

# **CK VERBIER**

## THE CELLAR

The quality of the wine cellar at CK Verbier is what really sets us apart. Our carefully handpicked house wines are included in the price of your holiday. Should you wish, your chalet team can recommend pairings with food, or make suggestions for an après-ski tippie. We also have an exceptional private wine cellar housing one of the finest wine collections in the Swiss Alps. It contains a vast selection of over 3,000 bottles, including some very rare vintages and large format bottles; all priced for drinking at home.

## THE CELLAR

### Champagnes

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#### **KRUG**

*The small but prestigious house of Krug has been making Champagne by the same method since it was founded in 1843, the family style and craftsmanship having been passed on from generation to generation.*

#### **Grande Cuvée**

**CH2** £ 75 per half bottle  
**CH1** £150 per bottle  
**MAG** £330 per magnum  
**MAG** £900 per Jeroboam

Elegant, refined and complex, this *non-vintage* wine is actually a unique blend of 35-50% reserve wines from up to 10 different vintages, spanning 15 years or more. It is slowly matured for at least six years before release. Profound and rich on the palate, the fruit is ripe yet beautifully dry and mellow with great finesse and complexity. *RP 93 points*

#### **Krug 1996**

**CH11** £380 per bottle

A powerful, majestic Champagne. Deep and compelling, with aromas of whole-grain toast, coconut and dried citrus that draw you in. Lean and racy on the palate, with a creaminess that's yet to be integrated. A classic '96, with ripe, exotic aromas and a steely structure. Still a baby, with the long, resonant finish confirming its potential.

#### **Krug 1995**

**CH10** £280 per bottle

Elegant and sophisticated, this is quite delicate, with honeyed and citrus notes on the palate. A beautiful precise structure and creamy texture it has wonderful intensity.

#### **Krug Clos du Mesnil 1995**

**CH1** £750 per bottle

Made from 100% Chardonnay grown in the exquisite tiny walled vineyard of Clos du Mesnil, in the heart of the Côte des Blancs. Beautiful mineral flavours, delicate, with zesty citrus and peach notes. *RP 94 points*

#### **Krug Clos d'Ambonnay 1995**

**MAG** £2750 per bottle

The first vintage of this extraordinary wine, - a Blanc de Noirs from a Grand Cru single vineyard in the Montagne de Reims where the south east exposure produces a richer, fuller wine. Full, deep with complex toasty, spiced mineral and citrus notes, this epitomises the elegance, finesse and quality produced by Krug.

#### **Krug Clos du Mesnil 1992**

**CH2** £650 per bottle

#### **Krug 1990**

**CH8** £360 per bottle

A monumental wine, one of the greatest ever produced, with lively acidity enveloped by the richness of fruit. A combines the classicism of '88 with the generous honeyed richness of '89. *RP 95 points*

#### **Krug 1989**

**CH7** £300 per bottle  
£700 per magnum

Voluptuous, opulent and creamy, with silky-textured palate and soft acidity on the finish.

#### **Krug 1988**

**CH6** £360 per bottle  
£760 per magnum

More classic and with more finesse than '89, the racy acidity still noticeable. . .

#### **Krug Rosé NV**

**CH10** £240 per bottle

A blend of 50% Pinot Noir, 30% Chardonnay and 20% Pinot Meunier, this is a refined rosé, but with the depth and richness one would expect from the house of Krug. Attractive, dense Pinot fruit on the nose, tight and lively, with abundant summer fruit on the palate and exceptional length. This is undoubtedly as good as rosé gets.

#### **OTHER VINTAGE CHAMPAGNES**

##### **Bollinger Grande Année 1997**

**CH2** £95 per bottle

##### **Jacquesson Avize Grand Cru Blanc de Blancs 1995**

**CH3** £145 per bottle

##### **Dom Perignon 1999**

**CH3** £145 per bottle

##### **Louis Roederer Cristal 1990**

**CH4** £380 per bottle

##### **Louis Roederer Cristal 2000**

**MAG** £570 per magnum

##### **Veuve Clicquot La Grande Dame 1990**

*RP 95 points*

**MAG** £320 per magnum

## THE CELLAR

### House Wines

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#### **CHAMPAGNE**

##### **Jacques Picard Brut NV.**

Bright and pale straw coloured in the glass with a fine and consistent mousse this elegant champagne combines vigour and freshness with a ripeness and complexity that are the signatures of high quality fruit. Hints of peach, lemon zest and apple blossom are discernable on the nose and the palate follows with notes of sweet tangerine, grapefruit, cut green apple and tiny hint of toastiness. A fresh acidity lends verve and vibrancy.

#### **WHITE**

##### **Chablis 1er Cru Les Forets (Moreau Naudet) 2011.**

A superb, intense Chablis, this has a lovely balance of lemony crispness and full, nutty richness. A fully organic wine with real zing and tang from Stéphane Moreau, a young grower forging a wonderful reputation. This wine partners classic poultry dishes along with creamy pastas and butter based recipes.

##### **Montagny 1er Cru, Tête de Cuvée 2011, Burgundy.**

A beautifully rounded oaked Chardonnay from some of the best vineyards in Burgundy's famous Montagny appellation. A classic White Burgundy, creamy with toasty notes and a light oaked finish. On the palate, there are flavours of orange and lemon peel, allied to the gentle butteriness that is so typical of Chardonnay. Complex, intense and intriguing. Goes beautifully with chicken with tarragon or a pork tenderloin.

##### **Domain Paul Thomas Sancerre 2013.**

Light gold in colour, this is a complex wine with a mixture of floral and citrus aromas, with notes of white flowers and passion fruit on the palate. An absolutely textbook Sancerre with a lean, mineral streak of acidity straight down the middle of the wine. This wine pairs well with fish, seafood (such as scallops) and, of course, classic Loire Valley goat's cheese. A score of 89 Parker Points.

##### **Gavi di Gavi 2013 Piedmont, Italy.**

An enticing nose of white peach, pear and acacia blossoms with hints of fresh lime and gooseberry. Fresh and light zesty citrus notes and crisp acidity lift a textured, full-flavoured palate. A medium to full-bodied style of wine from the Cortese grape of Piedmont, close to the famous vineyards of Barolo and Barbaresco. Serve chilled as a perfect aperitif or with seafood and lighter fish dishes.

##### **Catena Chardonay 2013, Argentina.**

The Catena Chardonay combines the unique expressions of three high-altitude vineyard sites. The wine shows an intense straw yellow color with greenish highlights. On the palate, citrus and stone fruit flavors abound followed by flavors of pear and ripe melon with vanilla, sweet spice, and toast. The finish is fresh and crisp leaving traces of minerality on the palate that entice one to another sip. This wine pairs very well with pork, pork belly and ribs.

##### **Quenard Chignin-Bergeron Le Grand Reboisson.**

A fabulous wine from the Savoie region of Eastern France, produced from the grape known elsewhere as Roussanne. Both rich and complex this wine is made from one of the regions most prestigious producers Michel Quenard. A very fruity nose, with creamy apricot and white peach rising from the glass. The medium to full body of this wine make it an ideal partner for fish in sauce, scallops, poached salmon or white meats.

## THE CELLAR

### House Wines

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#### **RED**

##### **Domaine Jean Guiton Bourgogne Pinot Noir 2012, Burgundy.**

Cherry-red in colour, the nose is bursting with red fruits and cassis. The palate is clean and fresh with discreet tannins. A slightly fruitier-than-usual style of red Burgundy but still with the classic elegance, purity and understatement of a great Pinot Noir. This wine perfectly accompanies dishes with duck and other game, but it can also be delicious with salmon, chicken and pasta based dishes.

##### **Patache d'Aux, 2008, Bordeaux.**

Bordeaux's left bank produces wines with a higher percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon than the right bank appellations such as St Emilion. This makes the wines a little more structured and tannic. Château Patache d'Aux is the flagship property of Jean-Michel Lapalu. The 2005 vintage was elected by Decanter wine of the year in 2006. Pairs fantastically with roast duck or with the traditional beef pairing. Wine Enthusiast score of 85/100 points.

##### **Marchesi di Barolo Barbera d'Alba Ruvei 2012.**

Ruby red with purple hues. The scent is fresh with fruity notes reminiscent of blackberries, red fruit jam, spicy hints of vanilla and toasted hazelnut. The taste is full and rich, with a barely noticable acidity. A beautifully soft rounded red from Piedmont region of NW Italy is made mainly from the Barbera Grape along with Nebbilio ( the grape of Barolo ). A wine for every meal including tasty appetizers, pasta dishes, fresh meats and hard cheeses. Wine Spectator score of 84 points.

##### **Catena Malbec 2012, Argentina.**

A quintessential Argentine Malbec from the Mendoza's highly acclaimed mountain vineyards. Aromas of roasted black fruits and smoke transition to a toasty, oaky palate with a spectrum of flavors ranging from herbal to jammy berry. In between are notes of tobacco, spice and molasses. A wonderful complement would be robust red meat dishes, or an earthy dish like Lamb Tagine. Highly regarded by both Wine Enthuasst and Wine spectator with 90 and 91 points respectively.

##### **La Fourmone "Le Secret" 2011, Gigondas. Rhone Valley**

The quintessence of red Gigondas, this wine has made the very most of its time, partial maturing in barrels, to bring you a mouthful of Provence. It is brimming with fruit and spice, over the grain of the finest woods that will round out over time. Great aromatic wealth and complexity. An explosion of small black fruit, sweet spice and real fruit jelly, finishing on woody cacao notes. Partners powerful red meats as well as feathered and furred game.

## THE CELLAR

### White

#### WHITE BURGUNDY

##### GREEN SLOPES

###### **Macon Verzé 2005, Leflaive**

**GA53 £25 per bottle**

This is the second vintage produced at Anne-Claude Leflaive's vineyard in the Maconnais, - a combination of great Chardonnay *terroir* with one of the greatest Chardonnay producers in the world. She applies the same biodynamic principles here as at Domaine Leflaive in Puligny, resulting in a wine that offers outstanding quality for a Macon Villages. Clean and fresh, with stonefruit aromas, leading to a crisp, lively concentrated and well-balanced palate with lemony finish. *BH 89 points*

###### **Montagny 1er Cru 2006, Jean Marc Boillot**

**GA54 £30 per bottle**

One of the best known and most substantial wines from the Côtes Chalonnaises, characterized by its full nutty broad flavour allied to wonderful crisp minerality. This is tense and taut, but with succulent lively fruit - and just delicious. Jean -Marc Boillot is one of the most respected producers in the region, best known for a range of stupendous Puligny-Montrachets – the quality of his wine making shines through also in this Montagny.

###### **St Aubin, 1er Cru Charmois 2000, Domaine Marc Colin**

**GA55 £35 per bottle**

St Aubin is the bridge between the well known wines of Puligny and Chassagne, and those further south in the Côtes Chalonnaise, - but close in quality to the former and in price to the latter. Lots of character here, with very fine with pronounced citrus aromas. Distinct minerality, depth and persistent fruit flavours on the palate – lovely purity with beautifully integrated wood and delicious fleshy fruit.

###### **Bourgogne Blanc 2002, Domaine Leflaive**

**GA56 £40 per bottle**

One of the most famous biodynamic estates in Burgundy, managed with passion and energy by Anne-Claude Leflaive. The beautifully balanced 2002 vintage is exceptional and very consistent at this Domaine, providing excellent quality at every level. The Bourgogne, made from declassified wines, is delicious, clean and crisp yet with good structure and richness of fruit on the palate. It is the perfect combination of a great vintage and a great Domaine. *BH 85-87 points*

###### **Mâcon Pierreclos, Tri de Chavigne 2002, Domaine Guffens-Heynen**

**GA57 £35 per bottle**

Made from one of the very best sites in the *appellation* where Jean-Marie Guffens' vigorous pruning and low yields produce this vibrantly mineral wine. It comes from his oldest group of vines, and, as the name implies and when the quality is potentially excellent, he selects only the grapes picked on the very first day of the harvest which he vinifies separately to produce this beautiful wine. Concentrated, with intense mineral and herb notes, it has wonderful purity, refreshing acidity and a precision worthy of some of the top white wine villages of the Côtes de Beaune. *BH 87-90 points*

###### **Macon Pierreclos Le Chavigne 2006, Guffens-Heynen**

**GA57 £45 per bottle**

Made from one of the very best sites in the *appellation* where Jean-Marie Guffens' vigorous pruning and low yields produce this vibrantly mineral wine. It comes from his oldest group of vines so it is not surprising the wine is concentrated, rich, full and intense. With spicy oak notes and fresh balancing acidity, the seductive texture leads to a delicious explosive finish.

##### RED SLOPES

###### **Puligny Montrachet 2002, Domaine Paul Pernot**

**GA59 £59 per bottle**

Paul Pernot, not a man given to hyperbole, calls the 2002 vintage "the most complete in years". This, his village wine, has 1er Cru quality, with beautifully elegant and white flower aromas, complemented by lovely balance mid-palate. Intense, beautifully structured, persistent and a little racy still, this is understated and very fine.

###### **Chassagne Montrachet 2005, Domaine Louis Carillon**

**GA61 £65 per bottle**

Tradition is paramount here and the incumbent family can trace its viticultural genealogy back to 1632. The domaine consists of 12 hectares of vineyards and produces some of the most impressive wines in the region. Low yields, minimum racking and judicious use of new oak are what give the wines their intensity and discreet elegance. The wines have a striking purity of fruit, are beautifully understated, and will age well. In this small corner of Burgundy producers such as Sauzet and Leflaive may have the aura, but the wines from Jacques Carillon and his brother François are their equal and often the best of their type.

###### **Chassagne Montrachet 1er Cru Caillerets 2006, Domaine Fontaine Gagnard**

**GA61 £70 per bottle**

Located on the upper slopes in the middle of the appellation, the Caillerets soil, as its name implies, is pretty stony and gives the wine its firm base of minerality and finesse. The nose exudes floral and white fruit, leading to a rich, mouth-filling burst of flavour on the palate. This is one of the most elegant 1er Cru of Chassagne.

###### **Puligny Montrachet 1er Cru Perrieres 2005, Domaine Carillon**

**GA56 £70 per bottle**

The Carillon family has resided in Puligny since the 17<sup>th</sup> Century, and is the principal producer of Perrieres, whose vineyard abuts those of Combettes, Referts and Clavoillon. A hint of exotic flavours on the nose is underpinned on the palate by rich fruit and mineral notes. Powerful and concentrated, the wine has terrific weight and a seamless silky texture in the mouth. Refined, terrific.

##### BLACK SLOPES

**Puligny Montrachet 2004, Domaine Leflaive****GA63 £75 per bottle**

There is no doubt that Anne-Claude's wines are going from strength to strength. The bio-dynamic revolution that she started in 1990 seems to have really got into its stride. Her opinion is that it takes about eight years for the effects of this complicated process to be seen, and she confirmed our beliefs that the acidity of the wines was getting better each year. A benchmark wine from a fabulous vintage and one of the best producers in Burgundy.

**Puligny Montrachet 1er Cru Champs Canet 2001, Domaine J M Boillot****GA65 £75 per bottle**

A precocious vintage – the wines are soft, easy and perfect to drink now. Jean-Marc Boillot produced excellent results through his diligent selection in the vineyards – the wines have lovely perfumed expression on the nose and are open and expansive on the palate, with good weight and lively acidity to balance the fleshy fruit. *BH 87 points*

**Puligny Montrachet 2005, Domaine Leflaive****GA63 £85 per bottle**

An excellent village wine from Domaine Leflaive. Characteristically elegant and refined, the wine is precise and vibrant, with mineral and fruit notes on the palate. There is richness and mouth-filling volume too, leading to a long and lingering finish. Perfect to drink now.

**Meursault 1er Cru Perrieres 2006, Henri Boillot****GA60 £90 per bottle**

Beautiful elegant wine with a very fine touch. As the vineyard is on the Puligny boundary, there are not surprising Puligny characteristics to this very fine Meursault, which is considered by many to be the most outstanding Cru in the appellation. It is the most steely, racy and the most mineral, with understated yet precise honeyed and floral flavours mid-palate. The 2006 from Henri Boillot is fabulous, pure and intense mid-palate, leading to a impressives mineral-driven finish.

**OFF PISTE****Meursault Tessons Clos Mon Plaisir 2005, Domaine Roulot****GA58 £120 per bottle**

Jean Marc Roulot has been looking after the estate since 1989 and is well know for the purity and complexity of his wines. Although not a 1er Cru, Tessons Mon Plaisir is an iconic wine at this estate, being multi-layered, with flavours of ripe peach, pear, and hazelnut. Taut and persistent on the palate, rich, powerful and concentrated, this is a complete and delicious wine.

**Batard Montrachet 2004, Domaine Fontaine Gagnard****GA65 £170 per bottle**

Richard Fontaine is now considered one of the best producers of Chassagne, with 10 ha of vineyards including Montrachet and Batard Montrachet. His classic and generous Batard 2004 has elegant floral and peach and apple aromas, which are rich and complex. On the palate the wine has mouth-watering fruit, is fine and focused with beautiful definition and concentration. A very fine Batard.

**Criots Batard Montrachet 2006, Grand Cru Domaine Fontaine Gagnard****GA62 £170 per bottle**

This vineyard, located immediately to the south of Batard, is tiny, just 1.5 ha, and hence the wines are relatively rare. In the hands of a master winemaker such as Richard Fontaine, the wine can be elegant, delicate and exquisite. It is less honeyed than the other more famous White Grand Crus, and the exotic notes of pineapple, mango and spice, with a hint

**Corton Charlemagne 2005, Henri Boillot****GA64 £180 per bottle**

Henri Boillot started his negociant business in 1995 and is now considered one of the most consistent producers of white wine in the Cote de Beaune. This sensational wine has the explosive and muscular power so characteristic of Corton Charlemagne, with pure, racy stone and mineral flavours. But it is fresh too, with a mouthful of juicy and intense fruit which is starting to emerge. Decant early to let the wine show its real potential.

**Chevalier Montrachet 2004, Domaine Leflaive****GA66 £380 per bottle**

Elegance, depth, harmony and breeding epitomize this great wine from Domaine Leflaive. The 2004 is still a little taut, evident in the precision that runs right through to the crystalline finish. However, there is sweet fruit and floral aromas which combine with the piercing minerality to give the wine a complete, complex yet youthful appeal on the palate. This is a great wine with wonderful balance and class. Decant early.

## THE CELLAR

Red

### BORDEAUX

#### GREEN SLOPES

##### Château La Bernadotte 2000, Haut Médoc

**GA1** £35 per bottle

The Haut Médoc classification belies the pedigree of this wine, surrounded as it is by its illustrious neighbours in Pauillac – Lafite, Mouton and Pontet Canet – and owned by Mme de Lenquesaing of Pichon Lalande. The quality of the excellent 2000 vintage shines through in this elegant, supple and beautifully textured wine. *RP 89 points*

##### Les Fiefs de Lagrange 2000, St Julien

**GA1** £45 per bottle

The 2000 vintage of Lagrange was the most impressive produced in more than a decade and this augurs well for its second wine, Les Fiefs de Lagrange. The style is textbook St Julien, but more solid and earthy, with a lingering finish.

##### Château Les Ormes de Pez 2001, Cru Bourgeois Exceptionnel St Estèphe

**GA2** £40 per bottle

Owned and produced by Jean-Michel Cazes of Lynch Bages, this Château consistently performs as if it were a Cru Classé rather than Bourgeois with its generous flavour and plump fruit. Both show lovely fruit, fresh and nicely sappy. 30% new wood not really evident at all and the wine remains elegant with good freshness. An attractive 'Murray Mints' toffee caramel mintiness is evident in the 2001 which is a really lovely wine, and a very good buy. The 2002 is again, particularly good, with herbaceous overtones, and clean fruit and spice notes on the finish.

##### Château Cambon la Pelouse 2000, Cru Bourgeois Haut Médoc

**GA3** £40 per bottle

Acknowledged by many as being of Classed Growth quality in this vintage, this wine is drinking at its very best now. Wonderful ripe fruit, fleshy and beautifully textured, this is a serious and very successful wine. *RP 88 points*

##### Château Gigault Cuvée Viva 2000, 1ère Côtes de Blaye

**GA4** £50 per bottle

Made from 85% Merlot and 15% Cabernet Sauvignon. This is lovely – rich and concentrated, with classic flavours of chocolate, coffee and creamy blackcurrant. Rich and full in the mouth, with masses of fleshy fruit, this is excellent quality at this level. *RP 89 points*

##### Château Bellegrave 1998, Pomerol

**GA5** £45 per bottle

Situated on the western edge of the *appellation* where the wines are lighter and less powerful in style, Bellegrave has round, fruity flavours, with soft expressive fruit and a hint of spice. *RP 85-86 points*

##### Château Larcis Ducasse 2002, Grand Cru Classé St Emilion

**GA5** £45 per bottle

Its neighbour is Pavie, its situation ideal on clay and limestone soil, its vines average 40 years of age and since the 2002 vintage two of the most acclaimed winemakers in Bordeaux, Nicolas Thienpont and Stehane Derenoncourt, have been consulting on the winemaking. It is no wonder the quality has soared. A terrific wine – with expressive sweet fragrant fruit, generous and velvety on the palate. *RP 90 points*

##### Château La Fleur de Bouard 1998, Lalande de Pomerol

**GA6** £45 per bottle

This was the first vintage under new owner, Hubert de Bouard of Château l'Angélus, and the result is excellent. Stylish, rich and complex, with spicy black fruit flavours, from an outstanding vintage for the Right Bank. *RP 89 points*

##### Clos Badon 1999, Grand Cru St Emilion

**GA6** £45 per bottle

Owned by "garagiste" Jean-Luc Thunevin of Valandraud and vinified in a similar style. 1999 is a low acid but ripe vintage producing plump, fat, concentrated wines. Clos Badon's pure luscious sweet black fruit integrates well with savoury notes and a hint of smoky new oak. *RP 88 points*

##### Les Pagodes de Cos 2002, 2eme vin de Cos d'Estournel, St. Estèphe

**GA10** £45 per bottle

Les Pagodes de Cos is, strictly speaking, Cos d'Estournel's "second wine". The vines that produce it are eventually used for the "Grand Vin" which is one of the elite Super Seconds of the Medoc. They are grown on the same terroir and are treated in the same way. Classically styled and showing its lofty pedigree this is more like a good classed growth than an attempt to make something simple and early-drinking.

##### Clos René 1998, Pomerol

**GA7** £55 per bottle

Situated on the west side of the *appellation* where the wines are lighter and more open-knit in style. Now fully mature with copious amounts of soft black fruit. *RP 86 points*

##### Château Roc de Cambes 1997, Côtes de Bourg

**GA7** £35 per bottle

One of the top châteaux in this *appellation* which is mainly planted with Cabernet Sauvignon and produces a full robust style of wine which has become more refined in recent years. Owned by François Mitjaville of Le Tertre Roteboeuf who applies the same level of attention to this vineyard, the 1997 is now fully mature, with notes of fruit, coffee and chocolate integrated in an uncomplicated way. *RP 86 points*

**Château Barde Haut 1997, Grand Cru Classé St Emilion****GA8 £40 per bottle**

A rising star in St Emilion and an impressive wine in this vintage which was much maligned when released due to high prices demanded by the Bordelais. However, the wines, for relatively early drinking, are charming and delicious. Barde Haut is particularly impressive, rich, elegant, well balanced with lovely purity of fruit. *RP 90 points*

**RED SLOPES****Chateau Haut Bergey 2000, Pessac-Leognan****GA9 £65 per bottle**

One of the finest wines Haut-Bergey has produced, this deeply coloured beauty is a classic example of Pessac-Leognan's smoky, savoury, earthy style. Red and black currant fruit, earth, and a subtle burning ember/smoky character emerge from this ripe, full-bodied effort. With terrific fruit, good acidity, and high but ripe tannin, it should hit its peak now, and last for two decades. It is a blend of equal parts Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon.

**Chateau La Tour Haut Brion 2002, Pessac Leognan****GA12 £55 per bottle**

When the Dillon family, of Haut Brion acquired this property in 1983, the style immediately changed and Château La Tour Haut-Brion became more accessible as a young wine, although without losing its potential to age exceptionally well. The significant proportion of Cabernet Franc in most vintages gives this wine impressive structure. Ripe and forward on the nose, rounded red-berried fruits, raspberry coulis and wild strawberry flavours with a touch of rosemary and thyme. The palate is full-bodied, the tannins firm, chewy towards the finish and with good length. *RP 88 points*.

**Château Monbousquet 1997, Grand Cru St Emilion****GA11 £55 per bottle**

The first Château purchased by Gérard Perse (others include Pavie and Pavie-Decesse) who hired Michel Rolland to introduce his own controversial style of winemaking. The 1997 typifies his style – concentrated jammy fruit, full, flamboyant, opulent and rich, - and is acclaimed in this vintage by many. *RP 90 points*

**Château Troplong Mondot 1997, Grand Cru Classé St Emilion****GA12 £65 per bottle**

The quality produced at Troplong has soared since the mid-80s thanks to the commitment of its female proprietor, Christine Valette, who brought in Michel Rolland to consult on the winemaking. Now it is consistently one of the best wines produced on the Right Bank, with its dominant position on the limestone plateau overlooking the vineyards of Pavie. Always elegant and concentrated, feminine and with beautiful balance and texture, the 1997 is unusually concentrated, and has sweet ripe fruit, soft tannins and hint of toasty oak and spice on the finish. *RP 88 points*

**Petit Cheval 1999, St Emilion****GA13 £125 per bottle**

Its designation as "Second wine" does not do it justice in these vintages. Made with the same care as its aristocratic sibling, Cheval Blanc, this sensuous wine possesses fine floral aromas, whilst the palate is beautifully textured, silky, smooth, and fleshy with seductive fruit allied with gentle hints of oak. Perfect now.

**Château Pavie-Macquin 1997, Grand Cru Classé St Emilion****GA14 £70 per bottle**

The deep colour hints at the concentration and opulence of this biodynamically farmed wine, made from old vines grown on the limestone "côtes" of St Emilion. Michel Rolland is a consultant here and the abundance of fruit, body and tannin reflect his highly extracted style. Dense on the palate, with black fruit, mineral and oak flavours, and hint of pepper on the finish, it has unusual power for the vintage. *RP 90 points*

**Château Pavie-Macquin 1999, Grand Cru Classé St Emilion****GA15 £75per bottle**

Nicolas Thienpont, the Director of Pavie-Macquin explains that the wines produced at this estate are naturally powerful and this is more evident here than in the 1997. From a bolder vintage than its older sibling, the 1999 Pavie Macquin has a beautiful luminous crimson colour. The nose is rich and pleasant, with vanilla followed shortly by some extraordinary white truffle and blackcurrant flavours. On the palate sensual and crunchy tannins are allied to beautiful intense ripe blackcurrant flavours. Beautiful length, very fleshy and pure.

**Calon-Segur 2001, 3ème Cru Classé St Estèphe****GA20 £80 per bottle**

More forward and evolved than the huge, backward, but totally dormant 2000 Calon, the 2001 is lighter than its older sibling and is entering its drinking window now. Plum/ruby-coloured, it reveals aromas of damp earth, cranberries, cherries, herbs, and forest floor. Wonderfully elegant and seductive with silky tannins. Full to medium bodied, with liquorice, mineral and spice on the palate. Very long. Since the release of the outstanding 1995, this great property has returned to its former glory yet prices remain reasonable. *RP 90 points*

**Château Gruaud Larose 2001, 2ème Cru Classé St Julien****GA21 £80 per bottle**

A large estate producing one of the most massive flamboyant, and backward wines of St Julien, Gruaud is now firmly back in the super-second league. The 2001 is 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc, 3% Petit Verdot aged in 33% new oak. The producer has even hailed it as "better than the 2000". It is really big with roasted meats on the nose, mouth-coating richness and abundant fruit on the palate. It is big and long with a powerful, firm finish. *RP 90 points*

**Chateau La Tour Haut Brion 2000, Pessac Leognan****GA18 £85 per bottle**

Under the ownership of Domaines Clarence Dillon, this is a stablemate of Haut Brion and La Mission Haut Brion. La Tour's production was folded into the wines of La Mission in 2005 and the label effectively abandoned. Between 1983 and 2005, however, it held its own identity. This may be the finest La Tour-Haut-Brion produced in that time. A blend of 52% Merlot, 43% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 5% Cabernet Franc, it reveals an opaque purple color, gorgeously sweet aromas of cassis fruit and smoke. Medium to full-bodied and deep, with ripe tannin, excellent definition, and admirable freshness in its long, convincingly rich finish. *RP 89-91 points*.

**Château Trotanoy 1997, Pomerol**

**GA16 £110 per bottle**

Historically one of the best wines of Pomerol and owned by the Moueix family who also own Pétrus, the château went through a dip from the late '70s (the outstanding '82 being an exception). However, quality rebounded in the mid-90s, and the wines now reflect the creamy, richly concentrated, opulent and exotic character of earlier years. Ripe, powerful, with a hint of truffle, the fruit is surprisingly rich and concentrated for '97, and the harmony and purity reflect the class of this château. *RP 89 points*

**BLACK SLOPES**

**Château Lynch Bages 1999, 5ème Cru Classé Pauillac**

**GA18 £120 per bottle**

**Château Lynch Bages 2002, 5ème Cru Classé Pauillac**

**GA28 £110 per bottle**

This is one wine where the 1855 classification certainly no longer applies, as this Fifth Growth delivers the quality of a Second, and is even often referred to as the "poor man's Mouton". Classic Pauillac, masculine, with a seductive bouquet of black fruit, pencil lead and tobacco flavours, the wine is also generous, rich and spicy on the palate. The 1999 reflects this character in a forward open-knit style, fleshy, succulent and with a supple texture and excellent balance. *RP 90 points*.

The 2002 is more classic, with the weight of the 1999, a structured, tannic appeal and the tell-tale Lynch Bages signature notes of cedarwood and rich cassis. *RP 87 points*

**Haut-Bailly 2000, Pessac-Leognan**

**GA17 £100 per bottle**

The deep ruby-colored 2000 is an impressive youthful Haut-Bailly. It offers notes of black cherries, raspberries, and currants mixed with tobacco smoke, soil, and subtle wood. The acidity is low, the tannin is present, and the overall quality very high. This pure and well-balanced classically styled Bordeaux shows an abundance of finesse and elegance. *RP 90 points*

**Chateau Leoville Barton 2001, 2ème Cru Classé, St-Julien.**

*RP 92 points*

**GA19 £90 per bottle**

**Chateau Leoville Barton 2002, 2ème Cru Classé, St-Julien.**

*RP 92 points*

**GA23 £75 per bottle**

Some say that the commune of St-Julien crafts the epitome of Bordeaux; classic, long-lived and well structured. Equally many would point to Château Léoville-Barton as the epitome of St-Julien, a tenderloin slice of the 18th century Léoville estate, one of the biggest in Bordeaux. Owner Anthony Barton has been in charge of the wine for over thirty years and is unwavering in his dedication to quality and steadfast to his commitment of offering the wines at a sensible price. 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc. Very big and dense but opulent and creamy too. A perfect marriage of power and complexity with some exotic spice mixed in with the cassis fruit. Long, classy and balanced.

**Château L'Église Clînet 1997, Pomerol**

**GA16 £115 per bottle**

Just over 1,000 cases are made at this tiny estate, one of the less well-known maybe, but amongst the finest and with some of the oldest vines of the *appellation*, some exceeding 100 years of age. A small percentage of Cabernet Franc is blended into the wine to give it a little more structure and adds savoury notes to the opulent, fleshy, concentrated predominant Merlot. With its velvety texture and fruit notes of raspberry and cassis it is delicious now. *RP 91 points*

**Château Troplong Mondot 1998, Grand Cru Classé St Emilion**

**GA24 £120 per bottle**

The quality produced at Troplong has soared since the mid-80s thanks to the commitment of its female proprietor, Christine Valette, who also brought in Michel Rolland to consult on the winemaking. Now it is consistently one of the best wines produced on the Right Bank, and particularly so in this vintage, which was an outstanding success for the wines of St Emilion and Pomerol. Probably the best vintage since the fabulous 1990, the wine is concentrated and harmonious, well defined, smooth and rounded in the mouth, with finely spiced cassis notes. Balance and elegance throughout. *RP 93 points*

**Château Montrose 1995, 2ème Cru Classé St Estèphe**

**GA22 £140 per bottle**

One of the best situated vineyards in the Médoc, lying very close to the estuary and thereby enjoying a benign microclimate which protects it from severe frost. The style of Montrose tends to be quite muscular and tannic and requires long ageing. The 1995 however, is an exception, with a larger percentage of Merlot making it more forward and accessible in its relative youth. Wonderfully rich, and fruity, the wine still has the characteristic power of Montrose but is deliciously drinkable now. *RP 93 points*

**Chateau Cos d'Estournel 2002, 2ème Cru Classé St Estèphe**

**GA26 £115 per bottle**

The 2002 Cos d'Estournel is a blend of 58% Cabernet Sauvignon, 38% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc, and 1% Petit Verdot made from low yields of 32 hectoliters per hectare. It represents an outstanding expression of Bordeaux elegance married with surprising power, yet never going over the top. Complex aromatics include scents of smoke, licorice, red as well as black currants, vanilla, spice box, and Asian spices. The wine is medium-bodied, with great purity and elegance, a superb mouthfeel and texture, and a long, rich finish. It is not a huge blockbuster, but clearly administrator Jean-Guillaume Prats fully exploited his vineyard's potential. *RP 93 points*

## OFF PISTE

### Château La Conseillante 1998, Pomerol

**HSE3D £145 per bottle**

Its neighbours are Petrus, L'Evangile and Vieux Château Certan, and the gravelly/clay soil mix on which the vines are planted are also found at Cheval Blanc and L'Evangile. With such a pedigree it is not surprising that La Conseillante is one of the top Pomerols, producing one of the most elegant, velvety and delicious wines of the *appellation*. Subtle and supple, rather than powerful and muscular, the wine is relatively early-maturing and the 1998 is absolutely delicious now. Opulent, elegant, and seductive, there is harmony finesse and balance in this very successful vintage for the wines of the Right Bank. *RP 90 points*

**Château Ducru Beaucaillou 1985, 2ème Cru Classé St Julien** *RP 92 points*

**HSE7C £160 per bottle**

**Château Ducru Beaucaillou 1997, 2ème Cru Classé St Julien** *RP 87 points*

**GA24 £95 per bottle**

**Château Ducru Beaucaillou 2001, 2ème Cru Classé St Julien** *RP 89 points*

**GA27 £120 per bottle**

One of the greatest wines of St Julien – and, along with Château Palmer, one of the first “Super Seconds”. Always, refined, elegant, full yet supple and complex this is classic claret. Never one of the richest or most robust of the St Juliens, the 1985 typifies the breed, class, charm and distinction of Ducru – a floral cedary nose, red and blackcurrant flavours on the palate. Now fully mature and soft, still fresh and vibrant with lovely concentration and purity. The 2001 is a quintessentially elegant effort offering notes of liquified minerals intermixed with raspberries and a hint of vanilla. This medium-bodied, moderately tannic, stylish wine recalls the excellent 1999 as well as the under-rated 1981. It is a blend of 68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, and 2% Cabernet Franc.

### Château Léoville Barton 1989, 2ème Cru Classé St Julien

**HSE6B £140 per bottle**

Without the power of Lascases but more classic than Poyferré, its neighbours, Léoville Barton always has impeccable balance. Consistent in its record of top level wine-making over the last quarter of a century, the 1989 is no exception, providing the depth and distinction characteristic of the château. Now fully mature, with concentrated Cabernet fruit on the nose, it is soft, sweet and expansive, full, rich and with a seductive texture on the palate. An excellent vintage in the Médoc and particularly the Northern communes. *RP 90 points*

### Château Lynch Bages 1988, 5ème Cru Classé Pauillac

**HSE6A £165 per bottle**

The quality produced here is consistent with that of a Second Growth rather than a Fifth. One of the most successful wines (after the First Growths) in a vintage characterized by its firm, well-structured and tannic wines, the 1988 Lynch is one of the biggest wines produced in the Northern Médoc, but is absolutely delicious now, with complex notes of herbs, smoke and leather allied with sweet black cherry and current fruit. Still powerful but now at its plateau of maturity, the wine is very fine, rich and pure. *RP 90 points*

### Château Lafleur 1997, Pomerol

**HSE2B £210 per bottle**

One of the smallest estates in Pomerol producing on average only 1,000 cases per year of exquisite wine, of a quality high enough to challenge Pétrus as the greatest château of the *appellation*. Jacques and Sylvie Guinaudeau's dedication to quality is manifest in the purity, intensity and richness of the wine. The fresh aromas and tannins of the Cabernet Franc, planted in equal quantity with Merlot, balance the power and richness of that variety, and this unique planting provides elegant balance, texture and purity of fruit and style. The 1997, is still relatively youthful, with tannins still slightly noticeable in the weight of ripe rich fruit. *RP 88 point*

### Vieux Chateau Certan 1998, Pomerol

**HSE2A £190 per bottle**

Vieux Château Certan, whose neighbours include Pétrus, has established itself as one of the most famous names in Pomerol - under Alexandre Thienpont, the third generation proprietor of this 14 hectare Pomerol estate. 1998 was a stunning year for Pomerol and the right bank as a whole with V.C.C. undoubtedly one of the wines of the vintage. Unusually the blend is 85% Merlot and 15% Cabernet Sauvignon after a freak hailstorm in July damaged almost all of the Cabernet Franc. On the nose cassis, blueberry and violet notes dominate with the palate following suit with a luscious, rich and almost decadent texture. This is a fine example of the sensual experience of top flight Pomerol. *RP 95 points*

### Les Forts de Latour 2001, Pauillac

**GA17 £225 per bottle**

Widely regarded as one of Bordeaux's finest second wines, the lush 2001 Forts de Latour exhibits all the class of its revered sibling. A deep ruby/plum color is accompanied by aromas of cedarwood and smoke and a hint of nuttiness overlaying the core of ripe cassis fruit. Round and generous it is mature and drinking superbly now the tannins have sweetened and softened. The round generous ripe fruit combines beautifully with earthy spicy notes to a lingering finish. *RP 90 points*

**Château Gruaud Larose 1986, 2ème Cru Classé St Julien**

**HSE7A £250 per bottle**

A large estate producing one of the most massive flamboyant, and backward wines of St Julien, and in a vintage like 1986, one of the best of the decade which produced powerful, structured, intense and tannic wines, Gruaud is taking its time to evolve. However the wealth of concentrated fruit and ripe acidity balances the structure to produce a profound, full rich-bodied, almost massive wine, which even at 20 years of age, needs early decanting. The wine has a magnificent reputation and is certainly one of the best Gruauds ever. *RP 94 points*

**Château Le Tertre Rôteboeuf 1990, Grand Cru St Emilion**

**HSE8C £370 per bottle**

A St. Emilion Grand Cru property that is in the very top echelon of St-Emilion producers. Le Tertre Rôteboeuf is owned by François Mitjavile who also owns Château Roc de Cambes in the Côtes de Bourg. François produces just over 2,000 cases a year from his tiny 5.7-hectare vineyard, which is situated on a steep slope on the edge of a limestone plateau. The grapes (Merlot 80%, Cabernet Franc 20%) are harvested by hand and are fermented in temperature-controlled concrete tanks. Le Tertre Rôteboeuf is then aged in 100% new oak barrels for 18 months. Yields are kept very low and consequently this is one of the most concentrated wines to be found in Bordeaux. The 1990 is deeply coloured, richly aromatic on the nose and packed with blackcurrants, overripe cherries, liquorice, roasted caramel and vanilla notes on the palate. A hedonist's delight! *RP 98 points*

**Château Lynch Bages 1990, 5ème Cru Classé Pauillac**

**HSE4A £375 per bottle**

This is one wine where the 1855 classification certainly no longer applies, as this Fifth Growth delivers the quality of a Second, and is even often referred to as the "poor man's Mouton. The character of the opulent rich concentrated 1990 vintage is reflected in this fabulous Lynch Bages, with its seductive black fruit aromas, and full, fleshy, flamboyant style. Balance, richness, wonderful definition, this is surely one of the greatest wines produced at the château. *RP 95 points*

**Chateau Leoville-las-Cases 1990, 2ème Cru Classé St. Julien**

**HSE5B £375 per bottle**

Château Léoville Las Cases is one of the largest and oldest classified growths in the Médoc. It is the largest of the 3 Léoville properties and now without doubt the leading estate in St-Julien. As one might expect in such a successful vintage this is a brilliant wine and has retained more vitality than most of the fast evolving 1990s. Its deep ruby/purple color is accompanied by a classic, restrained set of aromatics including sweet black cherries, black currants, lead pencil, and wet stones. In the mouth, it is full-bodied, and while low in acidity, there is freshness and purity in this rich, concentrated 1990. *RP 96 points*

**Château Mouton Rothschild 1997, 1er Cru Classé Pauillac**

**HSE1D £350 per bottle**

Promoted to First Growth status in 1973, thanks to the determination of the late Baron Philippe de Rothschild who arrived at the property in 1922, the quality at this château has been strangely inconsistent, producing superb wines as well as mediocre vintages. With 80% Cabernet Sauvignon, 1997 is one of the most evolved Moutons, but is still in its relative youth. Impressive for the vintage, the nose is expressive and open-knit with notes of violets, cedar, cassis, coffee. The texture on the palate is fine, with smooth tannins - concentrated fleshy, rounded, with a delicious lingering finish. *RP 90 points*

## RED BURGUNDY

### RED SLOPES

#### **Volnay 1er Cru Fremiets 2000, Domaine Jean Boillot**

**HSE11D £60 per bottle**

One of the best Domaines in Volnay, and owned by part of the extended Boillot family who have vineyards in several different *appellations*. Fremiets is one of the less well-known 1er Cru vineyards, bordering that of Pommard, and produces wines which are probably firmer and a little more structured than the soft, fragrant, elegant style which many consider to be the epitome of Volnay. This is lovely, with red fruit and spicy notes, married with good minerality and finesse.

#### **Beaune 1er Cru Clos du Roi 2000, Domaine Jean Boillot**

**HSE11C £55 per bottle**

A lush extract of red pinot fruit on the nose that has a slight liqueur character to it merges into rich, sweet and textured flavors that possess fine mid-palate fat and a suave, tangy and delicious finish. This is very Beaune in the sense that it's open, round and agreeable.

### BLACK SLOPES

#### **Vosne Romanée 1er Cru Malconsorts 1998, Domaine Sylvain Cathiard**

**HSE10A £180 per bottle**

Many consider that this *appellation* shows Pinot Noir at its very best – sensual, rich and aristocratic. Sylvain Cathiard is emerging as one of the most respected winemakers in the Côtes de Nuits – and his detailed “hands-on” attention at every level and commitment to quality is reflected in this wonderfully complex and impressive wine. Finely perfumed, with spicy black fruit aromas, it is richly textured, yet precise and sophisticated, with tremendous depth and a lovely lingering finish. *BH 93 points*

### OFF PISTE

#### **Romanée St Vivant, Grand Cru 1995, Doamine Hudelot-Noëllat**

**HSE9D £240 per bottle**

The lightest, most delicate and feminine of the Grands Crus of Vosne and usually the greatest wine produced at this Domaine, and especially in this vintage where Alain Hudelot's success is well-known. The character of this excellent vintage is reflected in the sensual spicy pinot perfume and in the marvelous intensity on the palate, which is full and rich, with hints of oak. The impressive weight of flavour persists throughout to a lingering concentrated fruit finish.

#### **Nuits St Georges, 1er Cru aux Boudots 2000, Domaine Leroy**

**HSE12A £390 per bottle**

The reputation of this biodynamic estate as one of the greatest in the Côtes de Nuits is underpinned by the quality of wines produced there in this vintage. Lalou Bize Leroy averaged tiny yields of just over 20 hl/ha and has made outstanding wines which almost approach 1999 in quality but are softer, more open and forward in this difficult vintage. The character of the vineyard reflects its proximity to Vosne Romanée, elegant and silky, yet nonetheless exhibits the power, richness and intense minerality of the Nuits *appellation*. Outstanding quality. *BH 90-93 points*

## RHONE

### RED SLOPES

#### **Châteauneuf du Pape La Cuvée du Papet, Clos du Mont Olivet 2000, Joseph Sabon**

**GA28 £45 per bottle**

This is the top cuvee from this estate, which is only made in the very best years (1989, 1990, 1998). Only about 600 cases are made of the famed Cuvée du Papet (named after the grandfather) which is produced from a parcel of old vines located in the Clos of Mont Olivet. The wine is exquisite – with dense plum/purple colour and a sweet bouquet of wood, provencal herbs, black cherries, currants, figs. 2000 is a fabulous vintage in the Southern Rhone. Rich and concentrated the Cuvée Papet is profound now and will age extremely well and will certainly benefit for early decanting. *RP 92 points*

## ITALY

### GREEN SLOPES

**Guidalberto, IDT Bolgheri 2000, Tenuta San Guido****GA30 £50 per bottle**

This is the first vintage of Guidalberto, owned by Nicolò Incisa della Rocchetta of Sassicaia, and produced from vineyards neighbouring that estate. Made from a blend of equal quantities of Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon with a small percentage of Sangiovese, the class and quality are apparent – subtle fruit aromas, a round, well-balanced structure, fine polished tannins and seductive creamy texture.

**RED SLOPES****Paleo, Bolgheri 1997, Le Macchiole****GA30 £70 per bottle**

Made from Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Sangiovese, this is amongst the top five “Bordeaux blend” wines produced in Tuscany. Paleo is the flagship wine from this tiny estate and is considered by many to be a worthy rival to Sassicaia and Ornellaia, whose vineyards are a kilometre or two further north. 1997 is one of the most successful vintages in recent years, reflected in the extraordinary purity, harmony and concentration of this lovely wine. *RP 92 points*

**Siepi, 2004, Castello di Fonterutoli IGT Toscana****GA34 £85 per bottle**

From Fonterutoli’s Siepi single vineyard, Castellina in Chianti, Tuscany. Located in the township of Castellina in Chianti, on the hillside facing the Val d’Elsa, at an average altitude of 250 meters with southern/southwestern exposure, the vineyards cover a total of 22 hectares, planted with Sangiovese (60%), Merlot and a small portion of Cabernet Sauvignon. The soil is of medium texture and clayey, with a presence of some grey and olive grey calcareous marl and calcareous sandstone.

**Barbaresco Rabaja 2000, Bruno Giacosa.****GA35 £100 per bottle**

Giacosa’s Barbaresco Rabaja is consistently the darkest, richest, and most muscular of the estate’s cru Barbarescos. Aged in slightly smaller casks, the Rabaja has a warm, open personality and enormous complexity. Elegant and kaleidoscopic, the Rabaja typically shows notes of menthol, tar, mocha and saddle leather to balance its brambly berries. Powerful, savoury and endlessly classy, this parcel has since 2007 been incorporated into Giacosa’s Asili bottling.

**BLACK SLOPES****Barolo Le Vigne 1999, Luciano Sandrone****GA38 £125 per bottle**

One of the pioneers of the modern school of Barolo, Luciano Sandrone’s wines today manage to avoid the obvious oak tones and candied fruit shown by so many wines of the new school. The suave, seamless texture and depth of flavor of these Barolos makes them some of the most fascinating in all of Italy. Full, bright red with deep aromas of smoky red fruits, plum, dried rose, camphor and game this is as muscular as a Bordeaux but with the perfumed finesse of a Burgundy. Fat, lush and compellingly sweet conveying an impression of low yields, the tannins seem fine, sweet and silken. Lovely finishing flavors of red fruits and spices. *RP 93 points*

**Ornellaia, Bolgheri 1999, Tenuta dell’Ornellaia****GA32 £180 per bottle**

Now owned by the Frescobaldi family Ornellaia is firmly established as one of the top “Super Tuscan” estates. Like its neighbour Sassicaia, it is made from a classic “Bordeaux blend” these varieties able to thrive on the alluvial *terroir* thanks to a milder climate than in Tuscany. A stunning vintage, the 1999 has incredible depth, persistence and concentration, the structure well balanced by the richness of fruit and supple texture. Early decanting is advised to enjoy its potential. *RP 94 points*

**Sassicaia, Bolgheri 1999, Tenuta San Guido****GA33 £175 per bottle**

Produced from Cabernet Sauvignon grown in vineyards on the coastal area to the west of Tuscany, this was the “house wine” drunk only at the estate until 1960, as local consumers, used to the light regional wines, did not respond well to the more complex Cabernet grape. Eventually the quality was recognized and 1968 was the first vintage to be offered onto the open market. Still youthful the wine nonetheless expresses fabulous black cherry and tobacco notes on the nose. Pure, elegant, with excellent definition on the palate, the wine should start to show its full potential with early decanting. *RP 88 points*

**OFF PISTE****Ornellaia, Bolgheri 2001, Tenuta dell’Ornellaia****GA31 £200 per bottle**

Now owned by the Frescobaldi family, Ornellaia is firmly established as one of the top “Super Tuscan” estates. Like its neighbour Sassicaia, it is made from a classic “Bordeaux blend”, these varieties able to thrive on the alluvial *terroir* near the coast thanks to a milder climate than in Tuscany. 2001 is possibly one of the most successful vintages at this estate – a wine for the long term, but early

decanting should help the drinker to appreciate the plum, spice and coffee notes on the nose. It has wonderful complexity, and a supple velvety texture coating underlying tannins. Elegant throughout this is exceptional. Still young, early decanting advised. *RP 96 points*

**Ornellaia, Bolgheri 1997, Tenuta dell'Ornellaia**

**GA34 £190 per bottle**

Now owned by the Frescobaldi family, Ornellaia is firmly established as one of the top "Super Tuscan" estates. Like its neighbour Sassicaia, it is made from a classic "Bordeaux blend" these varieties able to thrive on the alluvial *terroir* thanks to a milder climate than in Tuscany. An exceptional vintage, possibly the finest Ornellaia produced to date, the wine has incredible intensity, with jammy black fruit aromas, rich coffee and subtle oak aromas blending seamlessly to a succulent yet elegant finish. *RP 94 points*

**SPAIN**

**Artadi, Rioja**

*Artadi started life as a small co-operative in the mid-80s, and was bought by winemaker Juan Carlos Lopez de la Calle in the mid-90s. With his dedication and passion Artadi is now one of the most sought-after estates in Rioja, making rich, refined and profound wines at high altitude, solely from Tempranillo, the traditional Rioja grape.*

**GREEN SLOPES**

**Vinas de Gain, Rioja 1998, Artadi**

**GA36 £35 per bottle**

Made from vines averaging 50 years of age this is delicious and elegant, with floral and tangy raspberry and black fruit aromas. The wine is packed with compact dense fruit on the palate enhanced with chocolate, vanilla, spice and mineral flavours, - it has freshness, and elegance and is beautifully textured on the palate. *RP 92 points*

**RED SLOPES**

**Pagos Viejos, Rioja 2000, Artadi**

**GA36 £60 per bottle**

A terrific example of the deep opulent character produced at Artadi, Pagos Viejos is the oldest vineyard in the estate. It has profound deep fruit aromas on the nose, followed by compact rich jammy fruit, and almost liqueur-like ripeness and breadth on the palate. Tannins are rounded and smooth, coated by the density of fruit and suggest that this wine will be very long lived, but it is also excellent and delicious now. *RP 94 points*

**BLACK SLOPES**

**Grandes Anadas Rioja 2000, Artadi**

**GA36 £105 per bottle**

A Gran Reserva cuvee made from a single Tempranillo vineyard planted over 80 years ago, it was produced for the first time in 1994 and is made only in exceptional years. Opulent, very rich and with deep concentration of raspberry, spice, vanilla and gamey flavours blending seamlessly on the palate, the wine has dense rounded structure and fine tannins to give it longevity. The vibrancy and purity of fruit as well as lively acidity ensure that it is wonderful to drink now. One of the very finest wines produced in this region.

**NEW WORLD**

**GREEN SLOPES**

**Atalon Cabernet Sauvignon 1999, Napa California, Atalon**

**GA37 £55 per bottle**

The wine is made from vines grown on mountain slopes stretching from Napa-Carneros in the south to the peaks of Howell Mountain in the North. Packed with ripe opulent fruit and gentle tannins and a hint of spice, this richly textured wine is terrific value. *RP 91 points*

**RED SLOPES**

**Stonewell Shiraz 1996, Barossa S Australia, Peter Lehmann**

**GA38 £65 per bottle**

Made from low-yielding vineyards in the drier western area of the Barossa Valley, where the climate and soil are ideal for producing the full-flavoured rich-fruited Shiraz wines. Planted here since the 1850s, this region escaped the scourge of Phylloxera which means that

many of its great vineyards remain planted on their own roots. Plums, dark chocolate and black fruits on the nose are typical of the Barossa Shiraz. Full bodied, and underpinned by a firm structure, soft tannins and underlying acidity, the wealth and intensity of fruit balances beautifully. *RP 92 points*

**The Coppermine Road Cabernet Sauvignon, 1999, McLaren Vale S Australia, D'Arenberg** **GA40** **£60 per bottle**

One of the "big three" wines made at this large estate, and made from the best Cabernet fruit in the Coppermine vineyard. The emphasis here is on full powerful fruit flavour of mulberry, cassis and plums, nuanced with smoky, cedar and oak notes. In spite of the generous weight on the palate, the wine has very good definition and lovely vibrant balance of acidity and soft tannins on the lingering finish. *RP 95 points*

**Old Block Shiraz 1993, Barossa, St Hallett** **GA41** **£60 per bottle**

The flagship wine of St Hallett winery, one of the stars of the Barossa Valley. Made from vines which are up to 100 years old, grown in two separate sub-regions – the warmer site providing richness, whilst the higher altitude and cooler Eden Valley adds an elegant floral vitality, texture, and a seamless mineral structure. Old Block is recognized as world class, and the vintages of the early 90s in particular are often rated as one of the top four Australian Shiraz wines, along with Grange, Armagh and Hill of Grace.

**Felton Road Block 5 Pinot Noir 2003, Central Otago, New Zealand.** **GA59** **£70 per bottle**

**Felton Road Block 3 Pinot Noir 2005, Central Otago, New Zealand.** **GA57** **£70 per bottle**

Felton Road was bought by Nigel Greening in 2000 from the original owner, and has been farmed increasingly organically since 2002. Winemaker Blair Walter's experience in Oregon and Burgundy has stood him in good stead for coaxing the best out of the property's vines. He adopts a 'hands off' approach in the unique three-level winery, which is built into the hillside, with the aim of producing wines of elegance, complexity and exceptional depth of fruit. Deep ruby-purple colored, Block 3 Pinot Noir has notes of black cherries, plums, graphite, red currant, damp loam and dark chocolate with a whiff of anise. Elegantly fruited in the medium bodied mouth, it is tight-knit and restrained at the moment offering muscular blackberry fruit, a medium-firm level of fine grained tannins and a long earthy finish.

**Syrah Reva Alban 2002, Edna Valley, San Luis Obispo California** **GA43** **£105 per bottle**

John Alban's first vintage was 1992 but since then the reputation of this winery has soared. His moderate use of oak means that the creamy intense fruit is not overpowered in this opulent dense and full-bodied wine. The wine is also very hard to find as most is sold direct to the consumer, so this is a rare treat! *RP 95 points*

**Dead Arm Shiraz 1998, McLaren Vale S Australia, D'Arenberg** **GA42** **£80 per bottle**

One of the flagship wines and the top Shiraz at this estate, the name derives from the disease which affects some of the oldest vines at d'Arenberg, reducing one of the "arms" of the vine to dead wood, which means that the other produces small volumes of incredibly concentrated and highly flavoured grapes. The richness and depth is evident in this big flavourful wine, packed with cassis, liquorice and smoky flavours. Full and generous, with a suave velvety texture, lovely now. *RP 96 points*

**Ridge Monte Bello 2002, Santa Cruz Mountains California** **GA44** **£160 per bottle**

Monte Bello is unquestionably the greatest wine produced at Ridge, and one of California's finest and longest-lived Cabernets. The "Ridge" itself is limestone, 12 miles long – the best vines are planted in the Monte Bello Ridge vineyard and the winery itself is carved out of terraces at 2,300 ft of altitude. One of the key to the success here is winemaker Paul Draper who joined in 1969 and is still in charge of winemaking today. The 2002 is full bodied, dense, with classic Cabernet earthy aromas of cedar, chocolate and sweet blackcurrants. Still fairly youthful, this will certainly benefit from early decanting. *RP 94 points*

## BLACK SLOPES

**Philip Togni Cabernet Sauvignon 1998, Spring Mountain Napa California** **GA46** **£100 per bottle**

Philip Togni makes less than 2000 cases of this Cabernet Sauvignon, one of the most concentrated, complex and richest wine in California. Togni studied at the University of Bordeaux in the 1950s and his small vineyard on the steep slopes of Spring Mountain is planted with vines that produce a classic Bordeaux blend. In 1998 he reduced the crop by 50% to guarantee the ripeness and produce a wonderfully rich and complex wine that can be enjoyed now, but will continue to age beautifully for at least a decade. *RP 90 points*

**Château Montelena Cabernet Sauvignon 1996, Napa California, Château Montelena** **GA45** **£120 per bottle**

The top wine at this estate which was replanted in the 1970s on low-yielding rootstock, ensuring stunning levels of concentration that are one of the signatures of the wines produced here. The vines are also amongst the oldest in the Napa, planted on a diversity of soils which is unique in the area and translates into the layers of complex aromas and flavours found in the wines. Yields were halved in 1996, producing even more concentration, both aromatically and on the palate – classic Cabernet notes of leather, cassis, earth, spice and oak, with expressive ripe fruit flavours on the palate. *RP 98 points*

**Dominus 1995, Napa California, Christian Moueix** **GA46** **£125 per bottle**

During the late 1960's, Christian Moueix became known for his work in Pomerol with properties like, Petrus, Chateau Trotanoy and Chateau La Fleur Petrus. Bringing many of the working practices and ways of thinking with him across the Atlantic, Moueix became the sole owner of the Dominus in 1995. This, his first wine at the estate is a blend of 80% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Cabernet Franc, 6%

Petit Verdot, and 4% Merlot. Ripe, plummy, supple, expansively-flavored and with layered of black currant and cassis fruit, it is full-bodied and low in acidity. It possesses exceptional concentration and purity. *RP 93 points*

**Caymus Special Selection 2001, Napa California, Caymus**

**GA46 £155 per bottle**

Caymus Vineyards Special Selection is a reference point for Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon. According to Chuck Wagner, the patriarch of Caymus Vineyards, it is a blend of the best Cabernet lots in a given year. Caymus has been around for so long there is a tendency to under-estimate their wines. However, they have a brilliant track record as evidenced by the decade old 2001 Cabernet Sauvignon Vintage Selection. Abundant chocolate, black currant, licorice and coffee aromas soar from the glass of this perfumed wine. It exhibits an opaque ruby/purple color, wonderful opulence, a deep, full-bodied mouthfeel, fabulous depth and not a hard edge to be found. While seemingly fully mature, the supple tannins, expansive fruit and glycerin, depth and overall balance suggest it will keep for another 15+ years. *RP 96 points.*

**Astralis, McLaren Vale 1995, South Australia, Clarendon Hills**

**GA46 £170 per bottle**

Only about 450 cases are made of this luxury cuvee produced from single-vineyard 60 year old Shiraz vines. Roman Bratasiuk was once named "Wine Producer of the Year" by Robert Parker who considers that his Syrah wines are world class. He travels regularly to France which is his reference point for his wine-making techniques - low yields, minimal intervention and ageing in French rather than American oak. Thick, rich with luxurious wealth of fruit, Astralis has remarkable balance combined with power and opulence. *RP 96 points*

**Ridge Monte Bello Cabernet Sauvignon 1992**

**GA46 £220 per bottle**

Widely held to be one of the greatest examples of Monte Bello Cabernet Sauvignon Ridge has produced. The wine shows a very dark colour, profound nose of minerals, cassis, licorice, and spices, spectacular richness and a luxurious mid-palate that boasts layers of fruit. Admirable purity, fine underlying acidity, and considerable sweet, ripe tannin make this a compelling wine. *RP 94-97 points*

**Grace Family Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa California**

Planted using cuttings from the nearby, famed Bosché vineyard, Grace Family Vineyards began as nothing more than a family hobby. In 1978, they brought the fruits of their first harvest over to Caymus Winery in the back of a station wagon. According to Grace Family's website, Charlie Wagner, who ran Caymus, tasted those grapes and exclaimed, "You know, Dick, this is damned fine fruit!" And thus, the Caymus "Grace Family Vineyard" Cabernet Sauvignon was born--Napa's first vineyard-designated wine, which have become wine legends..

1985 vintage  
1987 vintage  
1990 vintage

*RP 96 points*

**GA46 £360 per bottle**  
**GA46 £320 per bottle**  
**GA46 £320 per bottle**

**SWEET WINES**

**RED SLOPES**

**Tokaji Aszu Mezes Maly 1<sup>st</sup> Growth 6 puttonyos 1999 (50cl). . . .**

**GA68 £95 per bottle**

Mezes Maly, which means "honey pot" has the distinction of being classified as one of only two vineyards to be elevated to the equivalent of Great 1<sup>st</sup> Growth. 1999 is one of the great vintages of recent years and this exquisite wine reflects that status. The nose is dominated by honey, caramel and raisins, whilst the palate exudes marmalade, spice, roses and white flowers. Sweet and rich without cloying weight, the wine is incredibly long and perfectly balanced – its beautiful aromas and flavours combine the very essence of Aszu wines.

**WEINGUT JOH. JOS. PRUM, Mosel Germany**

This winery has for decades been by common consent one of the exceptional producers of top quality wine in Germany and they own some of the best parcels in the top sites, including Wehlener Sonnenuhr. The wines are the epitome of the classic Mosel style; thoroughbred, racy, perfectly balanced and beautifully refined.

**Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spatlese, J J Prum**

**GA68 £59 per bottle**

**Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese, J J Prum**

**GA69 £79 per bottle**

**Banyuls Grand Cru, Languedoc Rousillon, Domaines et Terrois du Sud**

*One of France's greatest red Vins Doux Naturels and possibly their finest fortified wine, which is produced by stopping the natural fermentation with the addition of alcohol in order to retain the necessary sweetness. The Grands Crus must be produced from 75%*



**Château Gigault Cuvée Viva 2000, 1ère Côtes de Blaye****£25 per half bottle**

Made from 85% Merlot and 15% Cabernet Sauvignon. This is lovely – rich and concentrated, with classic flavours of chocolate, coffee and creamy blackcurrant. Rich and full in the mouth, with masses of fleshy fruit, this is excellent quality at this level. *RP 89 points*

**Château Grand Puy Ducasse 2000, 5ème Cru Pauillac****£27 per half bottle**

The vineyards adjoin those of Grand Puy Lacoste and Pontet Canet on the western side of Pauillac and the Château has always been slightly overshadowed by these neighbours. However the wine has always represented excellent value and in this outstanding vintage, with sweet black fruit and well integrated tannins, shows excellent harmony, balance and finesse. *RP 88 points*

**Ségla 2000, Margaux****£23 per half bottle**

The second wine of Rauzan Ségla (bought by Chanel in 1994), which has been making consistently superb wines since the mid-80s and is now without doubt one of the top châteaux of the *appellation*. Fully mature, especially in half bottles, Ségla reflects the elegant fragrant bouquet associated with Margaux, but has a fullness and richness of fruit on the palate.

**Clos du Marquis 2000, St Julien****£30 per half bottle**

A fantastic year for Léoville Lascases and for Clos du Marquis, it's second wine, produced from selected vineyards surrounded by those of Pichon Lalande, Léoville Poyferré and Léoville Barton. Consistently of quality close to that of a Third or Fourth Growth, the pedigree shows in this densely coloured, rich, and concentrated wine – possibly the best ever Clos du Marquis. *RP 91 points*

**Bahans Haut Brion 2000, Pessac-Léognan****£45 per half bottle**

Bahans is always one of the best second wines, and displays the volume, depth and complexity of its sibling Haut Brion. The nose is sweet rich and rounded, and the palate very fine, with creamy fruit balanced by refreshing acidity. Beautifully balanced, elegant and stylish and with excellent length this is very good indeed. *RP 90 points*

**Château Lynch Bages 1995, 5ème Cru Classé Pauillac****£70 per half bottle**

With its high percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon, Lynch Bages is often slow to mature, however, the 1995 is already enjoyable, especially in half bottle. Now soft with attractive blackcurrant fruit, and hints of cedar on the nose, the wine is full, fat, round and very harmonious, the slight hint of Pauillac austerity beautifully balanced by the richness of flesh and ripe flavours on the palate. *RP 91 points*

**Les Forts de Latour 2001, Pauillac****£115 per half bottle**

Widely regarded as one of Bordeaux's finest second wines, the lush 2001 Forts de Latour exhibits all the class of its revered sibling. A deep ruby/plum color is accompanied by aromas of cedarwood and smoke and a hint of nuttiness overlaying the core of ripe cassis fruit. Round and generous it is mature and drinking superbly now the tannins have sweetened and softened. The round generous ripe fruit combines beautifully with earthy spicy notes to a lingering finish. *RP 90 points*

**Carruades de Lafite 2000, Pauillac****£145 per half bottle**

Carruades is similar in character to Lafite, but takes on its own nuance of personality with a higher percentage of Merlot than the *Grand Vin*. The wine comes from plots situated next to Lafite's finest vineyards and is exceptional in this outstanding vintage. Deep colour, with an intense bouquet of blackberries and liquorice, the wine is supple and full on the palate with layered complexity, and exhibits the purity and elegance associated with this estate. Possibly the best ever Carruades. *RP 90 points*

## THE CELLAR

### Legendary Bottles

The following bottles are also available from the CK Verbier cellar, presenting a unique opportunity to experience some of the finest wines in history. We are very proud to be able to offer stunning vertical selections from some of the world's greatest estates and the opportunity to compare some legendary wines with their immediate contemporaries.

#### Château Pichon Longueville Lalande 1982, 2ème Cru St Emilion **HSE8B** *RP 100 points* **£710 per bottle**

One of two Châteaux (the other being Pichon-Baron) which share the great Pichon estate. Lalande has risen above its sibling to become consistently one of the great wines of Pauillac, with a stunning run of success year in, year out. The high proportion of merlot is unusual for Pauillac, but it seems to work, producing a wine with a velvety texture that sometimes seems closer in spirit to St-Julien than Pauillac (perhaps not surprising given that the southern portion of the vineyard is actually located there).

#### Château Margaux, 1er Grand Cru Classé Margaux

Margaux is, in top vintages such as 1990, the most attractive, fine, elegant and sophisticated of all the first growths. Like Lafite, its hallmark is not power and punch, but more balance, style and perfume. The Château itself is no less remarkable, a beautiful mansion set in a magnificent estate with avenues of trees leading through it. Margaux truly is wine aristocracy.

Margaux was purchased in 1977 by the Mentzelopoulos family after a period of underachievement in the 60s and 70s. Since then, with winemaking entrusted to Paul Pontallier since 1983, the quality is again deserving of its First Growth status and has produced a string of outstanding vintages. The 1997 is no exception, with a level of concentration and density you would expect from a lighter vintage, the wine is nonetheless full of charm, and richness with a silky supple texture.

1990 vintage	<b>HSE5A</b>	<i>RP 100 points</i>	<b>£1120 per bottle</b>
1997 vintage	<b>HSE1A</b>	<i>RP 90 points</i>	<b>£365 per bottle</b>

#### Château Cheval Blanc, 1er Grand Cru Classé St Emilion

An enigmatic legend in the world of wine. This Premier Grand Cru Classé property (Class A, to set it and Ausone apart from the Class B such as Belair, Canon, Pavie and the rest) occupies a unique position in St Emilion and in history. It is of Bordeaux's most profound wines, its distinctive character comes from its situation on the gravelly/sandy/clay soil on the St Emilion/Pomerol border, and its unusually high percentage of Cabernet Franc. Since the early 1990s the winemaking has been in the capable and talented hands of Pierre Lurton (also the winemaker at Yquem) who saw the ownership change in 1998 when the château was bought by Bernard Arnault and Albert Frères.

1982 vintage	<b>HSE8D</b>	<i>RP 99 points</i>	<b>£875 per bottle</b>
1983 vintage	<b>HSE8B</b>	<i>RP 94 points</i>	<b>£490 per bottle</b>
1990 vintage	<b>HSE4C</b>	<i>RP 100 points</i>	<b>£1,250 per bottle</b>
1997 vintage	<b>HSE1B</b>	<i>RP 88 points</i>	<b>£335 per bottle</b>
1998 vintage	<b>HSE5C</b>	<i>RP 98+ points</i>	<b>£650 per bottle</b>
1999 vintage	<b>HSE1B</b>	<i>RP 93 points</i>	<b>£455 per bottle</b>
2000 vintage	<b>HSE1C</b>	<i>RP 100 points</i>	<b>£1,000 per bottle</b>

#### Château Haut Brion, 1er Cru Classé Pessac-Leognan

One of the oldest of the Bordeaux vineyards, Haut Brion's fame had spread to England by the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> Century when Samuel Pepys famously remarked "I drank a sort of French wine called Ho-Bryan which hath a good and most particular taste which I never met with". Located in the suburbs of Bordeaux Haut Brion for some reason does not have the caché of the other First Growths, but is considered by many to be one of the most elegant, the most individual and most aromatically complex of Bordeaux wines. The quality has been remarkably consistent since the early 1980s, in a style that is understated, with the emphasis on balance and harmony rather than concentration and power.

1983 vintage	<b>HSE8B</b>	<i>RP 87 points</i>	<b>£260 per bottle</b>
1989 vintage	<b>HSE6C</b>	<i>RP 100 points</i>	<b>£1,450 per bottle</b>
1990 vintage	<b>HSE4B</b>	<i>RP 98 points</i>	<b>£725 per bottle</b>
1997 vintage	<b>HSE2A</b>	<i>RP 89 points</i>	<b>£225 per bottle</b>

#### Château La Mission Haut Brion 1982, Pessac Leognan **HSE8B** *RP 100 points* **£975 per bottle**

The greatest Graves wine after Haut-Brion itself and in some vintages considered the superior wine of the two. La Mission-Haut-Brion is situated just across the road from Haut-Brion in the commune of Talence in the southern suburbs of Bordeaux. Since 1983, both properties have been under the same ownership. La Mission's vineyards (Cabernet Sauvignon 48%, Merlot 45%, Cabernet Franc 7%) lie on a large gravel bank interspersed with clay. The wine is fermented in temperature-controlled, stainless steel vats and then matured in oak barriques (100% new) for 18 months. The wines of La Mission Haut Brion are rich, oaky and powerful and need at least 10 years of bottle ageing before they should be broached. The 1990 is a sensational upstart next to its esteemed sibling.

#### Château Latour, 1er Grand Cru Classé Pauillac

Latour is undoubtedly one of the greatest names in wine, a legend of extraordinary standing, for more than two centuries consistently featuring on the most distinguished of tables and in the grandest of cellars. Stylistically often compared to Lafite, its long standing rival, Hugh Johnson puts it like this: *'Lafite is a tenor; Latour a bass. Lafite is a lyric; Latour an epic. Lafite is a dance; Latour a parade.'* It is this extraordinary blend of power and class that give Latour its legendary ability to age. Strong and muscular in its youth, it is usually the last of the First Growths to open up. In great years it can seem almost immortal. In lesser years, it still takes a decade to blossom. The second wine, Les Forts, is produced with the same uncompromising focus on perfection and is often deservedly said to be of Second Growth quality (see page 8).

1970 vintage	<b>HSE8B</b>	<i>RP 98 points</i>	<b>£700 per bottle</b>
1990 vintage	<b>HSE5B</b>	<i>RP 96 points</i>	<b>£750 per bottle</b>
1997 vintage	<b>HSE4D</b>	<i>RP 89 points</i>	<b>£400 per bottle</b>

#### Château Le Pin, Pomerol

Jacques Thienpont purchased this tiny 1.6 hectares of land for one million francs in 1979 and named their wine Le Pin after a solitary pine tree that stood on the property. By acquiring tiny adjoining plots of land, Jacques has doubled the size of Le Pin to five acres but the output is still tiny, as low as 700 cases in some vintages. The south-facing vineyard on a well-drained slope of gravel and sand is planted with Merlot (about 92%), and a small amount of Cabernet Franc. Le Pin produces super-concentrated, decadent, lush and lavishly oaked wines, typical of the Garagiste movement of which they were an originator.

1989 vintage	<b>HSE5C</b>	<i>RP 96 points</i>	<b>£2,250 per bottle</b>
1990 vintage	<b>HSE5C</b>	<i>RP 98 points</i>	<b>£3,200 per bottle</b>

#### Château Pétrus, Pomerol

Pétrus, one of the world's rarest and most expensive wines needs little introduction but was virtually unheard of 30 years ago. It was only when the Moueix family bought a half share in the property in 1962 that its true potential began to be fully realised. Pétrus is now under the direction of Christian Moueix and oenologist, Jean Claude Berrouet. Pétrus is nearly always extraordinarily rich, powerful and concentrated, often with characteristics of chocolates, truffles, Asian spices and ultra-ripe, creamy, black fruits. It is usually approachable after a decade or so in bottle, but wines from the very greatest years, such as the '89 and '90 will continue improving for many years. Both of these vintages are true legends of the wine world.

1989 vintage	<b>HSE6C</b>	<i>RP 100 points</i>	<b>£3,750 per bottle</b>
1990 vintage	<b>HSE4C</b>	<i>RP 100 points</i>	<b>£4,500 per bottle</b>

Château Lafleur 1990, Pomerol	<b>HSE4B</b>	<i>RP 96 points</i>	<b>£1,650 per bottle</b>
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Château Lafleur is a tiny 4.5-hectare Pomerol property located opposite Pétrus and producing wines of comparable quality. The 1990 is composed of 60% Merlot and 40% Cabernet Franc. Wonderfully concentrated, chocolaty bouquet. Beautifully spicy, ripe fullness on the palate. Very deep middle power with blackberry and sweet, fascinating notes of aniseed.

## THE CELLAR

### Magnums

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#### WHITE

##### **Corton Charlemagne Grand Cru, Vincent Girardin**

**£155 per magnum**

Dynamic negociant Vincent Girardin has been making some changes over the past few years. The overall goal is to work more naturally; the wines are showing more purity and focus as a result. In 1998, he began moving to more organic cultivation. In 2008, the conversion to biodynamic viticulture started and since 2009 he has commenced the process for biodynamic certification. He plans to be fully converted by 2011. This Grand Cru shows the benefit of his efforts. Deep yellow in colour the nose is dense and more obviously displays ripe fruit. In the mouth it's well textured, even slightly oily, widens to great effect in the mid-palate and has impressive length.

##### **Bienvenues Bâtard Montrachet Grand Cru 2000, Domaine Leflaive**

**£500 per magnum**

The smallest of the *Grands Crus*, the vineyard in fact borders that of Bâtard on two sides, and Les Pucelles on the other. A very successful vintage chez Leflaive, this Bienvenues, made from the oldest vines of the Domaine, is relatively forward, with degrees of richness and power, and fine ripe fruit. Typically fat and with floral and honeyed nuances, the vibrant flavours melt seamlessly on the palate and are very intense, yet refined. Wonderful class here. *BH 91-94 points*.

#### RED BURGUNDY

##### **Nuits St. Georges 1er Cru les St. Georges 2002, Thibaut Liger-Belair.**

**£210 per magnum**

If there were to be a Grand cru in Nuits-Saint-Georges it would be without any doubt "les Saint-Georges". This one of the flagship wines of the domaine who hold more than a quarter of the 7,5 hectares which make this appellation. From very old vines planted on a calcareous brown soil, deep and very stony. This is a serious, rich and structured Nuits St. Georges, built for aging but extremely good drinking now.

##### **Bonnes Mares Grand Cru 2002, Domaine Comte de Vogue**

**£750 per magnum**

Domaine Comte de Vogüé can trace its history back to 1450 and is the greatest estate in Chambolle Musigny. The domaine owns 7.25 hectares of the fabled Le Musigny vineyard which constitutes 80% of the whole site. In addition, it has 2.75 hectares of Bonnes-Mares and 1.8 hectares of Premier Cru Chambolle-Musigny. With estate manager Jean-Luc Pepin at the helm, winemaker François Millet and the aptly named Eric Bourgogne in the vineyards, this domaine currently cannot put a foot wrong; it ranks amongst the very best Burgundy houses and this is the top cuvee. Red Burgundy at its sublime best - marvellously perfumed, rich, ripe fruit, perfectly balanced and exquisitely harmonious.

##### **Château Cambon La Pelouse, Cru Bourgeois Supérieur Haut Médoc**

**£60 per magnum**

Acknowledged by many as being of Classed Growth quality in this vintage, this wine is drinking at its very best now. Wonderful ripe fruit, fleshy and beautifully textured, this is a serious and very successful wine. *RP 88 points*

##### **Château Larcis Ducasse 2002, Grand Cru Classé St Emilion**

**£90 per magnum**

Its neighbour is Pavié, its situation ideal on clay and limestone soil, its vines average 40 years of age and since the 2002 vintage two of the most acclaimed winemakers in Bordeaux, Nicolas Thienpont and Stéphane Derenoncourt, have been consulting on the winemaking. It is no wonder the quality has soared. A terrific wine – with expressive sweet fragrant fruit, generous and velvety on the palate. *RP 90 points*

##### **Château Les Ormes de Pez 2001, Cru Bourgeois Exceptionnel St Estèphe**

**£75 per magnum**

Owned and produced by Jean-Michel Cazes of Lynch Bages, this Château consistently performs as if it were a Cru Classé rather than Bourgeois with its generous flavour and plump fruit. Both show lovely fruit, fresh and nicely sappy. 30% new wood not really evident at all and the wine remains elegant with good freshness. An attractive 'Murray Mints' toffee caramel mintiness is evident in the 2001 which is a really lovely wine, and a very good buy. The 2002 is again, particularly good, with herbaceous overtones, and clean fruit and spice notes on the finish.

##### **Les Pagodes de Cos 2002, 2eme vin de Cos d'Estournel, St. Estephe**

**£95 per magnum**

Les Pagodes de Cos is, strictly speaking, Cos d'Estournel's "second wine". The vines that produce it are eventually used for the "Grand Vin" which is one of the elite Super Seconds of the Medoc. They are grown on the same terroir and are treated in the same way. Classically styled and showing its lofty pedigree this is more like a good classed growth than an attempt to make something simple and early-drinking.

##### **Cos d'Estournel 2002, 2ème Cru Classé St. Estephe**

**£240 per magnum**

Château Cos d'Estournel is named after its 19th century owner, Louis-Gaspard d'Estournel, and it was he who built the bizarre oriental edifice that is its modern signature. Cos d'Estournel is without doubt the leading estate in St-Estèphe, located in the south of the

appellation on the border with Pauillac. Its vineyards are superbly sited on a south-facing gravel ridge with a high clay content, just north of Lafite. Cos d'Estournel is typically a blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 38% Merlot and 2% Cabernet Franc. The 2002 has great depth, luscious black fruit and generous, rich tannins.

**Les Forts de Latour 1997, Pauillac**

**£295 per magnum**

Certainly one of the finest second wines produced in Bordeaux, the consistently high quality of this sibling of Latour ranks it alongside many Third or Fourth Growths. The character is similar to Latour itself, but lighter and more precocious and the 1997 is fully mature now. With a bouquet of rich, black fruit, it is well structured but supple, with plump spicy fruit on the palate and good length. *RP 87-88 points*

**Château Gruaud Larose 1990, 2ème Cru Classé St Julien**

**£350 per magnum**

Historically one of the most important Classified Growths in this appellation, always hugely popular and still producing consistently high quality. In recent years the style has become less tannic and massive – but the 1989 is a very fine example of the old style – rich, full and opulent, with classic aromas of cedar, tobacco leaf and sweet ripe black and red fruits. Still in its prime and delicious. *RP 89 points*

**Les Forts de Latour 2001, Pauillac**

**£450 per magnum**

Widely regarded as one of Bordeaux's finest second wines, the lush 2001 Forts de Latour exhibits all the class of its revered sibling. A deep ruby/plum color is accompanied by aromas of cedarwood and smoke and a hint of nuttiness overlaying the core of ripe cassis fruit. Round and generous it is mature and drinking superbly now the tannins have sweetened and softened. The round generous ripe fruit combines beautifully with earthy spicy notes to a lingering finish. *RP 90 points*

**Château Lafite 1997, 1er Cru Pauillac**

**£1350 per magnum**

The largest of the First Growths and today one of the greatest wines of Bordeaux. Like Margaux, Lafite produced a succession of dismal vintages in the 60s and 70s, until Baron Eric de Rothschild took over in 1974, and today the wine strikes a perfect balance between power and finesse, allied with concentration, purity and elegance. The level of concentration in the 1997 is impressive (only 25% of the crop was put into the final blend), and the wine is considered by many to be the best of the First Growths. Fragrant, rich, complex, with masses of rich layered fruit, the wine is lovely now. Very fine indeed. *RP 92 points*

**LARGE FORMAT BOTTLES**

**Château Larzac Ducasse 2002, Grand Cru Classé St Emilion**

**£200 per dbl magnum**

Its neighbour is Pavie, its situation ideal on clay and limestone soil, its vines average 40 years of age and since the 2002 vintage two of the most acclaimed winemakers in Bordeaux, Nicolas Thienpont and Stehane Derenoncourt, have been consulting on the winemaking. It is no wonder the quality has soared. A terrific wine – with expressive sweet fragrant fruit, generous and velvety on the palate. *RP 90 points*

**Château Les Ormes de Pez 2002, Cru Bourgeois Exceptionnel St Estèphe**

**£12 per dbl magnum**

**£250 per imperial**

Owned and produced by Jean-Michel Cazes of Lynch Bages, this Château consistently performs as if it were a Cru Classé rather than Bourgeois with its generous flavour and plump fruit. Both show lovely fruit, fresh and nicely sappy. 30% new wood not really evident at all and the wine remains elegant with good freshness. An attractive 'Murray Mints' toffee caramel mintiness is evident in the 2001 which is a really lovely wine, and a very good buy. The 2002 is again, particularly good, with herbaceous overtones, and clean fruit and spice notes on the finish.

**Haut Bages Averous 1995, 2eme vin de Lynch Bages, Pauillac**

**£190 per dbl magnum**

Few people realise that this is the second wine of Ch. Lynch-Bages, and it certainly doesn't taste like it. The 1995 shows entle cedar hints enhancing rich summer berry flavours while roasted coffee and firm tannins and acidity add a serious edge. The pure yet beguiling nose of spicy raspberries tops things off beautifully.

**Chateau Lynch-Bages 2002, 5ème Cru Classé Pauillac**

*RP 88 points*

**£450 per dbl magnum**

This is one wine where the 1855 classification certainly no longer applies, as this Fifth Growth delivers the quality of a Second, and is even often referred to as the "poor man's Mouton". A classic offering, which is approachable in its relative youth, this structured, tannic 2002 offers a dense ruby/purple color, medium to full body, and the tell-tale Lynch Bages cassis and earthy nose. There is good power on the attack, mid-palate and finish.

**Château Mouton Rothschild 1997, 1er Cru Classé Pauillac**

**£1250 per dbl magnum**

**£2,150 per jeroboam**

Promoted to First Growth status in 1973, thanks to the determination of the late Baron Philippe de Rothschild who arrived at the property in 1922, the quality at this château has been strangely inconsistent, producing superb wines as well as mediocre vintages. With 80% Cabernet Sauvignon, 1997 is one of the most evolved Moutons, but is still in its relative youth. Impressive for the vintage, the nose is expressive and open-knit with notes of violets, cedar, cassis, coffee. The texture on the palate is fine, with smooth tannins - concentrated fleshy, rounded, with a delicious lingering finish. *RP 90 points*

**Château Margaux 1989, 1er Cru Classé Margaux**

**£3,300 per imperial**

A very rare bottle indeed! The harvest at the Château was the earliest since 1893, starting on 17<sup>th</sup> August, with the excellent ripeness of the grapes producing smooth and ripe tannins in this rich, complex and opulent wine. The elegant acidity and grainy structure add balance to the concentration of fruit, but also ensure that the wine will be very long lived. Early decanting will help, especially in this large format. *RP 90 points*