

CHALET LE TI WINE LIST WINTER 2010/11

CHAMPAGNE

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 £ 65 per half bottle
CH3 £125 per bottle
LF £250 per magnum
LF £650 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 £360 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 £255 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

LF £650 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

LF £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

CH7 £490 per bottle

Krug 1990

CH8 £325 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 £255 per bottle
LF £525 per magnum

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

Krug 1988

CH6 £275 per bottle
LF £575 per magnum

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

Krug Rosé NV

CH10 £225 per bottle

OTHER VINTAGE CHAMPAGNES

Moët & Chandon 1999

CH12 £59 per bottle

Bollinger Grande Année 1997

CH14 £85 per bottle

Bollinger Grande Année 1995

CH13 £105 per bottle

Bollinger R.D. 1990

LF £195 per bottle

Dom Perignon 1999

CH5 £135 per bottle

Dom Perignon 1996

RP 98 points

CH5 £175 per bottle

Louis Roederer Cristal 1990

CH12 £330 per bottle

Louis Roederer Cristal 2000

LF £690 per magnum

Veuve Clicquot La Grande Dame 1990

RP 95 points

LF £275 per magnum

OTHER NON-VINTAGE CHAMPAGNES

Pol Roger NV

CH2 £40 per bottle

Ruinart Rosé NV

CH1 £55 per bottle

HOUSE WINES

WHITE WINES

Macon Charnay Clos St. Pierre 2008, Verget.

In 1990, after 5 years as a wine broker, Jean-Marie Guffens founded his own négociant company, Verget. His conviction was and still is that the best wine is made using the best grapes. He scoured Burgundy to find where the best grapes were, where the oldest vineyards were situated, wherever a small grower was a potential supplier. This wine comes from parcels located near the Saone Valley characterised by clay soil and a Southern exposure. This terroir gives a very rich wine with great purity of fruit and freshness.

Sancerre, Domaine Vincent Delaporte 2008, Loire Valley, France.

Located in the middle of the Sancerrois region, Domaine Vincent Delaporte and Sons is a family business, which has been passed from father to son since the 17th century. Pale gold in the glass with green hints this is very expressive, intense and complex. The nose shows rhubarb, blackcurrant leaf and kiwi fragrances and a light vegetal touch. On the palate it is soft and round with vibrant freshness and lively purity. Well balanced and harmonious, it ends with a clean lingering finish.

Mulderbosch Chardonnay 2004, Stellenbosch, South Africa.

Mulderbosch, situated in the prime Koelenhof area of Stellenbosch, is widely accepted as being one of the best white wine producers in the country, and Mike Dobrovic, one of the most talented wine makers in South Africa. This is a rich and flavoursome, barrel fermented Chardonnay with pear, citrus, almonds, green apple, litchi and melon dominating the nose and palate. Showing maturity and complexity but remaining crisp and fresh with roundness from well integrated oak vanillin and great length.

Seresin Sauvignon Blanc 2008, Marlborough, New Zealand.

One of the region's most sophisticated, subtle and satisfying Sauvignons. Seresin Estate is organically certified and farmed according to biodynamic principles and all fruit is estate grown and hand picked. The 2008 vintage is weighty and complex, sweet-fruited and concentrated with ripe, limey, slightly minerally flavours, showing good complexity and texture, fresh acidity and a dry finish. Full of personality it is already delicious.

Borthwick Estate Riesling 2008, Wairarapa, New Zealand.

Borthwick is a family run vineyard nestled in an old stony river terrace encircled by spectacular views and unruffled tranquillity in the Wairarapa Valley, just to the north east of Martinborough. The 2008 Riesling has an enticing aroma of limes, ginger and honey developing into stonefruit and honeysuckle on the palate. Just off-dry, it shows good concentration and is developing the classical texture and complexity of well made Riesling as it matures.

RED WINES

Chenas "Vieilles Vignes" 2005, Domaine Potel-Aviron, Beaujolais, France.

Beaujolais wines have been hideously unfashionable for perhaps a decade or more, but the house of Potel-Aviron is leading a small group determined to drag the region back to respectability. From old, low yielding vines in a top cru this is made in a traditional Burgundian style. The result is a wine of deep colour that shows cedary spice notes ahead of plum, damson and black cherry fruit. This is a mature, powerful wine with finely textured tannins, beautiful poise and complexity.

Côtes du Rhône "Quatres Terres", 2007, Domaine Santa Duc, Rhone Valley, France.

From a collection of plots of vines in the Vacqueyras, Roaix, Seguret and Rasteau Communes "The Four Lands" this is a classic blend of 70% Grenache, 25% Syrah, 5% Carignan & Cinsault. Rich and warming, this is bursting with black cherry fruit and the garrigue, leather and peppery characteristics that are the hallmark of the Rhone.

Fronsac "Cuvée Aliénor" 2006, Château Mayne-vieil, Bordeaux, France.

Neighbouring the stellar appellations of St. Emilion and Pomerol, the wines of Fronsac offer a similar combination of soft, rich Merlot fruit over a Cabernet backbone. Mayne-Vieil is among the best producers in the region and this 'Super Cuvee' is top of their range. The palate is smooth and easy-going, with lovely purity to the ripe, dark fruit. Clean acidity and well integrated tannins support and balance. Not a blockbuster, this is a classic claret of lovely finesse.

Mulderbosch Faithful Hound 2004, Stellenbosch, South Africa.

The winemaker, Mike Dobrovic, is recognised as one of South Africa's finest winemakers. The only red wine produced on the estate, Faithful Hound celebrates the memory of a dog who, when his master died, kept a three year vigil outside his empty cottage on the Mulderbosch Farm. The wine is a Bordeaux blend with good structure and complexity, flavours of black fruit, spice, mulberry and an intense voluptuous texture on the palate.

La Spinetta "Il Nero di Casanova" Sangiovese 2006, Tuscany, Italy.

From 100% Sangiovese the name means "the black one" and refers not only to the deep, dark color of the wine, but also to how old-timers in Tuscany refer to their red wine. Aged entirely in large used French oak for 24 months, then transferred to stainless steel vats for 10 months before bottling, this wine releases beautiful scents of ripe red cherries, toffee and spice. Full-bodied, with intense fruit, chocolate and tobacco flavours and a refined finish, it is a great match to full flavoured, meaty dishes.

CHAMPAGNE

Ville de la Reine NV, Blanc de Blancs, Grand Cru.

Bright lemon and showing a steady stream of fine bubbles in the glass, this delightfully elegant champagne combines subtle complexity with an evident ripeness and depth to the high quality fruit. Hints of peach, lemon sherbet, apple blossom, cream and a biscuity richness are discernable on the nose. The aroma packed palate is supported by a round mouthfeel with notes of sweet tangerine, apple and butterscotch. A fresh acidity lends verve and vibrancy.

WHITE WINE

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 £29 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 Charmoix 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 £35 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*

RED SLOPES

Chablis 1er Cru La Forest 2002, Dauvissat

GA58 £55 per bottle

Discreet and understated in the extreme with incredibly elegant and pure, absolutely classic green fruit and oyster shell Chablis aromas followed by slightly rounder and less powerful and robust flavors than the Vaillons but here there is better freshness, depth and complexity plus the finish just keeps coming. A stunning effort that could be enjoyed now with great pleasure though note that this is still on the way up.

Puligny Montrachet 2002, Domaine Paul Pernot

GA62 £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.

Chablis Grand Cru Vaudésir 2000, Domaine J P Droin

GA59 £65 per bottle

Benoit Droin took over from his father in 1999 and immediately stamped his own mark on the wines. With less use of wood he now vinifies his Grand Cru only partly in oak but there is only subtle evidence of this, and the wines are beautifully made, elegant and complex, retaining the steely typicity of great Chablis. He loves the 2000 vintage which he describes as combining the power of 1990 and the precociousness of 1992. This Vaudésir is truly outstanding, with beautifully integrated oak nuances, purity, precision throughout and great finesse. *BH 93 points*

Meursault 1er Cru Genevrières 2002, Remi Jobard

GA60 £75 per bottle

Meursault 1er Cru Genevrières 2003, Remi Jobard

GA61 £65 per bottle

Meursault 1er Cru Charmes 2002, Remi Jobard

GA59 £75 per bottle

Remi Jobard is the intelligent and dynamic son of Charles Jobard and this domaine, now being run by Remi is truly a family operation, with Remi's mother doing all the bottling by hand. It is indeed an up and coming estate, with scores in the 90s from The Wine Advocate, and up to 94 points in The Wine Spectator and rave reviews in the French press. The secret is now definitely out on Remi Jobard and why not, when he makes such delicious expressions from such great Meursault parcels. The Genevrières parcel is very old vines and is a minerally, *terroir*-filled Meursault; but never at the expense of richness and depth. The Charmes presents a culmination, it seems, a synthesis of all the strong points of all his other wines in a package of near pure perfection.

BLACK SLOPES

Puligny Montrachet 2002, Domaine Leflaive

GA65 £65 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.

Chassagne-Montrachet 2005, Domaine Louis Carillon

GA66 £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.

Puligny Montrachet 1er Cru Champs Canet 2001, Domaine J M Boillot

GA63 £70 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 1er Cru Champ Canet 1999, Domaine Etienne Sauzet

GA63 £70 per bottle

Gerard Boudot has run this famous domaine since the death of his father in law Etienne Sauzet in 1975. His daughter Emilie has been working alongside him since 2000. When it comes to Puligny Montrachet one is either a Leflaive or a Sauzet fan and it seems to be quite polarised. To be a Sauzet fan, you need patience, for the wines always take longer to reach full maturity, owing to the higher acidity levels inherent in them. They have great intensity of flavour combined with sublime balance everything in harmony.

Puligny Montrachet 1er Cru Combette 2001, Domaine Leflaive

GA65 £85 per bottle

Acknowledged by many as the greatest estate in Puligny, now completely biodynamic and managed with energy and passion by Anne-Claude Leflaive. The 2001 vintage provided wine-making challenges, beset as it was with problems of rot and hail damage, however, careful selection has produced a really excellent wine, with citrus and peach notes on the nose, and intense zesty fruit and minerality on the palate. Surprising weight and precision on the palate and excellent length.

Puligny Montrachet 1er Cru Clavaillons 2002, Domaine Leflaive

GA64 £90 per bottle

2002 was one of Domaine Leflaive's benchmark vintages giving wines with excellent structure, elegance, freshness, raciness and balance, all the qualities that indicate the potential for great longevity. The Clavaillons shows all the quintessential Puligny aromas of peach, flowers and butter, is dense and juicy but with poise, elegance and stunning purity.

Puligny Montrachet 1er Cru Folatières 2000, Domaine Etienne Sauzet

GA67 £90 per bottle

Top quality here from gifted winemaker Gerard Boudot of Domaine Sauzet, one of the top Domaines in this appellation. Folatières is typically full, meaty and minerally with plenty of weight of fruit. These are underpinned by crisp and ripe acidity which adds to the intensity, purity and elegance of the wine. *BH 92 points*

Meursault 1er Cru Genevrières 1997, Domaine J M Boillot

GA64 £90 per bottle

There are no Grand Crus in Meursault and this vineyard, together with Charmes and Perrières, are the best of the *1er Crus* in this appellation. This Genevrières, characteristically full, opulent and exotic, yet firm and elegant, is perfect to drink now from this top quality Domaine, the 1997 vintage providing enough structure and grip to balance the inherent weight and flesh of the wine.

OFF PISTE

Domaine Vincent Dauvissat, Chablis Grand Cru, le Clos, 2000

GA60 £135 per bottle

This talented winemaker is among the finest in Chablis and has a cult following amongst French restaurateurs making the top wines exceedingly scarce. This is intensely flavoured, incisive Chablis that manages to be both accurate to the terroir and full of character. The wines can be austere in their youth, but at this stage, fully mature, are spectacular. A ripe, pure and airy nose of classic Chablis aromas shows the merest hint of toastiness which complements perfectly the rich, mineral-driven and beautifully intense palate brimming with oyster shell nuances with a persistent, focused and bone dry finish.

Batard Montrachet Grand Cru 2001, Domaine Paul Pernot

GA67 £130 per bottle

Situated on the greatest site of the Côtes de Beaune, just below Le Montrachet, Batard's vineyards are almost evenly split between the appellations of Puligny and Chassagne, providing richness and concentration but in a more exotic and open style than either Montrachet or Chevalier. The power and generosity are impressive, manifest in its structure, depth, weight and fullness of body on the palate. Made from relatively young vines, the wine may lack a little in finesse but this is excellent quality from a consistently fine Domaine. *BH 91 points*

RED WINES

BORDEAUX

GREEN SLOPES

Château La Bernadotte 2000, Haut Médoc**GA1 £28 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 £28 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 £30 per bottle****Château Les Ormes de Pez 2002, Cru Bourgeois Exceptionnel St Estèphe****GA3 £35 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 £30 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 £32 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 £36 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 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 Stehane Deroncourt, 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'Angéus, 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. Estephe**GA18 £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 £47 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 £48 per bottle**

One of the top château 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 £48 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*

Chateau Haut Bergey 2000, Pessac-Leognan**GA9 £55 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.

RED SLOPES**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 £55 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 1997, St Emilion**GA11 £65 per bottle****Petit Cheval 1999, St Emilion****GA13 £75 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.

Les Pensées de Lafleur 1999**GA12 £65 per bottle**

Only 250 cases are made of Pensées, the second wine of Lafleur, the greatest wine in Pomerol after Pétrus. It reflects the complexity of its rich and elegant sibling, with sweet raspberry/cherry notes and hints of minerals and truffles. A brilliant success in this vintage. *RP 88 points*

Château Pavie-Macquin 1997, Grand Cru Classé St Emilion**GA14 £65 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 Pichon Longueville Baron 1997, 2ème Cru Classé Pauillac**GA15 £65 per bottle**

For many years over-shadowed by its neighbour Pichon Comtesse de Lalande, since the mid-80s Pichon Baron has consistently produced wines at the very top level and in many vintages since then has outperformed Comtesse. Its higher percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon produces a firmer, more masculine wine than Comtesse, closer in style to its other neighbour, Latour. The '97 is lovely, with classic Pauillac notes of cigar, coffee, cedar, albeit in a softer, more open-knit style in this vintage. *RP 86 points*

Château Lynch Bages 1997 5ème Cru Classé Pauillac**GA16 £75 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". Located between Mouton and Lafite to the North, and Latour and the two Pichons to the South, the Château has been producing consistently high quality since the early 80s. The 1997 is still drinking well, - jammy and open-knit in this vintage, yet with the distinctive cedar, earthy and blackcurrant nose so typical of Lynch. *RP 86 points*

BLACK SLOPES**Château Trotanoy 1997, Pomerol****GA23 £80 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*

Château Léoville Lascases 1997, 2ème Cru St Classé Julien**GA26 £80 per bottle**

The vineyard lies immediately south of that of Latour and it is not surprising that Lascases is the most Pauillac-like of the St Juliens. Aspiring to First Growth quality, the wine has had a remarkable track record since the mid-70s with its characteristic richness, depth, structure, balance and elegance. The 1997 is a star of the vintage, unusually ripe, with sweet black fruit and pure concentrated flavours. It is delicious to drink now with elegant tannins and finesse on a lingering finish. *RP 90 points*

Château Lynch Bages 1999, 5ème Cru Classé Pauillac**GA24 £85 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*

Haut-Bailly 2000, Pessac-Leognan**GA17 £85 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*

Château L'Eglise Clinet 1997, Pomerol**GA16 £95 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 £95 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**HSE1B £100 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*

Château Talbot 1990, 4ème Cru Classé St Julien**HSE1C £100 per bottle**

Named after John Talbot, the Earl of Shrewsbury, who was defeated in battle at Castillon in 1453, Talbot is one of the largest estates in St Julien, lying just north of Gruaud Larose. The style here is soft and elegant, and the 1990, while it might lack the fleshy flamboyance so characteristic of this vintage, is nonetheless ripe, rich and balanced, and now fully mature. *RP 85 points*

Château Pichon Longueville Baron 1996, 2ème Cru Classé Pauillac**HSE2C £110 per bottle**

The vineyards lie next to those of Latour, and the style is more masculine than its "confrere" across the road – Pichon Lalande. After lacklustre performances in the 60s and 70s, the property was bought by AXA in the 80s and since then the quality of wine produced here has confirmed that superstar status of this estate. The wonderful 1996 vintage has produced a wine with complex aromas of tobacco, coffee and cassis, - dense and full, the firm structure typical of this vintage is balanced by rich sweet fruit. Early decanting will be rewarded. *RP 91 points*

Château La Conseillante 1998, Pomerol**HSE3D £120 per bottle**

Its neighbours are Petrus, L'Évangile and Vieux Château Certan, and the gravelly/clay soil mix on which the vines are planted are also found at Cheval Blanc and L'Évangile. 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*

OFF PISTE**Château Ducru Beaucaillou 1985, 2ème Cru Classé St Julien****HSE7C £125 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. *RP 92 points*

Château Léoville Barton 1989, 2ème Cru Classé St Julien**HSE6B £130 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 £140 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 £190 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 points*

Château Gruaud Larose 1986, 2ème Cru Classé St Julien**HSE7A £150 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*

Vieux Chateau Certan 1998, Pomerol**HSE2A £155 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 £165 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 Margaux 1997, 1er Cru Classé Margaux**HSE1A £200 per bottle**

Margaux – the epitome of elegance and refinement and the most feminine and charming of the First Growths, - 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. Stylish, very fine, very elegant. *RP 90 points*

Château Pichon Longueville Baron 1989, 2ème Cru St Emilion**HSE5C £210 per bottle**

Château Pichon-Longueville Baron, a leading Pauillac 2ème Cru Classé estate, is one of Bordeaux's most illustrious "super seconds". In 1987 it was bought by the AXA Millésimes Group, who also own Cantenac-Brown, Petit-Village, Suduiraut. AXA built a state of the art cuverie and chai at Pichon-Longueville Baron and the 1989 was among the first vintages to benefit. Pichon-Longueville-Baron's 73-hectare vineyard (70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot, and 5% Cabernet Franc, runs adjacent to that of Château Latour and lies on deep gravel beds. Cabernet-dominated, Pichon-Longueville Baron is a more muscular, tannic and full-bodied wine than that of its neighbour across the road and the 1989 is a fully mature, extraordinary examples of the style. *RP 95 points*

Château Lynch Bages 1990, 5ème Cru Classé Pauillac**HSE4A £220 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*

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*

Château Le Tertre Rôteboeuf 1990, Grand Cru St Emilion**HSE8C £350 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*

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* **£775 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 1990, 1er Grand Cru Classé Margaux **HSE5A** *RP 100 points* **£1120 per bottle**

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 plane trees leading through it. Margaux truly is wine aristocracy.

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	HSE8D	<i>RP 99 points</i>	£850 per bottle
1983 vintage	HSE8B	<i>RP 94 points</i>	£490 per bottle
1986 vintage	HSE7B	<i>RP 92 points</i>	£360 per bottle
1990 vintage	HSE4C	<i>RP 100 points</i>	£1,450 per bottle
1998 vintage	HSE5C	<i>RP 98+ points</i>	£650 per bottle
2000 vintage	HSE1C	<i>RP 100 points</i>	£1,200 per bottle

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 17th 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	HSE8B	<i>RP 87 points</i>	£260 per bottle
1989 vintage	HSE6C	<i>RP 100 points</i>	£1,450 per bottle
1990 vintage	HSE4B	<i>RP 98 points</i>	£725 per bottle
1997 vintage	HSE2A	<i>RP 89 points</i>	£225 per bottle

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 barrels (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	HSE8B	<i>RP 98 points</i>	£600 per bottle
1990 vintage	HSE5B	<i>RP 96 points</i>	£750 per bottle
1997 vintage	HSE4D	<i>RP 89 points</i>	£325 per bottle

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	HSE5C	<i>RP 96 points</i>	£1,800 per bottle
1990 vintage	HSE5C	<i>RP 98 points</i>	£2,800 per bottle

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

Château Lafleur 1990, Pomerol	HSE4B	<i>RP 96 points</i>	£1,450 per bottle
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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, chocolatey bouquet. Beautifully spicy, ripe fullness on the palate. Very deep middle power with blackberry and sweet, fascinating notes of aniseed.

RED BURGUNDY

RED SLOPES

Volnay 1er Cru Fremiets 2000, Domaine Jean Boillot

HSE11D £49 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 £49 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.

Gevrey Chambertin 1er Cru La Petite Chapelle 1996, Domaine J Confuron-Cotéridot

HSE11A £69 per bottle

The vineyard lies just beneath the Grand Cru vineyard of Griotte and is amongst the most feminine of the 1er Cru wines produced in Gevrey. Medium in body, soft, with succulent aromatic red fruit aromas, it is also charming, with beautiful precise flavours and persistence on the palate- from an excellent vintage.

Pommard 1er Cru les Epeneaux 1996, Domaine Comte Armand

HSE9A £80 per bottle

Pommard's finest wine, the vineyard lies in the centre of the *appellation* and is the *Monopole* of Comte Armand. The 1996, one of the best years of the decade, has the vibrant sweet fruit, good firm acidity and definition of *terroir* characteristic of this excellent vintage. Full on the palate with gamey notes, this also has elegance and finesse. *BH 91 points*

Nuits St. Georges 1er Cru Clos de Corvees Pagets 2000, Robert Arnoux.

HSE12B £85 per bottle

Florence and Pascal Lachaux are the fifth generation of winemakers for this domain, which has holdings in 16 appellations across the Côte de Nuits. All wines see 16 months in French oak, with 100% new oak for the grand crus. These efforts result in sweetly oaky, supple Burgundies with generous, ripe fruit. The 2002 is a good, full, deep red. An aromatic nose combines currant, cherry, leather, iron and smoky oak. Sweet and silky, with lovely intensity. It doesn't offer the floral personality of some in the Cote de Nuits but has good stuffing and finishes with silky, integrated oak tannins.

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

HSE12D £85 per bottle

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.

BLACK SLOPES

Chambolle Musigny 1er Cru les Cras 2000, Domaine Roumier

HSE10C £95 per bottle

One of the oldest and one of the very best estates in Chambolle, and one of the most consistent producers in the Côtes de Nuits. The hugely talented Christophe Roumier makes wines which reflect their *terroir* - wines which are lighter in structure than their neighbouring vineyards of Vosne and Gevrey, but not lacking intensity. This 2000 has good structure, firm but is packed with dense ripe fruit, mineral notes and has beautifully textured flavours. Poised, elegant and pretty, with a lingering finish. *BH 88 points*

Clos de Vougeot 1999, Domaine Jacques Prieur

HSE10D £95 per bottle

Dark ruby-red with purplish highlights this is a deep and intense expression of the pinot noir varietal. Rich on the nose, with hints of ripe black fruit (black cherry, blackberry and kirsch), going on to reveal overtones of smoke, tobacco and dark chocolate. Powerful and concentrated spicy and peppery hints compliment the lush fruit on the palate. This is a serious and elegant wine.

Vosne Romanée 1er Cru Malconsorts 1998, Domaine Sylvain Cathiard

HSE10A £95 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*

Charmes Chambertin, Grand Cru 1997, Domaine Confuron-Cotéridot**HSE9C £100 per bottle**

The vineyards lie just below those of Chambertin, but the wines are less structured, tannic and full. Charmes is usually the most forward of the *Grands Crus* in this appellation, which is the case in this low-acid vintage which produced round, appealing and charming wines. Confuron's passion for low yields, minimal oak and no filtration shows in this lovely wine with its hints of sweet fruit and spice, round, ripe flavours, class, freshness and impressive length.

Mazis Chambertin Grand Cru 2002, J. Confuron-Cotéridot.**HSE12C £125 per bottle**

From an excellent but lesser known producer this shows gorgeous density of fruit, very sweet and focused. There is precision to the palate and a good firm core. The tannins are ripe and supple smooth, but firmly supportive. An elegant and refined Mazis with a straight and vigorous finish. Long and assertive finish drive on the finish. Very fine.

Clos Vougeot, Grand Cru 1999, Domaine Georges Mugneret**HSE10B £130 per bottle**

At its best Clos Vougeot ranks amongst the greatest wines of Burgundy, but it is often difficult to find the best examples due to the size of the vineyard and its numerous owners. However, this excellent Domaine, run by the daughters of Dr Georges Mugneret, has produced a very fine wine in this outstanding vintage - with ripe complex floral and spicy aromas. On the palate there is excellent concentration and also a fine balance between the smoothly integrated tannins, layered black fruit and lively acidity. Very impressive. *BH 90-92 points*

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 £340 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

Crozes Hermitage 2005, Domaine du Colombier **GA28** **£30 per bottle**

A small domaine in Tain l'Hermitage run by Florent Viale which produces striking Hermitage and Crozes-Hermitage from its 13 hectares of vines. Never brash or overstated, the wines here reveal terrific finesse. Meaty, dark and spicy with savoury smoky notes, but also a bit of that elusive violet perfume. The palate has lovely freshness and purity to the dark cherry and plum fruit, with peppery notes in the background. Drinking very well with good acidity and nice tannic structure.

Châteauneuf du Pape La Cuvée du Papet, Clos du Mont Olivet 2000, Joseph Sabon **GA28** **£55 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*

Châteauneuf du Pape 1998, Domaine du Vieux Télégraphe **GA29** **£80 per bottle**

A single vineyard on one of the most famous *terroirs* in Châteauneuf produces this outstanding wine. This great vintage has produced a memorable wine, the finest made at this estate since 1978, - beautifully balanced, vigorous, full and concentrated on the palate. It will be drinkable for many many years, but like all great vintages the wine is complete and delicious in its relative youth. *RP 89 points*

Cote Rotie La Landonne 1995, René Rostaing **GA29** **£90 per bottle**

René Rostaing is one of the most important and intelligent producers in the Northern Rhone owning exceptional parcels in this appellation. His wine-making techniques are flexible – he waits to see what the harvest and the wines themselves provide before deciding whether to fine and/or filter. The La Landonne is one of his best wines, made from 70 year old vines and is always refined, supple and finely crafted. Dense and massive in youth, the 1995 has aged beautifully to reveal fine velvety tannins and rich chocolaty cassis flavours, but retains the power concentration and class to be found in the great wines of this appellation. *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** **£75 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 gray and olive gray calcareous marl and calcareous sandstone.

Brunello di Montalcino, Le Pian delle Vigne 1997, Antinori **GA31** **£80 per bottle**

Brunello is the only wine to be made from 100% Sangiovese, and the wine is required to be aged for four years before it is released onto the market. 1997 has been acclaimed as one of the greatest vintages of the last fifty years and the wines will be long lived. However, this estate is situated near the Val d'Orcia which produces the most forward Brunellos, so it can be drunk with enormous pleasure now. Floral, black fruit, vanilla and chocolate aromas, with seamless velvety layers of ripe fruit and sweet tannins. *RP 90 points*

BLACK SLOPES

Barbaresco 1997, Angelo Gaja

GA31 £165 per bottle

Angelo Gaja is almost solely responsible for introducing the Nebbiolo grape and the wines of Piedmont to the world and over the last 30 years the energy, passion, driving force and commitment to perfection of this influential Italian have helped to transform the quality of fine wine produced all over Italy. His beloved Nebbiolo grape is shown at its most beautiful and best in this elegant and opulent wine, with its classic notes of tar and roses, black cherries and truffle. Voluptuous, full and beautifully textured, it is harmonious, complete, complex and delicious. *RP 91 points*

Ornellaia, Bolgheri 1999, Tenuta dell'Ornellaia

GA32 £165 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 £160 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 £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* 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*

Sassicaia, Bolgheri 1997, Tenuta San Guido

GA33 £250 per bottle

Made from 85% Cabernet Sauvignon and 15% Cabernet France and aged in French oak for up to 24 months, Sassicaia was the first "Super Tuscan" (its first vintage was 1968). The 1997 is fabulous (a very great vintage in this region of Italy) oozing finesse and distinguished in its definition from start to finish. Complex notes of blackcherry, tobacco, olives on the nose, the black fruit notes persist on the palate, and the slender elegant concentration and polished supple tannins make this one of the most impressive Sassicaias produced (and much greater than Robert Parker's points would imply). *RP 87 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*

Catena Alta Malbec 1997, Mendoza Argentina, Catena

GA38 £60 per bottle

In the 19th Century Nicola Catena emigrated from the Marche in Italy to Mendoza, which was then emerging as a grape growing region of fine quality. His grandson, also named Nicola, took over the business in 1963, and his investment and intense research underpins the quality now being produced here. 1994 was the first vintage of this wine, of which only just 1,000 cases are made from selected grapes grown at high altitude. The fruit is richly concentrated, soft and creamy in the mouth with finely-integrated oak nuances and wonderful purity. *RP 91 points*

The Coppermine Road Cabernet Sauvignon, 1999, McLaren Vale S Australia, D'Arenberg

GA40 £70 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 £70 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.

Syrah Reva Alban 2002, Edna Valley, San Luis Obispo California**GA43 £75 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 £95 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 keys 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*

Astralis, McLaren Vale 1995, South Australia, Clarendon Hills**GA41 £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*

Penfolds Grange 1998, South Australia**GA41 £275 per bottle**

Grange – considered by many to be the greatest wine of the Southern Hemisphere – was first produced in 1951 by winemaker Max Schubert who was inspired by the long-lived wines of the Rhone Valley. Today, the consistent quality make it the reference point for many Australian winemakers who wish to produce world-class red wine. The 1998 (97% Shiraz, 3% Cabernet Sauvignon) tips the scales at 14.5% alcohol, but this sumptuous wine has freshness, harmony and perfect balance. Opulent, rich, seductive, with beautifully plum/blackcurrant aromas, as well as savoury complexity, fine velvety sweet tannins are seamlessly integrated in the layered fruit to give this wine the hallmark of a great long-lived Grange. *RP 99 points.*

LEGENDARY WINES

The following bottles are also available from our cellar:

Caymus Special Selection 2001, Napa California, Caymus
Dominus 1995, Napa California, Christian Moueix

GA46
GA46*RP 93 points*
*RP 93 points***£130 per bottle**
£125 per bottle

Grace Family Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa California

1985 vintage
1987 vintage
1990 vintage

GA46
GA46
GA46*RP 96 points***£400 per bottle**
£320 per bottle
£320 per bottle

Ridge Monte Bello Cabernet Sauvignon 1992

GA46*RP 94-97 points***£190 per bottle**

SWEET WINES

RED SLOPES

Tokaji Aszu Mezes Maly 1st Growth 6 puttonyos 1999 (50cl) **GA68 £129 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 1st 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% Grenache and aged in wood for at least 30 months. Rich, deep and concentrated, these wines can be very long lived, turning to a rich deep tawny colour with age, developing rich raisin and walnut flavours.

1959 vintage **GA70 £70 per bottle**
1955 vintage **GA70 £70 per bottle**
1949 vintage **GA70 £80 per bottle**

Rivesaltes, Roussillon, Caves de Rivesaltes

A Vin Doux Naturel from the foothills of the Pyrénées, fortified, as with the Banyuls, by the addition of alcohol part of the way through fermentation. Wonderful complexity, with aromas of tangy orange marmalade, poached peaches with smoky notes, together with dried raisins. Exotic and evolving flavours of coffee, cocoa and candied fruits on the palate – these wines are less heavy than most fortified wines (only 16 %) and are impressive, still full of life and represent great value at this price.

1946 vintage **ABOVE GARAGE CELLAR DOOR £55 per bottle**
1955 vintage **ABOVE GARAGE CELLAR DOOR £50 per bottle**
1956 vintage **ABOVE GARAGE CELLAR DOOR £50 per bottle**

Château de Fargues 1996, Fargues Bordeaux

GA69 £90 per bottle

De Fargues has never been classified but the quality of this Sauternes is brilliant, produced by the same team as Yquem (the two Château were under the same ownership until 1999) with the same attention to detail and with identical winemaking. Second hand barrels from Yquem are used in the ageing process, and whilst it lacks the extra intensity, extraordinary elegance and ageing potential of that château, the resemblance between the two are apparent in its richness and opulence. Production is tiny with only 1,000 cases made, the 1996 is an excellent vintage.

EXTREME BOTTLES

Château Yquem, 1er Grand Cru Sauternes

Rich, opulent, pure and luxurious, Yquem is the product of perfectionism. The botrytis-affected grapes are picked berry by berry to yield one small glass of wine per vine. The richest, the most concentrated and the most intense of wines, and consistently producing quality at the very highest level, this liquid nectar is without doubt the greatest sweet white wine in the world.

1997 vintage **£150 per half bottle**
 A great vintage and a brilliant Yquem. Honeyed nose of peach, apricot, honeysuckle, the wine is creamy-textured, but not over rich with excellent acidity and great length. *RP 96 points*

2001 vintage **GA65 £525 per bottle**
 For a Château that rarely, if ever, produces a bad wine, Yquem has truly surpassed itself with its 2001. It is quite simply sensational. The nose literally jumps from the glass with dazzling and complex aromas of tropical fruit. The palate is super-concentrated with layer upon layer of tropical fruit, coconut, vanilla and candied spice. Despite the impressive weight and richness, it remains vibrant and effortlessly poised, cut through with citrus acidity of incredible precision. The length is phenomenal.....you can still taste it five minutes later. This honestly may be the greatest Yquem ever.

1990 vintage **GA66 £390 per bottle**
 An outstanding year – very great, powerful and sweet. The richness of tropical honeyed fruit is balanced by wonderful vibrant acidity. This will be very very long-lived, but like many great vintages, can be enjoyed in its relative infancy. *RP 99 points*

HALF BOTTLES

Château La Bernadotte 2000, Haut Médoc

£14 per half 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*

Château Gigault Cuvée Viva 2000, 1ère Côtes de Blaye

£16 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

£18 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

£35 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

£65 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

£85 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

£135 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*

MAGNUMS

WHITE

Corton Charlemagne Grand Cru, Vincent Girardin

MAG9 £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

MAG9 £375 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.

MAG8 £195 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

MAG8 £425 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

MAG6 £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

MAG6 £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 Deroncourt, 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

MAG1 £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, 2ème vin de Cos d'Estournel, St. Estèphe

MAG3 £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.

Château Pichon Longueville Baron 1997, 2ème Cru Classé Pauillac

MAG6 *RP 86 points* £130 per magnum

Château Pichon Longueville Baron 1995, 2ème Cru Classé Pauillac

MAG4 *RP 90 points* £130 per magnum

For many years over-shadowed by its neighbour Pichon Comtesse de Lalande, since the mid-80s Pichon Baron has consistently produced wines at the very top level and in many vintages since then has outperformed Comtesse. Its higher percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon produces a firmer, more masculine wine than Comtesse, closer in style to its other neighbour, Latour. The '97 is lovely, with classic Pauillac notes of cigar, coffee, cedar, albeit in a softer, more open-knit style in this vintage.

Chateau Lynch-Bages 2002, 5ème Cru Classé Pauillac

MAG1 *RP 88 points* £150 per 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.

Cos d'Estournel 2002, 2ème Cru Classé St. Estephe**MAG2****£210 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**MAG3****£290 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**MAG5****£340 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**MAG3****£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 Larcis Ducasse 2002, Grand Cru Classé St Emilion****£175 per dbl 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 Stehane Deroncourt, 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**£190 per dbl magnum****£450 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**£225 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***£325 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**£775 per dbl magnum****£1500 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 Cos d'Estournel 1985, 2ème Cru Classé St Estèphe

£775 per dbl magnum

A lovely vintage producing round rich wines, with excellent purity and complexity, both aromatically and on the palate. Cos is one of the best wines of the vintage and is considered to be as good as or better than some of the First Growths. The wine has wonderful concentration, and is full, rich, well –structured and very harmonious. Now beautifully mature and delicious.

RP 93 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 17th 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