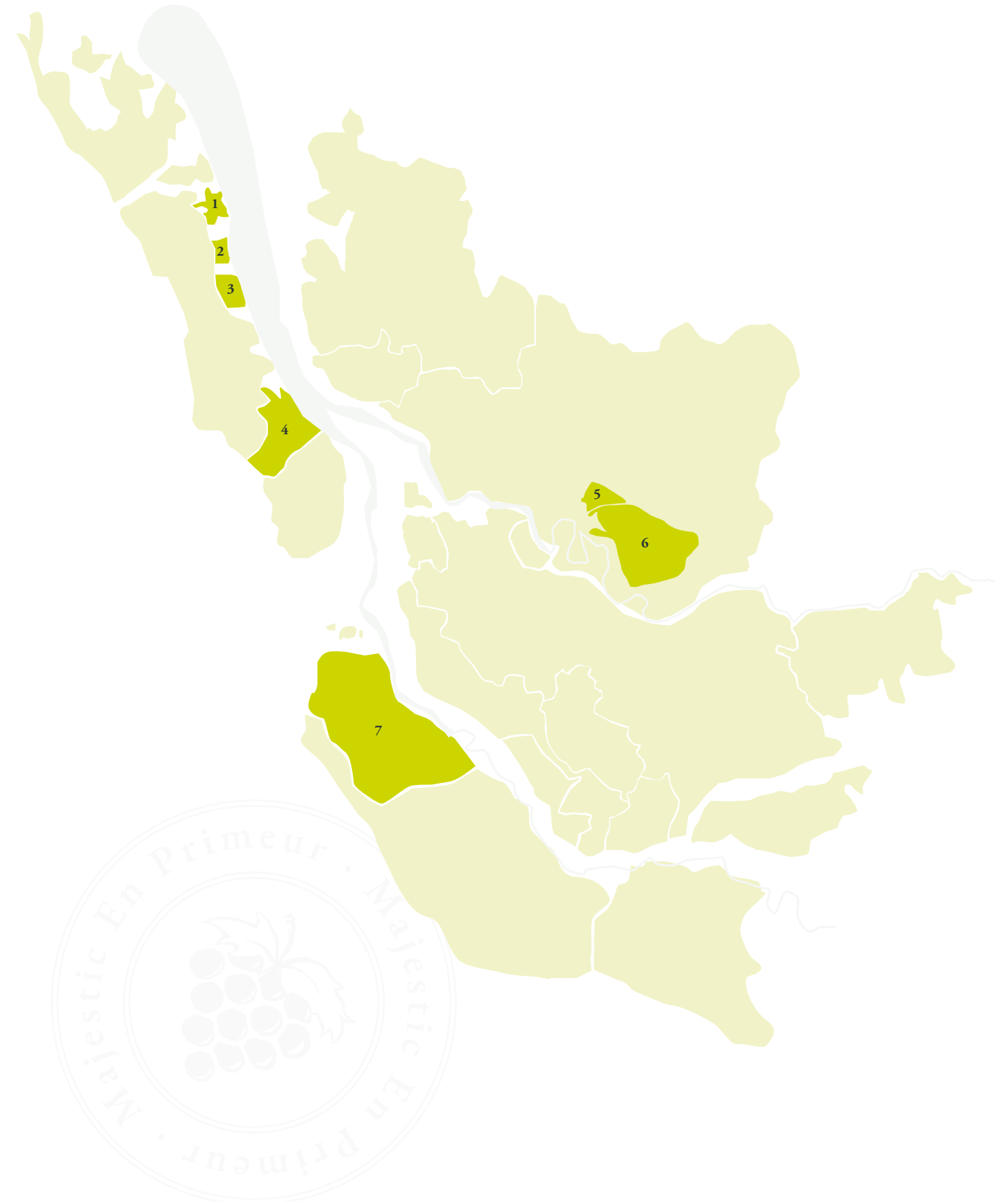
7. Pessac-Léognan

From the northern part of the Graves area. The region is as famous for its whites as its reds – and offers a really excellent variety to be explored.

Why Bordeaux?

Bordeaux is the origin of En Primeur – with wines bought and sold in this way for generations. The character and quality of the vintages produced in this corner of France arguably lend themselves to ageing more than anywhere in the world. It's the perfect place to begin your cellar. The Bordeaux 'En Primeur week' is now an annual event which attracts tasters, buyers and critics from around the globe. Taking place in the spring following the harvest, wine allocations can be a difficult negotiation. That's why having both an expert buyer, on the ground, and key trusted relationships can be key.

At Majestic, Bordeaux has been a key category for over 40 years – with some of our longest-running stocked wines and supplier relationships coming in this area. There's a host of customer favourites in our En Primeur offering, all secured by our award-winning buying team, who tasted over 200 different wines for the 2021 vintage alone.





Jake at Château Lynch-Bages Cellar Inauguration

My Bordeaux 2021 Impressions

During my week in Bordeaux for En Primeur, the 2021 vintage was referred to as “a classic vintage”: great terroir has produced great wines and each wine has a nice expression of its place. For winemakers and wineries, it was a vintage of decisions, and for consumers “a vintage for drinkers not speculators”.

The myriad of viticultural challenges created by the adverse weather of Vintage 2021 in Bordeaux gave winemakers both quantity and quality challenges across the region. Great advances in winemaking techniques and technology – as well as many newly built, industry-leading wineries – have allowed winemakers and wineries to navigate this vintage phenomenally well, making fantastic wines full of freshness, elegance and precision.

This vintage was referred to as “classic” many times during the trip – which equates to normal alcohol levels (13–13.5%), wines that are delicate and elegant, less extraction, more finesse and precision, and great balance and freshness.

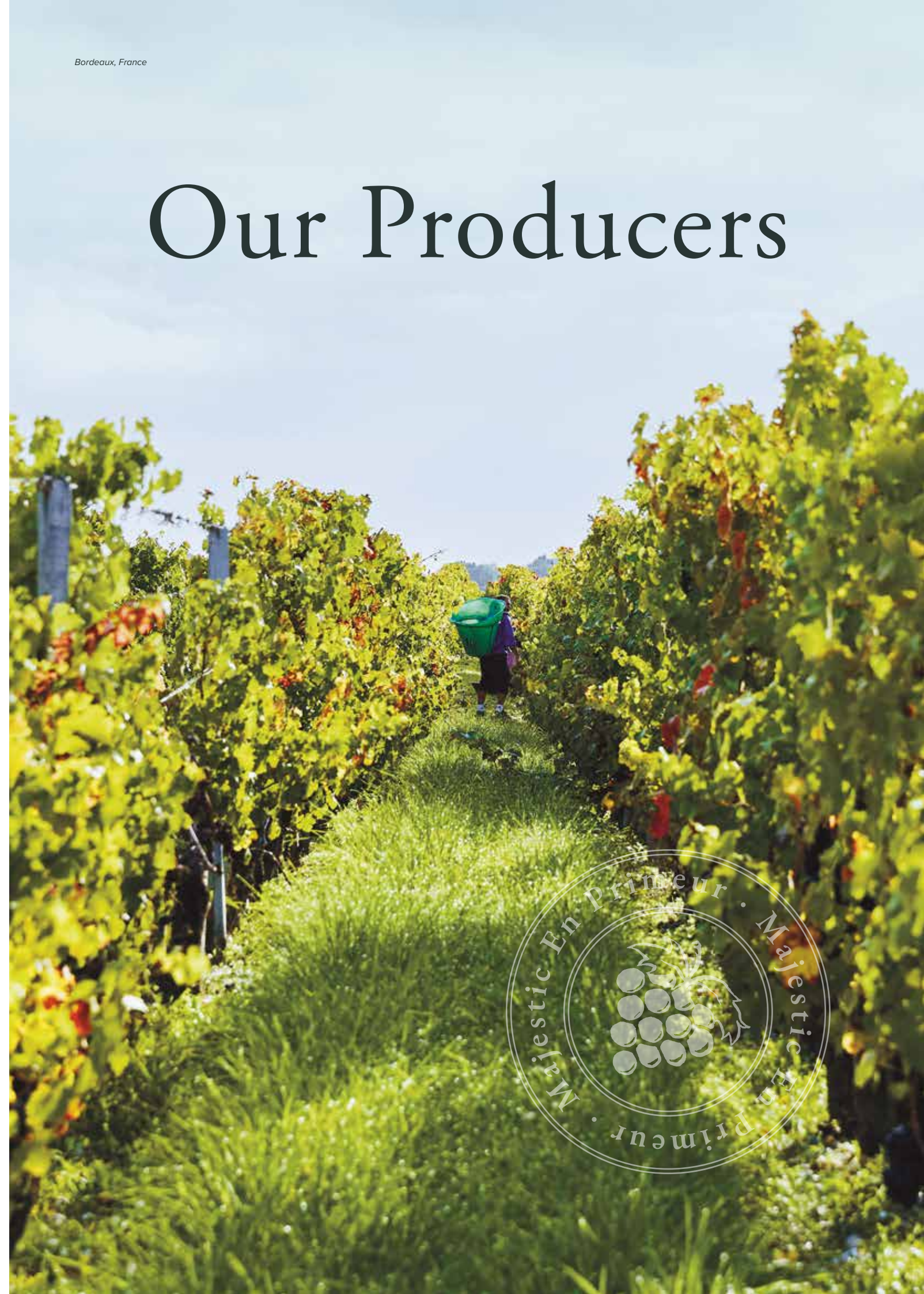
In most cases, this was the vintage of the Cabernet. As Merlot is an early-flowering grape, it was heavily impacted by frost which affected final yields. Cabernet Sauvignon, and the increasingly popular Cabernet Franc, will be seen with much higher percentages in Vintage 2021. One of the most important decisions was when to pick the grapes – and how late to risk leaving it. Those that persevered and waited have come out of top – the key was to get the Cabernet Sauvignon grape to optimum ripeness and maturity. Many producers left Cabernets on their vines until the middle of October.

To summarise, there are variations on quality, with some regrettable lows, but there are some exceptional highs, where the winemakers, wineries and terroir have been able to produce fantastic quality wines. For those that shone, the 2021 vintage is about elegant and precise wines, fresh acidity, purity and density of fruit, lower alcohol, balance and drinkability.

Following on from the three warm and sunny vintages of 2018–20 in Bordeaux, the 2021 vintage was always going to have some tough acts to follow. However, with its freshness, precision, drinkability and poise, I truly believe it will find its place.

—
Jake Biggs
En Primeur Buyer

Our Producers



Saint-Estèphe



At **Château Calon-Ségur**, just north of the village of Saint-Estèphe, the early season frost stayed away, but the winery still made key decisions late in the season to find their 2021 expression. The wines were picked at a lower abv, with more acidity – and more Cabernet Sauvignon in the blend. Picking went right up until 14th October to ensure that ripeness, which has really paid off.

Further east, and closer to the Gironde, **Château Montrose** was also protected from frost by the microclimate the river creates. Again, Cabernet was key here to the creation of a blend which championed ripeness and vibrancy.

For **Château Cos d'Estournel**, their 55-year-old vines weathered the conditions well – creating a vintage Michel Reybier, the winery's owner, described as one of "humility and precision". These understated blends will benefit from their 55% new-oak barrels, which will give a roundness and complexity to the finished product. Overall, another key region to watch and back.

"Crafted from grapes grown on the estate's oldest vines (55 years old on average) Cos 2021 is a finely honed, precise wine that is both silky and full of verve."

Château Cos d'Estournel



Vineyard in Bordeaux

Château Calon-Ségur

Per Bottle | £82 Per Case (6 Bottles) | £492

A star of the vintage. Dark red and black fruit with a floral note, with cedar and spice from 100% new oak. Extremely well balanced with vibrancy and finesse.

81% Cabernet Sauvignon | 11% Cabernet Franc | 7% Merlot | 1% Petit Verdot

Drinking window | 2025–2055

Wine Advocate score | 95–96+



Château Montrose

Per Bottle | £113.40 Per Case (6 Bottles) | £680.40

Concentrated and expressive notes of blackberry and blackcurrant with a herbaceous edge and spice. Balanced and lineal, with great structure.

62% Cabernet Sauvignon | 31% Merlot | 6% Cabernet Franc | 1% Petit Verdot

Drinking window | 2025–2050

Wine Advocate score | 94–96



Château Cos d'Estournel

Per Bottle | £143 Per Case (6 Bottles) | £858

Intense flavours of black fruits, black peppercorn and spice. It's precise and full of verve, with a silky texture thanks to the use of over half new barrels.

64% Cabernet Sauvignon | 30% Merlot | 4% Cabernet Franc | 2% Petit Verdot

Drinking window | 2025–2050

Wine Advocate score | 94–96



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Pauillac

In Pauillac, as in Margaux, late picking and a focus on Cabernet Sauvignon ripeness led to some exciting wines in 2021.

For **Carruades de Lafite**, for instance, the challenge of the vintage was met with a meticulous attention to detail – showing “the true face” of the wine.

At **Château Batailley** – founded in the 16th century and a Majestic customer favourite – the picking was incredibly late, running from 11th to 15th October. I was blown away with the length and ripeness of the tannins this created. **Château Mouton Rothschild** used alert, responsive pickers – at a relentless pace – to bring in a healthy, mature crop. **Château Pontet-Canet** described it as a “vintage requiring great attention”, picking plot by plot over a longer period.

Château Duhart-Milon went a step further, even describing their wines as a true “rediscovery” of Duhart and a “best of both worlds” vintage. The northerly **Château Lafite Rothschild** believe the key to 2021 is judicial lack of oak, describing it as a “vintage of decisions” and not one for “big extraction or new oak”. More indications of an ‘old school’ approach which I think many will enjoy.

Overall, the approach by all the wineries we’ve selected was incredible to see. Their dedication and forensic detail has created wines which were compelling to taste – and I would urge you to explore.



Château Lynch-Bages



Pauillac, Bordeaux

“The 2021 vintage shows a return to the classic equilibrium of vintages from a generation ago, yielding fresh, well-balanced and well-structured wines that will reveal their full complexity with time.”

—
Château Mouton Rothschild

Château Batailley

Per Bottle | £27.50 Per Case (6 Bottles) | £165

Concentrated aromas and flavours of black fruit, cassis, mint and cedar. Ripe tannins and a bright acidity with a great structure.

76% Cabernet Sauvignon | 2% Cabernet Franc | 20% Merlot | 2% Petit Verdot
Drinking window | 2025–2040 James Suckling score | 93–94



Château Lynch-Bages

Per Bottle | £85 Per Case (6 Bottles) | £510

Extremely fragrant, with ripe black-fruit and bramble flavours. A great density of texture on the palate, but with a real elegance and finesse.

67% Cabernet Sauvignon | 25% Merlot | 3% Cabernet Franc | 5% Petit Verdot
Drinking window | 2025–2050 James Suckling score | 96–97



Château Mouton Rothschild

Per Bottle | £425 Per Case (6 Bottles) | £2,550

Complex flavours of blackberry and blackcurrant with floral notes and cedar and spice. Fresh and balanced, this classic style will reward patience.

89% Cabernet Sauvignon | 10% Merlot | 1% Cabernet Franc
Drinking window | 2025–2050 Wine Advocate score | 95–96



Château Pontet-Canet

Per Bottle | £73 Per Case (6 Bottles) | £438

Expect floral notes and concentrated black fruit, berry compote and white pepper. Incredibly complex from the mixed use of oak and amphoræ.

58% Cabernet Sauvignon | 32% Merlot | 4% Cabernet Franc | 6% Petit Verdot
Drinking window | 2025–2045 James Suckling score | 95–96



Château Duhart-Milon

Per Bottle | £56 Per Case (6 Bottles) | £336

Rich aromas and flavours of blackberry, spices and cedar. The palate is silky and precise with a distinctly mineral, graphite finish.

81% Cabernet Sauvignon | 19% Merlot
Drinking window | 2025–2040 Wine Advocate score | 91–93+



Château Lafite Rothschild

Per Bottle | £494 Per Case (6 Bottles) | £2,964

Dense and concentrated notes of black fruit with a floral touch and graphite hints. It's lineal and firm-structured with finesse and pure fruit character.

96% Cabernet Sauvignon | 3% Merlot | 1% Petit Verdot
Drinking window | 2030–2070 Wine Advocate score | 95–97



Carruades de Lafite

Per Bottle | £180 Per Case (6 Bottles) | £1,080

Bright notes of cranberries, redcurrant and black fruits with a perfumed edge. A focus on purity of fruit quality reveals a true expression of the estate's character.

55% Cabernet Sauvignon | 36% Merlot | 4% Petit Verdot | 5% Cabernet Franc
Drinking window | 2025–2040 Wine Advocate score | 90–92



Château Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande

Per Bottle | £134 Per Case (6 Bottles) | £804

Bold, concentrated and powerful with pronounced flavours of wild berries, blackberries and blackcurrants, elegant floral notes and a herbaceous edge.

88% Cabernet Sauvignon | 10% Cabernet Franc | 2% Merlot
Drinking window | 2030–2060 Wine Advocate score | 94–95



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Saint-Julien



Another year which showed the excellence and consistency of this appellation. At **Château Langoa-Barton** the wines show typical Saint-Julien elegance and power, aided by a higher Cabernet percentage. 'Power' was certainly a word which came to mind at **Château Léoville Barton**, where these dark, inky, brambly wines will sing following a period in 60% new oak barrels. It was a similar story at the stunning **Château Beychevelle** where the words in my notebook registered "precision, elegance, freshness, delicacy, silkiness, fruitiness". Everything I was hoping to see.

Château Branaire-Ducru have toned the power down somewhat on the previous three vintages, producing a wine which is ripe, fresh and with a lovely texture. The Petit Verdot in the blend does add that extra grip. Similarly, the high percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon at **Château Léoville Las Cases** will be exciting to see following a period of ageing in 85% new oak.

Meanwhile at Bordeaux 'rising star' **Château Léoville Poyferré**, the winery is noticeably shifting towards letting the vintage take them to a 'fresher', elegant expression by "trusting their instincts".

Overall – whichever side of the power-balance side the wineries stood on – there was a really impressive emphasis on careful guidance and selection. These are wines which will really impress a variety of palates.

“The 2021 vintage is less exuberant and with greater tension on the palate than the 18/19/20 trilogy. It's a fresher style vintage – letting ourselves be captivated by its purity of fruit and elegance. A classic Bordeaux vintage, which echoes the 2012 in style and easy-drinking approach.”

—
Château Léoville Poyferré



Sunset over a vineyard in Bordeaux

Château Langoa-Barton

Per Bottle | £29.55 Per Case (6 Bottles) | £177.30

Intense notes of black fruit with an edge of oak spice. It has a rich, deep palate, but it's expressed in a delicate and precise style.

 61% Cabernet Sauvignon | 36% Merlot | 3% Cabernet Franc

 Drinking window | 2025–2045  Wine Advocate score | 92–94



Château Léoville Barton

Per Bottle | £55.71 Per Case (6 Bottles) | £334.26

Silky and smooth with dark bramble fruits and notes of spice. Ripe and fruity, with well-integrated tannins and a great structure.

 84% Cabernet Sauvignon | 11% Merlot | 5% Cabernet Franc

 Drinking window | 2025–2045  Wine Advocate score | 93–95



Château Beychevelle

Per Bottle | £58.90 Per Case (6 Bottles) | £353.40

Silky, powerful and complex. It's full of wild strawberry, raspberry and redcurrant notes with a spicy, herbaceous edge and a fresh, structured palate.

 57% Cabernet Sauvignon | 38% Merlot | 3% Petit Verdot | 2% Cabernet Franc

 Drinking window | 2025–2050  Wine Advocate score | 91–94



Château Branaire-Ducru

Per Bottle | £30.90 Per Case (6 Bottles) | £185.40

Ripe and fresh with notes of wild raspberries and red cherries, a floral note and sweet spice. Textured and complex, with fine tannins and a long finish.

 66% Cabernet Sauvignon | 22% Merlot | 5.5% Petit Verdot | 6.5% Cabernet Franc

 Drinking window | 2025–2045  Wine Advocate score | 93–94+



Château Léoville Las Cases

Per Bottle | £162.50 Per Case (6 Bottles) | £975

Deep and intense, with black-fruit flavours and savoury black-pepper notes. Silky tannins and a lively acidity lead to an extended finish.

 80% Cabernet Sauvignon | 15% Cabernet Franc | 5% Merlot

 Drinking window | 2025–2045  Wine Advocate score | 95–97



Château Léoville Poyferré

Per Bottle | £71.60 Per Case (6 Bottles) | £429.60

A fresh and refined style, with floral notes and flavours of ripe black fruit, baking spices and liquorice. It's dense and concentrated - yet elegant.

 60% Cabernet Sauvignon | 26% Merlot | 9% Cabernet Franc | 5% Petit Verdot

 Drinking window | 2025–2050  Wine Advocate score | 93–94



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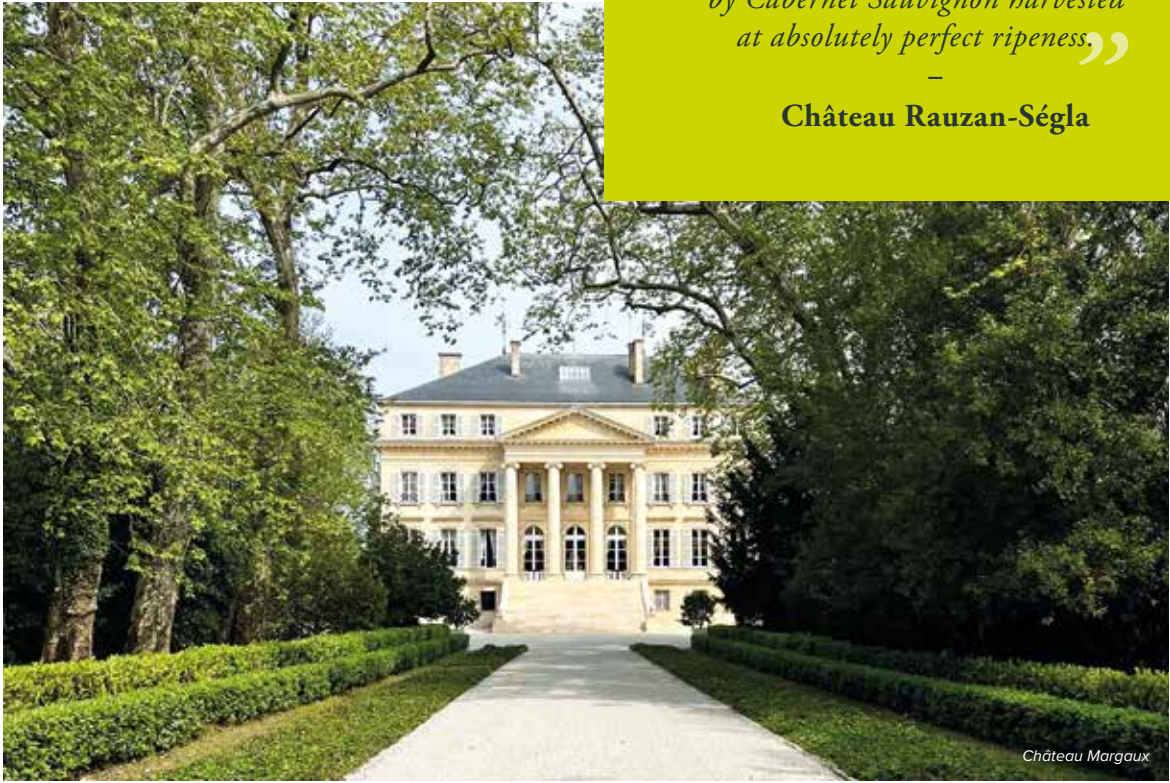
Margaux

Margaux is the largest commune in the Médoc, and certainly one of the most iconic. Here, late picking and careful fruit selection has created some really exciting wines.

Château Brane-Cantenac, for instance, has made excellent use of gentle fruit extraction to give great structure. Whilst **Château d'Issan**, an estate with a history dating back to the 12th century, harvested as late as 9th October – and described the vintage as “excellent for Cabernet Sauvignon and akin to 2014”. Both ones to watch.

Meanwhile at **Château Margaux**, a winery which needs little introduction, it was the density of the vintage and the comparisons to 2019 which really stood out. I expect these will be hotly snapped up. At local neighbour **Château Palmer** the wines “harked back to the 20th century” with a focus on moderation and harmony.

Finally, at **Château Rauzan-Ségla** I was deeply impressed by the balance of the wines – with the ripeness of their Cabernet clearly carefully monitored. Overall, I am confident that the 2021 vintage in Margaux has some superb wines to back, particularly after such an encouraging tasting.



Château Margaux

“For us, 2021 offers exceptionally fulfilled wines, rooted in moderation and harmony, harking back to the vintages of the previous century. Picking late saved wines and the trick was waiting between picking Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon,”

—
Château Palmer

“The 2021 vintage achieves a balance of fruit and floral notes which is simply astounding. The balance is razor-sharp, sublimated by Cabernet Sauvignon harvested at absolutely perfect ripeness,”

—
Château Rauzan-Ségla

Château Brane-Cantenac

Per Bottle | £47 Per Case (6 Bottles) | £282

Notes of ripe black and red fruit, wild berries, floral hints and sweet spice. Precise and structured with fine tannins.



22% Merlot | 2% Cabernet Franc | 74% Cabernet Sauvignon
1% Petit Verdot | 1% Carmenere



Drinking window | 2025–2045



Wine Advocate score | 93–95



Château d'Issan

Per Bottle | £41.90 Per Case (6 Bottles) | £251.40

Fresh and elegant, with concentrated black fruit flavours and a floral edge. Well-structured, with powdery tannins – a top pick.



65% Cabernet Sauvignon | 30% Merlot | 2% Cabernet Franc
2% Malbec | 1% Petit Verdot



Drinking window | 2025–2045



Wine Advocate score | 90–93



Château Margaux

Per Bottle | £425 Per Case (6 Bottles) | £2,550

Powerful and precise, with intense rich black- and red-fruit flavours, floral notes and sweet spice. The palate is complex and layered, with an incredible texture.



8% Merlot | 87% Cabernet Sauvignon | 3% Cabernet Franc | 2% Petit Verdot



Drinking window | 2030–2070



Wine Advocate score | 95–97+



Château Palmer

Per Bottle | £237 Per Case (6 Bottles) | £1,422

Intense flavours of black fruit dominate, along with a violet edge and baking-spice notes. Silky and precise, with ripe tannins and lively acidity.



56% Merlot | 41% Cabernet Sauvignon | 3% Petit Verdot



Drinking window | 2025–2065



Wine Advocate score | 95–97



Château Rauzan-Ségla

Per Bottle | £60 Per Case (6 Bottles) | £360

Deep and concentrated, with notes of cassis and blackberries and rich spicy notes. Classic structure with lively acidity and well-integrated tannins.



75% Cabernet Sauvignon | 25% Merlot



Drinking window | 2025–2060



Wine Advocate score | 93–95



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Pomerol



Château La Fleur-Pétrus

The key to great wines on Bordeaux’s Right Bank, in this year as much as ever, was the careful balance between terroir, blend and conditions.

At **Château L’Evangile** the gravel-clay soils ensured a balance between free draining and water retention – ensuring aromatic freshness. This was particularly prevalent in the Cabernet Franc present (an all-time high in their blend at 30%). For **Château La Conseillante** it came down to “snap decision making”. They went to extreme lengths, lighting over 4,000 candles to protect against frost on 7th April, in order to make a wine which “fills us with great pride”.

At the 18.7 hectare vineyard of **Château La Fleur-Pétrus**, it was again the gravel-based soils which helped to moderate.

This is an area which is generally going to be earlier drinking, and wines which I am sure will be highly enjoyable to discover. It’s a region I would advise careful choosing – and I am confident our picks will really shine.



“Numerous obstacles emerged along the road to harvest. These presented formidable challenges for vigneron, who were compelled to stand watch on the front line, ready to make snap decisions, sometimes taking risks, while maintaining their calm. But at the end of the day, after all the tireless work put in, the satisfaction of making a very fine wine awaited us.”

—
Château L’Evangile

Château L’Evangile

Per Bottle | £185 Per Case (6 Bottles) | £1,110

This is a powerful and concentrated wine. Pronounced notes of plums, black cherries, rose petals, and sweet spice – this will only improve with time.

69% Merlot | 30% Cabernet Franc | 1% Cabernet Sauvignon

Drinking window | 2030–2060

Wine Advocate score | 93–95



Château La Conseillante

Per Bottle | £157 Per Case (6 Bottles) | £942

Rich and creamy, with layered black-fruit and floral notes. It has spicy notes from 70% new oak, with the remainder aged in old oak and amphoræ.

85% Merlot | 15% Cabernet Franc

Drinking window | 2025–2045

Wine Advocate score | 95–96



Château La Fleur-Pétrus

Per Bottle | £151.67 Per Case (6 Bottles) | £910

Smooth and velvety, with rich black and red fruit and a touch of sweet spice. Incredibly balanced, with fine tannins and a fresh acidity. A gem of the 2021 vintage.

95% Merlot | 4% Cabernet Franc | 1% Petit Verdot

Drinking window | 2025–2050

James Suckling score | 95–96



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Saint-Émilion

Our first stop in the famous, beautiful village of Saint-Émilion was **Château Angélus**. I was as impressed with the positivity around the winery as I was with the wines themselves. Describing it as “the unexpected vintage”, the Cabernet Franc-dominated blend (again, another record percentage) showed that late picking had paid dividends.

At nearby **Château Figeac**, a new state-of-the-art winery was being put to use for the first time, working with a harvest which had escaped the frost and which will see 100% new oak to complement its soft style. **Château Pavie**, meanwhile, believes the key to 2021 is “to get the maturity of their Cabernet Sauvignon right”.

The limestone plateau at **Château Bélair-Monange** makes it an ideal spot for their Merlot, which accounts for the vast majority of the blend, whilst the clay and loam of **Château Canon** accounts for some of the highest percentages of Cabernet Franc. Again, “balance” being the key word – particularly with judicious use of 50% new oak. Both wines are drinking well. Supple and fresh.

Château Troplong-Mondot scorned 2021 as a vintage for “drinkers not speculators”, a theme which was continued at leading light **Château Cheval Blanc**. Here, some plots were harvested more than 65 days after the beginning of the ripening period, which is unusual. Both producers highlighted the contrasts within the growing season –but also the vibrancy and fullness of fruit.

“A vintage of extreme and contrasting climatic conditions which required attention at every turn. The resulting wines are full of lovely fresh aromas.”

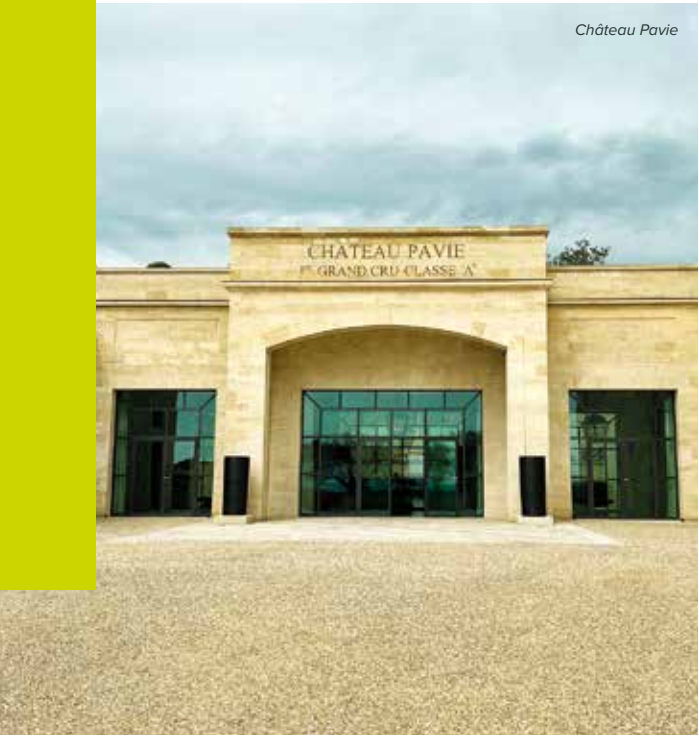
—
Château Cheval Blanc

“The key is to get Cabernet Sauvignon to the right maturity.”

—
Château Pavie



Vineyards at Château Pavie



Château Pavie

Château Angélus

Per Bottle | £260 Per Case (6 Bottles) | £1,560

Expect fresh aromas of blackberry and raspberry with a floral edge. Layered palate with flavours of plums and bramble and a sweet-spice finish.

60% Cabernet Franc | 40% Merlot

Drinking window | 2025–2045

Wine Advocate score | 94–96



Château Figeac

Per Bottle | £163 Per Case (6 Bottles) | £978

A star pick of the vintage, with incredible ageing potential. Smooth and silky, with concentrated notes of blackberries, cherries, cassis, liquorice and dark chocolate.

29% Merlot | 31% Cabernet Franc | 40% Cabernet Sauvignon

Drinking window | 2025–2060

Wine Advocate score | 94–97



Château Pavie

Per Bottle | £232 Per Case (6 Bottles) | £1,392

Deep and concentrated, with vibrant notes of ripe black fruits. Wonderfully rich, it has a smooth texture and a long, powerful finish.

52% Merlot | 30% Cabernet Franc | 18% Cabernet Sauvignon

Drinking window | 2025–2060

James Suckling score | 95–96



Château Bélair-Monange

Per Bottle | £112.50 Per Case (6 Bottles) | £675

Rich and perfumed, with aromas of cherries, cassis with a touch of sweet spice. Bright red and black fruits dominate the palate, with silky tannins and a fresh acidity.

99% Merlot | 1% Cabernet Franc

Drinking window | 2025–2050

James Suckling score | 96–97



Château Canon

Per Bottle | £90 Per Case (6 Bottles) | £540

Another highlight of the vintage, with crushed raspberries and cherries and a touch of sweet spice. Ripe, smooth tannins lead to a long, precise finish.

71% Merlot | 29% Cabernet Franc

Drinking window | 2025–2060

Wine Advocate score | 94–96



Château Troplong-Mondot

Per Bottle | £71 Per Case (6 Bottles) | £426

Precise, linear and powerful. This has rich blackberry, raspberry and floral notes with chalky tannins, fresh acidity and a long finish.

85% Merlot | 13% Cabernet Sauvignon | 2% Cabernet Franc

Drinking window | 2025–2060

James Suckling score | 95–96



Château Cheval Blanc

Per Bottle | £395 Per Case (6 Bottles) | £2,370

Expect notes of blackberries and blackcurrants with floral violet notes, baking spices and a discreet touch of oak. It's fresh and smooth, with a long finish.

52% Cabernet Franc | 43% Merlot | 5% Cabernet Sauvignon

Drinking window | 2025–2045

Wine Advocate score | 95–97



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Pessac-Léognan

Closer to the city of Bordeaux, and enjoying much of the same gravelly soils as the Médoc, Pessac-Léognan is producing some excellent, age-worthy wines which deserve a place in any cellar.

For 2021, I was particularly impressed with **Château Les Carmes Haut-Brion**. The château's proximity to the city centre helps to moderate temperature – so they avoided the worst of that early frost. The wines had fantastic texture and a softness which really stood out.

It would be remiss not to mention **Château Haut-Brion** too. The only winery from outside the Médoc named in the 1855 classification, their Merlot-dominated style was drinking very nicely – with plenty of opportunity to develop. For those looking for a lighter expression of 2021, I would highly recommend **Château La Mission-Haut-Brion** – which was fresh and ripe and owed much to a light-touch winemaking style with more minimal extraction.

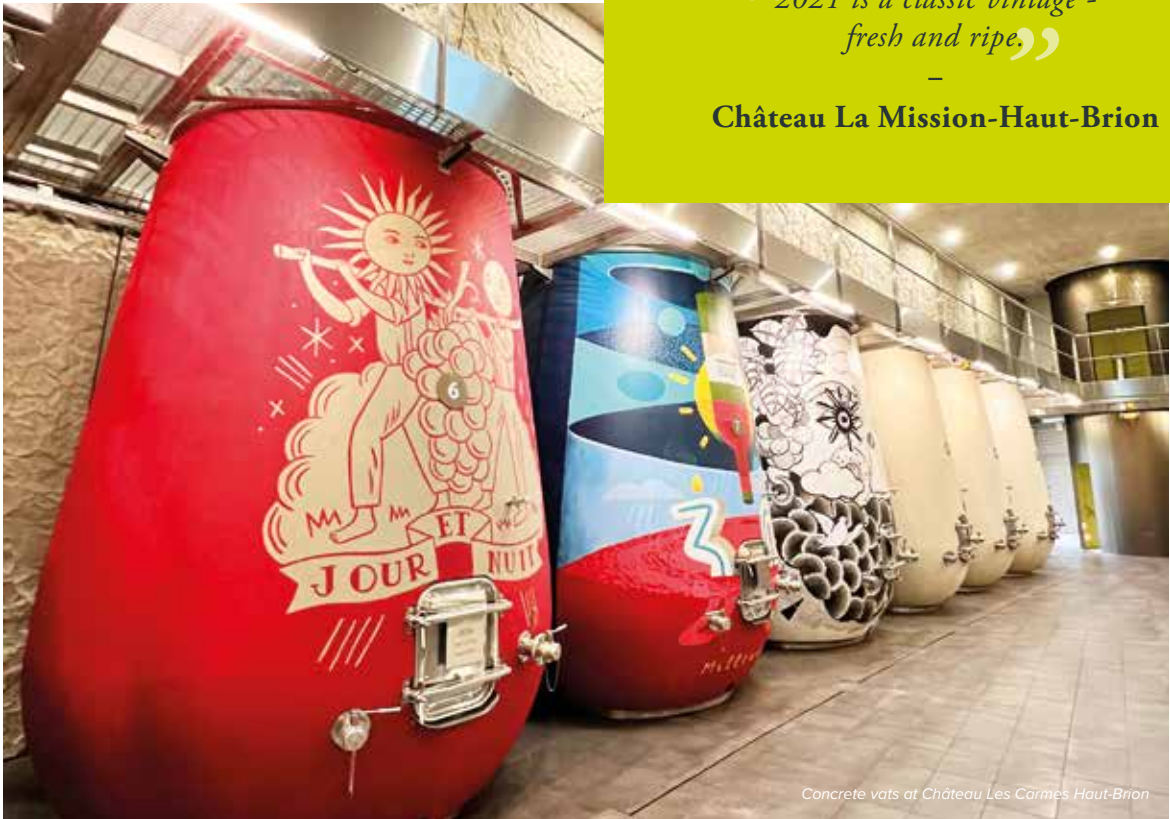
Overall, this is a vintage in Pessac-Léognan which shows how far the skill of winemakers in the region can go to produce excellent wines in challenging conditions.



Château Les Carmes Haut-Brion

“2021 is a classic vintage -
fresh and ripe,”

—
Château La Mission-Haut-Brion



Concrete vats at Château Les Carmes Haut-Brion

Château Les Carmes Haut-Brion

Per Bottle | £79 Per Case (6 Bottles) | £474

Rich black fruit, graphite, black pepper, cedar and a long, complex finish. Wonderfully soft texture, thanks to the warmer location and 70% new oak.

40% Cabernet Franc | 35% Cabernet Sauvignon | 25% Merlot

Drinking window | 2025–2045 Wine Advocate score | 94–97



Château Haut-Brion

Per Bottle | £425 Per Case (6 Bottles) | £2,550

A highlight of the vintage. Power and intensity meet elegance and finesse, with rich red and black fruits and pronounced notes of black truffle, cigar box, chocolate and spice.

50% Merlot | 38% Cabernet Sauvignon | 12% Cabernet Franc

Drinking window | 2030–2070 Wine Advocate score | 96–98



Château La Mission-Haut-Brion

Per Bottle | £225 Per Case (6 Bottles) | £1,350

Concentrated notes of dark berries and plums, with a fresh, herbaceous and floral character. Soft-textured and with a lively palate – a classic expression of the vintage.

48% Merlot | 46% Cabernet Sauvignon | 6% Cabernet Franc

Drinking window | 2025–2050 Wine Advocate score | 94–96



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A black and white photograph of a dense vineyard. The foreground and middle ground are filled with large, serrated grape leaves, some showing signs of aging or damage. Thin, dark vine stems and tendrils are visible, some reaching upwards towards a sky filled with soft, white clouds. The lighting creates a range of tones from deep blacks in the shadows to bright whites in the highlights on the leaves and sky.

En Primeur

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