Wine Rating System

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100 - 96</td>
<td>As good as It gets. These wines reach the peak of my personal scale of quality.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>95 – 90</td>
<td>Outstanding. These wines are outstanding for their type and are worth the extra effort to seek out.</td>
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<tr>
<td>89 – 87</td>
<td>Very Good to Good. These offer real character and can be age worthy. The majority of my cellar and what I drink on a daily basis falls into this category.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>86 – 80</td>
<td>Good to Decent. While still good, these wines lack character or fail to show a significant number of positive traits.</td>
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<tr>
<td>79 – 50</td>
<td>Quaffable to Undrinkable. Wines rated less than 80 points are not recommended. They will range from passable to flawed and undrinkable.</td>
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I score wines on the above scale and the bottle price, winery/wine reputation, and vintage have no bearing on the score. While a well-written note should not need a score, its inclusion allows a clear, easy to understand delineation of preferences. This allows a more concise note that can focus on the positive aspects of each wine as opposed to always having to explain why a wine rated 88 points isn’t as good as one rated outstanding with 95 points. A precise score also forces the reviewer to make a hard decision... and I will agonize over small differences in score. Having said that, and while I believe a reviewer should be as precise as possible (i.e. the old saying “aim small, miss small”) readers should interpret broadly and take any rating system with a grain of salt. The only difference between a wine I rate 89 points and one I rate 90 points (or one rated 100 points and one rated 97 points for that matter) is that I liked one a little more than the other. That’s all a score tells you and a score represents the reviewer’s opinion.

While I use score ranges in the case of barrel samples, I will also use a range if I am unsure of a wine or if the tasting conditions do not allow enough time or focus on the wine. Wines are scored on their overall quality. The note should indicate my best guess at when the wine will be at maturity; however, drinking young, structured wines can provide just as much pleasure as drinking fully mature, completely integrated bottles. If you prefer the latter and don’t like young, tannic wines or wines with primary fruit, don’t open a newly released Châteauneuf-du-Pape and expect the same level of enjoyment that I get from it. While scores give you a clear idea of what I think of the wine, please realize that there are times when a less complex, easier drinking wine is actually the best wine for a given situation. I cringe every time I hear someone state that their cellar consists of only 90+ point wines (I’ll ignore the source of the point rating) because I truly believe that person is missing out on a huge swath of interesting wines that deliver immense pleasure. Soft and easy are not always bad things and there are times when it doesn’t get better than taking big gulps of a fresh, newly released Côtes-du-Rhône with a roast chicken or quaffing a delicious Rosé after work or with dinner. The style of the wine (described by the note), is every bit as important as the score. To me, any wine rated 85 points or higher is a wine I like, believe can be enjoyed, and has noteworthy qualities. In the case of barrel tastings, I use a range for the score. While I think it is possible to evaluate barrel samples (especially final blends), these notes should always be taken with a grain of salt. Scoring is a subjective portion of wine evaluation and as such, is simply my personal preference for a wine at a given point in time. Nothing more, nothing less. Any score or note in isolation is close to worthless and it is only after reading multiple notes and tasting multiple bottles that a reader can start to understand where the note taker is coming from.

At the end of the day, the only opinion that matters is yours and my goal is to help you find a wine, either via a note or score (or both), that you will enjoy.
Let the Good Times Roll: 2015 Bordeaux

2015 Bordeaux from Bottle: This is an undeniably terrific vintage for Bordeaux, and with the 2014s selling well in the market and the sensational 2016s coming down the pipe, the Good Times are certainly rolling for Bordeaux.

This report focuses on the 2015s from bottle and it’s going to be hard for readers to go wrong with these wines. The vintage is loaded with terrific quality at the top of the pyramid and at the well-known estates, yet also has an incredible number of outstanding wines at just about every price point; this report includes tons of Cru Bourgeois and small estates that merit attention and deliver tons of bang for your buck. In short, 2015 produced a bevy of ripe, sexy, opulent wines that share similarities to the 2009s with their sumptuous, already accessible personalities. While they don’t have the density and weight of the 2000s, 2005s, 2009s, or 2010s, they’re beautifully balanced, concentrated wines that are going to drink nicely with just short-term cellaring and evolve gracefully.

The Weather: While it’s easy to write page upon page about the weather in each vintage in Bordeaux, 2015 is a relatively easy vintage to understand; this was a hot, dry growing season that was marked by short, yet significant, rains in September which primarily affected the northern part of the Médoc. As you move south through the Médoc and into the Graves and Right Bank regions, the vintage significantly improves.

Looking at the weather in slightly more detail, the vintage started with average rainfall totals during the winter of 2014 (2014 was hot and incredibly dry during harvest) and through January and February of 2015. This replenished the water reserves and a hot March, April, and May resulted in an early, large, even crop set. This is an ideal start for a great vintage in Bordeaux. The climate stayed hot and dry through June and July, with stressful, drought-like conditions existing through the end of July. The month of July was the fourth hottest recorded in the past 100 years. Welcoming rainstorms late in July, as well as sporadic rain throughout August (which was also a very hot month), help alleviate vine stress, with veraison finishing by early August. The Right Bank and the Graves region received slightly more rainfall during this period which helped keep the vines healthy and relatively stress-free compared to the more water stressed Médoc. This, along with the storms in the northern Médoc in September, is critical to understanding the vintage. All of this resulted in thick-skinned, tiny berries, which was a boon for the rainy, cloudy, and less than ideal conditions that arrived towards the middle of September.

Between the 10th and 20th of September, the region experienced, cloudy, cool, rainy weather, with the northern Médoc seeing over 100 mm (3.9 inches) of precipitation, with this amount decreasing rapidly as you move south through Saint-Julien, Margaux, Graves, Saint-Emilion, and Pomerol. The overall health of the vineyards and thick skins of the grapes allowed estates to push harvest dates back into late September and October as opposed to rushing to harvest at this point. The weather turned sunny and dry starting on the 18-20th of September and aside from a few storms early in October, remained ideal through the end of October. The majority of the Merlot was brought in at the end of September, with Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc harvested during the first three weeks of October, both in perfect conditions.

The Wines: Looking at the wines, it’s clear that the southern parts of the Médoc, Graves, and the Right Bank regions of Saint-Emilion and Pomerol are the most successful. In fact, Saint-Emilion and Pomerol have produced an incredible amount of outstanding wines that are on par with what was achieved in 2009 and 2010, both being extraordinary vintages. As you move into the Médoc, the southern appellations around Margaux and Saint-Julien produced brilliant wines, with the quality becoming slightly more erratic in Pauillac and Saint-Éstèphe. While 2015 doesn’t hit the heights or consistency of 2005, 2009 or 2010, it certainly surpasses every other vintage in the past decade.

Whites and Barsac/Sauternes: While my sample set is small, 2015 appears to be a terrific vintage for the dry whites, and from an even smaller sample set, the region also looks to have an extraordinary vintage from Barsac/Sauternes, albeit in a more ripe, opulent style not too dissimilar from the 2003s. If you’re a sweet wine fan, jump on these wines.

2015 compared to 2016: The hype machine is going to be out in full swing for the 2016 vintage, and rightly so. The 2016s will be brilliant wines, yet the style is dramatically different than the 2015s, with the 2015s showing a more opulent, sexy style (a la 2009 if you will) and the 2016s being denser, fresher, and slightly more backward, with lower alcohol levels and lower pHs, which is more in the style of 2010. In addition, while the northern Médoc is the weak point (and it’s not very weak) in 2015, the northern Médoc is sensational in 2016. The quality from the lower Médoc, Graves, Saint-Emilion, and Pomerol is similar between the two vintages.

The 2014s: While this report focuses on the 2015s, I’ve also included numerous 2014s which were either tasted at the estates or from purchased bottles here in the United States. The 2014 Vintage is the opposite of 2015 in that where 2015 started sunny and finished in slightly more difficult conditions, 2014 started cold and rainy yet finished with an amazing Indian Summer in September and October. The 2014s lack the excitement, exuberance, and hedonism found in the 2015s yet offer classic, surprisingly concentrated, elegant, and understated styles that grow on you with time in the glass. These wines will be loved by true wine drinkers. Most are already accessible, yet will evolve nicely on their balance.

This Report: Most of these wines were tasted in September 2017, in Bordeaux, followed by numerous follow-up tastings at my office in Colorado. During the twelve days I spent in Bordeaux, I was able to taste at numerous estates, as well as at numerous large tastings. I’ve tried to state where I was able to taste a wine multiple times. In addition, I’ve tried to find realistic retail prices in most cases. While the top handful of wines are indeed priced in the stratosphere, the reality of Bordeaux – which enough people don’t talk about – is the region is stacked with values at pretty much every price point. There are over 150 reviews from Cru Bourgeois estates in this report and there are numerous outstanding wines to be found here that sell for less than 20-25 dollars that are already irresistible, yet will age gracefully for 10-15 years.

As always, thanks for reading and Happy Hunting!

Jeb Dunnuck
From the Saint-Georges Saint Emilion region of the appellation, the 2015 Clos Albertus checks in at 14.5% alcohol and offers a beautiful, fruit loaded, opulent profile to go with ripe, sexy notes of black cherries, black raspberries, graphite, spice and hints of scorched earth. This medium to full-bodied 2015 has a voluptuous, round texture, impressive purity of fruit, and is a seriously impressive Saint-Emilion to enjoy over the coming 10-15 years. It also happens to be a terrific value.

**CHATEAU DOYAC 2015 CHATEAU DOYAC HAUT-MEDOC SNA RED 88**

From an estate up in the northern part of the Médoc, the 2015 Chateau Doyac is primarily Merlot blended with 25% Cabernet Sauvignon, aged in one-third new French oak. Ruby colored with a pretty bouquet of raspberries, cranberries, Christmas spice, and incense, this medium-bodied, elegant, lightly textured 2015 is all charm and elegance. It’s already complex and drinking nicely yet should keep for 8-10 years.

**CHATEAU ROCHERS DE JOANIN 2015 CHATEAU ROCHERS DE JOANIN COTES DE CASTILLON $15 RED 87**

A blend of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc, the 2015 Chateau Rochers de Joanin from the Côtes de Castillon region reveals a medium ruby color as well as a fruity, juicy, delicious style. Offering notes of blackberries, strawberries, and sappy underbrush, it has good acidity and clean finish. It’s a well-made, bistro styled red to enjoy over the coming 7-8 years.

**CHATEAU HAUT-MOULIN 2015 CHATEAU HAUT-MOULIN BLAYE COTES DE BORDEAUX SNA RED 88**

The 2015 Chateau Haut-Moulin is a terrific effort from the Blaye region of Bordeaux which lies across the Gironde river from Margaux. This ruby/purple-tinged 2015 offers lots of cherries, blackberries, violets, and spice as well as a medium-bodied, rounded, supple, undeniably delicious style on the palate. Moderately concentrated yet with plenty of fruit and texture, it should keep nicely for 7-8 years.

**CHATEAU BELLONE 2015 CHATEAU BELLONE SAINT-EMILION $25 RED 88**

The 2015 Chateau Bellone is a solid, thoroughly enjoyable effort from this vintage that has notable complexity in its darker berry/currants fruits, leafy herbs, salty sea breeze, and spicy wood aromas and flavors. Charming, upfront, nicely textured, moderately concentrated and balanced, it’s a hidden little gem in the vintage that should keep nicely for 8-10 years.

**CHATEAU DE ROQUEBRUNE 2015 CHATEAU DE ROQUEBRUNE LALANDE-DE-POMEROL $25 RED 90**

Loads of blackcurrants, black cherries, toasted spice, chocolate, and hints of coffee emerge from the 2015 Chateau de Roquebrune. This deep ruby/plum colored effort is medium-bodied and impressively concentrated, with a ripe, layered style that carries good freshness and ripe tannin. It’s not the most elegant or ethereal 2015 out there, but it delivers a beautiful mouthful of fruit, and is already a joy to drink. It’s going to keep for 10-12 years.

**CHATEAU MONTGRAND-MILON 2015 CHATEAU MONTGRAND-MILON PAUILLAC $35 RED 88**

The 2015 Chateau Montgrand-Milon is a solid effort from Pauillac that reveals a medium ruby/plum color as well as notes of blackcurrants, scorched earth, graphite, and tobacco. It’s only moderately concentrated, but it has rock solid balance and its acidity is nicely integrated into the wine as well. With light tannin and an already accessible style, it should continue drinking nicely for 10-15 years. This is well worth checking out.

**CHATEAU DE VILLEGEORGE 2015 CHATEAU DE VILLEGEORGE HAUT-MEDOC SNA RED 88**

From Marie Lurton and a blend of mostly Cabernet Sauvignon, the 2015 Chateau de Villegeorge is a classic wine from this vintage that has beautiful upfront fruit as well as good concentration and the silky, fine tannin that’s the hallmark of 2015. Its deep ruby color is followed by a complex bouquet of black currants, underbrush, hints of tapenade, and earth, and while already drinking nicely, it should keep for 7-10 years. It’s another hidden gem that offers loads of character and charm.

**CHATEAU LA DILIGENTE 2015 CHATEAU LA DILIGENTE PUISSEGUIN-SAINT-EMILION $25 RED 90**

Formerly known of Moulins-Listrac, Chateau La Diligente was recently purchased and renamed by François Rudloff and his wife Monique Cheong. Their 2015 is a classy effort that has lots of red currants and cherry fruit characteristics as well as ample background spice, hints of oak, and forest floor. With medium-bodied richness, beautiful purity of fruit, and impeccable balance, it’s a beautiful wine that’s going to benefit from 2-3 years of bottle age and drink nicely for a decade or more. More elegant and complex than powerful, this has real character and is worth seeking out.

**AD VITAM 2015 AD VITAM AEternam BORDEAUX SUPERIOR SNA RED 92**

Made with the help of the talented consultant Claude Gros and mostly Merlot brought up in once used barrels, the 2015 Ad Vitam Aeternam offers a gorgeous, full-bodied, opulent style as well as terrific notes of blackcurrants, white truffle, chocolate and hints of minerality. It’s a high-class fruit bomb that’s going to drink beautifully for 7-8 years.

**AILE D’ARGENT 2015 AILE D’ARGENT BLANC PAUILLAC SNA WHITE 91**

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Made from Sauvignon and Muscadelle, the **2015 Aile D’Argent Blanc** is a medium-bodied, ripe, nicely concentrated white that has outstanding notes of buttered citrus, Meyer lemon and a touch of toasted spice. It’s balanced, has ample mid-palate depth and solid freshness, all of which make it a seriously delicious white.

**CHATEAU ALCEE** 2014  
**CHATEAU ALCEE**  
**COTES DE CASTILLON**  
$NA  
**RED 88**

Made with the help of the talented oenologue Stephane Derenoncourt, the **2014 Château Alce** is rock-solid, offering impressive amounts of blackberry and black cherry fruit intermixed with notions of ground herbs and a touch of mineralty. Medium-bodied, impeccably balanced, with fine tannin, it shows the classic, elegant style of the 2014 vintage and should drink nicely for 7-8 years.

**CHATEAU AMOUR** 2015  
**CHATEAU AMOUR**  
**MEDOC**  
$NA  
**RED 86**

The **2015 Château Amour** is enjoyable, with lots of herbal/earthy/cedary notes as well as medium-bodied richness and a firm, tight feel on the palate. It’s meant to be drunk in its first 5-7 years.

**ANGELUS** 2015  
**ANGELUS**  
**SAINT-EMILION**  
$NA  
**RED 97+**

**ANGELUS** 2009  
**ANGELUS**  
**SAINT-EMILION**  
$NA  
**RED 98+**

A total blockbuster is the **2015 Angelus** and it’s reminiscent of a slightly more elegant 2009. Made from 62% Merlot and 38% Cabernet Franc brought up in new barrels, this rich, opulent, full-bodied effort that’s loaded with notions of blackberry liqueur, chocolate, roasted herbs and licorice, and it has a sexy, layered style that just begs to be drunk. This monster Saint-Emilion checks in just behind the otherworldly 2005 and is neck and neck with the 2015, both of which are young and need bottle age.

**CHATEAU ANTHONIC** 2015  
**CHATEAU ANTHONIC**  
**MOULIS-EN-MEDOC**  
$NA  
**RED 86**

The **2015 Château Anthonic** is an enjoyable Cru Bourgeois that sports a medium-ruby color to go with a pretty bouquet of red fruits, spice, and flowers. Reminiscent of a Pinot Noir, it’s medium to light-bodied, enjoyable and best enjoyed in its youth.

**CHATEAU D’ARMAILHAC** 2015  
**CHATEAU D’ARMAILHAC**  
**PAUILLAC**  
$NA  
**RED 92**

Made by the team at Mouton Rothschild, the **2015 Château D’Armilhac** is a ripe, sexy 2015 that has plenty of power and depth in its cassis, lead pencil shaving, spice, and roasted herbs aromas and flavors. The 2015 is 60% Cabernet Sauvignon blended with roughly 30% Merlot and the balance Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot, and it’s medium to full-bodied, balanced, nicely concentrated and should keep for two decades or more.

**CHATEAU ARMEINS** 2015  
**CHATEAU ARMEINS**  
**SAINT-EMILION**  
$NA  
**RED 91**

The **2015 Château Armeins** is a smoking good blend of 80% Merlot, 17% Cabernet Franc, and the rest Sauvignon, all of which comes from sandy soils. It’s loaded with notions of strawberries, toasted spice, and lead pencil shavings. With medium-bodied richness, beautiful mid-palate concentrated and an undeniable elegance, drink it anytime over the coming 15+ years.

**CHATEAU ARNAULD** 2015  
**CHATEAU ARNAULD**  
**HAUT-MEDOC**  
$NA  
**RED 90**

I loved the **2015 Château Arnauld** and it’s a seriously delicious, charming Cru Bourgeois that offers loads of cherry and blackberry fruit intermixed with spicy oak and scorched earth. With medium to full-bodied richness, beautiful balance and loads of fruit and texture, I suspect it’s a terrific value and should easily keep for 10-15 years.

**CHATEAU AUSONE** 2015  
**CHAPELLE D’AUSONE**  
**SAINT-EMILION**  
$NA  
**RED 95**

**CHATEAU AUSONE** 2015  
**CHATEAU AUSONE**  
**SAINT-EMILION**  
$NA  
**RED 100**

Starting with the second wine of Ausone, the **2015 Chapelle d’Ausone** checks in as roughly 45% each of Cabernet Franc and Merlot, with the balance Cabernet Sauvignon. It’s a screaming good wine offering notes of black raspberries, licorice, smoked earth, and exotic flowers. With fabulous opulence, full-bodied richness, ripe tannin, and a stacked mid-palate, it’s a serious wine that will benefit from short-term cellaring and keep for two decades.

An utterly perfect wine from Alain Vauthier, the **2015 Château Ausone** offers off the hook notes of crème de cassis, black raspberries, toasted spice, and dried flowers, with more floral and mineral characteristics developing with time in the glass. Amazingly deep, full-bodied, pure and ethereally textured, with building density and tannin, it’s one of those wines that’s needs to be tasted to be believed. Unfortunately, the production is minuscule (and expensive). A wine that will make your heart rate jump, give it 4-5 years of cellaring and I suspect it will keep for as long as you’d like to hang on to bottles. It’s a tour de force in wine and the wine of the vintage in 2015.

**BAD BOY** 2015  
**BAD BOY**  
**BORDEAUX**  
$NA  
**RED 88**

**BAD BOY SYRAH** 2015  
**BAD BOY SYRAH**  
**VIN DE FRANCE**  
$NA  
**RED 90**

These two value-priced beauties from Jean Luc Thunevin are certainly worth checking out. The 100% Merlot **2015 Bad Boy** offers attractive notes of ripe black fruits, hints of herbs and cedar, medium-bodied richness and a fruit-forward, undeniably delicious style. Drink it over the coming 3-4 years.

Even better, the **2015 Bad Boy Syrah** is a certified fruit bomb offering big, ripe aromatics (blackberries, peppery herbs, and underbrush), full-bodied richness, tons of texture and a great finish. It too is ideal for near-term drinking.

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A blockbuster from Saint-Emilion, the 2015 Château Badette (95% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Franc, raised in new barrels) is a broad, expansive, opulent beauty that’s loaded with ripe dark fruits, chocolate, smoke, and saddle leather aromas and flavors. While a big, rich wine, it stays beautifully balanced and pure, yet dark, chocolaty fruit is certainly the buzzword here. It’s a winner and will keep for two decades. This estate covers 10 hectares all located in the lieu-dit of Badette and was purchased in 2012 by a Belgian wine merchant. This is another estate more than worth keeping on your radar.

I suspect another good value in this terrific vintage, the 2015 Château Balac comes from vineyards west of Pauillac. Mostly Cabernet Sauvignon aged 12 months in barrel, it offers pretty notes of red and black fruits, leafy herbs, cedarwood, and underbrush. With medium-bodied richness, moderate mid-palate depth and a charming, balanced style, drink it anytime over the coming decade or so.

A rock-solid wine that comes with assistance from Michel Rolland’s team, the 2015 Balestard La Tonnelle is a medium-bodied, nicely concentrated, ripe effort that has a complex bouquet of cassis, seaweed wrapper, bay leaf and leafy herbs. It has plenty to love and I’d happily drink bottles over the coming decade or more.

The 2015 Balthus is serious stuff, and well worth seeking out! Made from 100% Merlot, from tiny yields and fermented in barrel, this knockout red boasts loads of plum and blueberry fruits intermixed with toasty oak, hints of mocha, and graphite. Ripe, medium to full-bodied, opulent and hedonistic to the max, it’s already hard to resist, but will be even better with a year or two of bottle age.

The 2015 Barbe Blanche is outstanding and offers medium to full-bodied richness, beautiful concentration, sweet tannin and a great finish. This is another wine utilizing the advice of Michel Rolland with terrific results. With lots of ripe black fruits, leather, bouquet garni, and touches of chocolate, it should keep for at least a decade.

While I wasn’t able to taste the 2015, the 2014 Chateau Barde-Haut from a bottle purchased locally offered a deep ruby color as well as lots of chocolate, dried red and black fruits, licorice and spicy oak. It’s plump, rounded, and nicely textured on the palate, with a slightly rustic, charming, fruit loaded style. A blend of close to 90% Merlot and the rest Cabernet Franc brought up in 80% new wood, it should smooth out with 2-3 years of bottle age and keep for a decade.

Notes of sweet cherry and plum fruits, leafy herbs, and earth all emerge from the 2015 Château Barthez, which is a medium-bodied, charming 2015. It’s herbal/earthy character might not appeal to everyone, but it’s a solid drink and should keep for 8-10 years.

While I wasn’t able to taste many Sauternes on this trip, the 2015 Château Bastor-Lamontagne is nevertheless a gem that had me looking for a bottle. This medium gold-colored beauty boasts terrific notes of orange marmalade, caramelized citrus, and toasty oak in a thick, opulent, unctuous style. It stays fresh and lively, but this beauty leads with its fruit.

Located in Pauillac, Château Batailley has made a beautiful 2015, but it’s going to need time to integrate its oak. Made from primarily Cabernet Sauvignon mixed with 20% Merlot and just a splash of Petit Verdot, it gives up lots of red currants, coffee, and cedary, woody spice characteristics as well as a meaty undercurrent. Medium to full-bodied, ripe and polished on the palate, with ripe, yet present tannin, give bottle 4-5 years and enjoy over the following two decades or more. Tasted once.

From the Listrac region of the Médoc, the 2015 Château Baudan is a medium-bodied, elegant, charming effort that has moderate depth and richness in its pretty cherry, flower, and spicy bouquet. It’s a well-balanced, gulpable 2015 to drink over the coming 6-7 years.

One of the standouts in my Cru Bourgeois tasting was the 2015 Château Beaumarchais. This charming, plump, medium-bodied beauty has real class as well as traditional notes of ripe cherries, flowers, tobacco leaf and underbrush. With moderate tannin and an already approachable style, enjoy it over the coming decade or so. It’s well worth seeking out.

I tasted the 2015 Château Beauregard on two separate occasions and it’s a medium to full-bodied, elegant 2015 that has lots of Cabernet Franc showing in its pretty red and black fruits, spring flower, leafy herbs and toasty oak aromas and flavors. Possessing fine tannin, a terrific floral character, nicely integrated acidity, and a great finish, give bottles a few years and enjoy through 2035. It’s worth noting that this estate was recently purchased by the Moulin family and the estate is seeing a complete renovation.
The 2015 Beauséjour-Duffau-Lagarrosse is a sensational powerhouse of a Saint-Emilion that does everything right. Mostly Merlot, with 20% Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon, it’s a ripe, voluptuous effort loaded with notions of cassis, ripe plum, and black cherry fruit intermingled with incense, spring flowers, and damp earth. It has enough tannin to warrant short-term cellaring, but it’s still undeniably delicious today. It will drink nicely for two decades. This cuvée comes from 19.5-hectare vineyard sitting on the upper, limestone dominated plateau, from vines averaging 40 years in age, was harvest between October 5th to the 9th and was aged 17 months in 85% new French oak.

From a bottle purchased here in the United States, the 2015 Beauséjour-Duffau-Lagarrosse is a wine that should be purchased by the case (which is what I intend to do). This incredible blend of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc offers sensational purity in its crème de cassis, blueberry, graphite, lead pencil, underbrush and forest floor driven aromas and flavors. This is a big, rich wine for sure, yet it has awesome purity and focus, with a distinct minerality keeping everything fresh, focused and lively on the palate. With ripe, sweet tannin, an inherent elegance and purity, perfect balance, and an awesome finish, this incredible Saint-Emilion is unquestionably one of the wines of the vintage. Do not miss it.

I intend to do). This incredible blend of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc offers sensational purity in its crème de cassis, blueberry, graphite, lead pencil, underbrush and forest floor driven aromas and flavors. This is a big, rich wine for sure, yet it has awesome purity and focus, with a distinct minerality keeping everything fresh, focused and lively on the palate. With ripe, sweet tannin, an inherent elegance and purity, perfect balance, and an awesome finish, this incredible Saint-Emilion is unquestionably one of the wines of the vintage. Do not miss it.

The 2014 Château Beauséjour-Duffau-Lagarrosse is also fabulous stuff and well worth seeking out. Made from close to 100% Merlot (there’s a splash of Cabernet Franc) and offering classic notes of damp earth, tobacco leaf, blackcurrants, and beautiful minerality, this beauty hits the palate with medium to full-bodied richness, a terrific core of fruit, and more texture and opulence than most in the vintage. It will keep for 20-25 years.

The 2015 Château Beauséjour-Duffau-Lagarrosse is another classy wine from this estate. The 2015 Château Bel Air Perponcher Reserve is also fabulous stuff and well worth seeking out. Made from close to 100% Merlot (there’s a splash of Cabernet Franc) and offering classic notes of damp earth, tobacco leaf, blackcurrants, and beautiful minerality, this beauty hits the palate with medium to full-bodied richness, a terrific core of fruit, and more texture and opulence than most in the vintage. It will keep for 20-25 years.

The 2015 Château Beauséjour-Duffau-Lagarrosse is another classy wine from this estate. The 2015 Château Bel Air Perponcher Reserve is also fabulous stuff and well worth seeking out. Made from close to 100% Merlot (there’s a splash of Cabernet Franc) and offering classic notes of damp earth, tobacco leaf, blackcurrants, and beautiful minerality, this beauty hits the palate with medium to full-bodied richness, a terrific core of fruit, and more texture and opulence than most in the vintage. It will keep for 20-25 years.

The 2014 Château Beauséjour-Duffau-Lagarrosse includes slightly more Merlot, with the balance 15% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon. Aged on lees in tank, it gives up lots ripe black cherry fruit intermingled with bouquet garni, bay leaf and assorted earthy aromas and flavors. Medium-bodied, beautifully textured and elegant, it’s another classy wine from this estate.

This estate is under the helm of the Moueix family and is certainly not one of the leaders in their portfolio. Cassis, leafy herbs, underbrush, hints of cherries all emerge from this mid-weight, slightly dilute, firm 2015 Château Bel-Air that’s best drunk up over the coming 7-8 years.

A relatively new staple in the Moueix arsenal (parcels were purchased in 2003 and 2008), Château Bélair-Monange comes from multiple separate vineyards located both on the limestone driven upper plateau and the slightly more clay and limestone hillside parcels. The wine is optically sorted, fermented in a mix of concrete and stainless-steel tanks, and aged in 50% new oak. Both the 2014 and 2015 are brilliant wines, yet very different in style, with the 2014 shining for its elegance and purity, and the 2015 showing more richness and depth. Both, however, are impeccably balanced, pure, and elegant wines. They’re highly recommended by this critic.
The **2015 Château Bélair-Monange** is primarily Merlot blended with roughly 10% Cabernet Franc. This straight up awesome Saint-Emilion boasts a deep ruby/purple color, huge aromatics of blackcurrants, scorched earth, and tobacco, full-bodied richness, and a gorgeous opulence married with purity of fruit that hard to believe. Picking up more and more minerality with time in the glass, give this blockbuster 4-5 years of cellaring and enjoy over the following two to three decades. It’s flat-out great.

The first vintage to include fruit from replantings on the upper plateau, the **2014 Château Bélair-Monange** is another brilliant wine and is a 2014 that marries elegance and finesse with richness and terrific length. A blend of mostly Merlot and roughly 10% Cabernet Franc, it offers ruby/purple-tinged color as well as a complex bouquet of black cherry and currant-like fruits, lots of Asian spice, acacia flowers, cedar spice, and dried earth-like minerality. Ripe, medium to full-bodied, exceedingly elegant, with fine tannin, and great finish, it needs an hour of air if drinking anytime soon, and will evolve gracefully for 10-15 years.

**CHATEAU BELGRAVE** 2015 CHATEAU BELGRAVE HAUT-MEDOC $30 RED 88

A solid effort with lots to love, the **2015 Château Belgrave** offers medium-bodied, earthy aromas and flavors of darker fruits, charcoal, spice, and tobacco. It has fine tannin, impressive balance, and a solid finish, and should drink nicely for 10-15+ years. It’s a classic wine and a good value.

**CHATEAU BELLE COLLINE** 2014 CHATEAU BELLE COLLINE BAYLE COTES DE BORDEAUX $NA RED 90

Coming from mostly limestone soils in the Blaye region of Bordeaux, which is located just across the river from the Médoc, the **2014 Château Belle Colline** is a gorgeous, elegant, seamless effort that reveals perfumed notes of juicy berry fruits, mulberries, dried spices, and hints of incense. This medium-bodied 2014 doesn’t wow you with its power, but wins you over with its complexity, nuance, and elegance. Enjoy bottles over the coming decade or so.

**LA BELLE CONNIVENCE** 2015 LA BELLE CONNIVENCE POMEROL $NA RED 90

The second wine of Château la Connivence in Pomerol, the **2015 La Belle Connivence** comes from younger vines and was made with the help of consultant Claude Gros. It’s a smoking good wine that offers big, opulent aromas and flavors of black cherries, scorched earth, graphite and lots of minerality. Medium to full-bodied on the palate, with lots of fruit, yet also class in its elegant, seamless texture and ripe tannin, it’s hidden little gem to seek out.

**BELLE ASSISE COUREAU** 2015 CHATEAU BELLE ASSISE COUREAU SAINT-EMILION $25 RED 92

The Merlot dominated **2015 Château Belle Assise Coureau** is a smoking value that I suspect can be found for even less than the listed retail price. It offers a classic bouquet of red currants, red plums, dried flowers, cedar wood, and earth in a medium-bodied, seamless, seductive style that’s just impossible to resist. It’s not the densest or most age-worthy Saint-Emilion out there, but it has class and I guarantee it will put a smile on your face over the coming 7-8 years.

**BELLEFONT-BELCIER** 2015 BELLEFONT-BELCIER SAINT-EMILION $50 RED 96

I was blown away by the **2015 Château Bellefont Belcier** and this knockout red is a blend of 72% Merlot, 17% Cabernet Franc and the balance Cabernet Sauvignon that was brought up in 80% new barrel. This estate covers 13.5 hectares of prime real estate, sitting just beside Larcis-Ducasse on the plateau and south-facing hillside of the Côte Pavie. Loads of blackcurrants, black cherries, truffle, licorice and hints of chocolate all emerge from this opulent, full-bodied, inky-colored red that has boatloads of sweet tannin, a rich, deep mid-palate, and a great, great finish. There’s a little over 5,000 cases of this beauty, don’t miss it. Tasted twice.

**BELLEGRAVE DU POUJEAU** 2015 BELLEGRAVE DU POUJEAU HAUT-MEDOC $NA RED 90

Readers looking for a terrific Cru Bourgeois to drink over the coming decade or more need to check out the **2015 Château Bellegrave Du Poujeau**. This ripe, sexy, medium to full-bodied beauty gives up lots of raspberry, violets/flowers, spice and a hint of bay leaf. It has undeniable charm, plenty of fruit, and will keep for at least a decade.

**CHATEAU BELLE-VUE** 2015 CHATEAU BELLE-VUE HAUT-MEDOC $NA RED 92

A hidden gem from the southern part of the Médoc (north of Macau) is the **2015 Château Belle-Vue** and this estate is located right next to Giscours in Margaux. Readers need to know that the southern part of the Médoc was the sweet spot in 2015 and this is a prime region to look for non-classified growths that overdeliver. This vibrant purple colored beauty boasted terrific notes of crème de cassis, dried flowers, licorice, and spice, with a dusty minerality developing with time in the glass. With medium to full-bodied richness, impeccable balance and a silky texture, it’s well worth a case purchase and should keep for 10-15+ years. Tasted twice. This wine is close to 40% each of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot, with the balance Petit Verdot, aged in 40% new wood.

**CHATEAU BELLEVEUE DE TAYAC** 2015 CHATEAU BELLEVEUE DE TAYAC MARGAUX $NA RED 88

Made by Jean-Luc Thunevin, the **2015 Château Belleveue De Tayac** is another solid wine in the vintage. Offering perfumed notes of rose garden, strawberries, cherries and exotic flowers, it’s medium-bodied, supple and elegant on the palate, with silky tannin. I’d happily drink bottles over the coming decade.

**BELLEVUE MENDOTTE** 2015 BELLEVUE MENDOTTE SAINT-EMILION $NA RED 95-97

Tasted as a barrel sample, the **2015 Bellevue Mondonette** is ripe, incredibly sexy 2015 based on 90% Merlot and 5% each of Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon. This opaque, glass staining effort offers terrific notes of cassis, blackberry liqueur, and smoked herbs, as well as lots of minerals and floral character, full body, and an elegant, seamless texture that keeps on going. This gorgeous, layered, multi-dimensional beauty will benefit from short-term cellaring and keep for 2-3 decades.

**CHATEAU DE BENSSE** 2015 CHATEAU DE BENSSE MEDOC $NA RED 85

The **2015 Château De Bensse** offers a medium-bodied, charming, simple style with pretty notes of red fruits and rose petals. It’s geared for near-term drinking.

**CHATEAU BERNADOTTE** 2015 CHATEAU BERNADOTTE HAUT-MEDOC $NA RED 90

JebDunnuck.com Let the Good Times Roll: 2015 Bordeaux
One of the stand out Cru Bourgeois I was able to taste is the 2015 Château Bernadotte which checks in as 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot, and the balance Petit Verdot, aged 12 months in one-third new barrels. It’s a terrific, floral, seamless, medium-bodied beauty that offers fine tannin, a silky texture, and integrated acidity. It shows the purity of the vintage and should drink nicely for a decade or more.

BERTINEAU SAINT VINCENT 2015 BERTINEAU SAINT VINCENT LALANDE DE POMEROL $NA RED 88

Another estate utilizing the talents of Michel Rolland, the 2015 Château Bertineau Saint Vincent is a medium-bodied, balanced, impressively textured red offering lots of dried cherry, fruit cake and spice-like aromas and flavors. It has beautiful mid-palate depth, plenty of fruit and is loaded with charm. Drink it anytime over the coming decade or so.

CHATEAU BEYCHEVELLE 2015 CHATEAU BEYCHEVELLE SAINT-JULIEN $90 RED 95

Château Beychevelle covers a full 73.5 hectare of vines in Saint-Julien, with Romain Duclomb (of Château Clinet) functioning as the technical director and Eric Boissenot as oenologue. A true gem in the vintage is the 2015 Château Beychevelle which is 47% Merlot, 42% Cabernet Sauvignon and the rest Petit Verdot, all of which was brought up in 50% new oak. This beauty is loaded with notions of black cherries, leafy herbs, underbrush and hints of violets. Medium to full-bodied, concentrated and opulent on the palate, with fine, ripe tannin, it has all the right components, is intense, pure, and lengthy. Count me in as a fan and it will benefit from short-term cellaring and keep for 2 to 3 decades or more.

CHATEAU BIBIAN 2015 CHATEAU BIBIAN HAUT-MEDOC $NA RED 90

The Meyre family has turned out a gorgeous 2015 Château Bibian based on 55% Merlot and 45% Cabernet Sauvignon. It offers a pure, polished, elegant style in addition to classic notes of black raspberries, cherries, vanilla bean and spices. It’s beautiful today yet has enough ripe tannin to warrant short-term cellaring and will keep for 10-15 years. Bravo!

CHATEAU BISTON-BRILLETTE 2015 CHATEAU BISTON-BRILLETTE MOULIS-EN-MEDOC $NA RED 88

Covering 26 hectares and run by the Barbarin family, Château Biston-Brillette has turned out a fine 2015 that gives up lively red fruits (raspberries/strawberries), medium-bodied richness, complex notes of flowers and incense, and light, silky tannin. I love the overall balance and purity of this wine, and it’s well worth seeking out. The blend is equal parts Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon aged 12 months in 30% new French oak. Drink it anytime over the coming decade.

CHATEAU BOIS NOIR 2015 CHATEAU BOIS NOIR BORDEAUX SUPERIOR $NA RED 89

An estate owned by the proprietors of Château Ripeau, Château Bois Noir is located north of Saint-Emilion, on mostly cool, limestone soils, and they utilized Claude Gros as their consultant. The 2015 Château Bois Noir is 80/20 Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon, aged in one-third new 500-liter barrels. This medium-bodied beauty offers terrific notes of ripe black cherries, underbrush, and lots of sandy/loamy soils notes, with more and more spice developing with time in the glass. It’s elegant, seamless, and impressively textured and is going to shine for a decade. It’s a seriously good Bordeaux Superior worth your time and money.

CHATEAU BOLAIRE 2015 CHATEAU BOLAIRE BORDEAUX SUPERIOR $NA RED 90

Previous owned by the late Vincent Mulliez (who owned Belle-Vue), Château Bolaire is in the southern part of the Médoc and consists of very old vines of Petit Verdot as oenologue. A true gem in the vintage is the 2015 Château Bolaire which is 47% Merlot, 42% Cabernet Sauvignon and the rest Petit Verdot, all of which was brought up in 50% new oak. This beauty is loaded with notions of black cherries, leafy herbs, underbrush and hints of violets. Medium to full-bodied, concentrated and opulent on the palate, with fine, ripe tannin, it has all the right components, is intense, pure, and lengthy. Count me in as a fan and it will benefit from short-term cellaring and keep for 2 to 3 decades or more.

CHATEAU BONNET 2015 CHATEAU BONNET BORDEAUX $20 RED 87

Managed by the Moueix team, the 2015 Château Bourgneuf offers a darker, earthier style in its ripe black fruits, tobacco, earth, and underbrush scented bouquet. This gives way to a medium to full-bodied, nicely concentrated Pomerol that has ripe tannin and plenty of length. Drink this total charmer anytime over the coming decade or so.

CHATEAU BONNET 2015 CHATEAU BONNET CUVEE DIVINUS BORDEAUX $NA RED 90

The 2015 Château Bonnet is another winner under the helm of Michel Rolland. This plum, blueberry, leafy herbs and peppery 2015 gives up medium to full-bodied richness and loads of ripe fruits, dried flowers, leather, and even a hint of meaty/bloodiness, this 100% Merlot has no hard edges, a beautiful, opulent texture, and a great finish that keep you coming back to the glass. I like it today but it’s going to cruise in the cellar for 10-15 years.

CHATEAU BONNET 2015 CHATEAU BONNET BORDEAUX $NA RED 89

The flagship cuvee is the 2015 Château Bonnet Cuvee Divinus and it’s more fresh and elegant, with slightly more oak in its ripe red and black fruits, cedary spice and lead pencil aromas and flavors. It’s a beautiful, medium-bodied, balanced 2015 to drink over the coming decade as well.

CHATEAU BOURGNEUF 2015 CHATEAU BOURGNEUF POMEROL $NA RED 90

A Cabernet Sauvignon-based effort (there’s roughly 30% Merlot in the blend), the 2015 Château Bournac is another fine effort looked after by Michel Rolland. A medium to full-bodied, impressively concentrated, balanced red, with lots of tobacco leaf, smoked earth and chocolate aromas and flavors, it’s ideal for drinking over the coming 7-8 years. Tasted twice.

BONALGUE 2015 BONALGUE POMEROL $NA RED 92

Made by the young Jean-Baptiste Bourrotte, the 2015 Bonalgue is a ripe, downright sexy Pomerol that does everything right. Offering medium to full-bodied richness and loads of ripe fruits, dried flowers, leather, and even a hint of meaty/bloodiness, this 100% Merlot has no hard edges, a beautiful, opulent texture, and a great finish that keep you coming back to the glass. I like it today but it’s going to cruise in the cellar for 10-15 years.

CHATEAU BOURNEUF 2015 CHATEAU BOURNEUF POMEROL $NA RED 90

The Meyre family has turned out a gorgeous 2015 Château Bourneuf based on 55% Merlot and 45% Cabernet Sauvignon. It offers a pure, polished, elegant style in addition to classic notes of black raspberries, cherries, vanilla bean and spices. It’s beautiful today yet has enough ripe tannin to warrant short-term cellaring and will keep for 10-15 years. Bravo!
I was disappointed not be able to taste the 2015 from this estate, but the 2014 Branaire-Ducru showed well from a bottle purchased locally. Revealing a deep ruby/plum color and forward, sexy notes of black cherries, plums, leather, dried tobacco leaves and cedarwood, it offers impressive depth and density in the vintage, beautiful balance, and a rich, layered textured that has it already drinking nicely. It can be drunk anytime over the coming 20 years.

**BRANAS GRAND POUJEAUX** 2015 CHATEAU BRANAS GRAND POUJEAUX MOULIS-EN-MEDOC $35 RED 89

This tiny estate managed by the Onclin family has produced and beautiful 2015 Château Branas Grand Poujeaux based on 50% Merlot, 45% Cabernet Sauvignon and the balance Petit Verdot. It has terrific notes of raspberry and cassis, lots of spice, medium-bodied richness, and a rounded, supple, beautifully balanced style on the palate. It’s another terrific wine in the vintage that delivers the goods. Drink it anytime over the coming 10-15 years.

**LA BRANDE** 2015 LA BRANDE COTES DE CASTillon $NA RED 90

An outstanding effort is the 2015 La Brande and it’s a medium-bodied, ripe, beautifully textured effort that gives up lots of red and black currants, plums, spice box and hints of dried earth. Made in a balanced, classic workhorse style, drink it anytime over the coming 7-8 years.

**CHATEAU BRANE-CANTENAC** 2015 CHATEAU BRANE-CANTENAC MARGAUX $80 RED 94

The 2015 Château Brane-Cantenac checks in as a mix of 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 26% Merlot and the balance Cabernet Franc and Carmenère brought up in roughly 75% new Oak. This medium to full-bodied beauty excels on all accounts and gives up gorgeous notes of blackcurrants, lead pencil, spice and hints of toasted bread. Polished, impeccably balanced, concentrated, and with ripe tannin, it’s a rock star in 2015 that can be drunk young or cellared for 20-25 years. Bravo!

**CHATEAU DE BRAUDE** 2015 CHATEAU DE BRAUDE HAUT-MEDOC $NA RED 88

This tiny estate covers just 7.5 hectares planted to 65% Cabernet Sauvignon and 35% Merlot. The 2015 Château De Braude was brought up 45% new barrels and is an elegant, balanced, medium-bodied effort that offers impressive notes of black raspberries, black cherries, passion fruits, and violets. With plenty of fruit, bright acidity, and an incredible floral quality, it will keep for at least a decade.

**CHATEAU BRILLETTE** 2015 CHATEAU BRILLETTE MOULIS-EN-MEDOC $NA RED 85

The 2015 Château Brillette comes from a larger estate covering 40 hectares planted to 49% Cabernet Sauvignon, 48% Merlot and the rest to Petit Verdot. It’s a charming, simple, medium-bodied effort that offers earthy notes of weedy currants and underbrush. It’s not terribly complex yet is a solid red to drink over the coming 7-8 years.

**CHATEAU LA CABANNE** 2015 CHATEAU LA CABANNE POMEROL $NA RED 90

Made from 95% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Franc, the 2015 Château La Cabanne offers lots of toasty oak and chocolate notes, as well as medium to full-bodied richness and depth on the palate. This charming, supple and nicely textured 2015 is already approachable yet will keep for 15+ years. Tasted once.

**CHATEAU CADET-BON** 2015 CHATEAU CADET-BON SAINT-EMILION $NA RED 92+

From a site north of the village of Saint-Emilion and a blend of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc, the 2015 Château Cadet-Bon has a very pretty, fresh, elegant style yet still packs tons of fruit. Blackcurrants, damp earth, white truffle and floral aromas and flavors all flow to a rich, concentrated, beautifully textured Saint-Emilion that has notable freshness and purity. It needs 3-4 years of cellaring and will drink well for a decade after that.

**CALON SEGUR** 2015 MARQUIS DE CALON SAINT-ESTEPHE $NA RED 90

An estate undoubtedly on the upswing, Calon Segur, as well as its sister property, Capbern Gasqueton, was purchased in 2012 from Hélène de Baritault de Carpia, the daughter of the late owner Denise Capbern-Gasqueton, by the French Insurance company, Suravenir Assurances. Laurent Dufau (formerly a t Baron Philippe de Rothschild) was named managing director in 2013 and he now has Vincent Millet functioning of technical director for both estate. The estate covers roughly 45 hectares of vines planted on clay-rich, gravelly soils, and the new team is gradually increasing the density of the vineyard plantings, as well as focusing on moving Calon Segur up to the top of the pyramid in Saint-Éstephe. While 2015 was a more challenging vintage for the northern Médoc, both these releases are beautiful wines, and I suspect the best is yet to come here.

The second wine of Calon Segur is the 2015 Marquis de Calon and it’s a blend of 57% Cabernet Sauvignon, 33% Merlot and the rest Cabernet Franc brought up in 50% new oak. It’s an outstanding wine in its own right and offers classic notes of cassis and currant fruits intermixed with lots of toasted spice, graphite, and background oak. With medium-bodied depth, a nicely concentrated mid-palate, and a silky, elegant texture, it should shine for a decade.

I loved the 2015 Calon Segur and while it’s true the northern Médoc is less successful in 2015, this beauty is certainly one to seek out. Based on 82% Cabernet Sauvignon, 16% Merlot and the rest Petit Verdot aged all in new barrels, its deep ruby/purple color is followed by gorgeous notes of crème de cassis, blackcurrants, toasted spices, lead pencil shavings, and hints of dried flowers. While it’s not the most concentrated wine of the vintage, it has medium to full-bodied richness, polished tannin, and a gorgeous elegance about it that keeps you coming back to the glass. Drink it over the coming 20-30 years.

**CHATEAU CAMBON LA PELOUSE** 2015 CHATEAU CAMBON LA PELOUSE HAUT-MEDOC $NA RED 90

Another little gem Cru Bourgeois is the 2015 Château Cambon La Pelouse which comes from close to equal amounts Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon, with roughly 4% Petit Verdot. It offers a darker edge in its blackcurrant, underbrush, tobacco and earthy aromatics, is medium-bodied, beautifully concentrated, and has building tannin. It’s absolutely worth seeking out and will drink nicely for a decade or more.
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<tr>
<td>Caramelized cherries, spice-box, vanilla and dried flowers all emerge from the 2015 Château de Camensac, and it’s medium-bodied, ripe, polished, and nicely textured on the palate, with a charming, fruit forward, delicious style. It’s a hidden gem to drink over the coming decade or more.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Located on the upper plateau, Château Canon recently purchased the Grand Cru Classé estate of Château Matras, which lies mostly on prime south/southwest slopes, bringing their total acreage from just over 20 hectares to 34 hectares. This gives them a variety of terroirs to work with and the estate is planted to roughly 70% Merlot and 30% Cabernet Sauvignon with a vine age around 30 years in age. The wines are always manually harvested, destemmed, fermented in stainless steel, and see malo and aging in 70% new oak. Both the 2014 and 2015 are beautiful wines, with the 2015 having that extra dimension and sexiness of the 2015 vintage. Both need bottle age though so patience is going to be your friend.</td>
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<tr>
<td>One of the wines of the vintage is the 2015 Château Canon which is 72% Merlot and 28% Cabernet Franc that spent 18 months in 70% new French oak. It offers a perfect example of the old saying &quot;iron fist in a velvet glove” and boasts gorgeous notes of black cherries, framboise, spring flowers and exotic spices. All these lead to a full-bodied, ultra-pure, seamless 2015 that marries incredible richness and depth with a sense of purity, elegance, and weightlessness that needs to be tasted to believed. This multi-dimensional, seamless 2015 needs forgotten for 4-5 years and will keep for three decades or more. Bravo!</td>
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<tr>
<td>From an incredible terroir just outside the village of Saint-Emilion and a blend of 55% Merlot, 38% Cabernet Franc and the balance Cabernet Sauvignon, the 2015 Canon-La-Gaffeliere is a beautiful, elegant, complex beauty readers should snatch up. Blueberries, violets/spring flowers, Asian spices, and a salty minerality all emerge from this full-bodied, yet elegant 2015 that has sweet tannin, a big mid-palate, and a great, great finish. Still tight and reserved, give bottle 3-5 years of bottle age and enjoy over the following two decades or more.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Based on 59% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot and the rest Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot, the inky colored 2015 Château Cantemerle offers a terrific bouquet of black currants, smoked herbs, earth, and hints of charcoal. Ripe, concentrated, rounded, and undeniably delicious, with ripe tannin, it’s a terrific vintage for Cantemerle to drink anytime over the coming 10-15 years.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Readers who need more proof that Margaux was the place to be in 2015 just need to taste the 2015 Château Cantenac Brown. Based on roughly 65% Cabernet Sauvignon and 35% Merlot it offers an extraordinary nose of crème de cassis, caramelized cherries, flowers, and spices. This medium to full-bodied effort has plenty of tannins, as well as toasty oak, yet is perfectly balanced and has a great mix of both freshness and richness. It’s a tour de force that will be drinkable in 4-5 years and last for 25-30 years!</td>
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<td>This 46-hectare estate is in the Côtes de Castillon appellation, on the right bank and east of Saint-Emilion. The wines are released exclusively through merchant Jeffrey Davies and offer serious bang for the buck.</td>
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<td>Made from 85% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc and the rest Cabernet Sauvignon, the 2016 Château Cap De Faugeres saw a slightly shorter maceration than normal and should be a step up over the 2015. It offers a beautiful bouquet of black cherry and mulberry fruit, lots of tobacco and graphite nuances, medium to full-bodied richness, and a gorgeous sense of purity and elegance.</td>
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<th>2016</th>
<th>CHATEAU CAP DE FAUGERES</th>
<th>COTES DE CASTILLON</th>
<th>$NA</th>
<th>RED</th>
<th>89-91</th>
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<td>The top cuvee from proprietor Silvio Denz is the 2016 Château Cap De Faugeres La Mouleyre and it’s a barrel selection based on 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc. This opulent, forward, undeniably sexy 2016 boast killer notes of blueberries, cassis, licorice and damp herbs. It’s a big wine, yet stays elegant, balanced and seamless. It’s going to be gem readers should seek out and I suspect it will drink well on release yet last for 10-15 years.</td>
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<td>I tasted the 2015 Cap De Faugeres on three different occasions and it rated outstanding on two of the three showings. Offering lots of darker fruits, truffle, and leafy herbs aromas and flavors in a medium-bodied, rounded, forward and sexy style, it should impress for upwards of a decade. One bottle had a fair bit of reduction, so don’t be afraid to give this wine some time in a decanter if drinking anytime soon.</td>
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<td>The luxury cuvee is the 2015 Château Cap De Faugeres La Mouleyre which comes from older vines (80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc) and was brought up all in once used barrels. It’s another cuvee I was able to taste multiple times and this beauty never failed to impress. Notes of blueberries, incense, violets and dried flowers all emerge from this beautifully ripe, full-bodied, opulent, yet elegant 2015 that’s already a joy to drink. With sweet tannin and a sexy, forward style, drink it anytime over the coming 15+ years. Tasted twice.</td>
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The 2015 Cap De Mourlin is a charmer with its tobacco, red plum and leafy herb aromas and flavors, yet lacks mid-palate depth and length. Drink up.

CHATEAUNAP DE MOURLIN 2015 CHATEAUNAP DE MOURLIN SAINT-EMILION $NA RED 85

The 2015 Château Cap Léon Veyrin comes from a smaller estate in Listrac and is based on 58% Merlot, 39% Cabernet Sauvignon, and the rest Petit Verdot. It offers pretty cherry, framboise, and spice aromas and flavors as well as a firm, focused, straightforward, yet enjoyable style on the palate. Drink it over the coming 7-8 years.

CHATEAUNEAP DE MOURLIN 2015 CHATEAUNEAP DE MOURLIN LISTRAC-MEDOC $NA RED 86

A rocking wine from the northern Médoc is the 2015 Château Capbern and it’s 68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Merlot and 4% Petit Verdot brought up in 60% new barrels. This medium to full-bodied, ripe, impressively concentrated beauty boasts outstanding notes of ripe black cherry and currant fruits intermixed with lots of crushed flower and damp earth/clay-like nuances. It has terrific purity and ripe, yet present, tannin and will benefit from a couple years in the cellar. It’s a little gem that will be loved by old-school Bordeaux lovers. Tasted twice.

CHATEAUCAPBERN 2015 CHATEAUCAPBERN SAINT-ESTEPHE $30 RED 90

Along with Calon Segur, Château Capbern was purchased in 2012 from Hélène de Baritaud de Carpin, the daughter of the late owner Denise Capbern-Gasqueton, by the French insurance company, Suravenir Assurances. Laurent Dufau (formerly at Baron Philippe de Rothschild) was named managing director in 2013 and he now has Vincent Millet functioning as technical director for both estates. The 38-hectare Château Capbern (32 hectares of which are in production) consists of gravely, sandy and clay soils, harvest is all by hand, the wines are fermented in stainless-steel tanks, and aging occurs in 60% new barrels. As with Calon Segur, I expect the best is yet to come from this estate as well.

CHATEAUCAPDET 2015 CHATEAUCAPDET LISTRAC-MEDOC $NA RED 86

I found the 2015 Château Capdet to be charming and straightforward, with enjoyable, light notes of cherries and framboise. It needs more depth but is enjoyable.

CHATEAUCAPET-GUILLER 2014 CHATEAUCAPET-GUILLER SAINT-EMILION $NA RED 87

Made with guidance from the talented Stéphane Derenocourt, the 2014 Château Capet-Guiller is a charming, elegant beauty offering classic notes of black cherries, underbrush, and leafy herbs. It lacks some intensity and depth, but is an attractive, medium-bodied, nicely textured 2014 to drink over the coming decade or so.

CHATEAUCARBONNIEUX 2015 CHATEAUCARBONNIEUX BLANC PEÑASC-LEOGNAN $NA WHITE 94

The white from Carbonnieux is the 2015 Château Carbonnieux Blanc and is based on 75% Sauvignon Blanc and 25% Sémillon. It’s a winner offering intense notes of lime peel, white grapefruit, and vibrant minerality to go with clean, crisp, racy yet beautifully balanced style on the palate. This terrific white can be drunk with incredible pleasure today or cellared for a decade or more.

CHATEAUCARBONNIEUX 2015 CHATEAUCARBONNIEUX PEÑASC-LEOGNAN $NA RED 92+

The 2015 Château Carbonnieux is made from 52% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, and the rest Petit Verdot that spent 18 months in 30% new barrels. Classic notes of black cherries, ground herbs, licorice, and hints of earth all emerge from this medium-bodied, concentrated, structured Pessac that has ripe tannin and a good finish. It’s backward and tight, and needs 4-5 years of bottle age but should last for two decades.

CHATEAUPETET-GUILLER 2014 CHATEAUPETET-GUILLER SAINT-EMILION $NA RED 88

The 2015 Château La Cardonne is a solid wine based on 50% Merlot, 45% Cabernet Sauvignon and the rest Cabernet Franc. Lots of spice, raspberries, dried flowers, and hints of background oak all emerge from this charming, medium-bodied, elegant 2015 that’s beautifully made and balanced. It’s a seductive 2015 to drink over the coming 8-10 years.

CHATEAUCAROLINE 2015 CHATEAUCAROLINE MOULIS-EN-MEDOC $NA RED 88

From a tiny estate covering just 7 hectares, the 2015 Château Caroline (65% Merlot and 35% Cabernet Sauvignon) offers an endearing style with lots of caramelized cherry and framboise fruit intermixed with notions of dried flowers and spice. With fine tannin, a charming, elegant personality and no hard edges, it’s ideal for drinking over the coming 7-8 years.

CHATEAUCARTEAU 2015 CHATEAUCARTEAU SAINT-EMILION $NA RED 89

Made under the guidance of consultant Claude Gros and from clay soils not far from Château Angélus (it’s from the Côtes Daugay region of Saint-Emilion), the 2015 Château Castéra is a delicious red made from 70% Merlot and 30% Cabernet Franc brought up in 50% new French oak. Strawberries, incense, dried flowers, black raspberries and lots of spicy nuances give way to a medium to full-bodied Saint-Emilion that’s packed with fruit, yet stays nicely balanced and elegant. Drink it anytime over the coming decade. Tasted twice.

CHATEAUCASTERA 2015 CHATEAUCASTERA MEDOC $NA RED 87

The 2015 Château Castéra is a fine Médoc based on 65% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 5% each of Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot, all of which was brought up in 30% new barrels. This silky, endearing, attractive red offers lots of raspberry fruits intermixed with notes of spice, crushed flowers and a hint of rose petal. Lightly textured and balanced, drink it over the coming 7-8 years.

CHATEUCERTAN DE MAY 2015 CHATEUCERTAN DE MAY POMEROL $120 RED 90

Falling under the Moueix umbrella and based on 70% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Franc, and the rest Cabernet Sauvignon, the 2015 Certan de May comes from a top terroir situation between La Fleur Petrus, Petrus, and Vieux Château Certan, certainly good neighbors to have. It’s a beauty offering medium to full-bodied terrific notes of...
black cherries, underbrush, spice and dried earth. With fine tannin, nicely integrated acidity, loads of character, and moderate tannin, it’s unquestionably an outstanding wine to drink over the coming two decades.

**CHATEAU DE CHAMBRUN** 2015  
**CHATEAU DE CHAMBRUN** LALANDE DE POMEROL  $NA  RED  90

The **2015 Château de Chambrun** is a Merlot-dominated cuvee that includes a splash of Cabernet Franc and was bottled unfined and unfiltered. It possesses lots of plum fruits, roasted herbs, *jus de viande* (aka au jus or the juices given off by meat as it’s cooked), and black licorice characteristics in a ripe, hedonistic, pedal-to-the-metal style that drinks well above its humble price point. Drink it anytime over the coming decade.

**CHATEAU LA CHANDELLIERE** 2015  
**CHATEAU LA CHANDELLIERE** MEDOC  $NA  RED  88

A little gem of a Cru Bourgeois, the **2015 Château La Chandelliere** (65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Franc) is a medium-bodied, elegant red offering notes of raspberries, spring flowers, spice and plenty of leafy herbs. It has good acidity, fine tannin, and surprising elegance, all of which make it a joy to drink. I suspect it will keep for 5-8 years. Tasted twice.

**CHATEAU CHANEILLAN** 2014  
**CHATEAU CHANEILLAN** HAUT-MEDOC  $NA  RED  90

Made under the guidance of Stéphane Derenocourt, the **2014 Château Chaneillan** comes from vines just outside of Saint-Estèphe. It’s an earthy, blackcurrant, mushroom, tobacco and lead pencil scented 2014 that has medium-bodied depth and richness, a layered, silky texture, ripe tannin, and a great finish. This beauty has a classic, elegant style that’s going to drink nicely for upwards of a decade. I also suspect it's a great value.

**CHATEAU DE CHANTTEGRIVE** 2015  
**CHATEAU DE CHANTTEGRIVE BLANC** GRAVES  $NA  WHITE  90

**CHATEAU DE CHANTTEGRIVE** 2015  
**CHATEAU DE CHANTTEGRIVE** GRAVES  $30  RED  91

Starting with the white, the **2015 Château de Chantegrive Blanc** shows how strong this vintage is for the whites and offers lots of apples, citrus, honey and floral notes in a medium-bodied, clean, classy style. Drink it over the coming 4-5 years.

The **2015 Château de Chantegrive** is another killer value in 2015 and is based on equal parts Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon. Loaded with notions of caramelized cherries, tobacco, truffle, and a hint of earth, this beauty hits the palate with a ripe, sexy, opulent style carrying polished tannin and plenty of length. Drink it anytime over the coming decade.

**CHATEAU CHANTEMERLE** 2015  
**CHATEAU CHANTEMERLE** MEDOC  $NA  RED  84

The **2015 Château Chantemerle** is pretty, Pinot Noir-like effort offers light red fruits and hints of minerality. It’s short, simple and quaffable.

**CHAPELLE DE LABRIE** 2015  
**CHAPELLE DE LABRIE** SAINT-EMILION  $NA  RED  90

Based largely on Merlot (I think there’s a small percentage of Cabernet Franc), the **2015 Chapelle De Labrie** is a medium-bodied, mid-weight, yet incredibly charming Saint-Emilion that gives up notes of ripe cherry and currant fruits intermixed with underbrush and flowers. I doubt it will make old bones, but it’s certainly a charming, enjoyable 2015 to drink over the coming 7-8 years.

**CHATEAU CHARMAIL** 2015  
**CHATEAU CHARMAIL** HAUT-MEDOC  $NA  RED  92

A Jeffrey Davies Selection and a blockbuster that should be snatched up is the **2015 Château Charmail**, which comes from a 28.5-hectare vineyard planted in clay and gravel soils. Based on 41% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot and the rest Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot, this is one seriously good bottle of wine that’s loaded with raspberry, cherry, and strawberry fruit as well as lots of spice and floral nuances. Incredibly elegant and perfectly balanced, with a seductive personality that keeps you coming back to the glass, buy a case for drinking over the coming decade. Tasted twice.

**CHATEAU CHASSE-SPLEEN** 2015  
**CHATEAU CHASSE-SPLEEN** MOULIS-EN-MEDOC  $NA  RED  90

**CHATEAU CHASSE-SPLEEN** 2014  
**CHATEAU CHASSE-SPLEEN** MOULIS-EN-MEDOC  $NA  RED  87

The **2015 Château Chasse-Spleen** is an elegant 2015 that has a complex, nuanced, and endearing style. Giving up notes of black cherry and strawberry fruits as well as lots of lavender, leafy herbs, and floral nuances, it shines more for its elegance and nuance than power and richness. It’s a beautiful wine to drink over the coming decade.

The **2014 Chateau Chasse-Spleen** is a solid step back from the deeper, more complex, layered 2015 yet is still an elegant, mid-weight effort. Possessing lots of black cherry, mulberry, cedar and Asian spice, it hits the palate with medium-bodied richness and moderate density, with detracting, elevated acidity. Give bottles a year or two and enjoy through 2026.

**CHAUVIN** 2015  
**CHAUVIN** SAINT-EMILION  $60  RED  92+

From an estate recently purchased by Sylvie Cazes, who is renovating the estate, the **2015 Château Chauvin** checks in as a blend of 80% Merlot, 14% Cabernet Franc and 6% Cabernet Sauvignon, from sandy/clay soils, that was brought up in 60% new barrels. Its deep ruby/purple color is followed by a pure, elegant bouquet of crème de cassis, damp earth, candle wax, and spring flowers. Rich, concentrated, and seamless on the palate, with terrific elegance, it has ripe, present tannin, good acidity, and is going to age beautifully. Tasted twice.

**CHATEAU CHEMIN ROYAL** 2015  
**CHATEAU CHEMIN ROYAL** MOULIS-EN-MEDOC  $NA  RED  88
From a tiny estate consisting of gravelly soils planted to 65% Merlot and 35% Cabernet Sauvignon, the 2015 Château Chemin Royal offers a medium ruby color as well as perfumed notes of black cherry and blackberry fruits, lots of spice, and hints of flowers. It’s moderately concentrated, yet is beautifully balanced and offers plenty to like. Drink it over the coming decade.

CHEVAL BLANC 2015 CHEVAL BLANC SAINT-EMILION $700 RED 98

One of the wines of this stellar vintage is undeniably the 2015 Cheval Blanc from Pierre Lurton, and it’s going to be interesting to compare this beauty up against the 2005, 2009 and 2010 over the coming three to four decades. Made from a mix of 55% Merlot and 45% Cabernet Franc brought up in new barrels, it’s a wine compared to the 1998 by Lurton, which is a perfect wine today. The 2015s deep purple color is followed by a sensational perfume of violets, spring flowers, Asian spices, and graphite and the wine has an incredible core of raspberry and currant fruit. With full-bodied richness, thrilling purity of fruit, ultra-fine tannin, and a beautiful finish, hide bottle for 5-6 years, count yourself lucky, and enjoy over the following three decades or more. It’s also worth noting that this is the first vintage since 1988 where this estate has opted to not produce their second wine, the Petit Cheval.

CHATEAU CISSAC 2015 CHATEAU CISSAC HAUT-MEDOC $NA RED 87

The 2015 Château Cissac comes from a larger estate (45 hectares) plated to 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, and 5% Petit Verdot. The 2015 spent 14 months in 30% new oak and offers a medium-bodied, leathery, currant-scented profile. It has more charm and depth on the palate than the nose and should be drunk over the coming 6-7 years.

CHATEAU CITRAN 2015 CHATEAU CITRAN HAUT-MEDOC $NA RED 89

Notes of strawberries, raspberries, toasted spice and hints of scorched earth all emerge from the 2015 Château Citran, and it’s another 2015 Haut-Médoc that offers tons of charm. Medium-bodied, supple and polished, with fine tannin, drink it over the coming decade.

CLARENDELLE 2015 CLARENDELLE BORDEAUX BORDEAUX $NA RED 86

CLARENDELLE 2015 CLARENDELLE SAINT-EMILION SAINT-EMILION $NA RED 88

The Clarendelle label is the negociant wine from the Dillon team (Haut Brion, La Mission Haut Brion) and while I wasn’t able to get retail prices, this are well-made wines that should represent good values.

A negociant effort from the team at Haut Brion, the 2015 Clarendelle Bordeaux offers classic, enjoyable notes of peppery herbs, blackcurrants and cedar in a medium-bodied, charming, quaffably delicious style. Drink it over the coming couple of years. The blend is 83% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon.

A step up, the 2015 Clarendelle Saint-Emilion offers more plum and currant fruit as well as a rounded, sexy style on the palate. With plenty of mid-palate depth, no hard edges, and a charming, balanced profile, it’s well worth drinking over the coming 5-6 years.

CHATEAU CLARISSE 2015 CHATEAU CLARISSE VIEILLES VIGNES PUISSEGUIN-SAINT-EMILION $50 RED 92

CHATEAU CLARISSE 2014 CHATEAU CLARISSE VIEILLES VIGNES PUISSEGUIN-SAINT-EMILION $50 RED 89

Another beauty from this vintage is the 2015 Château Clarisse Vieilles Vignes which is from the satellite appellation of Puisseguin-Saint-Emilion. Made from 100% Merlot that was brought up in 50% new French oak, it sports a ruby/purple color as well as a fresh, pure, powerful bouquet of red and black currants, toasty oak, spice-box and licorice. This beautiful Saint-Emilion offers medium to full-bodied richness, terrific freshness and purity, a balanced, layered style, and a clean finish. It’s a classy 2015 that has both richness and freshness. It’s going to deliver the goods over the coming decade or more.

From a cooler terroir norther of Saint-Emilion and 100% Merlot brought in 50% new French oak, it sports a ruby/purple color as well as a fresh, pure, powerful bouquet of red and black currants, toasty oak, spice-box and licorice. This beautiful Saint-Emilion offers medium to full-bodied richness, terrific freshness and purity, a balanced, layered style, and a clean finish. It’s a classy 2015 that has both richness and freshness. It’s going to deliver the goods over the coming decade or more.

CHATEAU CLARKE 2015 CHATEAU CLARKE LISTRAC-MEDOC $NA RED 89

Lots of Strawberry, forest floor and hints of flowers all emerge from the 2015 Château Clarke and it’s medium-bodied, elegant and balanced, with fine tannin and good acidity. This charming Listrac has lots to love and should drink nicely for 7-8 years.

CHATEAU CLAUZET 2015 CHATEAU CLAUZET SAINT-ESTEPHE $NA RED 88

This 23-hectare estate in Saint-Estèphe has produced a beautiful 2015 Château Clauzet based on 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, and the balance Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc, all of which was brought up in 30-40% new barrels. It offers a dark, plummy nose, with more black cherry, singed leather and scorched earth nuances, medium body, ripe tannin, and a concentrated, slightly four-square style. It will keep for a decade or more.

LA CLEMENCE 2015 LA CLEMENCE POMEROL $NA RED 91

From proprietor Christian Dauriac’s tiny estate in Pomerol, the 2015 La Clemence (85% Merlot and 15% Cabernet Franc) is a beauty made with guidance from Michel Rolland. This ripe, sexy, opulently Pomerol gives up lots of currant and black cherry fruit intermixed with notions of licorice and smoked herbs. With full-bodied richness, low acidity, and a rich, layered style on the palate, drink it anytime over the coming 15 years or more.
From a 36-hectare estate in the northern part of the Médoc, the 2015 Château Clément Saint-Jean is a competent blend of 60% Merlot and 40% Cabernet Sauvignon. It offers attractive notes of blackberries, peppery herbs and sous bois in a medium-bodied, bright, mid-weight style ideal for drinking over the coming 7-8 years. While I’m sure the harvest rains caused the overall dilute style, it’s still a charming wine.

CHATEAU CLÉMENT-PICHON 2015 CHATEAU CLÉMENT-PICHON HAUT-MEDOC $NA RED 87

While the 2015 Château Clément-Pichon started out slightly reductive and hard to read at first, it opened up with time in the glass and is a pretty, berry fruited, floral, medium-bodied 2015 that has plenty of charm and drinkability. Made by the Fayat family and a blend of 85% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 5% Cabernet Franc, aged 12 months in 40% new barrels, drink this enjoyable Haut Médoc over the coming decade or so.

CLERC MILON 2015 CLERC MILON Pomerol $NA RED 94

The second wine of Clerc Milon is the 2015 Pastourelle De Clerc Milon and it’s made from equal parts Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot, with 10% Cabernet Franc. This forward, frontend-loaded beauty offers up excellent notes of cassis and blackcurrants as well as lots of spice and licorice, medium-bodied depth and richness, and sweet tannin. It’s already hard to resist yet should keep for at least a decade.

For whatever reason, Château Clinet was not interested in having their 2015 tasted for this report and I was unable to taste it during my trip through the region. I’ll do my best to review it from bottle once it’s available in the United States. Nevertheless, I purchased a bottle of the 2014 Château Clinet locally and it showed beautifully, revealing a deep purple color, loads of plum, crème de cassis, spice-box, dried flowers, and graphite aromas and flavors, full-bodied richness, and a terrific minerality the developed with time in the glass. This is an elegant, balanced, beautifully pure 2014 that’s very much in the style of the vintage. It will keep for 20+ years.

CHATEAU CLINET 2014 CHATEAU CLINET Pomerol $NA RED 93

One of the standouts at my Cru Bourgeois tasting was the 2015 Clos La Bohème and this total gem comes from a tiny estate in the southern part of the Médoc, near the town of Macau. As I’ve said numerous times in this report, the southern Médoc was the place to be in 2015. Based on 70% Cabernet Sauvignon and 30% Merlot aged 20 months in 80% new barrels, it notes of sweet cherries, balsam, and dried flowers are followed by a medium-bodied, pretty, beautifully balanced 2015 that has fine, sweet tannin and a great finish. Don’t miss it.

CLOS LA BOHÈME 2015 CLOS LA BOHÈME Haut-Médoc $NA RED 91

One of the 36-hectare estate of Jean-Claude Beyney’s 3.7 hectares of clay and limestone soils just northeast of the town of Saint-Emilion, the 2015 Clos De Sarpe is a sensational blend of 85% Merlot and 15% Cabernet Franc brought up all in new oak. It reveals an inky purple color as well as a terrific perfume of blueberries, blackberries, licorice, graphite, and violet notes. Rich, concentrated and opulent on the palate, with excellent freshness and ripe tannin, give bottles 2-3 years and drink over the following decade or more. It’s impressive.

CLOS DE SARPE 2015 CLOS DE SARPE Saint-Emilion $NA RED 94

I loved the 2015 Clos De L’Oratoire and this beautiful Saint-Emilion comes from the northwest sector of the appellation and a mix of limestone and sandy soils. Made from 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc aged in 40% new oak, it has an incredible floral streak as well as perfumed notes of flower petals, sweet cherries, balsam, and dried flowers are followed by a medium-bodied, pretty, beautifully balanced 2015 that has fine, sweet tannin and a great finish. It’s impressive.

CLOS DE L’ORATOIRE 2015 CLOS DE L’ORATOIRE Saint-Emilion $NA RED 94+

One from the tiny estate of Magali and Thibaut Decoster, the 2015 Clos Des Jacobins is an impressive, concentrated 2015 that has a solid backbone in its smoky dark fruits, truffle, bouquet garni, and earth aromas and flavors. Rich, nicely concentrated and textured on the palate, with present tannin, it’s a chewy, balanced effort to drink over the coming 10-15 years. The blend in 2015 is 80% Merlot, 18% Cabernet Franc and 2% Cabernet Sauvignon, all of which spent 18 months in 75% new barrels.

CLOS DES JACOBINS 2015 CLOS DES JACOBINS Saint-Emilion $70 RED 92

From the tiny estate of Magali and Thibaut Decoster, the 2015 Clos Des Jacobins is an impressive, concentrated 2015 that has a solid backbone in its smoky dark fruits, truffle, bouquet garni, and earth aromas and flavors. Rich, nicely concentrated and textured on the palate, with present tannin, it’s a chewy, balanced effort to drink over the coming 10-15 years. The blend in 2015 is 80% Merlot, 18% Cabernet Franc and 2% Cabernet Sauvignon, all of which spent 18 months in 75% new barrels.

CLOS DES LUNES 2015 CLOS DES LUNES BLANC Bordeaux $NA WHITE 92

CLOS DES LUNES 2015 CLOS DES LUNES LUNE D’ARGENT BLANC Bordeaux $NA WHITE 92
Focusing on white wines, this is a new project of Olivier Bernard of Domaine de Chevalier, who in 2012 purchased a 27-hectare vineyard. By 2015 he had grown the estate to 73 hectares planted to 70% Sémillon and 30% Sauvignon Blanc. Both whites I tasted were outstanding and I suspect the best is still yet to come.

I love the whites from this vintage and the 2015 Clos des Lunes Blanc is well worth seeking out. Brought up all in barrel and a blend of mostly Sémillon, it’s a vibrant, intense white offering lots of caramelized lime, mint, honeysuckle, and a hint of minerality aromatics, full-bodied richness, impressive concentration, and great acidity. It can be drunk over the coming 4-5 years or cellared for even longer.

More Sauvignon Blanc dominated, the 2015 Clos des Lunes Lune d’Argent Blanc is another killer white from this estate. It too is a forward, intense, vibrant 2015 that has loads of fat and texture, full body, good freshness, and exotic notes of caramelized citrus/lime, peach, honeysuckle and tropical fruits. Like the Clos des Lunes Blanc, it can be drunk over the coming 4-5 years or cellared for longer.

| Clos du Clocher | 2015 | Clos du Clocher | Pomerol | $NA | Red 90+
|----------------|------|----------------|---------|-----|-------|
| The deep ruby/purple-colored 2015 Clos du Clocher checks in as a rough blend of 80% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc that was raised in 65% new barrels. It’s another impressive wine from the consulting team of Michel Rolland. Black fruits, scorched earth, chocolate, and earth nuances are followed by a full-bodied, concentrated, opulent 2015 that has moderate acidity and enough background oak to warrant short-term cellaring.

| Clos du Marquis | 2015 | Le Petit Marquis du Clos du Marquis | Saint-Julien | $NA | Red 88
|----------------|------|------------------------------------|--------------|-----|-------|
| Clos du Marquis | 2015 | Clos du Marquis | Saint-Julien | $75 | Red 93+
| Clos du Marquis | 2014 | Clos du Marquis | Saint-Julien | $75 | Red 92

Starting with the 2015 Le Petit Marquis Du Clos Du Marquis and from the young vines of the Clos du Marque vineyard, located just across the road from Leoville Las Cases, this blend of equal parts Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon offers a juicy, forward, medium-bodied style that just begs to be drunk. Giving up lots of bright berry fruits, candied violets, bay leaf and spice aromas and flavors, it’s ideal for drinking anytime over the coming 10-15 years.

The 2015 Clos Du Marquis is gorgeous, but one of the more backward, closed wines in the vintage. Made from 66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 31% Merlot, and the rest Cabernet Franc, aged in 50% new oak, it’s deep purple color is followed by promising notes of blackcurrants, smoked earth, tobacco and lead pencil. With full-bodied richness, a ripe, concentrated, structured feel, and impressive length, I wouldn’t touch bottles for at least 7-8 years, and it should last for two decades or more.

The 2014 Clos Du Marquis is a gem, and certainly a match for the 2012, although the 2015 has slightly more oomph. A blend of 74% Cabernet Sauvignon and the rest Merlot and Cabernet Franc, it boasts a ripe, medium to full-bodied, silky style as well as lots of chocolate, graphite, and scorched earth aromatics. With a core of crème de cassis-like fruit, impressive balance, sweet tannin, and a great finish, it should drink well for 15-20 years.

| Clos du Roy | 2015 | Clos du Roy | Fronsac | $NA | Red 90+
|-------------|------|-------------|---------|-----|-------|
| The 2015 Clos du Roy is made with guidance from Michel Rolland and sports a deep ruby/purple color as well as youthful notes of black cherries, strawberries, spring flowers, and lead pencil. With medium-bodied richness, solid mid-palate concentration, integrated acidity, give this impressive Fronsac a few years in the cellar and drink over the following decade or more.

| Clos Dubreuil | 2015 | Clos Dubreuil Anna | Saint-Emilion | $100 | Red 90
|--------------|------|-------------------|--------------|------|-------|
| Clos Dubreuil | 2015 | Clos Dubreuil | Saint-Emilion | $125 | Red 92+

Based largely on Merlot with 10% Cabernet Franc and made to honor winemaker Benoit Trocard’s grandmother, the 2015 Clos Dubreuil Anna is a terrific effort that has considerable elegance and balance, with classic aromas of dark fruits, spring flowers, damp earth, and underbrush. This medium-bodied effort is pure silk on the palate and should drink nicely for 7-8 years, if not longer.

From a tiny estate of less than 10 hectares, the 2015 Clos Dubreuil (80% Merlot and the rest Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon) offers a classic, fresh, medium to full-bodied, age-worthy style as well as outstanding notes of ripe plums, currants, chocolatey oak, and tobacco. With good acidity, a tight, balanced mouthfeel, and solid length, give bottle a few years in the cellar and enjoy over the following decade or more.

| Clos Fourtet | 2015 | Clos Fourtet | Saint-Emilion | $NA | Red 98
|-------------|------|--------------|--------------|-----|-------|
| Clos Fourtet | 2014 | Clos Fourtet | Saint-Emilion | $NA | Red 95

This estate has been renovated by new owner Monsieur Cuvelier, manager Tony Ballu (owner of Pierre de Lune), and consultant Stéphane Derenoncourt. The vineyard covers 20 hectares of prime real estate on the western plateau of Saint-Emilion and consists of a thin layer of clay over limestone subsoils. The wine is always a Merlot dominated cuvee (there’s normally 10% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Cabernet Franc) that sees a normal 30-day maceration, a portion of the blend seeing malo in barrel, and the wine spending 18 months in 60% new barrels. The 2014 is unquestionably one of the wines of the vintage, as is the more blockbuster styled 2015. Don’t miss these wines!

An absolute blockbuster is the 2015 Clos Fourtet, which is a blend of 88% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon and 2% Cabernet Franc. It offers a huge nose of black and blue fruits, loads of incense, violets, chocolate, and underbrush aromas, full body, a seductive, ethereal texture, lots of fine tannins, and a finish that just won’t quit. This is as classy, seamless, and elegant as it gets. Give bottle 4-5 years of bottle age and enjoy over the following two decades.

A step back from the sensational 2015, yet still an incredible wine that checks in near the top of the vintage, the 2014 Clos Fourtet offers an elegant, seductive style as well as perfumed notes of ripe cherries, strawberries, spice and exotic flowers, with a touch of minerality coming through with time in the glass. Playing in the medium-bodied end of the spectrum, with ultra-fine tannin and a beautiful elegance and persistence, it’s already impossible to resist yet I suspect will cruise in the cellar on its balance.
From proprietor Patrick Junet and a rough blend of 70/30 Merlot and Cabernet Franc, the **2015 Château Clos Junet** is a supple, elegant, yet sexy red that exudes charm in its ripe red and black fruits (framboise, kirsch, currants), spice, and floral aromas and flavors. It’s a plump, layered, front-end loaded 2015 that’s already hard to resist, and I see no need to delay gratification. Enjoy bottles over the coming 8-10 years.

**CLOS LOUIE**  
**2015**  
**CLOS LOUIE**  
**COTES DE CASTILLON**  
$NA  
**RED**  
93

An incredible Côtes de Castillon that more than overdelivers, the **2015 Clos Louie** is a field blend, from very old vines, of Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Malbec and Carmenera, that was brought up in 50% new 600-liter barrels (malo was in barrel). This deep, inky-colored effort boast killer notes of black raspberry and plum fruits intermixed with loads of Asian spice, white pepper, and violet nuances. With medium to full-bodied richness, incredible elegance and purity, fine tannin, and a great finish, it’s a seriously good mouthful of a Bordeaux to drink anytime over the coming decade or more. Buy it if you can find it!

**CLOS MANOU**  
**2015**  
**CLOS MANOU**  
**MEDOC**  
$40  
**RED**  
89+

Clos Manou is in the Northern Médoc and consists of 18 hectares of gravelly/limestone soils and high-density plantings of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. The second wine of the estate is called the Petit Manon (not tasted here). Described as a “Mini-Mouton” by American merchant Jeffrey Davies, the flagship **2015 Clos Manou** is a Cabernet dominated cuvee that includes 23% Merlot, 8% Petit Verdot and 1% Cabernet Franc, all of which was harvest between October 6-13. This pretty, elegant, nicely concentrated 2015 gives up lots of blackcurrant and black cherry fruit, notes of pine resin, dark chocolate and graphite, freshness, as well as a sexy, supple, forward, fruit-loaded style that makes it a joy to drink. Black cherries, lavender, violets, and hints of bay leaf all emerge from the glass, and despite its upfront sex appeal, it’s going to keep for a decade.

**CLOS MARGALAINE**  
**2015**  
**CLOS MARGALAINE**  
**MARGAUX**  
$45  
**RED**  
91

Run by Philippe Porcheron, who purchased this estate in 1999, Clos Margalaine consists of four hectares of deep, gravelly soils located between the estates of Le Tertre and Monbrison, and they receive consulting advice from Christophe Coupez and Michel Rolland. The **2015 Clos Margalaine** is another beautiful Margaux and is a blend of equal parts Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. It boasts medium-bodied, elegant, perfumed notes of black raspberries (maybe even some strawberry), spring flowers, toasted spices, and forest floor. About as fine and elegant as they come, yet with plenty of balance and length, it’s a gem from one of the top appellations in 2015. It will keep for 10-15 years.

**CLOS MARSALETTE**  
**2015**  
**CLOS MARSALETTE BLANC**  
**PESSAC-LEOGNAN**  
$35  
**WHITE**  
92

The blend of the **Clos Marsalette Blanc** has shifted from equal parts Sémillon and Sauvignon Blanc to slightly more Sémillon dominated and the **2015** is 65% Sémillon and 35% Sauvignon. With 30% of the wine aged in barrel, it offers a fresh, focused, beautifully pure style as well as terrific notes of ripe white peach, salty minerality and a hint of lime. You can safely drink bottles over the coming 3-4 years or cellar for a decade.

**CLOS ROMALINE**  
**2015**  
**CLOS ROMALINE**  
**SAINT-EMILION**  
$NA  
**RED**  
88

The **2015 Clos Romaline** is a rock-solid Saint-Emilion that offers a polished, lively, slightly lifted style in its black and blue fruits, violets, sappy herbs and floral aromas and flavors. With moderate tannin and a ready to go style, drink it over the coming decade.

**CLOS SAINT JULIEN**  
**2015**  
**CLOS SAINT JULIEN**  
**SAINT-EMILION**  
$50  
**RED**  
94+

Represented by Jeffrey Davies Selections, the **2015 Clos Saint Julien** is blockbuster stuff from a tiny vineyard owed by Catherine Papon-Nouvel, who’s also the owner and winemaker at Petit Gravet Aîné (and her 2015 from this estate is brilliant as well!). Made from equal parts Merlot and Cabernet Franc, its deep ruby/plum color is followed by a terrific bouquet of red and black fruits, dried herbs, truffle, and dried flowers, with subtle background chocolatey oak. With full-bodied richness, an incredible texture, a stacked mid-palate, and a finish that won’t quit, this is one 2015 savvy readers should snatch up! It will benefit (if you can keep your hands off bottles) from 3-4 years of cellaring and knock your socks off over the following decade or more.

**CLOS SAINT MARTIN**  
**2015**  
**CLOS SAINT MARTIN**  
**SAINT-EMILION**  
$100  
**RED**  
96

The **2015 Clos Saint Martin** falls under the Moueix umbrella and is certainly one of the gems in their lineup. A blend of 90% Merlot and 5% each of Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon, it’s slightly reserved on the nose, but man, what a palate! Notes of strawberries, black raspberries, vanilla bean, toasted bread and dried flowers all flow to a full-bodied, opulent, huge wine that stays incredibly well balanced and elegant, with no hard edges and a cashmere-like texture. Count me impressed. I’d be thrilled to drink bottles anytime over the coming two decades.

**CHATEAU LA CLOTTE**  
**2015**  
**CHATEAU LA CLOTTE**  
**SAINT-EMILION**  
$NA  
**RED**  
94

Made by Alain Vauthier and from a similar terroir to Ausone, yet with a different exposition, the **2015 Château La Clotte** is a blend of 80% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc, and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon raised in 85% new French oak. Possessing an incredible elegance and purity, with medium to full-bodied richness and notes of cassis and black raspberry fruits, underbrush, damp earth and subtle oak, it has a striking floral component, a great mid-palate, and sweet tannin, all suggesting it’s going to keep for at least 10-15 years.
The **2015 Château De Côme** is an impressive effort from one of the appellations that struggled in 2015. Offering lots of black cherry and cassis fruits, notes of gravelly earth, underbrush and mineral nuances, medium-bodied richness and moderate tannin, it’s a fresh, focused, classic Bordeaux to drink over the coming decade or more.

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<th>SAINT-EMILION</th>
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A 75/25 split of Merlot and Cabernet Franc aged in 50% new oak, the **2015 Château La Commanaderie** sports a deep ruby/plum color to go with notes of ripe black cherries, blueberries, violets, and incense. It has a kiss of toastiness, is medium-bodied, opulent, and sexy, with a forward, ready to go style. Drink it over the coming decade or more. Tasted twice.

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From a tiny estate located just east of Libourne and clay, sandy soils, made with consulting advice from Jean-Philippe Fort, the **2015 Château La Confession** is an outstanding blend of roughly 70% Merlot and 30% Cabernet Franc that saw malo and aging in new barrels. It boasts a deep ruby/purple color in addition to terrific notes of blackberries, blueberries, violets, damp earth and spring flowers. With medium to full-bodied richness, an elegant, fresh mouthfeel, and integrated acidity, it’s worth seeking out and will drink well for 10-15 years.

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The **2015 Château La Connivence** is a terrific Pomerol well worth seeking out. Offering a complex style in its white truffle, black cherry, blackcurrants, and hints of chocolate aromas and flavors, it hits the palate with terrific intensity, ripe tannin, medium to full-bodied depth, and a great finish. It’s another gem from the right bank that’s going to deliver the goods over the coming 10-15 years.

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This tiny, yet brilliantly run estate covers 11.8 hectares of sandy, gravelly soils located between Vieux Château Certain, Château L’Evangile, and Cheval Blanc. Managed by the talented and vivacious Marielle Cazaux, they produce one of the most exotic, perfumed, and elegant wines of the appellation, yet it never lacks for fruit and/or texture. Harvest is all by hand and done block by block, the grapes are fermented in concrete tanks, and the wine spends roughly 18 months in 70% new French oak, from a number of different coopers including Seguin-Moreau, Taransaud, Baron, and Darnajou. Production is around 3,200 cases. While all of the recent vintages showed beautifully, I suspect the 2016 will be the finest wine to date from this estate.

I suspect the finest vintage ever for this estate, the otherworldly **2016 La Conseillante** is the normal 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc that was brought up in 70% new French oak. It offers a smorgasbord of aromas and flavors with notions of cassis, smoked herbs, forest floor, and subtle background oak all soaring from the glass. Full-bodied, opulent, and sexy, with the hallmark elegance of the estate, it has beautiful mid-palate density and a blockbuster finish. Don’t miss it.

Reminding me of the 2009, the **2015 La Conseillante** is more overt and sexy compared to the 2016, offering a huge nose of mulled black fruits, spring flowers, chocolate and gravelly/clay-like earthiness. This is a full-bodied, complex, elegant and layered 2015 that has a singular character and the class to drink well for 20-25 years.

The **2011 La Conseillante** is impressive, and I suspect one of the gems in the vintage. Full-bodied, concentrated, and layered, with lots of spice, bouquet garni, graphite and assorted darker fruits, it has the classic elegance and polish of the estate and while still young, is drinking beautifully today. Enjoy bottles over the coming two decades.

The **2010 La Conseillante** is a tour de force that will rival the 2005, 2000 and 1990 at maturity. Just loaded with notions of blackcurrants, damp earth, tobacco leaf, violets and toasty oak, it hits the palate with full-bodied richness, building, ripe tannin, and a huge finish. Sexy and opulent, yet also classy and elegant, it’s a sensational Pomerol that has another three decades of life ahead of it.

Similar in style to the 2015, the **2009 La Conseillante** is another sexy, seductive, opulent even, Pomerol that offers a huge array of spiced dark fruits, cured meats, crushed flowers, and truffle. Deep, full-bodied, layered and beautifully pure, with an exotveroiced personality that just begs to be drunk, it will keep for another three decades or more.

<table>
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From a 13-hectare estate located north and slightly west of the village of Saint-Emilion, the **2015 Château Corbin** is mostly Merlot blended with 17% Cabernet Franc, all of which comes from sandier, clay soils. It offers ample notes of ripe cherries, strawberries, dried herbs and bouquet garni, with a beautiful floral quality developing with time in the glass. Ripe, undeniably sexy and polished on the palate, with full-bodied richness and ultra-fine tannin, give bottles a few year and drink over the following 10-15. Tasted three times.

<table>
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<th>COS D’ESTOURNEL</th>
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| COS D’ESTOURNEL | 2015 | COS D’ESTOURNEL | SAINT-ESTEPHE | $NA | RED | 93 |
The **2015 Cos D'Estournel Blanc** is a Sauvignon Blanc dominated white that offers an exotic, medium-bodied, vibrant style in addition to outstanding notes of citrus blossom, tangerine, and lime peel. I like it today, but it should keep for at least a decade.

The largest production cuvée is the Merlot-dominated **2015 Goulée By Cos D'Estournel** and it’s a forward, open-knit, attractive red loaded with notions of plums, black cherries, and leafy herbs. I’d happily drink bottles over the coming 4-5 years.

The second wine of the estate is the **2015 Pagodes de Cos** and it too is an open-knit, medium-bodied, charming red that offers impressive notes of ripe cherry and currant fruits, underbrush and dried flowers. A blend of close to 50% Merlot and the balance mostly Cabernet Sauvignon, it has fine tannin, solid balance, and the depth to evolve gracefully for 10-12 years.

The **2015 Cos D'Estournel** is a classic wine from this estate and a terrific effort from the northern Médoc. Compared to both 2007 and 2004 by the estate and representing only 39% of the total production, it offers a fresh, classy bouquet of crème de cassis, black raspberries, toasty oak, graphite and damp earth. Made from 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot and the rest Cabernet Franc, this medium to full-bodied 2015 has solid mid-palate depth, fine, polished tannin, and a great finish. It’s going to improve with short-term cellaring and keep for two decades.

The **2014 Goulée By Cos D'Estournel** is a supple, enjoyable, slightly weedy 2014 offering moderate depth and richness, but certainly some charm.

The **2014 Pagodes de Cos** is a significant step up over the Goulée cuvée and offers impressive concentration, medium body, and terrific notes of plums, chocolate, tobacco, and cedar. It’s open knit, elegant, and ready to go, yet should keep for a decade or so.

The **2015 Château Cos Labory** is a solid wine sporting a deep purple color as well as medium to full-bodied notes of ripe black fruits, damp earth, and subtle oak and lead pencil aromas and flavors. With good concentration, a fresh, focused style on the palate, and good overall balance, drink it over the coming decade or so.

The **2015 Château Coufran** is a touch weedy aromatically, yet has a charming, fruit forward, medium-bodied style on the palate. I’d suggest drinking it over the coming 4-5 years.

The **2015 Château La Couspaude** is a Sauvignon Blanc dominated white that offers an exotic, medium-bodied, vibrant style in addition to outstanding notes of citrus blossom, tangerine, and lime peel. With medium to full-bodied richness, sweet tannin, and a big finish, it’s a terrific wine that’s going to put a smile on your face over the coming 5-7 years.

The **2015 Coulailt** is another ripe, opulent wine made with assistance from Michel Rolland. Plums, licorice, roasted herbs, and a touch of earth all emerge from this ripe, sexy beauty that has a forward, seductive texture as well as sweet tannin. Drink it over the coming 7-8 years.

The **2015 Château La Coupaude** is a beauty! Offering a deep ruby/plum color as well as terrific notes of black cherry liqueur, strawberries, spice and toasty oak, it’s medium-bodied, textured and nicely balanced on the palate, with fine tannin. It’s not the most complex wine out there, but man is it a delicious drink. I suspect it will keep for at least a decade.

The heavenly dessert wine, the **2015 Château Coutet** boasts a huge nose of caramelized citrus, crème brûlée, tangerine, and honeysuckle. With huge richness and sweetness, moderate acidity, a thick, fat mouthfeel and a blockbuster finish, it’s borderline over the top yet holds it together. It will be interesting to see how this evolves, but it’s undeniably gorgeous today.

**Made from 85% Merlot, 11% Cabernet Franc and 4% Petit Verdot that was harvested between September 25th and October 15th, the 2015 Couvent Des Jacobins** is another terrific wine from this vintage. Black cherries, graphite, leather, and hints of toasty oak all emerge from this rich, full-bodied, ripe and beautifully concentrated effort. With fine tannin and a good finish. It should drink nicely for a decade.
The 2015 Château La Creation is a pretty, red fruit driven, elegant 2015 offering perfumed notes of tart cherries, mulberries, spring flowers, violets, and minerals. Possessing lots of class, a medium-bodied, tight, fresh profile, and solid length, it needs 3-4 years of bottle age and will keep for a decade or more.

**CHATEAU CROIX CARDINALE 2015 CHATEAU CROIX CARDINALE SAINT-EMILION $NA RED 91+**

From the owners of Fleur Cardinale, Dominique and Florence Decoster, the 2015 Château Croix Cardinale is more than a little impressive and comes from a 4-hectare parcel just beside the Fleur Cardinale vineyard. Based on 70% Merlot and 30% Cabernet Franc aged in 100% new oak, its deep ruby color is followed by a terrific bouquet of red and black currants, new leather, dried spices, and flowers. With medium to full-bodied richness, an elegant texture, and a great finish, it’s going to shine for 15+ years.

**LA CROIX DE GAY 2015 LA CROIX DE GAY POMEROL $NA RED 89**

The 2015 La Croix De Gay is a touch baked on the nose, yet packs serious amounts of fruit and texture on the palate. Ripe cherries, mocha, melted licorice and toasty oak all emerge from this full-bodied, soft, hedonistic Pomerol which will age well for another decade.

**CROIX DE LABRIE 2015 CROIX DE LABRIE SAINT-EMILION $NA RED 94**

A standout Saint-Emilion in my tastings was the 2015 Croix De Labrie from proprietors Axelle and Pierre Courdurié and it’s a wine savvy readers should snatch up. Made from 95% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon, it boasts an awesome nose of crème de cassis and black raspberry fruit intermixed with hints of toasty oak and espresso. With medium to full-bodied depth and richness on the palate, ripe tannin, and a great mid-palate, it needs 3-4 years of bottle age to integrate its oak and gain complexity, and will keep for upwards of two decades. It’s a beauty!

**CHATEAU CROIX DU TRALE 2015 CHATEAU CROIX DU TRALE HAUT-MEDOC $15 RED 88**

The 2015 Château Croix Du Trale is an impressive Cru Bourgeois from the Negrier family and is based on equal parts Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon aged in 30% new barrels. Its deep ruby/purple color is followed by impressive notes of ripe raspberries, cherries, toasted spices and vanilla bean. With medium-bodied depth and richness, moderate tannin, and a charming texture, it’s an undeniably delicious, gulpable Haut-Médoc to enjoy over the coming 7-8 years.

**CHATEAU CROIX-MOUTON 2015 CHATEAU CROIX MOUTON BORDEAUX SUPERIOR $15 RED 89**

The 2015 Château Croix-Mouton from Jean-Philippe Janoueix (La Confession, La Croix St. Georges, etc.) is a rock-solid effort, and at 15 bucks is a terrific deal. From Lugon-et-the Ile-du-Carnay, not far from Fronsac, and made from mostly Merlot (there’s a splash of Cabernet Franc), it checks in at over 14% alcohol and offers terrific notes of ripe black cherries, smoked meats, licorice, and cedar. Rounded, supple and beautifully textured, with ripe tannin, it’s a delicious effort and a terrific little Bordeaux Superior to drink over the coming 3-5 years.

**LA CROIX SAINT ANDRE 2015 LA CROIX SAINT ANDRE LALANDE DE POMEROL $75 RED 85**

The 2015 La Croix St Andre is a fruity, supple, enjoyable red offers notes of red cherries and underbrush. Drink this bistro styled effort over the coming 7-8 years.

**LA CROIX SAINT GEORGES 2015 LA CROIX SAINT GEORGES POMEROL $80 RED 93**

Run by Jean-Philippe Janoueix and covering a scant 4.5 hectares of prime terroir located between Le Pin, Vieux Château Certain, and Petit Village, La Croix Saint Georges produces roughly 1,400 cases of this terrific Pomerol. The 2015 La Croix Saint Georges is blockbuster stuff that reminds me of the 2012, which is a killer wine. Made from 91% Merlot and 9% Cabernet Franc aged in 50% new oak, it offers an extroverted personality in its huge nose of blackcurrents, plums, saddle leather, and leafy herbs. Dense, medium to full-bodied, nicely concentrated and with moderate tannin, it should drink beautifully for 15+ years.

**CHATEAU CROIX-COUDRAY 2015 CHATEAU CROIX-COUDRAY HAUT-MEDOC $15 RED 89**

A little gem of a wine that’s represented by merchant Jeffrey Davies (who certainly has a stacked portfolio), the 2015 Château Croix-Coudray is almost pure Merlot (I think there’s a splash of Cabernet Franc) and reveals a deep purple color in addition to terrific notes of black cherries, cedary spice, and dried herbs. With a rounded, sexy, even opulent, style, no hard edges, and loads of character, drink this frontend-loaded beauty over the coming 7-8 years.

**CHATEAU CROIZET-BAGES 2015 CHATEAU CROIZET-BAGES PAUILLAC $75 RED 90**

From an up and coming estate, the 2015 Château Croizet-Bages is an impressive, solid, classic Pauillac offering lots of leafy herbs, tobacco leaf, toasty oak and assorted dark fruits. With medium to full-bodied richness, solid mid-palate concentration, and notable tannin, it’s going to benefit from 3-4 years of bottle age and last for over a decade.

**CHATEAU D’AGASSAC 2015 CHATEAU D’AGASSAC HAUT-MEDOC $30 RED 90**

Château d’Agassac is run by Jean-Luc Zell and is in the Ludon-Médoc, south of the village of Macau. They’ve turned out a brilliant 2015 Château D’Agassac based on 82% Cabernet Sauvignon and 18% Merlot that was brought up in 60% new barrels. This beauty gives up lots of ripe black raspberry and cherry fruit as well spice, toasted bread, and subtle background oak. With medium to full-bodied richness, a ripe, supple texture, and present tannin, it will keep for 10-15 years and is a smoking value.

**CHATEAU D’AIGUILHE 2015 CHATEAU D’AIGUILHE COTES DE CASTILLON $30 WHITE 90**

**CHATEAU D’AIGUILHE 2015 CHATEAU D’AIGUILHE BLANC COTES DE CASTILLON $35 RED 92**

The Neipperg family has made two beautiful wines in 2015 from their tiny estate in Saint Philippe d’Aiguilhe. Both wines are exclusives under American merchant Jeffry Davies.

JebDunnuck.com Let the Good Times Roll: 2015 Bordeaux
Starting with the white and 100% Sauvignon Blanc brought up all in tank, the 2015 Château D’Aiguilhe Blanc is a piercing, racy, incredibly crisp white that stays layered and textured, with a beautiful saline minerality that keeps you coming back to the glass. Giving up lots of white grapefruit and lime fruit, it’s going to be a perfect meal starter over the coming 2-3 years.

Moving to the red and made from 80% Merlot and the rest Cabernet Franc, the 2015 Château D’Aiguilhe is also brilliant and well worth seeking out. Sporting a vibrant ruby/purple color as well as gorgeous notes of black raspberries and blue fruits, violates, bouquet garni, and spring flowers, it hits the palate with medium to full-bodied richness, bright acidity, and firm tannin, all of which give it a masculine feel, despite having plenty of upfront fruit. This is a beautiful Côtes de Castillon that will benefit from 2-3 years of cellaring and keep for a decade or more.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHATEAU D’AIGUILHE QUERRE</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>CHATEAU D’AIGUILHE QUERRE</th>
<th>COTES DE CASTILLON</th>
<th>$NA</th>
<th>RED</th>
<th>90</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

The 2015 Château d’Aiguilhe Querre is another hidden gem represented by American Jeffrey Davies. Coming from the Côtes de Castillon and 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc, it offers a little iron fist in a velvet glove style as well as classic notes of blackcurrants, plums, tobacco and earthy minerality. Ripe, full-bodied and sexy on the palate, it’s a beautiful wine.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHATEAU D’ALEM</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>CHATEAU D’ALEM</th>
<th>FRONSCAC</th>
<th>$NA</th>
<th>RED</th>
<th>91</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

An incredibly successful Fronsac is the 2015 Château Dalem, which is a 90/10 split of Merlot and Cabernet Franc that saw 50% new oak. It’s a ripe, rounded, incredibly sexy Fronsac that offers notes of white truffles (which makes me think of limestone soils), licorice, chocolate, plums, and currants. It’s loaded with character, has terrific purity, and is going to deliver the goods for at least 10-15 years. This estate sits at the top of the Fronsac plateau, overlooking the Dordogne Valley, and covers 18 hectares plated mostly to Merlot, with 20% Cabernet Franc. The soils consist of a thin layer of clay sitting atop limestone subsoils. The estate is run by the Swiss Rullier family and readers looking for wines that overdeliver should remember this estate.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHATEAU D’ARCINS</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>CHATEAU D’ARCINS</th>
<th>HAUT-MEDOC</th>
<th>$NA</th>
<th>RED</th>
<th>90</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Located in Blanquefort, which is just north of the town of Bordeaux, Château d’Arcins has turned out a brilliant 2015 based on 55% Merlot and 45% Cabernet Sauvignon. It has a great nose of ripe cherries, plums, spring flowers, licorice and toasted spice. This flows to a medium to full-bodied, ripe, rounded 2015 that has tons of personality. It’s just another hidden little gem in the vintage that I suspect sells for a song.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHATEAU D’ARGAN</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>CHATEAU D’ARGAN</th>
<th>MEDOC</th>
<th>$NA</th>
<th>RED</th>
<th>86</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

The 2015 Château D’Argan (60/40 Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon) is an enjoyable effort that offers medium-bodied richness, bright berry fruits, and lots of oak and spice. Drink it over the coming 7-8 years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHATEAU D’ARSAC</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>CHATEAU D’ARSAC</th>
<th>MARGAUX</th>
<th>$NA</th>
<th>RED</th>
<th>87</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

The 2015 Château d’Arsac is solid, although there are certainly better Margaux out there. Framboise, crushed flowers, strawberries, and spicy notes all emerge from this ripe, rounded, front-end loaded effort. It has a terrific sweetness of fruit and a good finish, but I’d lean towards drinking bottles over the coming decade.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHATEAU DASSAULT</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>CHATEAU DASSAULT</th>
<th>SAINT-EMILION</th>
<th>$75</th>
<th>RED</th>
<th>92</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

The 2015 Château Dassault is a big, rich, unctuous beauty that offers tons of ripe, dark, chocolate-laced fruits as well as background notes of damp earth, licorice and bay leaf. While a big, full-bodied effort, it has terrific elegance, as well as ripe, polished tannin, plenty of freshness, a great mid-palate, and the class to evolve for two decades. Tasted three times.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LA DAUPHINE</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>LA DAUPHINE</th>
<th>FRONSCAC</th>
<th>$35</th>
<th>RED</th>
<th>89</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

A terrific Fronsac from 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc, the 2015 La Dauphine is made in a medium-bodied, forward, easy-going style and offers lots of strawberries, plum, fruit cake and spice aromas and flavors. I wouldn’t push the aging curve, but it will certainly offer considerable pleasure over the coming 7-8 years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHATEAU D’AURILHAC</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>CHATEAU D’AURILHAC</th>
<th>HAUT-MEDOC</th>
<th>$NA</th>
<th>RED</th>
<th>89</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Proprietors Bénédicte and Erik Nieuwaal have produced a gorgeous 2015 Château D’Aurilhac which is based on close to equal parts Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon, with tiny amounts of Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc. While not the most massive and concentrated wine out there, it shines for its purity and finesse, as well as its perfumed nose of strawberries, rose garden, and damp herbes. With fine tannin and integrated acidity, drink this beautifully balanced 2015 anytime over the coming decade.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DE CARLES</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>DE CARLES</th>
<th>FRONSCAC</th>
<th>$NA</th>
<th>RED</th>
<th>87</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

The 2015 De Carles is a charming, forward, relatively one-dimensional Fronsac that excels on its sheer gulpability. I suspect it’s best consumed over the coming 4-5 years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHATEAU DE FONBEL</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>CHATEAU DE FONBEL</th>
<th>SAINT-EMILION</th>
<th>$35</th>
<th>RED</th>
<th>92</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

The entry-level wine from the Vauthier Family (Château Ausone) and made from 80% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, the rest Carmenere and Petit Verdot, with 30% raised in barrel, the ruby-colored 2015 Château de Fonbel gives up medium to full-bodied notes of Asian spices, white pepper, and damp herbes to go with a pretty core of strawberry and cherry fruit. Charming, layered, and elegant, with impeccable balance, it’s already hard to resist yet is going to keep for a decade.

| CHATEAU DE LAUSSAC | 2015 | CHATEAU DE LAUSSAC | COTES DE CASTILLON | $30 | RED | 92 |


The 2015 Château De Laussac comes from the Michel Rolland team and is a seriously good Côtes de Castillon worth seeking out. Black raspberries, toasted spiced, graphite, and balsamic wood nuances all give way to a ripe, fleshy, medium to full-bodied, incredibly delicious beauty that should drink well for upwards of a decade.

**Château De Laussac 2015**
SAINT-ÉMILION
RED 100

CHATEAU DE PEZ 2015
SAINT-ESTEPHE
RED 91

From a vineyard just next to Calon Segur, the 2015 Château De Pez, a blend of 51% Merlot, 44% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Petit Verdot, and 2% Franc all raised in 30% new oak. This medium to full-bodied, impressively concentrated 2015 offers classic dark fruits, tobacco leaf, damp earth and hints of violets. With ripe tannin, a solid mid-palate and a good finish. It’s an incredibly successful Saint-Éstèphe in 2015 that’s going to keep for 15-20 years.

CHATEAU DE LA RIVIERE 2015
FRONSAC
RED 91

The Fronsac appellation produced a bevy of brilliant wines in 2015 and the 2015 Château De La Riviere is a prime example of the quality coming from the appellation. Made from mostly Merlot (there’s some Cabernet Franc and Malbec) aged in one-third new 600-liter barrels, it gives up terrific notes of black cherries, roasted herbs, and spices. Ripe, pure and elegant, yet just packed with fruit, drink this undeniably sexy, opulent 2015 anytime over the coming 10-15 years.

CHATEAU D'ESCURAC 2015
MEDOC
RED 87

The 2015 Château D’Escurac from proprietor Jean-Marc Landureau is a pretty, elegant, incredibly enjoyable Médoc that offers classic notes of black cherries, leafy herbs, cedary and underbrush. A blend of 60/40 Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot, it will keep for 8-10 years.

CHATEAU DESMIRAIL 2015
MARGAUX
RED 93

The 2015 Château Desmirail shows how good 2015 was for the appellation of Margaux. Offering classic red fruits (some cassis as well), toasted bread, white chocolate, and background oak, this beauty is medium to full-bodied, elegant and polished on the palate, with ultra-fine tannin. With the telltale elegance and nuance of the appellation, it needs 2-3 years to integrate its oak and then will shine for at least 10-15 years.

DESPANGNE 2015
BORDEAUX SUPERIOR
RED 93

From a tiny biodynamic estate utilizing the advice of consultant Claude Gros, the 2015 Despangne Girolate is a ripe, opulent sexy red that gives up lots of red and black fruits, hints of toasty oak, as well as ample licorice and incense aromas and flavors. Concentrated, balanced and with plenty of length, drink it over the coming 15+ years.

DESPANGNE 2015
VIN DE FRANCE
RED 89

The 2015 Despangne L’Onde is made from 100% Cabernet Franc that was brought up all in tank. It offers a Loire-like bouquet of black cherries, new leather, and dried flowers. This flows to a medium-bodied, nicely concentrated, moderately tannic 2015 that’s undeniably charming and delicious. Drink it over the coming 7-8 years.

CHATEAU DESTIEUX 2015
SAINT-ÉMILION
RED 92

The 2015 Château Destieux (66% Merlot and the balance equal parts Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon) is a ripe, opulent sexy red that gives up lots of red and black fruits, hints of toasty oak, as well as ample licorice and incense aromas and flavors. Concentrated, balanced and with plenty of length, drink it over the coming 15+ years.

CHATEAU DEVISE D'ARDILLEY 2015
HAUT-MEDOC
RED 88

Another charming, ripe, incredibly enjoyable Cru Bourgeois is the 2015 Château Devise D’Ardilley which comes from a region in the northern part of the Médoc, inland and south of Pauillac. This medium-bodied, supple, forward effort offers lots of charm as well as notes of raspberries, underbrush, spice and a hint of candle wax. Made from 49% Merlot, 47% Cabernet Sauvignon, and the rest Petit Verdot, it’s a high quality offering best drunk over the coming 7-8 years.

CHATEAU DEYREM VALENTIN 2015
MARGAUX
RED 88

From Margaux, the 2015 Château Deyrem Valentin is a blend of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 34% Merlot and a splash of Petit Verdot that spent 12 months in barrel. While not up with the top wines of the appellation, it’s certainly a solid wine and offers attractive notes of red plums, crushed flowers, spice-box, and cedar, medium body, an elegant, silky texture and a clean finish. It should keep for a decade or more.
From vines planted west of Pauillac and a blend of 50% Merlot, 40% Cabernet Sauvignon and 10% Petit Verdot, the 2015 Château D’Hanteillan is a medium-bodied, elegant, silky 2015 that excels on its balance and purity more than power and richness. Offering lots of red fruits, white pepper, incense and some sappy/resin/waxy notes, it’s a hidden little Cru Bourgeois to drink over the coming decade or so.

From sandy, gravelly, limestone soils near the town of Blanquefort and a blend of 50% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Cabernet Franc and the rest Petit Verdot, the 2015 Château Dillon is a medium-bodied, ripe, moderately tannic 2015 loaded with fruity, strawberry jam, vanilla and spicy aromas and flavors. Drink this rock solid Haut Médoc anytime over the coming 10-12 years.

A powerhouse offering from proprietor Emmanuel Cruse (with consulting advice from Eric Boissenot) is the 2015 Château d’Issan which in 2015 is 65% Cabernet Sauvignon and 35% Merlot brought up in just over 50% new barrels. Offering a spectacular bouquet of blackcurrants, lead pencil, chocolate and espresso, this full-bodied, incredibly sexy Margaux boasts sweet, sweet tannin, lots of oak, a stacked mid-palate and a huge finish. It’s a tour de force that’s going to benefit from 5-6 years of cellaring and keep for three decades. As I’ve stated numerous times in this report, Margaux was the place to be in 2015 and I suspect numerous estates have made their best wines to date.

The 2014 Château d’Issan is a step back from the 2015 yet is still a beautiful and elegant wine from this estate. Its ruby/purple-tinged color is followed by a gorgeous set of aromatics including currants, cedar, lead pencil, and flowers. With an herbal edge, medium to full-bodied richness, terrific concentration, and a focused, chiseled finish, this is pure class all the way. It’s already approachable but should be at its best from 2020-2040.

Another blockbuster Barsac is the 2015 Château Doisy Daëne from proprietor Denis Dubourdieu. This huge, opulent, awesome wine gives up layers of white peach, caramelized citrus, and white flowers, and stays shockingly pure, polished, and precise on the palate for a wine of this richness and scale. It’s an awesome wine to drink over the coming 2-3 decades.

If I had to pick the white of the vintage, it would be the 2015 Domaine de Chevalier Blanc from proprietor Olivier Bernard. Based largely on Sauvignon Blanc (there’s around 30% Sémillon) and from a 6-hectare parcel located just outside of Leognan, it offers sensational notes of citrus oil, liquid rock, caramelized limes, and a huge chalky/flinty minerality. Full-bodied, rich and concentrated, yet with bright acidity, it should drink well for 2-3 decades.

I was able to taste the 2015 Domaine de Chevalier twice and it showed sensationaly both times. A blend of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, and the rest Petit Verdot that was harvested between October 1st and October 15th, this deep ruby/purple-colored effort has soaring aromatics of caramelized black cherries, cassis, lead pencil shavings, and forest floor. Deep, full-bodied, intense and beautifully pure, with fine tannin and moderate acidity, it’s a gorgeous Pessac-Leognan that needs 4-5 years of cellaring and will evolve for three decades.

A blend of 65 % Cabernet Sauvignon, 30 % Merlot and 5 % Petit Verdot, harvest quite late, the 2014 Domaine de Chevalier is more refined and understated than the 2015 yet still offers more opulence, texture, and mid-palate depth than most in the vintage. Revealing a deep ruby, opaque color and a gorgeous array of blackberries, black cherries, smoked earth, forest floor, and tobacco leaf, this beauty offers full-bodied richness, a layered, silky texture, perfect balance and a great finish. It has the class and balance to offer incredible pleasure today, yet will keep for another two decades.

Made under the guidance of the talented Stéphane Derenocourt and a blend of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc, the 2014 Domaine De L’A shows the elegant, pretty, nuanced style of the vintage and exhibits classic notes of black cherries, candied violets, and leafy herbs as well as an earthy/gravelly minerality. It has fine tannin and is going to evolve gracefully for at least a decade.

A shockingly good Bordeaux Superior is the 2015 Domaine du Bouscat Caduce which comes from an estate on the edge of the Fronsac appellation and is 70% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Sauvignon, and the rest Malbec and Cabernet Franc. Brought up in 300-, 320-, and 600-liter barrels, it sports a deep, inky color as well as unctuous notes of cassis, blackcurrants, chocolate, and hints of truffle. This full-bodied, rounded, sexy 2015 has sweet tannin and a forward, delicious style that will drink well for 10-12 years. This is another exclusive release from American Jeffry Davies that overdelivers.
I also loved the 2015 Domaine du Bouscat La Gargone and this little gem is mostly Merlot but includes 20% Malbec and 18% Cabernet Franc, all from minuscule yields on the order of 20 hectoliters per hectare. Seeing malo in barrel and 20 months in new oak, it’s inky color is followed by an intense bouquet of blackberries, peppery spice, incense, and chocolate. It’s another ripe, sexy, gorgeously textured red from this estate that should keep for 10-15 years. There’s a little over 800 cases produced.

The top cuvée of the estate is the 2015 Domaine du Bouscat Les Porte de l’Am and it’s 50% Merlot and 25% each of Malbec and Cabernet Franc, from tiny, tiny yields, that was fermented and aged in new barrels. It’s a big, ripe, full-bodied effort boasting huge notes of crème de cassis, vanilla, toasted bread and plenty of oak. There’s a lot of oak, but a lot of fruit and concentration as well. Give bottle 2-4 years of bottle age, and I suspect it will drink beautifully for 10-15 years. There are just over 100 cases made.

CHATEAU LA DOMINIQUE 2015 CHATEAU LA DOMINIQUE SAINT-EMILION $60 RED 95

Represented by American merchant Jeffrey Davies and made with consulting advice from Michel Rolland, the 2015 Château La Dominique checks in as 85% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Franc and 2% Cabernet Sauvignon, aged in 60% new barrels. This deep, inky -colored beauty got a few expletives in the notes and offers killer notes of black cherries, plums, spice-box, and incense. Deep, full-bodied, concentrated, and yet still elegant and fresh, with sweet tannin, there’s a little over 5,000 cases produced and it’s a gem to hunt down. It will keep for two decades. Tasted twice.

CHATEAU DONISSAN 2015 CHATEAU DONISSAN LISTRAC-MEDOC $NA RED 84

The 2015 Château Donissan is an enjoyable, simple red offering notes of overripe plums, cherries, and earth. Drink up.

CHATEAU DU BREUIL 2015 CHATEAU DU BREUIL HAUT-MEDOC $NA RED 87

The 2015 Château Du Breuil is made from 54% Merlot, 43% Cabernet Sauvignon and 3% Petit Verdot brought up in French and American oak. It offers charming notes of raspberries, vanilla, crushed flowers and spice in a soft, medium-bodied, nicely balanced package. Drink it over the coming 7-8 years.

CHATEAU DU CARTILLON 2015 CHATEAU DU CARTILLON HAUT-MEDOC $30 RED 90

From an estate just north of Margaux, the 2015 Château Du Cartillon is a total gem in the vintage. Base from 67% Merlot, 28% Petit Verdot and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon aged in 50% new and 50% once-used barrels, it boasts a huge nose of ripe black and blue fruits, violets, and incense. This carries to a ripe, rounded, sexy wine that has terrific depth of fruit, sweet tannin, and outstanding length.

CHATEAU MOULIN ROUGE 2015 CHATEAU MOULIN ROUGE HAUT-MEDOC $NA RED 88

From proprietors Laurence Ribeiro and Lucie Secret, the 2015 Château Du Moulin Rouge is a medium-bodied, firm, focused effort offering impressive amounts of plums, cassis, graphite and leafy herbs. Made from 50% Merlot, 40% Cabernet Sauvignon and 10% Cabernet Franc from vines planted between Margaux and Saint Julien, give bottles 2-3 years of bottle age and enjoy over the following 7-8 years.

CHATEAU DU RETOUT 2015 CHATEAU DU RETOUT HAUT-MEDOC $NA RED 86

The 2015 Château Du Retout is a forward, delicious effort offering perfumed notes of strawberries, framboise and mint. Drink this soft, fruit forward effort over the coming 4-5 years.

CHATEAU DU TAILLAN 2015 CHATEAU DU TAILLAN HAUT-MEDOC $NA RED 87

From an estate just north of the Bordeaux airport, the 2015 Château Du Taillan (70% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Sauvignon and 10% Cabernet Franc) is a medium-bodied, charming, fresh 2015 that reveals lots of spice, underbrush, and earthy nuances as well as a core of red fruits. With fine tannin, integrated acidity, and good finish, it should drink nicely for 7-8 years.

CHATEAU DUCLUZEAU 2016 CHATEAU DUCLUZEAU LISTRAC-MEDOC $NA RED 89-92

Deeper and richer than the 2015, the 2016 Château Ducruzeau offers a terrific array of cassis and black cherry fruit, medium-bodied richness and building tannin. It shows the more charming, elegant style that’s common from Listrac, yet is beautifully balanced and has outstanding potential.

CHATEAU DUCLUZEAU 2015 CHATEAU DUCLUZEAU LISTRAC-MEDOC $NA RED 88

Deeper and richer than the 2015, the 2016 Château Ducluzeau (Mostly Merlot with 15% Petit Verdot and a splash of Cabernet Sauvignon) is rock-solid, offering perfumed notes of strawberry and plum fruits, sappy flowers, and fruitcake-like nuances. Forward, delicious, and elegant, it’s an impressive wine from an appellation that rarely delivers the goods.

DUCRU-BEAUCAILLOU 2016 LA CROIX DUCRU-BEAUCAILLOU SAINT-JULIEN $NA RED 91-93

DUCRU-BEAUCAILLOU 2016 DUCRU-BEAUCAILLOU SAINT-JULIEN $NA RED 96-99

DUCRU-BEAUCAILLOU 2015 DUCRU-BEAUCAILLOU SAINT-JULIEN $150 RED 96

DUCRU-BEAUCAILLOU 2015 LA CROIX DUCRU-BEAUCAILLOU SAINT-JULIEN $NA RED 89

DUCRU-BEAUCAILLOU 2014 DUCRU-BEAUCAILLOU SAINT-JULIEN $125 RED 96

DUCRU-BEAUCAILLOU 2010 DUCRU-BEAUCAILLOU SAINT-JULIEN $NA RED 98+

DUCRU-BEAUCAILLOU 2009 DUCRU-BEAUCAILLOU SAINT-JULIEN $NA RED 100
The second wine of Ducru-Beaucaillou is the 2016 La Croix Ducru-Beaucaillou and it looks to be serious wine in its own right, which makes sense as since 2005 it comes from a designated vineyard. Graphite, cassis, ripe plums and smoked herb notes all emerge from this medium-bodied, pure, elegant 2016 that shows the concentration and purity of the vintage.

Showing how strong the Médoc is in 2016, the 2016 Ducru-Beaucaillou is going to rival the 2009 and 2010 (although it’s more in the style of 2010). Inky colored and loaded with classy notes of crème de cassis, liquid violets, blueberries, graphite and building minerality, it’s full-bodied, concentrated, rich, deep, and tannic. This is a tour de force readers should snatch up.

The 2015 Ducru-Beaucaillou is a Cabernet Sauvignon dominated wine (there’s 5% Merlot) that was brought up in 100% new barrels. It’s a classic, elegant, classy 2015 revealing a deep, saturated purple color as well as terrific notes of crème de cassis, smoked earth, lead pencil, and violets. With full-bodied richness, ultra-fine tannin, and a stacked mid-palate, it should start to shine in 6-7 years and keep for three decades.

The 2015 La Croix Ducru-Beaucaillou comes from a dedicated site in the southern part of the estate and is a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc brought up in two-thirds new oak. It’s a polished, elegant, medium-bodied beauty revealing classic Ducru-Beaucaillou notes of cassis, tobacco and lead pencil. It has real class and poise, and while already approachable, I suspect will have two decades of longevity.

I just love the style of this estate and the 2014 Ducru-Beaucaillou is an undeniable success in the vintage. Made from 90% Cabernet Sauvignon and 10% Merlot brought up in 100% new French oak, it offers a deep purple color as well as both elegance and power in its crème de cassis, raspberries, cedarwood, graphite, and floral bouquet, with its background oak smothered in fruit. Possessing a classic elegance, full-bodied richness, sweet tannin, and stunning length, it one of the wines of the vintage and will drink nicely for another two to three decades.

A monumental wine that’s going to be just about immortal is the 2010 Ducru-Beaucaillou. Coming from 90% Cabernet Sauvignon and 10% Merlot brought up in new barrels, it sports a saturated purple color to go with dense, yet incredibly pure, classic notes of crème de cassis, lead pencil, crushed rocks and liquid violets. With full-bodied richness, a massive, unctuous texture, and again, incredible purity, it needs to be forgotten for 7-8 years and will keep for just about as long as you’ll like to hang onto bottles.

The 2009 Ducru-Beaucaillou is pure perfection and a much more sexy, opulent wine compared to the 2010. Crème de cassis, licorice, spice-box, lead pencil shavings and dried flower notes all – literally – soar from the glass of this incredible wine. Full-bodied, layered, expansive and deep, with sweet, sweet tannin and no hard edges, it’s already impossible to resist, yet is going to keep for four to five decades. I think the 2010 will be a longer-lived wine, but I’m not sure it will ever deliver the opulence or hedonistic pleasure of the 2009. Either way, that’s a fun comparison I look forward to having over the coming decades!

DUHART-MILON-ROTHSCHILD 2015 DUHART-MILON-ROTHSCHILD PAUILLAC SNA RED 90

The 2015 Duhaut-Milon-Rothschild is a surprisingly charming, elegant and medium-bodied Pauillac that’s 73% Cabernet Sauvignon and 27% Merlot that was brought up in 40% new French oak. With perfumed notes of spice-box, cedarwood, toast, and sweet black currant fruit, it has sweet tannin and is already accessible, yet will cruise for two decades.

CHATEAU EDMU 2014 CHATEAU EDMU SAINT-EMILION SNA RED 89

Falling under the guidance of the Stéphane Derenocourt team, the 2014 Château Edmu is a pretty, red fruit driven Saint-Emilion that offers lots of spice, leafy herbs, and sandy/loamy soil aromatics, medium-bodied richness, and a Burgundian, elegant, seamless texture. It’s a joy to drink and will keep for 15+ years.

L’ÉGLISE CLINET 2015 LA PETITE EGLISE POMEROL SNA RED 92

The second wine of Eglise Clinet, the 2015 La Petite Eglise is a pretty, elegant, even Burgundian, 2015 that opens up beautifully with time in the glass. Ripe red currants, cherries, sandalwood, cedary spice, and dried floral notes all emerge from this medium-bodied 2015 that has fine tannin and a great finish. It’s certainly not a blockbuster but excels on its finesse and elegance. Drink it anytime over the coming decade. Unfortunately, I wasn’t able to taste the top cuvee from this estate.

ENCLOS TOURMALINE 2015 ENCLOS TOURMALINE POMEROL SNA RED 95

From a tiny parcel of Merlot vines next to Clinet and made with the help of Michel Rolland, the 2015 Enclos Tourmaline is an elegant, medium to full-bodied effort offering impressive black cherry, blueberry and cassis fruits, lots of scorched earth and cholate aromas, as well as a distinct floral character. It’s on the palate where this really shines and this ripe, downright sexy beast of a Pomerol maintains a terrific sense of freshness and purity that keeps you coming back to the glass. Count me in as a fan and it should continue to dish out an incredible amount of pleasure for two decades. Tasted twice.

The 2014 Enclos Tourmaline is 100% Merlot from a tiny parcel in Peter Kwok’s property located on the plateau of Pomerol, between Chateau Clinet and Chateau Feytit-Clinet. This beauty is a terrific success in the vintage and offers more texture, richness and depth than most. Black cherries, currants, smoke, acacia flowers, and damp earth nuances all emerge from this ripe, gamey, layered, medium to full-bodied Pomerol that has character as well as elegance. It’s already drinking nicely, yet will keep for 15-20 years.

CHATEAU ESCOT 2015 CHATEAU ESCOT MEDOC SNA RED 87

The 2015 Château Escot is a juicy, medium-bodied Médoc that does well in the vintage. Red fruits, leafy herbs, and floral notes all emerge from the glass of this straightforward red geared for drinking in its youth.

CHATEAU FAUGERES 2016 CHATEAU FAUGERES SAINT-EMILION SNA RED 93-96

CHATEAU FAUGERES 2015 CHATEAU FAUGERES SAINT-EMILION SNA RED 92

The 2015 Château Faugères is 2015 Château Faugères and it looks to be serious wine in its own right, which makes sense as since 2005 it comes from a designated vineyard. Graphite, cassis, ripe plums and smoked herb notes all emerge from this medium-bodied, pure, elegant 2015 that shows the concentration and purity of the vintage.

Keeping some for 15-20 years.
Tasted out of barrel, the 2016 Château Faugeres is a blockbuster in the making. Made from 80% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Cabernet Franc, it sports an inky purple color as well as terrific notes of blueberries, liquid violets, graphite and damp herbs. With full-bodied richness, beautiful purity (which is a hallmark of the vintage), and fine tannin, it’s going to need 4-5 years of bottle age yet age beautifully.

The 2015 Château Faurie de Souchard is a tweaked blend (the blend is normally one-third each of Merlot, Cabernet and Cabernet Franc) and is 50% Cabernet Sauvignon and the balance a mix of Merlot and Franc. It sports a healthy ruby color as well as medium-bodied notes of dark fruits, leafy herbs, and earth. While a fair step back from the other vintages here, it’s nevertheless a beautiful, elegant wine I’d happily drink over the coming 10-15 years.

The 2015 Château Ferrand (all from clay and limestone soils) offers plenty of baked cherry, graphite, candle wax, and dusty earth aromas and flavors. It’s a big, rich, full-bodied wine that has some aggressive tannin on the finish, so give bottles a year or three in the cellar. It should keep for a decade or more.

One of the true blockbusters in the vintage is the 2015 Château Faurie De Souchard which is roughly two-thirds Cabernet Sauvignon and one-third Merlot (there are tiny amounts of Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc). A deep ruby/purple-tinged color is followed by a huge nose of crème de cassis, black raspberries, toasty oak, and graphite are followed by a full-bodied, concentrated, yet balanced Saint-Emilion that has building richness and a touch of minerality on the finish. It’s a big, ripe wine, yet has solid mid-palate depth and considerable purity and elegance. Drink it over the coming decade. Tasted twice.

CHATEAU FAURIE DE SOUCHARD 2015 CHATEAU FAURIE DE SOUCHARD SAINT-EMILION $NA RED 92

The 2015 Château Faurie De Souchard is another ripe, sexy, pleasure-bent beauty made with help from Michel Rolland. Notes of crème de cassis, black raspberries, toasted oak, and graphite are followed by a full-bodied, concentrated, yet balanced Saint-Emilion that has building richness and a touch of minerality on the finish. It’s a big, ripe wine, yet has solid mid-palate depth and considerable purity and elegance. Drink it over the coming decade. Tasted twice.

The 2015 Château Faugere is a blockuster in the making. Made from 80% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Cabernet Franc, it sports an inky purple color as well as terrific notes of blueberries, liquid violets, graphite and damp herbs. With full-bodied richness, beautiful purity (which is a hallmark of the vintage), and fine tannin, it’s going to need 4-5 years of bottle age yet age beautifully.

The 2015 Château Faurie De Souchard is another ripe, sexy, pleasure-bent beauty made with help from Michel Rolland. Notes of crème de cassis, black raspberries, toasted oak, and graphite are followed by a full-bodied, concentrated, yet balanced Saint-Emilion that has building richness and a touch of minerality on the finish. It’s a big, ripe wine, yet has solid mid-palate depth and considerable purity and elegance. Drink it over the coming decade. Tasted twice.

CHATEAU DE FERRAND 2015 CHATEAU DE FERRAND SAINT-EMILION $45 RED 90+?

The 2015 Château Faurie De Souchard is another ripe, sexy, pleasure-bent beauty made with help from Michel Rolland. Notes of crème de cassis, black raspberries, toasted oak, and graphite are followed by a full-bodied, concentrated, yet balanced Saint-Emilion that has building richness and a touch of minerality on the finish. It’s a big, ripe wine, yet has solid mid-palate depth and considerable purity and elegance. Drink it over the coming decade. Tasted twice.

A blend of 80% Merlot, 12% Cabernet Franc and the balance Cabernet Sauvignon aged in 60% new barrels, the 2015 Château De Ferrand (all from clay and limestone soils) offers plenty of baked cherry, graphite, candle wax, and dusty earth aromas and flavors. It’s a big, rich, full-bodied wine that has some aggressive tannin on the finish, so give bottles a year or three in the cellar. It should keep for a decade or more.

An outstanding Margaux is the 2015 Château Ferrière which is roughly two-thirds Cabernet Sauvignon and one-third Merlot (there are tiny amounts of Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc). A deep ruby/purple-tinged color is followed by a slightly lifted, black and blue fruit, scorched earth and violet-scented 2015 that offers medium-bodied richness, bright acidity, and ripe tannin. The lifted, slightly volatile note gives me pause, but there’s plenty to like here and it should evolve gracefully for 15-20 years.

A blend of 80% Merlot, 12% Cabernet Franc and the balance Cabernet Sauvignon aged in 60% new barrels, the 2015 Château De Ferrand (all from clay and limestone soils) offers plenty of baked cherry, graphite, candle wax, and dusty earth aromas and flavors. It’s a big, rich, full-bodied wine that has some aggressive tannin on the finish, so give bottles a year or three in the cellar. It should keep for a decade or more.

FEYTIT-CLINET 2015 FEYTIT-CLINET POMEROL $NA RED 97

Brought in exclusively by American merchant Jeffrey Davies, this 6.68-ha estate is run by the talented Jeremy Chasseuil and is situated between Trotanoy and Latour a Pomerol, planted to 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon. The 2015 was harvest between September 18th and October 4th, from tiny yields, and spent 15 months in 70% new French oak.

One of the true blockbusters in the vintage is the 2015 Château Feytit-Clinet and readers should beg, borrow, or steal to get ahold of this beauty. Made from 96% Merlot and 6% Cabernet Franc, it offers an incredible perfume of black cherries, black currants, spring flowers, violets and damp earth. With a huge, full-bodied profile, an opulent, seductive texture, big tannin, and perfect balance, it’s a true superstar that’s going to cruise in the cellar for two to three decades.

Made from 94% Merlot and 6% Cabernet Franc, the 2014 Château Feytit-Clinet isn’t going to make anyone forget the 2015, but it’s certainly a brilliant wine that excels in the vintage. Offering a perfumed, complex, traditional style in its ripe red currants, black cherries, smoked herbs, sous bois, and floral nuances, it hits the palate with medium to full-bodied richness, a light, graceful, incredibly seamless texture, fine tannin, and a great finish. This beauty is all about finesse and elegance, is perfectly balanced, and while already beautiful, should keep for 15+ years.

CHATEAU DE FIEUZAL 2015 CHATEAU DE FIEUZAL PESSAC-LEOGNAN $NA RED 86

I was surprised and disappointed by the 2015 Château de Fieuza which comes across as a touch baked, straightforward and rustic. It has some charm, medium-bodied depth of fruit, and a gulpable style, but this should be better. Tasted once.

CHATEAU FIGEAC 2015 CHATEAU FIGEAC SAINT-EMILION $140 RED 100

A hold onto your hat wine, the 2015 Château Figeac is pure perfection and one of the wines of this terrific vintage. A blend of 43% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot and 28% Cabernet Franc, its deep purple color is followed by a huge nose of crème de cassis, black raspberries, smoked earth, and graphite. This is followed by a full-bodied, opulent and incredibly concentrated Saint-Emilion that has everything in the right places, no hard edges, thrilling purity of fruit, and a great, great finish. This is one of those rare gems that carries huge intensity and richness, yet still glides across the palate with no sense of weight or heaviness. Winemaker Frédéric Faye thinks the 2016 is even better but that certainly isn’t stopping me from giving this crazy good wine a triple digit score. Everyone owes it to themselves to try and taste this wine at least once!

The 2016 Château Figeac is pure perfection and one of the wines of this terrific vintage. A blend of 43% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot and 28% Cabernet Franc, its deep purple color is followed by a huge nose of crème de cassis, black raspberries, smoked earth, and graphite. This is followed by a full-bodied, opulent and incredibly concentrated Saint-Emilion that has everything in the right places, no hard edges, thrilling purity of fruit, and a great, great finish. This is one of those rare gems that carries huge intensity and richness, yet still glides across the palate with no sense of weight or heaviness. Winemaker Frédéric Faye thinks the 2016 is even better but that certainly isn’t stopping me from giving this crazy good wine a triple digit score. Everyone owes it to themselves to try and taste this wine at least once!

The 2014 Château Figeac had a tough act to follow coming after the 2015 yet it showed beautifully, with the finesse, elegance, and purity that’s the hallmark of the vintage. Black fruits, charcoal, truffle, and tobacco notes are all present in this nicely concentrated, medium to full-bodied Figeac which is beautifully balanced and long. Drink it anytime over the coming 20-25 years.

The 2015 Château Figeac is a tweak blend (the blend is normally one-third each of Merlot, Cabernet and Cabernet Franc) and is 50% Cabernet Sauvignon and the balance a mix of Merlot and Franc. It sports a healthy ruby color as well as medium-bodied notes of dark fruits, leafy herbs, and earth. While a fair step back from the other vintages here, it’s nevertheless a beautiful, elegant wine I’d happily drink over the coming 10-15 years.
A step up over the 2014, the 2012 Château Figeac is a big, opulent, authoritative Figeac loaded with ripe black fruits (blackberries, currants), smoked earth, roasted herbs, and truffle aromas and flavors. Rich, powerful, concentrated, and tannic, it’s a blockbuster that has 2+ decades of prime drinking ahead of it. The 2012s can still be found in the market and are smart buys.

**LA FLEUR**

The 2015 La Fleur is a high-toned, medium-bodied, slightly rustic Saint-Emilion that has plenty of fruit and depth. Drink it over the coming 7-8 years.

**CHATEAU FLEUR CARDINALE**

The 2015 Château Fleur Cardinale is beauty in the vintage and checks in as a blend of 75% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon brought up all in new oak. Offering sensational notes of black cherries and currant fruits, toasty oak, graphite, and licorice, it’s medium to full-bodied, concentrated, and gorgeously pure and elegant on the palate. It has fine tannin emerging on the finish and is made in a straight, structured, classic style. Give bottles a year to two and it should drink beautifully over the following 15+. I was able to taste this wine three separate times and, surprisingly, it showed best from a bottle purchased here in the US. It has the purity of fruit that’s the hallmark of the vintage and is a gem readers should seek out. This wine is an exclusive of American Jeffrey Davies.

**FLEUR D’ARTHUS**

The 2015 Fleur D’Arthus is impressive and was made with help from Michel Rolland. It boasts a pretty, perfumed bouquet of ripe cherries, blackberries, and spring flowers in a medium to full-bodied, elegant, impeccably balanced style. Drink it over the coming decade.

**LA FLEUR DE BOUARD**

The 2015 La Fleur De Bouard is an awesome wine to seek out. Mostly Merlot, it offers a terrific bouquet of cassis and black cherries intermixed with lots of tobacco leaf and lead pencil notes. It’s medium to full-bodied, has beautiful purity of fruit, and sweet tannin, as well as a texture that just glides over the palate. It should keep for 10-15 years.

Even more impressive, the 100% Merlot 2015 La Fleur De Bouard Le Plus is a vineyard/parcel selection from clay and limestone soils that was brought up all in new oak. This sensational, full-bodied, viscous 2015 boasts a deep purple color, awesome notes of cassis and black currant fruits, lots of truffle, smoke herbs and meatiness, sweet tannin, and most of its oak covered by a wealth of fruit. It’s a gorgeous wine and I suspect one of the best efforts out there from this appellation. Drink it anytime over the coming two decades.

**LA FLEUR DE GAY**

The 2015 La Fleur De Gay is another awesome Pomerol in the vintage and this appellation is near the top of the hierarchy in 2015. Made from 100% Merlot from the plateau of the appellation, this ripe, sexy effort offers lots of blackcurrant jam, smoked herb, plums and espresso aromatics, full-bodied richness, a beautiful opulence, and decadence, as well as notable purity and elegance. It will be better with short-term cellaring and keep for two decades.

**CHATEAU LA FLEUR MORANGE**

The 2015 Château La Fleur Morange Mathilde boasts a deep, inky purple color as well as a floral, blueberry, cherry, and vanilla-laced bouquet. Ripe, sexy and upfront and ready to go, drink it over the coming decade.

**CHATEAU LA FLEUR MORANGE**

The 2015 Château La Fleur Morange AVALONE comes from the older vines on the estate and is 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc. It’s another inky colored wine from this estate that has terrific purity in its black and blue fruits, scorched earth, graphite and violet-tinged aromas and flavors. With full-bodied richness, good acidity, and a clean, balanced style, it will keep for 10-15 years or more.

Coming from 100-year-old vines and 70% Merlot and 30% Cabernet Franc, the 2015 Château La Fleur Morange is a downright stunner that does everything right. Cassis, crushed flowers, lead pencil shavings and lots of minerality all flow to a full-bodied, elegant, incredibly layered 2015 that has a great mid-palate, sweet tannin and a great finish. This is an incredible Saint-Emilion readers should do whatever they can to latch onto a few bottles. This cuvee is also made with guidance from Claude Gros, and he’s certainly hit a home run with this one.

**CHATEAU FLEUR LA MOTHE**

Located near Pauillac and a blend of 50% Merlot, 40% Cabernet Sauvignon and 10% Petit Verdot brought up in one-third new oak, the 2015 Château Fleur La Mothe is a medium-bodied, rounded, impressively textured 2015 that has classic black cherry and dark berry fruits, peppery herbs and earthy nuances. It has plenty of fruit and is a charmer that will keep for a decade.

**CHATEAU LA FLEUR MORANGE**

Made from 100% Merlot, the 2015 Saint-Emilion Mathilde is the entry level cuvee of the estate. It’s a beauty that shows the warmth, richness, and depth of the vintage. Black raspberries, cassis, lots of toasted spice, and hints of lead pencil all emerge from this medium to full-bodied beauty. With its oak component nicely integrated, a balanced, fresh profile and a great finish, it’s a smoking value to enjoy anytime over the coming 8-10 years.
One of the undeniable superstars of the vintage is the **2015 La Fleur Petrus**, which is 93% Merlot and 7% Cabernet Franc. This awesome wine builds with time in the glass and shines just as much for its purity and elegance and richness and power. Boasting a deep purple/plum color to go with thrilling notes of tobacco leaf, currants, licorice, and subtle oak, it has a multi-dimensional, layered, elegant, and full-bodied style on the palate that just begs to be drunk. Nevertheless, it needs 5-6 years of cellaring and will keep for 2+ decades. It’s a sensational wine!

While not up to the level of the 2015, the **2014 La Fleur Petrus** is still a beautiful, elegant, and nuanced wine that’s well worth your money. Exotic flowers, perfumed red fruits, candied orange, spice, and loads of tobacco, and damp earth notes emerge from this complex Pomerol and it’s medium to full-bodied, incredibly elegant, perfectly balanced, and pure. It shows more and more floral nuances with time in the glass and while it’s not a blockbuster, it’s a wine of finesse and elegance that has fabulous intensity. It’s a beautiful 2014 to drink over the coming 20+ years.

**CHATEAU FONTRAUME 2015 CHATEAU FONTRAUME SAINT-EMILION $35 RED 90**

Bottle in a seriously heavy bottle, the **2015 Château Fontraume** sports a ruby/plum color to go with lots of ripe black fruits, truffle, licorice and hints of chocolate. It’s a rich, dense, almost chewy wine that has moderate tannin, plenty of stuffing, and a good finish. It should keep for two decades. This cuvée is 89% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc and the rest Malbec and Cabernet Sauvignon, brought up in 45% new French oak.

**CHATEAU FONBADET 2015 CHATEAU FONBADET PAUILLAC $25 RED 90**

This 20-hectare estate (of which a little over 17 are planted with vines) in Pauillac receives consulting advice from none other than Michel Rolland. Tasted on three separate occasions, the **2015 Château Fonbadet** is a rock-solid effort in the vintage, as well as a terrific value. A medium to full-bodied, mouth-filling, ripe Pauillac that has good acidity, classic notes of plums, mulberries, spice and dried tobacco, moderate tannin, and outstanding length, drink it anytime over the coming 10-15 years.

The **2014 Château Fonbadet** is another solid wine. This medium-bodied, charming, mid-weight effort offers plenty of lots of dusty red fruits, leather and spice. It’s soft, easy going, straightforward and enjoyable, and picks up the classic lead pencil characteristic of this appellation as it sat in the glass. Drink it over the coming decade.

Almost all Merlot (there’s 5% Cabernet Franc) from a terrific site situated between Angelus and Pavie (this is prime Saint-Emilion terroir!), the **2015 Château Fonplegade** is a rich, opulent beauty that comes across as amazingly elegant and weightless for a wine of this size. Cassis, toasted spices, dried earth, and lots of floral nuances all emerge from this full-bodied Saint-Emilion that has notable purity and freshness, ripe tannin, and a great finish. It’s blockbuster stuff that needs to be snatched up by readers. Give bottles 2-3 years and enjoy over the following 15-20 years. Tasted twice.

The **2012 Château Fonplegade** is also gorgeous and shows how strong 2012 was for Saint-Emilion (and Pomerol and Graves). Cassis, violets, toasty oak, licorice and damp earth notes all emerge from this full-bodied, concentrated, ripe and sexy wine that has terrific purity and depth.

The second wine of Fonplegade, the **2012 Château Fonplegade Fleur De Fonplegade** is 85% Merlot and 15% Cabernet Franc from the younger vines. It has plenty of black cherry, raspberries, licorice, vanilla and toasty oak aromas and flavors. Rich, textured, opulent and textured on the palate, it has a kiss of oak to integrate, and lacks the elegance of the top cuvée, but is a pleasure-packed effort to drink over the coming 7-8 years.

A true “Wow!” wine from the American Adam’s family, who acquired this estate a little over a decade ago, the **2010 Château Fonplegade** is the normal blend of 95% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Franc brought up in plenty of new barrels. Cassis, smoked earth, graphite, lots of damp earth and smoke all emerge from the full-bodied, concentrated, unctuous 2010 that has serious depth and richness, bright acidity, and building tannin. It’s still an infant at this point but just packed with potential. Bravo!

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its elegance and length. Drink this gorgeous wine anytime over the coming 15-20 years. This cuvée is 93% Merlot and 7% Cabernet Franc brought up in 30% new French oak.

CHATEAU FONTESTEAU 2015

The 2015 Château Fontestea is a beautiful 2015 from vines west of Pauillac and made from roughly 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 49% Merlot and a splash of Cabernet Franc. Loaded with notions of red fruits (cherries, framboise), flowers and hints of cedar and vanilla, it’s medium-bodied, elegant and silky on the palate, with fine tannin. It’s an impressive wine that will keep for 10-12 years.

CHATEAU FONTIS 2015

The 2015 Château Fontis is a mid-weight, elegant, and medium-bodied Médoc from proprietor Vincent Boiver. A blend of equal parts Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot, it offers up earthy notes of black cherries and herbs in a charming, deliciously drinkable package ideal for near-term consumption.

CHATEAU FOURCAS HOSTEN 2015

The 2015 Château Fourcas Hosten is a solid effort, and certainly one of the better Listracs out there. Offering plenty of herbs, black cherries, baking spices and hints of earth, it’s medium-bodied, nicely textured and offers considerable pleasure. I like it’s balanced, fresh style and I suspect it will drink nicely for 7-8 years.

CHATEAU FOURCAS-BOIRE 2016

Giving up ripe, opulent even, notes of plums, cassis, and distinct minerality, the 2016 Château Fourcas-Boire is up there with the crème de la crème from Listrac! With medium to full-bodied richness, a mouth-filling texture, ripe tannin and a great finish, it should drink nicely right out of the gate, yet also age nicely. This wine also shows how strong 2016 was for the Left Bank. Bravo!

CHATEAU FOURCAS-BOIRE 2015

A small step back from the terrific 2016, the 2015 Château Fourcas-Boire is still a seriously impressive wine that shines in this appellation. Notes of strawberries, bright cherries, leafy herbs and asphalt flow to a medium-bodied, pretty, lively and fruit forward 2015 to drink over the coming 7-8 years.

FRANC PIPEAU 2015

Coming from the Michel Rolland team and a blend of 90% Merlot and the rest Cabernet (Sauvignon and Franc), the 2015 Franc Pipeau is a pretty, medium-bodied, fruity wine offering lots of red and blue fruits, leafy herbs and a hint of minerality. It will keep for 7-8 years.

CHATEAU FONTIS 2015

While I had an off bottle of the red, the 2015 Château de Franc Blanc is certainly well worth tasting and shows the strength of the whites from the Graves region in 2015. This ripe, caramelized, citrus and grapefruit scented beauty boasts lots of minerality, a ripe, concentrated texture, good acidity, and a clean finish. I’d happily drink bottles over the coming 3-4 years, and wouldn’t be surprised to see it keep longer.

CHATEAU LA FRANCE DELHOMME 2015

From the Northern Part of the Médoc and based solely on Merlot, the 2015 Château La France Delhomme offers a charming, fruity, medium-bodied style to go with pretty notes of violets, blueberries, and strawberries. With fine tannin, a layered texture, and rock-solid balance, it’s thoroughly enjoyable red to drink over the coming 4-6 years.

FUGUE DE NENIN 2015

The 2015 Fugue De Nenin (90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc) is a juicy, fresh, fruity Pomerol with elegant cherries, dried earth, toasted spice and licorice aromas and flavors. I love its balanced, elegant style and it should keep nicely for a decade.

CHATEAU LA GAFFELIERE 2015

The third wine from La Gaffelière, the 2015 Château Chapelle D’Alienor By La Gaffelière checks in as 74% Merlot, 22% Cabernet Franc and the balance Cabernet Sauvignon. This opulent, sexy, front-end loaded beauty boasts a ruby/purple color, classic notes of strawberries, black cherries, spring flowers and vanilla bean, and textured, gulpable texture. It’s not going to make old bones but is an undeniable high-quality wine that offers pleasure.

The second wine of La Gaffelière is the 2015 Clos La Gaffelière and this cuvée is 85% Merlot and 15% Cabernet Franc. This medium-bodied, elegant Saint-Emilion offers perfumed notes of black raspberries, currants, spice cake and lots of sandy/loamy soil-like nuances. Like all the wines here, the winemaking is impeccable and it’s balanced, pure and fresh. Drink it over the coming 10-15 years.
From further up the slope from Canon-la-Gaffelière, the 2015 Château La Gaffelière is terrific, and more than worth your time and money. A blend of 70% Merlot and 30% Cabernet Franc that’s loaded with notions of cassis, toasted spices, classy oak, and licorice, it hits the palate with a full-bodied, tight, focused texture carrying good acidity and plenty of tannins. With terrific mid-palate depth, impeccable balance, and a great finish, it’s nowhere near primetime but is a gorgeous bottle of wine. Forget bottles for 4-5 years and enjoy over the following two decades.

The 2015 Château La Gaffelière is also a beautiful wine that’s more supple, elegant and classic in style than the more concentrated 2015. Pure, seamless, and beautifully textured, this medium to full-bodied 2014 gives up impressive intensity and depth in its ripe blackcurrant, black cherries, spring flowers and mineral aromas and flavors. I love its complexity and balanced, lengthy, classic style, and it should drink handsomely for 10-15+ years.

There are two rock-solid wines from La Garde, which is in the Pessac-Léognan region. The 2015 La Garde Blanc offers ripe, juicy notes of white grapefruit, citrus blossom and flowers, in a medium-bodied, richly textured balanced style. It should drink nicely for 4-5 years.

Located in Saint-Julien, Gloria is a 50-hectare estate plated to 10,000 vines per hectare and consists of a mix of clay and sandy soils. While the 2015 is clearly a better wine, both are elegant, classy wines. This estate utilizes the advice of Eric Boissenot.

A blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot and the balance Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot that saw 40% new oak, the 2015 Château Gloria is a beautiful Saint-Julien that’s well worth seeking out and drinking. Blackcurrants, damp earth, truffle and tobacco aromas, and flavors. With medium to full-bodied richness, a ripe, rounded texture, and sweet tannin, it’s ideal for drinking over the coming decade or so.

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The 2015 Château La Gaffelière offers lots Graves character in its blackcurrants, scorched earth, truffle and tobacco aromas, and flavors. With medium to full-bodied richness, a ripe, rounded texture, and sweet tannin, it’s ideal for drinking over the coming decade or so.

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Located in Saint-Julien, Gloria is a 50-hectare estate plated to 10,000 vines per hectare and consists of a mix of clay and sandy soils. While the 2015 is clearly a better wine, both are elegant, classy wines. This estate utilizes the advice of Eric Boissenot.
Michel Gracia’s minuscule 1.83-hectare Saint-Emilion vineyard is located near Saint-Christophe-des-Bardes and consists of the rich clay and limestone soils the region is famous for. His wine is always hand harvested and hand destemmed, fermented in old concentrate vats and stainless steel, and see malolactic fermentation in barrel. Aging is 100% new barrels from a mix of cooperage. This is an incredibly tiny, true Garage Wine, and is Merlot at its most decadent, pure and sexy.

I tasted multiple barrels of the 2016 Gracia and I suspect it will eclipse the sensational 2015. The Merlot component is about as inky black as they come and offers gorgeous aromatics as well as purity, all while staying light and elegant. This will make up the backbone of the cuvee and is truly sensational stuff. The Cabernet Franc was also incredibly rich and layered, and this is one 2016 I can’t wait to taste from bottle. It’s going to need cellaring and will be for those with patience, yet this beauty is going to flirt with perfection.

In the same ballpark as the 2016, the 2015 Château Gracia is a blend of 70% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon raised all in new oak. It’s another Rockstar effort from this estate that pairs sensational richness and depth with phenomenal elegance, purity and a weightlessness that’s hard to believe. Cassis, toasty oak, damp earth, violets, and smoked herb nuances all flow to a full-bodied, layered, multi-dimensional Saint-Emilion that has incredible sex appeal, yet is just as complex, layered and nuanced. It’s an incredible wine!

**GRAND BARRAIL LAMARZELLE FIGEAC 2015**

*Grand Barrail Lamarzelle Figeac* is charming, moderately concentrated, medium-bodied Saint-Emilion that offers hints of toasty oak, dried flowers and sweet black raspberry and blackberry jam. It’s not a massive wine by any measure, yet is nicely balanced and straight on the palate, with good length. Drink it over the coming decade.

**GRAND CORBIN 2015**

The 2015 Grand Corbin is a blend of 80% Merlot, 14% Cabernet Franc, and the rest Cabernet Sauvignon, all from sandier, clay soils, aged in 30% new barrels. It offers classic red and black fruits, lots of underbrush and bouquet garni aromas and flavors, medium-bodied richness and lively acidity. It’s a solid, balanced effort to drink over the coming 7-8 years.

**CHATEAU GRAND CORBIN-DESPIGNE 2015**

Cassis, black cherries, toasty oak and licorice aromas all dominate the bouquet of the 2015 Château Grand Corbin-Despagne, and it’s medium to full-bodied, concentrated, and balanced on the palate. With solid mid-palate density, ripe tannin, a charming, opulent style, and plenty of length, give bottles 2-3 years and enjoy over the following decade. This cuvee is 75% Merlot, 24% Cabernet Franc and 1% Cabernet Sauvignon, aged in 50% new barrels.

**CHATEAU GRAND MAYNE 2015**

Notes of blackcurrants, plums, chocolate, and lead pencil emerge from the ripe, sexy styled 2015 Château Grand Mayne. This full-bodied, opulent, beautifully concentrated 2015 hits the palate with loads of fruit and texture, yet stays balanced, has terrific purity of fruit, and ripe tannin. I was only able to taste this one time, but wow, what a wine. It should be at its best from 2020-2035.

**GRAND PONTET 2015**

I found the 2015 Grand Pontet to be hard to read, with lots of oak and chocolate, yet also lots of fruit. I just never really came together in the glass and is a head-scratcher. I think it will settle down with 2-3 years of bottle age and certainly has potential.

**LA GRANDE COTTE 2015**

From an estate managed by Michel and Dany Rolland located in the Lussac-Saint-Emilion (the wine is released under the generic Bordeaux AOC as the appellation doesn’t allow for white wines), the 2015 La Grande Cotte Blanche is a mix of Sauvignon Blanc (and Gris) and Muscadelle brought up all in barrel. It offers a terrific, Sauvignon dominated nose of buttered citrus, lime peel, and leafy herbs, with plenty of minerality on the palate. With medium-bodied richness, a soft, elegant style on the palate, and a good finish, it’s a rock-solid white to drink over the coming couple of years.

**CHATEAU GRAND-PUY DUCASSE 2015**

The 2015 Château Grand-Puy Ducasse is certainly impressive, and while it’s not a massive wine (possible from the harvest rains), it shines for its elegance, purity, and nuance. Its deep ruby/purple tinged color is followed by a perfumed bouquet of currants, cherries, white flowers and truffle. With medium-bodied richness, fine tannin, and beautiful balance, it should keep for 15+ years.

**LA GRANGERE 2015**

This Saint-Emilion estate has turned out a beautiful 2015 La Grangère and its ruby/purple color is followed by a complex bouquet of ripe black raspberries, toasty oak, spice and exotic flowers. A blend of Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon, this medium to full-bodied 2015 has good overall balance, plenty of minerality on the finish, and a pretty, charming style ideal for drinking over the coming 7-8 years.

**LA GRAVE 2015**

From the Moueix team, the 2015 La Grave is an attractive, high-quality effort offering notes of roasted herbs, licorice, and earth as well as the ripe, charming fruit of the vintage. With a medium to full-bodied, balanced, silky on the palate and moderate tannin, drink it over the coming decade or so.

**CHATEAU LA GRAVIERE 2015**

I found the 2015 Château La Graviere to be slightly volatile, with lots of red plums, violets, and Asian spices aromatics, as well as a medium-bodied style on the palate. The overt volatile acidity dries out the tannin on the finish, and I suspect this is best drunk up.
**CHATEAU GREE LAROQUE** 2014  **CHATEAU GREE LAROQUE**  **BORDEAUX**  **$NA**  **RED**  **88**

Coming from an estate north of Fronsac and made under the guidance of the talented Stéphane Derenocourt, the **2014 Château Gree Laroque** offers lots of red and black fruits, violets, and a kiss of new leather in a medium-bodied, clean, balanced style. It’s a joy to drink and while I wasn’t able to get a retail price, I suspect it’s a value.

**CHATEAU GRIVIERE** 2015  **CHATEAU GRIVIERE**  **MEDOC**  **$NA**  **RED**  **86**

A blend of 60% Merlot and 40% Cabernet Sauvignon, the **2015 Château Grivière** is competent, enjoyable Médoc offering pretty red fruits, flowers and leafy herbs in its medium to light bodied, fleeting, yet enjoyable style. Drink it over the coming 4-5 years.

**GRUAUD LAROSE** 2014  **GRUAUD LAROSE**  **SAINT-JULIEN**  **$75**  **RED**  **90**

While I wasn’t able to taste the 2015, the **2014 Gruaud Larose** is an attractive, classically styled Saint-Julien that has ripe currant fruits as well as lots of herbal/tobacco undertones, cedary spice, and earthy aromas and flavors. It’s medium-bodied, concentrated, and texture, with a chewy, rustic, endearing style. I like its balance and this old-school beauty will keep for at least 15-20 years.

**CHATEAU GUADET** 2014  **CHATEAU GUADET**  **SAINT-EMILION**  **$NA**  **RED**  **87**

From the talented team of Stéphane Derenocourt, the **2014 Château Guadet** is a pleasant, attractive effort offering a ruby/purple color, notes of mulberries, leather and herbes de Provence, medium body, bright acidity and a clean finish. Drink it over the coming 6-7 years.

**GUIBOT LAFOURVIELLE** 2015  **GUIBOT LAFOURVIELLE**  **PUISSEGUIN-SAINT-EMILION**  **$NA**  **RED**  **88**

Run by Brigitte and Éric Destouet, **Château Guibot La Fourvieille** is located in the Puisseguin region of Saint-Emilion and is planted to 80% Merlot and 10% each of Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon. They’ve turned out a charming, pleasant **2015** that offers a medium ruby/purple color, notes of blackcurrants, charcoaled and smoked earth, medium body, and juicy acidity. Drink it over the coming 7-10 years. Tasted twice.

**CHATEAU GUIRAUD** 2015  **CHATEAU GUIRAUD**  **SAUTERNES**  **$NA**  **RED**  **93**

One of the few Sauternes I was able to taste, the **2015 Château Guiraud** is well worth spending money on. Boasting tons of tangerine, caramelized citrus, honeyed peach and white flowers, this full-bodied beauty has good acidity, ample concentration, and a clean, balanced style on the palate that’s going to allow it to age gracefully.

**CHATEAU GUIGNE** 2015  **CHATEAU GUIGNE**  **MARGAUX**  **$NA**  **RED**  **89**

Margaux is the undeniably the star of the Médoc in 2015 and the **2015 Château La Gurgue** is a pretty, elegant beauty that offers lots of red fruits, spice cake, cedary and dried herbs. It’s medium-bodied, elegant and nicely balanced, with good acidity, and should keep for a decade or so.

**CHATEAU HAUT BARRAIL** 2015  **CHATEAU HAUT BARRAIL**  **MEDOC**  **$20**  **RED**  **85**

Located in Begadan, in the northern part of the Médoc, **Château Haut Barrail’s 2015** offers earthy dark fruits in a firm, focused, slightly charmless style. I would enjoy bottles while it still has fruit.

**CHATEAU HAUT BEAUSEJOUR** 2015  **CHATEAU HAUT BEAUSEJOUR**  **SAINT-ESTEPHE**  **$75**  **RED**  **89**

Based on 55% Merlot and 45% Cabernet Sauvignon aged in 30% new oak, the **2015 Château Haut Beausejour** is another pleasant, easygoing Moulin offering notes of light strawberries, spring flowers, and underbrush. It’s moderately concentrated, quaffable and enjoyable. Drink it over the coming 5-7 years.

**CHATEAU HAUT BEYZAC** 2015  **CHATEAU HAUT BEYZAC**  **HAUT-MEDOC**  **$NA**  **RED**  **87**

The **2015 Château Haut Beyzac** comes from a larger estate located west of Saint-Estéphe and is a rough blend of 65% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Sauvignon and the rest Petit Verdot. This medium-bodied, forward, supple 2015 offers attractive cherry and plum fruits, as well as moderate concentration and a good, short finish. It’s a charmer to drink through 2025.

**HAUT BRETON LARIGAUDIERE** 2015  **CHATEAU HAUT BRETON LARIGAUDIERE**  **MARGAUX**  **$NA**  **RED**  **87**

From an estate located just north of the village of Margaux, the **2015 Château Haut Breton Larigaudiere** is a Cabernet Sauvignon dominated wine that includes smaller amounts of Merlot and Petit Verdot. It has a classic style in its sweet red fruits, cedary spice and dried herb aromatics, and is medium-bodied, clean, nicely balanced and lengthy. It’s another charming 2015 that’s already drinking nicely and will last for 8-10 years.

**HAUT BRION** 2015  **LA CLARTE DE HAUT BRION**  **PESSAC-LEOGNAN**  **$NA**  **WHITE**  **92**

**HAUT BRION** 2015  **HAUT BRION BLANC**  **PESSAC-LEOGNAN**  **$NA**  **WHITE**  **97**

**HAUT BRION** 2015  **LE CLARENCE DE HAUT BRION**  **PESSAC-LEOGNAN**  **$NA**  **RED**  **91**

**HAUT BRION** 2015  **HAUT BRION**  **PESSAC-LEOGNAN**  **$NA**  **RED**  **100**
Looking first at the whites, the 2015 La Clarte de Haut Brion comes from the lots that didn’t make the cut for both the Haut Brion Blanc and the La Mission Haut Brion Blanc. Nevertheless, it’s a seriously good wine in its own right and readers looking for a great introduction into the whites from Bordeaux, and the Dillon team, should check this out. Exotic notes of lychee, white grapefruit, and caramelized citrus all flow to a medium-bodied, fresh, elegant, yet concentrated white that has bright acidity and a great finish.

The 2015 Haut Brion Blanc is the more Sauvignon dominated white from this team (the La Mission is more Sémillon) and checks in as 69% Sauvignon Blanc and 31% Sémillon, brought up in barrel. It offers a sensational perfume of caramelized limes, white grapefruit, tangerine, mint, and citrus, with a pure, elegant, seamless style on the palate. It’s not as concentrated or opulent as the La Mission, yet has incredible precision and purity, as well as minerality. Drink it anytime over the coming decade (or more).

Leading off the reds, the 2015 Le Clarence de Haut Brion is the second wine of the estate and is 57% Merlot, 42% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 1% Cabernet Franc. Like its big brother, it has a classic, straight profile, medium-bodied richness, and textbook Graves notes of tobacco leaf, cedary spice, currants, and plums. Balanced, nicely concentrated, and with fine tannin, it will be better in a few years and keep for a decade or more.

The 2015 Haut Brion is a perfect wine that couldn’t be any better and is certainly at the top of this great vintage. A blend of 50% Merlot, 42% Cabernet Sauvignon, and the balance Cabernet Franc, this full-bodied, concentrated, backward, yet sensationally pure 2015 boasts knockout notes of blackcurrants, smoked tobacco, ground herbs, and graphite, with a terrific damp earth/minerality quality emerging with time in the glass. Straight, focused, and built like a skyscraper, with a stacked mid-palate, forget bottles for 7-8 years and enjoy over the following three to four decades.

Moving to the 2014s and more closed and reticent than the La Mission Haut Brion Blanc, the 2014 Haut Brion Blanc is a blend of 68% Sémillon and 32% Sauvignon Blanc all brought up in barrel, with no malolactic fermentation. It reluctantly gives up notes of citrus, orange marmalade, and mint, with a liquid rock-like minerality emerging with time in the glass. Concentrated, medium to full-bodied, with bright acidity, a stacked mid-palate, and a great, great finish, it’s all promise at this point, but should start to sing in 2-3 years. It’s an insanely good dry white from Pessac that’s going to keep for two to three decades.

Readers looking for more affordable entry into the style of this hallowed estate should buy the 2014 Le Clarence De Haut Brion and it has a classic Graves style in its black fruits, roasted herbs, tobacco and spice aromas, and flavors. With a medium-bodied, rounded, sexy style on the palate, it can be enjoyed anytime over the coming 10-15 years.

The flagship 2014 Haut Brion is a beauty that packs more flavor, intensity, and depth than just about every other wine in the vintage. A blend of 50% Merlot, 39% Cabernet Sauvignon and 11% Cabernet Franc that was harvested between the 11th of September and the 10th of October, it offers a classic bouquet of blackcurrants, wood smoke, lead pencil shavings, chocolate, and tobacco leaf. With full-bodied richness, a plump, layered texture, sweet tannin, and a great finish, it’s a gem in the vintage that can be enjoyed anytime over the coming 2-3 years.

Made by Jérôme Aguirre, who previously worked at Christine Péré-Vergé’s vineyards in Pomerol, utilizing Michel Rolland as a consultant, the 2015 Château Haut Brisson is a gem based on 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc that was raised in 35% new French oak. This medium to full-bodied, concentrated, intellectual 2015 offers a lifted, perfumed style in its cassis and assorted black/blue fruits, dried violets, Asian spice, and earthy, gravelly, mineral-nuances. With solid mid-palate depth, a light, graceful texture, fine tannin and impressive length, I’d give bottle 4-5 years of cellaring and enjoy over the following 10-15 years. It’s a beautiful wine. Tasted twice.

The 2015 Haut Carles is a blockbuster from an appellation that flies way too far under the radar. Boasting a deep purple color and smokin’ good notes of dark fruits, plus, spice, chocolate and toasty oak, it hits the palate with medium to full-bodied richness, a stacked mid-palate, sweet tannin and a great finish. With moderate acidity and an undeniable opulence and sexiness, it should drink nicely for 10-15 years. It’s an incredible value; don’t miss it!

The 2015 Château Haut Grignon (mostly Merlot with 27% Cabernet Sauvignon and 7% Cabernet Franc) is a solid effort offering plump, medium-bodied notes of blueberries, strawberries and violets in a frontend-loaded, charming, forward style. Drink it over the coming 5-7 years.

The 2014 Château Haut Nouchet is a fresh, racy, vibrant white that offers lots of pink grapefruit, white flowers, and ample minerality as well as a medium-bodied, clean, balanced style on the palate. There’s some serious acid in this beauty, but it stays nicely textured and enjoyable.

As to the red from the estate, the 2014 Château Haut Nouchet boasts a gorgeous nose of blackcurrant and plum fruit intermixed with lots of tobacco, leafy herbs, and smoke. Medium to full-bodied, beautifully textured, ripe, and with present tannin, it’s an undeniably delicious, textured, balanced 2014 to drink over the coming 10-15 years.

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The **2015 Château Haut Queyran** is another rock-solid Cru Bourgeois from the vintage. Offering lots of ripe black raspberry and cassis fruit, with background oak, it’s medium-bodied, classy and well-made, with ripe tannin and a beautiful sweetness to its fruit. All in all, it’s a pretty, balanced, well-made wine to drink over the coming 7-8 years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHATEAU HAUT SIMARD</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>CHATEAU HAUT SIMARD</th>
<th>SAINT-EMILION</th>
<th>$NA</th>
<th>RED</th>
<th>92</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

From an estate owned by the Vauthier family (of Château Ausone), the **2015 Château Haut Simard** comes from an 8-hectare parcel just in front of Canon-la-Gaffelière that’s planted to (at 12,600 vines per acre!) 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc. The 2015 includes a higher percentage of Cabernet Franc than normal (40%) and is a gorgeous, finesse-driven effort that sports a deep purple color as well as lots of red fruits, spring flowers, forest floor, and a building minerality that shows more on the palate. Everything is in the right place, I love its purity, and while far from unapproachable, it should be at its best from 2020-2035.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHATEAU HAUT-BAGES LIBERAL</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>CHATEAU HAUT-BAGES LIBERAL</th>
<th>PAUILLAC</th>
<th>$45</th>
<th>RED</th>
<th>90</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHATEAU HAUT-BAGES LIBERAL</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>CHATEAU HAUT-BAGES LIBERAL</th>
<th>PAUILLAC</th>
<th>$45</th>
<th>RED</th>
<th>89</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**The 2015 Château Haut-Bages Libéral** (65% Cabernet Sauvignon and 35% Merlot brought up in 40% new oak) is an outstanding Pauillac that offers a little old-school vibe in its firm, focused, medium-bodied style and black fruits, earth, graphite and underbrush-driven aromas and flavors. It has impressive purity, integrated acidity, and notable tannin, and should be loved by classic Claret lovers. Give bottles 4-5 years and drink over the following 15.

**The 2014 Château Haut-Bages Libéral** offers a very classic, old-school style in its red and black fruits, lead pencil shavings, cedar wood and leafy herbs/underbrush aromas and flavors. It the same style as the 2015, with perhaps just a touch more firmness in its tannin, this medium-bodied, fresh, classic Claret needs 3-4 years and consumed over the following decade. The tannin will need to be watch here as they could dry out as this evolves.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHATEAU HAUT-BERGEY</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>CHATEAU HAUT-BERGEY BLANC</th>
<th>PESSAC-LEOGNAN</th>
<th>$NA</th>
<th>WHITE</th>
<th>93</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**The 2015 Château Haut-Bergey** is mulberry, plum, cherry and underbrush scented Haut Médoc that gives up medium-bodied, enjoyable, attractive aromas and flavors. With moderate acidity and light tannin, it’s a charming 2015 to enjoy over the coming 7-8 years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HERMITAGE LESCOURS</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>HERMITAGE LESCOURS</th>
<th>SAINT-EMILION</th>
<th>$NA</th>
<th>RED</th>
<th>91</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**I loved the 2015 Hermitage Lescours**, which is from an estate owned by Jean-Louis Fucatel and made with consulting advice from Michel Rolland, and it offers impressive amounts of plum and currant fruit intermixed with lots of tobacco and underbrush nuances. With a classic, fresh, complex style, it’s a terrific, impeccably balanced Saint-Emilion that will keep for 15+ years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HOSANNA</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>HOSANNA</th>
<th>POMEROL</th>
<th>$175</th>
<th>RED</th>
<th>99</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**A monumental wine is the 2015 Hosanna** and it’s 82% Merlot and 18% Cabernet Franc raised in (I suspect) all new barrels that’s from a single parcel of older vines. One of those rare wines to pair incredible opulence with off the charts elegance and purity, it’s up with the top handful of wines in this vintage and readers should do whatever they can to taste this beauty. Loaded with notions of blackcurrants, black raspberries, toasty oak, truffles, graphite, and spice-box, it hits the palate with full-bodied richness, an ethereal, seamless texture, perfect balance, and a huge finish. It’s unquestionably one of the superstars in the vintage and should last for 25-30 years. Hats off to the Moueix team!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHATEAU HOSTENS-PICHANT</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>CHATEAU HOSTENS-PICHANT BLANC</th>
<th>SAINTE-FOY BORDEAUX</th>
<th>$NA</th>
<th>WHITE</th>
<th>88</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**I was only able to taste the white from Château Hostens-Pichant** and the **2014 Blanc** is a pretty, clean, medium-bodied effort that offers lots of sugared lime and citrus aromas and flavors in a clean, balanced, nicely textured style. It’s a balanced, workhorse styled white to enjoy over the coming couple of years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHATEAU JEAN FAURE</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>CHATEAU JEAN FAURE</th>
<th>SAINT-EMILION</th>
<th>$75</th>
<th>RED</th>
<th>90</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**An interesting blend of 50% Cabernet Franc 45% Merlot and the rest Malbec, the 2015 Château Jean Faure** offers an outstanding perfume of black cherries, currants, dried flowers, and graphite, with just a hint of toastey oak. Forward, opulent and incredibly charming, without a huge backend, it’s impossible to resist today, and I see no need to delay gratification either.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHATEAU JOANIN BECOT</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>CHATEAU JOANIN BECOT</th>
<th>COTES DE CASTILLON</th>
<th>$35</th>
<th>RED</th>
<th>91</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**A year in, year out value that should be bought by readers is the 2015 Château Joanin Becot** and it’s 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc from the Côtes de Castillon region of Bordeaux. It boasts a deep ruby/purple color as well as medium to full-bodied notes of ripe dark fruits, licorice, toasted bread, and spice. With a rounded, sexy, mouth-filling style and no hard edges, it’s a terrific value to enjoy over the coming decade.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHATEAU KIRWAN</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>CHATEAU KIRWAN</th>
<th>MARGAUX</th>
<th>$55</th>
<th>RED</th>
<th>93</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
The 2015 Château Kirwan showed beautifully and is just another data point pointing to Margaux being the star of the Médoc. It boasts a deep ruby/plum color as well as thrilling notes of black raspberries, toasted bread, Asian spices and lead pencil. With subtle background oak, a ripe, opulent texture, sweet tannin, and notable purity and elegance, give bottle 3-4 years in the cellar and enjoy through 2035+.

**CHATEAU LABADIE** 2015  CHATEAU LABADIE  MEDOC  SNA  RED  87

The 2015 Château Labadie is a well-made, medium-bodied charmer that gives up plenty of black cherry, leafy herb, and earth-like aromas and flavors. This northern Médoc estate is run by Jerome Bibey and is planted to a mix of Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon.

**CHATEAU LABAT** 2015  CHATEAU LABAT  HAUT-MEDOC  SNA  RED  87

From vines planted west of Pauillac, the 2015 Château Labat is a medium-bodied, lightly textured, yet well-made and balanced Haut Médoc offering classic notes of currants, earth, leafy herbs, and spice. A blend of equal parts Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot, it’s ideal for drinking over the coming 7-8 years.

**CHATEAU LABEGORCE** 2015  CHATEAU LABEGORCE  MARGAUX  $50  RED  94

A blockbuster from Margaux is the 2015 Château Labégorce and I was blown away by this beauty. To reiterate, the southern Médoc, and Margaux in particular, is the sweet spot in 2015. A blend of 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 44% Merlot and the balance Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc, with close to half the blend brought up in new barrels, its deep purple color flows to a beautiful bouquet of black cherries, blueberries, spice, and violets. With medium to full-bodied richness, a plump, layered, pure texture, ripe tannin, and impressive length, it’s a standout for sure. Give bottles a few years and enjoy over the following 15+

In 2009, Labégorce Zédé was folded into Labégorce (both of which are owned by the Perrodo family, as is the recently acquired Marquis d’Alesme) causing the 53-hectare vineyard to grow to 64 hectares, all of which are located on the plateau just north of the town of Margaux, across the road from Lascombes.

**CHATEAU LABORDE** 2015  CHATEAU LABORDE  HAUT-MEDOC  SNA  RED  87

The 2015 Château Laborde comes from vines just west of Lafite-Rothschild and is 70% Merlot and 30% Cabernet Sauvignon. It’s another high-quality Cru Bourgeois from this vintage that offers attractive notes of black cherries, dried herbs, garrigue and spice, medium-bodied richness, and a supple, forward style. Drink it over the coming decade.

**CHATEAU LACOMBE NOAILLAC** 2015  CHATEAU LACOMBE NOAILLAC  MEDOC  SNA  RED  86

The 2015 Château Lacombe Noaillac is another charmer that offers a light, deliciously quaffable style as well as notes of strawberries, rose petal and spice. It’s certainly not a blockbuster but does have elegance and charm. Drink it over the coming 6-7 years.

**CHATEAU LACOUR JACQUET** 2015  CHATEAU LACOUR JACQUET  HAUT-MEDOC  SNA  RED  88

The 2015 Château Lacour Jacquet is a Cru Bourgeois that has more fruit and depth than most. Plums, black cherries, scorched earth, new leather and spicy notes give way to a medium-bodied, ripe, plump 2015 that has good acidity and plenty of length. It should last for a decade. This estate is managed by Eric and Regis Lartigue and lies between the appellation of Saint-Julien and Margaux.

**CHATEAU LADIGNAC** 2015  CHATEAU LADIGNAC  MEDOC  SNA  RED  85

The 2015 Château Ladignac is a straightforward, lightly textured effort that offers some red fruits, spice and oak in a clean, quaffable package.

**CHATEAU LAF AURIE-PEYRAGUEY** 2015  CHATEAU LAF AURIE-PEYRAGUEY  SAUTERNES  SNA  WHITE  94

CHATEAU LAF AURIE-PEYRAGUEY PEYRAGUEY BLANC SEC 2015  BARDEAUX  SNA  WHITE  92

This 36-hectare estate made a stunning Sauternes and the 2015 Château Lafaurie-Peyraguey (mostly Sémillon with 6% Sauvignon Blanc and a splash of Muscadelle) is loaded with notions of caramelized peach, orange marmalade, honey, and citrus oil. Full-bodied, incredibly opulent and rich, yet with good acidity, it’s a big, rich 2015 that has the concentration to keep for two decades or more. Tasted twice.

In addition to the incredible Sauternes, this estate has turned out a brilliant dry white and the 2015 Château Lafaurie-Peyraguey Blanc Sec is released under the humbler Bordeaux appellation. A mix of 73% Sémillon and 27% Sauvignon, it offers lots of cut grass, hay, lime, and citrus, with a hint of orange peel, in a medium-bodied, elegant, and balanced style on the palate. It’s impressive today but should keep for 7-8 years. This estate also utilizes Denis Dubourdieu as a consultant.

**CHATEAU LAFFITTE CARCASSET** 2015  CHATEAU LAFFITTE CARCASSET  SAINT-ESTEPHE  $35  RED  89

A medium to full-bodied, elegant, nicely balanced style of Saint-Estèphe, the 2015 Château Laffitte Carcasset offers a terrific perfume of black currants, graphite, and violets. It has considerable charm on the palate, integrated oak, moderate concentration and a great finish. Drink it anytime over the coming decade or more.

**LAFITE-ROTHSCHILD** 2015  CARRUADES DE LAFITE  PAUILLOC  SNA  RED  92

LAFITE-ROTHSCHILD 2015  LAFITE-ROTHSCHILD  PAUILLOC  $550  RED  96

The second wine of Lafite-Rothschild is the 2015 Carruades De Lafite and is a beautiful wine in its own right. Based on 57% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36% Merlot and the rest Cabernet Franc brought up mostly in used barrels, it has classsy notes of cassis and lead pencil shavings as well as a medium to full-bodied, elegant, beautifully balanced style on the palate. It’s not a massive wine by any stretch, yet it exudes class and elegance, and is already a joy to drink.

The grand vin 2015 Lafite-Rothschild checks in as 91% Cabernet Sauvignon and the rest Merlot that was brought all in 100% new oak. Director Eric Kohler (who replaced Charles Chevallier in 2015) told me the vintage suffered a touch of dilution but wasn’t a complicated year. The 2015 is an aristocratic, classy example from this estate
that offers textbook lead pencil shavings, tobacco, smoked herbs, and graphite as well as a beautiful core of currant and cassis fruit. It’s the most refined and subtle of the first growths, has medium to full-bodied richness, building tannin, and undeniable class and charm. Give bottles 4-5 years of bottle age and enjoy over the following 2-3 decades.

**LAFLÈRE GAZIN** 2015 LAFLÈRE GAZIN POMEROL $NA RED 89

The 2015 Lafleur Gazin is charming, if not a touch straightforward at the moment. Based on 98% Merlot and 2% Cabernet Franc, this medium to full-bodied Pomerol gives up lots of mostly baked red fruits (there’s a hint of cassis in there as well) as well as ample spice-box, toast, and sandy/loamy soil notes. With medium to full-bodied richness, a silky, elegant style on the palate, and plenty of length, I suspect it will fill in nicely with 2-3 years of bottle age.

**CHATEAU LAFON-ROCHET** 2015 CHATEAU LAFON-ROCHET SAINT-ESTEPHE $50 RED 94

A gem from Saint-Estèphe is the 2015 Château Lafon-Rochet and it’s certainly one of the top wines from this appellation in 2015. Elegant, medium to full-bodied, beautifully pure and refined, it offers impressive notes of sweet dark fruits, crème de cassis, classy oak and a kiss of minerality. It’s the finesse and quality of tannin, as well as its solid mid-palate, that sets this beauty apart. This wine is 54% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, 6% Cabernet Franc and the rest Petit Verdot, and it’s hidden little gem worth tracking down!

**LAGAROSSE** 2015 LAGAROSSE CUVEÉ LES COMTES CADILLAC COTES DE BORDEAUX $NA RED 90

Made with consulting advice from the Michel Rolland team, the 2015 Lagarosse Cuvée Les Comtes is a head turner from Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux appellation. It offers a terrific bouquet of red currants, dried strawberries, tobacco and loads of spice, medium-bodied richness, beautiful balance and a surprising elegance and purity. It also has a terrific mid-palate. I wasn’t able to get a retail price, but I suspect it’s a great value.

**CHATEAU LAGRANGE** 2015 CHATEAU LAGRANGE SAINT-JULIEN $NA RED 92

The 2015 Château Lagrange is a heavenly little Saint-Julien that seriously delivers the goods. Based on 75% Cabernet Sauvignon and the rest Merlot and Petit Verdot brought up in around 50% new oak, its deep ruby/purple color is followed by notes of cassis, toast, black licorice and nori (the dried seaweed wrapper used for sushi). With medium to full-bodied richness, beautiful concentration, and ripe tannin, it’s still tight and reserved on the palate and will benefit from 3-5 years of bottle age.

**CHATEAU LA LAGUNE** 2015 CHATEAU LA LAGUNE HAUT-MEDOC $NA RED 92

Managed by Caroline Frey (of Paul Jaboulet Aîné in the Rhône Valley), the 2015 Château La Lagune is an impressive, elegant, concentrated Haut Médoc that’s going to be even better with short-term cellaring. Cassis, toasted oak, Asian spices, and black tea notes all emerge from this medium to full-bodied, layered and lengthy Haut-Médoc. Count me in as a fan and it’s up with the top wines produced from this estate.

**CHATEAU LALANDE D’AUVION** 2015 CHATEAU LALANDE D’AUVION MEDOC $NA RED 87

The 2015 Château Lalande D’Auvion is a charming, rounded, fruit forward 2015 that offers lots of sweet red fruits, dried flowers, and ample vanilla-laced spices. With moderate acidity, a layered texture and a good finish, it will deliver plenty of pleasure over the coming decade.

**CHATEAU LALANDE-BORIE** 2016 CHATEAU LALANDE-BORIE SAINT-JULIEN $NA RED 90-92

What should be a step up over the 2015, the 2016 Château Lalande-Borie is an outstanding barrel sample based on 55% Merlot and 45% Cabernet Sauvignon. Its perfumed bouquet of cassis, violets, mineral and background oak is followed by a medium-bodied, nicely concentrated 2016 that has ripe tannin and notable acidity. It’s a pretty, balanced, concentrated Saint-Julien that will need 4-5 years of bottle age and keep for two decades.

**CHATEAU LAGRANGE** 2015 CHATEAU LAGRANGE SAINT-JULIEN $NA RED 92+

The 2015 Château Lagrange is a heavenly little Saint-Julien that seriously delivers the goods. Based on 75% Cabernet Sauvignon and the rest Merlot and Petit Verdot brought up in around 50% new oak, its deep ruby/purple color is followed by notes of cassis, toast, black licorice and nori (the dried seaweed wrapper used for sushi). With medium to full-bodied richness, beautiful concentration, and ripe tannin, it’s still tight and reserved on the palate and will benefit from 3-5 years of bottle age.

**CHATEAU LALANDE-BORIE** 2015 CHATEAU LALANDE-BORIE SAINT-JULIEN $NA RED 90

The 2015 Château Lalande-Borie is more perfumed and extroverted compared to the 2016 and gives up lots of ripe black cherry and strawberry fruit characteristics as well as more graphite, spring flowers, earthy minerality and toasted oak. Textured, medium-bodied, elegant and seamless on the palate, it shines more for its elegance and nuance than power. Drink it anytime over the coming 15-20 years.

**CHATEAU DE LAMARQUE** 2015 CHATEAU DE LAMARQUE HAUT-MEDOC $NA RED 90

The 2015 Château de Lamarque is a smokin’ good Haut Médoc and well worth checking out. Offering full-bodied richness and a plump, forward, hedonistic style that makes you want to drink a glass, it gives up lots of ripe plum and black cherry fruit as well as more spice, violets, and earth with time in the glass. Drink this sexy 2015 over the coming 5-8 years.

**CHATEAU LAMOTHE-BERGERON** 2015 CHATEAU LAMOTHE-BERGERON HAUT-MEDOC $NA RED 90

From an estate in the Cussac-Fort-Médoc region (in the southern part of the Médoc), the 2015 Château Lamothe-Bergeron comes from 30-year-old vines and is a rough blend of 60% Merlot and 40% Cabernet Sauvignon. It’s a character packed 2015 that gives up lots of spice, dried herbs, currants and cocoa powder in its medium-bodied, balanced, incredibly enjoyable personality. I’d happily drink bottles over the coming decade.

**CHATEAU LAMOTHE-BOUSCAUT** 2016 CHATEAU LAMOTHE-BOUSCAUT BLANC PESSAC-LEOGNAN $NA WHITE 89

The 2016 Château Lamothe-Bouscaut Blanc sport a lively, light color as well as a juicy, racy style in its lemon curd, grapefruit, buttered citrus and mineral aromas and flavors. It’s clean, medium-bodied, and nicely balanced on the palate, and is a delicious white to drink over the coming couple of years.

JebDunnuck.com  Let the Good Times Roll: 2015 Bordeaux
The red from this estate is also noteworthy and the 2015 Château Lamothe-Bouscault reveals a deeper ruby color and ripe, forward notes of blackberries, toasted oak, coffee bean, and tobacco. With medium-bodied richness, a fresh, lively style on the palate, good ripeness and a clean finish, it’s a charming, enjoyable 2015 that leads with its fruit. It should keep nicely for 7-8 years.

CHATEAU LAMOTHE-CISSAC 2015 CHATEAU LAMOTHE-CISSAC HAUT-MEDOC $NA RED 89
Another outstanding Cru Bourgeois is the 2015 Château Lamothe-Cissac which comes from vines west of Pauillac. It has a pretty bouquet of cassis, violets, and incense, with some obvious spicy oak. The oak profile will be something to watch, yet it has lots of sweet fruit on the palate, solid balance, and plenty of length, all pointing to this keeping nicely for a decade.

CHATEAU L’ANCIEN 2015 CHATEAU L’ANCIEN LALANDE DE POMEROL $NA RED 90
A killer little Lalande de Pomerol worth hunting down is the 2015 Château L’Ancien. Giving up impressive notes of black cherries, currants, dried herbs, and graphite, it’s medium-bodied, nicely concentrated and balanced. It has fine tannin, plenty of class, and should drink nicely for 7-8 years.

CHATEAU LANDAT 2015 CHATEAU LANDAT HAUT-MEDOC $NA RED 90
The 2015 Château Landat comes from an estate in the Cissac-Médoc, west of Saint-Estèphe and Pauillac. Made from mostly Cabernet Sauvignon mixed with 35% Merlot and a tiny amount of Petit Verdot, it offers lots of strawberry and framboise fruit as well as impressive spice, flowers, and vanilla. Charming, medium-bodied, beautifully balanced and elegant, I love its purity of fruit and it should keep nicely for 8-10 years, if not longer.

CHATEAU LANGOA BARTON 2015 CHATEAU LANGOA BARTON SAINT-JULIEN $50 RED 94
A wine that overdelivers in the appellation is the 2015 Château Langoa Barton which is largely Cabernet Sauvignon yet includes 38% Merlot and 8% Cabernet Franc. Brought up in 60% new oak, it boasts a deep purple color and smokin’ good notes of caramelized cherries, crème de cassis, toasty oak, and graphite. Big, full-bodied, concentrated, and structured, with awesome purity of fruit as well as notable elegance, it needs 3-4 years of bottle age and will keep for two to three decades. Bravo!

CHATEAU LANGOA BARTON 2014 CHATEAU LANGOA BARTON SAINT-JULIEN $50 RED 90
The 2014 Langoa Barton is a fair clip back from the 2015, yet is still outstanding. Offering a rounded, supple, fruit-forward profile as well as perfumed notes of plums, cassis, licorice, and scorched earth, this medium-bodied beauty has sweet tannin and undeniably delicious, elegant style. It should drink nicely for 15 years or more. This cuvee is 54% Cabernet Sauvignon, 34% Merlot and the rest Cabernet Franc raised in 60% new barrels.

LANIOTE 2015 LANIOTE SAINT-EMILION $NA RED 92
The 2015 Laniote certainly impressive and this cuvee shows how strong the right back is in 2015. Giving up terrific notes of black raspberries, toasty oak, graphite and a hint of crushed rock, it has a killer palate that’s ripe, voluptuous and opulent, yet also concentrated and structured. The tannin will be something to watch, yet my money is on this showing beautifully in 2-3 years and keeping for 15.

CHATEAU LARCIS-DUCASSE 2015 CHATEAU LARCIS DUCASSE SAINT-EMILION $NA RED 96
A more elegant, finesse-driven style of cuvee than normal, the 2015 Château Larcis-Ducasse is comprised of close to 90% Merlot and the balance Cabernet Franc. It reveals a terrific bouquet of cassis, spring flowers, cedar spice and forest floor, with more graphite and lead pencil nuances developing as it sat in the glass. With full-bodied richness, a tight, backward, yet promising style on the palate, beautiful tannin quality, and a great finish, it’s an undeniably classy, balanced 2015 that will reward 2-4 years of bottle age.

CHATEAU LARCIS-DUCASSE 2014 CHATEAU LARCIS DUCASSE SAINT-EMILION $NA RED 94
The 2014 Château Larcis-Ducasse is another elegant wine from this estate. Incorporating slightly more Cabernet Franc (15%) and the balance Merlot, this medium to full-bodied 2014 gives up a pretty, elegant, supple texture as well as a beautiful perfume of sweet strawberries, red and black currants, bouquet garni, tobacco, dried flowers and beautiful minerality. While it shows the hallmark purity and classic style of the 2014 vintage, it has more texture and depth than most. It’s going to offer pleasure for two decades.

CHATEAU L’ARGENTEYRE 2015 CHATEAU L’ARGENTEYRE MEDOC $NA RED 89
From the northern part of the Médoc and 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and the rest Petit Verdot, aged in 35% new oak, the 2015 Château L’Argenteyre is a pretty, classy effort that gives up impressive amounts of raspberries, spice, and sappy flowers. With medium-bodied richness, juicy acidity and a clean, balanced personality, drink it over the coming decade.

CHATEAU L’ARGILUS DU ROI 2015 CHATEAU L’ARGILUS DU ROI SAINT-ESTEPHE $NA RED 89
The 2015 Château L’Argilus Du Roi offers classic Saint-Estèphe character in its darker plum and cassis fruit, as well as lots of tobacco leaf, herbs, and earth. With medium-bodied richness, impressive purity and fine tannin, it’s a rock-solid effort to enjoy over the coming 10-15 years.

CHATEAU LARMANDE 2015 CHATEAU LARMANDE SAINT-EMILION $45 RED 91
Saint-Emilion is arguably the most quality rich region in 2015 and the 2015 Château Larmande is certainly worth your money. Giving up lots of smoked black fruits, cherries, chocolate and hints of spring flowers, this beauty hits the palate with surprising elegance and freshness, as well as fine tannin and nicely integrated acidity. It’s a lively, classy 2015 to enjoy over the coming 15+ years.
The 2015 Château Laroque (89% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc and the rest Cabernet Sauvignon) from winemaker David Suire is a beauty offering tons of floral nuances in its ripe red and blue fruits, violets and bouquet garni like aromas and flavors. Ripe, opulent, and broad on the palate, with sweet tannin and a charming, yet surprisingly lengthy style, it has the depth and concentration to keep for 10-15 years.

CHATEAU LAROSE PERGANSON 2015 CHATEAU LAROSE PERGANSON HAUT-MEDOC $NA RED 90

From a 38-hectare estate located southwest of Pauillac, the 2015 Château Laroze Perganson comes from 40+ -year-old vines and is a rough blend of 58% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot and 2% Petit Verdot raised in 30-50% new oak. It offers plenty of dark fruits, plums, leafy herbs, and a hint of spring flowers in a medium to full-bodied, nicely concentrated, balanced style that’s going to evolve nicely for 10-15 years.

CHATEAU LAROSE TRINTAUDON 2015 CHATEAU LAROSE TRINTAUDON HAUT-MEDOC $NA RED 89

The 2015 Château Laroze Trintaudon is an elegant, almost Pinot Noir-like effort that shines for its silky texture and finesse-driven style. Offering up plenty of strawberries, leafy herbs/underbrush, and floral nuances, drink the medium-bodied, incredibly pure Haut Médoc anytime over the coming 7-8 years.

CHATEAU LAROSE 2015 CHATEAU LAROSE SAINT-EMILION $NA RED 94

Checking in as 62% Merlot and the balance Cabernet Franc that was brought up in roughly 70% new oak, the 2015 Château Laroze is straight up gorgeous. Cassis, black cherries, spring flowers, lead pencil shavings and hints of tobacco all give way to a ripe, sexy, concentrated Saint-Emilion that has sweet, polished tannin, plenty of mid-palate depth and a great finish. This beauty builds with time in the glass, is seamless, and just a sensational drink.

CHATEAU LARRIVET HAUT-BRION 2015 CHATEAU LARRIVET HAUT-BRION BLANC PESSAC-LEOGNAN $NA WHITE 93

I loved both the red and white from Larrivet Haut-Brion. Starting with the 2015 Château Larrivet Haut-Brion Blanc which is based largely on Sauvignon Blanc, it gives up a big nose of white peach, citrus, caramelized lemons and hints of leafy herbs. With an exotic, ripe, beautifully textured personality that stays fresh and vibrant, it should keep for a decade or more.

Loads of ripe black cherries, plums, bouquet garni, truffle, and forest floor emerge from the glass of the deep purple color 2015 Château Larrivet Haut-Brion. With a full, layered, concentrated profile, ripe tannin, and a great, great finish, it’s a seriously good Pessac-Leognan that’s capable of holding for 15-20 years.

CHATEAU LASCOMBES 2015 CHATEAU LASCOMBES MARGAUX $85 RED 92

A big, bombastic wine from this estate that offers serious amounts of sweet currants, blackberry jam, licorice and oak, the 2015 Château Lascombes offers lots of ripe black cherry ad blackberry fruit characteristics as well as notes of cedary spice, liquid flowers and graphite. It’s pure, elegant and nicely concentrated, especially in the vintage, and with bright acidity and integrated tannin, it’s going to benefit from short term cellaring and keep for 15-20 years.

CHATEAU LATEUR 2014 LES FORTS DE LATOUR PAUILLAC $800 RED 93

While I wasn’t able to taste the 2015 from Latour as the estate won’t show the bottled vintage before January of the following year, the 2014s are certainly gems in the vintage. However, even these wines won’t be released for a number of years.

The second wine of the estate is the 2014 Les Forts De Latour and this beauty is better than most estate’s grand vin. Made from 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 42% Merlot, and the balance Petit Verdot, this straight up classic Pauillac is loaded with notions of red and black currants, lead pencil shavings, roasted coffee, graphite, and Asian spices. Deep, medium to full-bodied, impressively concentrated, and layered, it’s a seriously good wine that’s going to continue drinking beautifully for two to three decades.

Deeper, richer, and more concentrated and stately than the Les Forts De Latour, the 2014 Château Latour is the wine of the vintage from the Médoc. Possessing a flawless, full-bodied, sexy and surprisingly open style on the palate, it’s relatively closed aromatically and only reluctantly gives up notes of cassis, chocolate, and lead pencil shavings. With incredible tannin quality, a layered, concentrated mid-palate, perfect balance and a great finish, it’s a classic Latour, as well as one of the few 2014s that demands cellaring. Hide bottles for 5-7 years and I suspect it will continue drinking nicely over the following three decades.

LATOUR A POMEROL 2015 LATOUR A POMEROL POMEROL $100 RED 95

One of the blockbusters in the Moueix portfolio is the 2015 Latour A Pomerol. A blend of 96% Merlot and 4% Cabernet Franc offers full-bodied richness and a ripe, opulent personality that’s already hard to resist. With classic notes of black cherries, bouquet garni, bay leaf and spicy oak, it has gorgeous purity of fruit, sweet tannin, and is a classic Pomerol in the making. Give bottles 2-3 years and enjoy over the following two decades.

JebDunnuck.com Let the Good Times Roll: 2015 Bordeaux
The white is the star of the show at Latour-Martillac and the **2015 Blanc** is a rich, incredibly mineral-driven beauty that gives up lots of buttered citrus, honeysuckle, crushed rock and tropical fruit. It’s crisp and vibrant on the palate, yet has building richness, as well as excellent concentration.

Notes of leafy herbs, damp earth, cedarly spice and ripe black cherries emerge from the **2015 Château Latour-Martillac** which comes from an estate managed by the Kressmann family. A medium-bodied Pessac-Leognan, it has juicy acidity and surprisingly coarse, rustic tannin that if representative, will need to be watched. Nevertheless, it has solid depth of fruit and could improve with 2-3 years of cellaring.

The **2014 Château Latour-Marillac** offers a beautiful, classic Graves character with its telltale smoked earth, cigar, tobacco, and ripe currant fruits. With none of the rusticity found in the 2015, medium-bodied richness, impressive purity and an elegant, layered, ripe personality, it’s a terrific Pessac to drink anytime over the coming 15-20 years.

**CHATEAU LE BOURDIEU** 2015 **CHATEAU LE BOURDIEU** MEDOC $NA RED 87

From an estate in the very northern part of the Médoc, the **2015 Château Laujac** comes from 25-year-old vines and is 53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 45% Merlot and 2% Petit Verdot. It’s a ripe, nicely textured, generous 2015 that offers medium-bodied notes of black raspberries, hints of cherries and flowers. It has plenty to like and should keep for 7-8 years, possibly longer.

**CHATEAU LAURENCE** 2015 **CHATEAU LAURENCE BLANC** BORDEAUX $NA WHITE 88

Château Laurence is an exclusive of American merchant Jeffry Davies and is located in Montussan, halfway between Bordeaux and Libourne. It is co-owned by Hubert de Bouàrd (of Angelus) et Philippe Nunez, who works with Hubert on all his estates. This estate covers just over an acre of clay and limestone soils planted mostly to Sauvignon Blanc.

A hidden little gem, the **2015 Laurence Blanc** offers juicy grapefruit and citrus notes, medium-bodied depth of fruit, and a racy, yet textured style on the palate.

The **2015 Château Laurence** is even better. From an estate near Reignac and mostly Merlot, it offers a terrific bouquet of chocolate covered black cherries, ground herbs, and underbrush. With medium-bodied depth, a balanced, seamless texture, integrated oak, and a great finish, drink it over the coming decade.

**LAUSSAC** 2015 **LAUSSAC CUVÉE SACHA** COTES DE CASTillon $NA RED 92

Made with the help of the famed consultant Michel Rolland, the **2015 Laussac Cuvee Sacha** is straight up killer stuff that overdelivers on its humble appellation. Loaded with notions of black currants, blackberry jam, toasted spice, tobacco leaf, and fruit-cake-like nuances, it offers medium to full-bodied richness, ripe, sweet tannin, terrific purity and a big finish. It’s an undeniably sexy, layered, high-quality 2015 that savvy readers should seek out.

**CHATEAU LA LAUZETTE DECLERCQ** 2015 **LA LAUZETTE DECLERCQ** HAUT-MEDOC $NA RED 87

The medium-bodied, tight, focused **2015 Château La Lauzette** reveals a ruby/violet-tinged color as well as lots of textbook cherry, cassis, spice and lead-pencil aromas and flavors. It has nicely integrated acidity, fine tannin, and a good finish, all of which make it ideal for drinking over the coming 7-8 years.

**LE BON PASTEUR** 2015 **LE BON PASTEUR** POMEROL $NA RED 94

A smoking good release from oenologist Michel and Dany Rolland is the **2015 Le Bon Pasteur**, which is up there with the 2009 and 2010 in terms of quality. Revealing a medium ruby/purple color and a terrific bouquet of red and black fruits, plums, licorice and smoked herbs. With full-bodied richness and a great finish, it hits the palate with medium to full-bodied richness, fine, fine tannin (which is a hallmark of this vintage), terrific purity of fruit, and a great finish. It’s already approachable yet should be at its best from 2020-2035. Tasted once.

**CHATEAU LE BOSCOQ** 2015 **CHATEAU LE BOSCOQ** SAINT-ESTEPHE $NA RED 90

The **2015 Château Le Boscq** was one of the standouts in my Cru Bourgeois tasting and this cuvee comes from a 28-hectare estate in the northern part of the Médoc planted to 48% each of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot, with around 4% Cabernet Franc. This beautiful, medium to full-bodied, balanced 2015 offers textbook Saint-Estèphe notes of ripe black fruits, tobacco, and damp earth. It’s not a massive wine by any stretch, yet has terrific purity, density, and length, with nicely integrated acidity. Give it a year or three and enjoy through 2030.

**CHATEAU LE BOURDIEU** 2015 **CHATEAU LE BOURDIEU** MEDOC $NA RED 87

The well-made **2015 Château Le Bourdieu** offers pretty red fruits and spice aromas and flavors, medium-bodied depth of fruit, nicely integrated acidity and fine tannin. I like its elegance and balance, and it should keep for 7-8 years.

**CHATEAU LE CHATELET** 2015 **CHATEAU LE CHATELET** SAINT-EMILION $60 RED 90+?

The deep ruby/purple-colored **2015 Château Le Chatelet** checks in as a blend of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc brought up in 50% new oak. Notes of ultra ripe cherries, black licorice, toast-oak, violets, and graphite all emerge from this lifted, concentrated, promising 2015 that has some gangly edges, yet plenty to like. It should be better in a year, as well as easier to read where this is going.

**LE CLOS DU BEAU-PERE** 2015 **LE CLOS DU BEAU-PERE** POMEROL $NA RED 91

A tiny estate owned by Jean-Luc Thunevin and utilizing Claude Gros as consultant, the **2015 Le Clos Du Beau-Pere** is a terrific blend of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc brought up all in new oak. This inky colored beauty boasts a huge bouquet of ripe black fruits, plums, licorice and smoked herbs. With full-bodied richness and a
ripe hedonistic style, it has fine tannin and stays remarkably pure and elegant on the palate, all of which make it a joy to drink. Enjoy bottles over the coming 10-15 years.

The 2015 Château Le Crock offers a firm, focused, concentrated style that lacks a touch of charm. Black cherries, scorched earth, spice and leathery notes all emerge from this Saint-Éstephe that will benefit from a year or two of bottle age.

A workhorse style of Bordeaux, the 2015 Le Doyenne is a medium-bodied, moderately concentrated, yet nicely textured 2015 that offers plenty of cherry fruit as well as notes of leafy herbs and spice. It’s a delicious, uncomplicated, enjoyable red to drink over the coming 7-8 years.

I’ve always loved the wines from this tiny estate in Pomerol, and both the 2014 and 2015 are wines worth seeking out. While not reviewed here, readers should try to find bottles of the 2009. This is an incredible bottle of wine that’s up with some of the finest wines out there.

A more elegant, lightly textured effort than some top past vintages, the 2015 Le Gay comes from a tiny estate in Pomerol and is 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc brought up all in new oak. It has terrific complexity in its darker fruits, tobacco leaf, violets, new leather and even meaty aromas and flavors. These carry to a full-bodied, perfectly balanced 2015 that has fine, fine tannin and a great finish. It will fill in with 3-4 years of cellaring and keep for two decades. Tasted once.

The 2015 Le Gay is the normal blend of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc, and it’s a rich, surprisingly structured and tannic wine in the vintage. Deep purple/plum colored with a great bouquet of black cherries, plums, chocolate and tobacco leaf, this medium to full-bodied, concentrated, chewy 2014 should be given 3-4 years of bottle age and enjoyed over the following 20-25 years.

The 2015 Château Le Monteil D’Arsac is another attractive, medium-bodied, well-made Cru Bourgeois that gives up lots of ripe cherry and currant fruit and leafy herbs. With solid overall balance and good ripeness, drink it over the coming 8-10 years.

The 2015 Château Le Pin Beausoleil is one seriously good Bordeaux Superior. Its deep ruby/purple color is followed by a terrific bouquet of black cherries, blueberries, violets and exotic spices. This medium-bodied 2015 has excellent purity, a layered, complex, exotic style and a good 8-10 years of prime drinking.

The 2014 Château Le Pin Beausoleil is also beautiful and has a more mineral, white truffle style, as well as the exotic blueberry, violets and black cherry character of the 2015. This hidden gem is medium-bodied, silky and elegant, with a singular character. It too will keep for 7-10 years.

The 2015 Château Le Prieure offers a rich, slightly rustic bouquet of dark fruits, chocolate, toasty oak, and earth, yet packs plenty of fruit and texture on the palate, with a straightforward style. It’s not the most ethereal Saint-Emilion out there, but it has some charm, and I suspect will drink well for 7-8 years.

A ripe, opulent style of Pomerol that would have rated higher if not for its elevated volatile acidity, the 2015 L’Enclos gives up lots of blue fruits, plum, Asian spice and sandalwood nuances in its ripe, charming, mouth-filling, yet straightforward style. Drink it over the coming 10-15 years.

Made by Franck Despagne and from a selection of old vines of 80% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, the 2015 L’Envie was brought up all in new barrels. It offers a very ripe, opulent style and is almost Roussillon like in its black cherry, plum, blueberry, scorched earth, violets and incredibly mineral aromatics. It holds everything together however and is medium to full-bodied, pure and balanced on the palate, with good acidity and freshness. Give this interesting, ripe, promising 2015 3-4 years of bottle age, at which point it should be much easier to figure out where this is going.

I absolutely loved the 2015 Léoville-Barton and this has everything you could want from a Left Bank Bordeaux. Cassis, smoked earth, graphite, tobacco leaf, and thrilling amounts of minerality all emerge from this inky colored, full-bodied, power-packed, brut of a Saint-Julien that holds everything together and stays pure, balanced and elegant on the palate. It has a lot of tannins, yet more than enough fruit. The 2015 is a blend of 86% Cabernet Sauvignon and 14% Merlot, brought up in 60% new French oak, and it needs 7-8 years of bottle age and will shine for 2-3 decades. Bravo!

While a solid step back from the sensational 2015, the 2014 Léoville Barton is still a beauty. Possessing medium-bodied notes of cassis, sweet oak, spice and flowers, this impecabley balanced Saint-Julien is incredibly classy, layered and pure on the palate. While this cuvee can be backward and difficult to taste young, the 2014 has a supple, beautifully textured, fresh style that’s already approachable. Nevertheless, a few years in the cellar will do it well, and it should keep for two to three decades.
LEOVILLE LAS CASES 2015 LE PETIT LION SAINT-JULIEN $NA RED 91
LEOVILLE LAS CASES 2015 LEOVILLE LAS CASES SAINT-JULIEN $250 RED 99
LEOVILLE LAS CASES 2014 LE PETIT LION SAINT-JULIEN $NA RED 88
LEOVILLE LAS CASES 2014 LEOVILLE LAS CASES SAINT-JULIEN $250 RED 94+

The 2015 Le Petit Lion comes from plenty of younger vines, yet also includes older vines of Merlot, the 2015 is a blend of 60% Merlot and 40% Cabernet Sauvignon and it spent 14 months in 25% new French oak. It’s a beautiful second wine offering medium-bodied notes of red currants, red plums, dried flowers and hints of spice. It’s finesse-driven, has sweet tannin, and a good finish. It’s not massive by any standard, yet should fill in with 2-3 years of cellaring and have 15-20 years of longevity.

A legendary wine in the making from the Delon Family is the 2015 Leoville Las Cases and there are very few wines more impressive in the vintage. A blend of 85% Cabernet Sauvignon, 9% Cabernet Franc, and the balance Merlot, this full-bodied, tight, super-concentrated, focused 2015 boasts an awesome bouquet of crème de cassis, graphite, charcoal, lead pencil, and minerality. Deep, layered, with perfect ripeness and building tannin, hide bottle for 6-7 years and enjoy this prodigious effort over the following 3-4 decades.

As to the 2014s, the Le Petit Lion is made from 60% Cabernet Sauvignon and 40% Merlot, and it’s a silky, seamless effort that shows the supple, elegant style of the vintage. With medium-bodied aromas and sweet red and black fruits, spice-box, and cedar, it has no hard edges and is undeniably charming and delicious. Drink it over the coming 15 years or so.

The 2014 Leoville Las Cases is a terrific blend of 79% Cabernet Sauvignon, 11% Cabernet Franc and the rest Merlot, and it’s one of the more backward, tight, age-worthy wines in the vintage. Offering sensational purity in its crème de cassis, graphite, licorice and subtle background oak, it hits the palate with a tight, focused, yet impressively concentrated profile that needs 3-4 years of cellaring and will shine for three decades. It’s another incredibly classy wine from this estate.

LEOVILLE POYFERRE 2016 LEOVILLE POYFERRE SAINT-JULIEN $100 RED 95-97+
LEOVILLE POYFERRE 2015 LEOVILLE POYFERRE SAINT-JULIEN $NA RED 97

Looking at the 2016 Leoville Poyferre from barrel, this deep, inky-colored Saint-Julien doesn’t pull any punches and boasts serious amounts of ripe currant, blueberry, and cassis-like fruits, liquid violets, crushed rocks and graphite on the nose. A rich, full-bodied, prodigious barrel sample that has a stacked mid-palate, ripe, sweet tannin and a blockbuster finish, it’s going to need a decade to shed its baby fat, but it has thrilling purity of fruit and is an awesome wine.

The 2015 Leoville Poyferre is cut from the same cloth as the 2016, yet is more sexy, rounded and opulent. Notes of cassis, licorice, crushed rocks, lead pencil shavings and graphite all emerge from this unctuous, ripe, pedal-to-the-metal beauty that’s absolutely loaded with fruit and texture. Reminding me of the 2003, yet only fresher, don’t miss this beauty. It should be drinkable in 3-4 years and last for 3-4 decades.

LES ANGELOTS DE GRACIA 2015 LES ANGELOTS DE GRACIA SAINT-EMILION $NA RED 94

From a tiny 1.26-hectare estate situated between Angélus and Fonrazade, owned by Michel Gracia, the 2015 Les Angelots de Gracia is a blend of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc, from more sandy soils, brought up in 100% new oak. It’s an amazingly rich, sexy, opulent Saint-Emilion that shows the character of the vintage beautifully. Giving up lots of ripe black fruits, toasted spices, chocolatey oak and earthy tobacco, this beauty hits the palate with full-bodied richness, building, sweet tannin, moderate acidity, and a power-packed finish. It has loads of fruit and texture, yet still has underlying density and structure. Made from 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc, give bottle 2-3 years in the cellar, count yourself lucky, and enjoy over the following 15+.

CHATEAU LES ANGUILEYS 2015 CHATEAU LES ANGUILEYS MEDOC $NA RED 85

The medium-ruby colored 2015 Château Les Anguilleys offers moderate amounts of red fruits and spice in a medium-bodied, pretty, lightly textured package. Drink up.

CHATEAU LES CARMES HAUT BRION 2015 CHATEAU LES CARMES HAUT BRION PESSAC-LEOGNAN $75 RED 96
CHATEAU LES CARMES HAUT BRION 2014 CHATEAU LES CARMES HAUT BRION PESSAC-LEOGNAN $75 RED 94

An estate that’s on the upswing is unquestionably Château Les Carmes Haut Brion, which lies just to the northeast of Haut Brion and La Mission Haut Brion. Today the wines are made by Cuillaume Pouthier, who left Chapoutier in the Northern Rhône in 2011. The 2015 is an interesting blend of 45% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and the balance Cabernet Sauvignon that saw a fair amount of whole clusters in the fermentation and 90% of the blend brought up in barrel and the rest in amphoras. Its deep purple color is followed by a beautiful perfumed of ripe currant and plums fruits, chocolate, ground herbs, and damp earth. With full-bodied richness, terrific ripeness, building tannin, and an underlying sense of elegance and purity that only grows with time in the glass, it needs 4-5 years of cellaring but is going to cruise in the cellar for 3-4 decades.

I tasted the 2014 Château les Carmes Haut Brion (54% Cabernet Franc, 32% Merlot, and the rest Cabernet Sauvignon) last year at the estate, yet it showed even better this year and has gained both depth and richness. Possessing an inky purple color and beautiful notes of blueberries, currants, exotic flowers, bay leaf and a hint of graphite, this medium to full-bodied 2014 has polished tannin, impressive mid-palate depth, and a layered, elegant texture that’s already hard to resist. Like most 2014s it shines for its elegance and purity more so than power and richness. Enjoy bottles anytime over the coming two to three decades.

CHATEAU LES CHARMES GODARD 2014 CHATEAU LES CHARMES GODARD BLANC FRANS COTES DE BORDEAUX $25 WHITE 89

I was only able to taste a white from Charmes Godard and their 2014 Château Les Charmes Godard Blanc (I suspect there’s plenty of Sémillon in here) is made in a rich, bold, generous style offering lots of pineapple, citrus, and lime characteristics. Moderately concentrated on the palate, with good intensity and a medium-bodied, rounded texture, drink this balanced, thoroughly enjoyable dry Bordeaux white over the coming couple of years.

JebDunnuck.com Let the Good Times Roll: 2015 Bordeaux
CHATEAU LES HAUTS CONSEILLANTS 2015

The 2015 Château Les Hauts Conseillants is a medium-weight, yet incredibly charming Lalande de Pomerol offering medium-bodied aromas and flavors of blackcurrants, leafy herbs, leather, and graphite. With fine, polished tannin, a notable freshness and purity, and good length, it should drink nicely for 8-10 years.

Château Lesbault-Martillac 2015

This estate was taken over by Olivier Bernard and his team at Domaine de Chevalier in 2009. They’ve made a beautiful red and white in 2015.

Based on a 75/25 split of Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon, the 2015 Château Lesbault-Martillac Blanc is an exotic, clean, classy white from the vintage that has bright acidity giving plenty of lift to notions of lime, tangerine, mint and even a hint of lychee nut. With medium to full-bodied richness, it has impressive concentration, as well as elegance, on the palate, and should keep for a decade. There’s a little over 500 cases produced.

The 2015 Château Lesbault-Martillac is also outstanding, although it doesn’t match the quality of the white. Smoke tobacco, blackcurrants, truffle and plenty of classic Graves earthiness all emerge from this ripe, medium to full-bodied, voluptuously textured red that’s going to drink nicely for 8-10 years.

Château Lestage 2015

The 2015 Château Lestage is a plum, moderately concentrated, yet enjoyable Listrac offering attractive notes of ripe cherries, spice-box, and dried earth. It’s well made and perfect for near-term drinking.

Château Lestage Chevillon 2015

The 2015 Château Lestage Chevillon is an impressive red from vines near Listrac and is a rough blend of 62% Merlot, 37% Cabernet Sauvignon and the rest Petit Verdot. Notes of blueberries, blackberries, leafy herbs and spring flowers all give way to a medium-bodied, ripe, nicely textured 2015 that has ripe, moderate tannin and a good finish. Drink it over the coming 7-8 years.

Château Lestage Simon 2015

Notes of black cherries, licorice, plums, and roasted herbs emerge from the 2015 Château Lestage Simon, which is mostly Merlot (there’s 2% each of Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot, as well as a splash of Cabernet Franc) from vines planted in the northern part of the Médoc. With surprising depth, medium-bodied richness, and impeccable balance, it will be better in another year or two and keep for 7-8 years.

Château Lestruelle 2015

The 2015 Château Lestruelle offers plenty of dark fruits and some earthy underbrush characteristics in its medium-bodied, enjoyable personality.

L’Evangile 2015

In the running for the most opulent, sensationally textured, massive wine in the vintage is the 2015 L’Evangile and if tasting this beauty doesn’t make your heart rate increase, I don’t know what will. Made from 84% Merlot and 16% Cabernet Franc brought up in plenty of new oak, its ruby/plum color is followed by an awesome bouquet of blackberry jam, smoked meats, licorice, truffle, and hints of chocolate. Thick, opulent, super ripe, and decadent, with a full-bodied mouthfeel that needs to be tasted to be believed, it still stays balanced and fresh on the palate and is already impossible to resist. It’s going to keep for 3+ decades. This is one of those wines I wish every reader could taste!

Château Lilian Ladouys 2015

A blend of 62% Merlot, 33% Cabernet Sauvignon and the balance Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc, the 2015 Château Lilian Ladouys is a serious Saint-Estéphane that shines in a vintage which was more difficult for the northern portions of the Médoc. Possessing medium-bodied notes of currants, dried herbs, spice and hints of background oak, it’s nicely balanced on the palate, has fine, ripe tannin, moderate density, and an undeniable charm that will keep it drinking nicely for 15 years or more.

Château Lilian Ladouys is a 45.7-hectare estate planted to 8,500 vines per hectare, with an average vine age of 35 years. Fermentations occur in stainless steel and last for 4-6 weeks, and aging is in 30% new, 30% once used and the balance second fill barrels. There are roughly 25,000 cases of this beauty so it should be easy to find, and it’s worth it.

Château Liversan 2015

The 2015 Château Liversan is an enjoyable, straightforward effort based on 60% Merlot and 40% Cabernet Sauvignon. With exotic notes of passion fruits, a hint of volatile acidity, medium-bodied richness, and a clean finish, drink it over the coming 7-8 years.

JebDunnuck.com Let the Good Times Roll: 2015 Bordeaux
CHATEAU LOIRAC 2015 CHATEAU LOIRAC MEDOC $NA RED 87
From the far northern part of the Médoc and a blend of 70% Cabernet Sauvignon and 30% Merlot, the 2015 Château Loirac has a ripe, complex bouquet of sweet red and black fruits, spice, and vanilla oak. With a charming, medium-bodied, impressively elegant style, fine tannin, and a balanced, clean personality, it’s a well-made wine well worth drinking.

CHATEAU LOUSTEAUNEUF 2015 CHATEAU LOUSTEAUNEUF MEDOC $NA RED 84
The 2015 Château Lousteauneuf offers lots of oak and char in a firm, woody, charmless style.

CHATEAU LA LOUVIÈRE 2015 CHATEAU LA LOUVIÈRE BLANC PESSAC-LEOGNAN $NA WHITE 92
CHATEAU LA LOUVIÈRE 2015 CHATEAU LA LOUVIÈRE PESSAC-LEOGNAN $NA RED 89
The white from Château La Louviere is where it’s at. Notes of Meyer lemons, caramelized orange peel, and brioche emerge from the 2015 Château La Louvière Blanc and it’s a medium-bodied, fresh, vibrant Graves Blanc I’d happily drink anytime over the coming 3-4 years, and it will probably keep longer. While I wasn’t able to get the retail price, I suspect it’s a smoking value.

While a step back from the white, the Château La Louvière is also rock solid, and borderline outstanding. Black currants, cherries, earth and a hint of chocolate all emerge from this medium-bodied, chewy, rustic yet mouth-filling 2015. It has plenty of fruit and should offer pleasure through 2028.

CHATEAU LUCIA 2015 CHATEAU LUCIA SAINT-EMILION $NA RED 92
Notes of sweet red and black fruits, dried herbs, incense/spice and lots of sandy/loamy earth characteristic emerge from the 2015 Château Lucia, which is a rough blend of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc brought up in 40% new oak. With a medium to full-bodied, elegant, sexy personality, fine tannin, and moderate acidity, it can be drunk anytime over the coming decade or so. This estate covers just over 3 hectares and was purchased in 2012 by Belgian financier, Enzo Ide. They utilize the talented Stéphane Derenocourt as a consultant.

CHATEAU LUSSEAU 2015 CHATEAU LUSSEAU SAINT-EMILION $20 RED 91
Coming from the cellar master of Gerard Perse’s Pavie estate, the 2015 Château Lusseau is 70% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon. It sports a deeper ruby color as well as rocking bouquet of blackcurrants, blackberries, toasted spice, licorice and leafy herbs. This opulent, ripe, sexy, lusciously style Saint-Emilion is loaded with charm and is going to deliver the goods over the coming decade or so.

CHATEAU LYNCH-BAGES 2015 CHATEAU LYNCH-BAGES PAUILLAC $NA RED 94+
The inky colored 2015 Château Lynch-Bages is a seriously impressive Pauillac that’s up with the crème de la crème of the appellation in 2015. Notes of ripe blackcurrants, caramelized cherries, tobacco leaf and a kiss of lead pencil all emerge from this textbook Pauillac that has medium to full-bodied richness, notable concentration, and building structure. Made from 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot and the rest Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot that saw 75% new barrels, it needs 5-7 years of cellaring and will be one of the longer-lived wines from the Médoc.

CHATEAU LYNCH-MOUSSAS 2015 CHATEAU LYNCH-MOUSSAS PAUILLAC $NA RED 93
Another Pauillac that showed beautifully (this appellation can be variable in 2015) was the 2015 Château Lynch-Moussas. A blend of 79% Cabernet Sauvignon and 21% Merlot, it offers a terrific bouquet of blackcurrants, toasty oak, lead pencil, and espresso. This medium to full-bodied, ripe, sexy, yet also fresh, Pauillac has loads of charm and texture as well as a forward, fruit-loaded style that’s going to drink nicely for 10-15 years.

CLOS LA MADELEINE 2015 CLOS LA MADELEINE SAINT-EMILION $NA RED 90
The 2015 Clos la Madeline is a noteworthy little gem that’s from a beautiful hillside parcel in St. Emilion. It’s deep ruby/purple-colored, with sweet black cherry and black currants fruits, smoked herbs, graphite and a touch of minerality. Medium to full-bodied, textured, and with good concentration, it’s an undeniably good value that will keep for 10-15 years.

CHATEAU MAGNOL 2015 CHATEAU MAGNOL HAUT-MEDOC $NA RED 90
The 2015 Château Magnol is a standout Cru Bourgeois well worth your time and money. Coming from an estate in the southern part of the appellation (near Blanquefort) and a rough blend of 45% Merlot, 43% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 12% Cabernet Franc raised in one-third new oak, it boasts a terrific perfume of black raspberry and currant fruits as well as notions of toasted bread, spice, and dried flowers. With a ripe, generous, sumptuous mouthfeel, sweet tannin, and a good finish, it’s a no-brainer to enjoy over the coming decade.

CHATEAU MAISON BLANCHE 2015 CHATEAU MAISON BLANCHE MEDOC $NA RED 87
The 2015 Château Maison Blanche is a terrific little Médoc that’s made from mostly Merlot, with around 20% Cabernet Sauvignon and 3% Cabernet Franc. It offers plenty of Merlot plummy fruits, raspberries, scorched earth, and cedar, as well as medium-bodied richness and depth on the palate. It’s just another charmer that’s already drinking nicely for the vintage.

MALARTIC-LAGRAVIERE 2015 MALARTIC-LAGRAVIERE BLANC PESSAC-LEOGNAN $NA WHITE 93
MALARTIC-LAGRAVIERE 2015 MALARTIC-LAGRAVIERE PESSAC-LEOGNAN $75 RED 92
MALARTIC-LAGRAVIERE 2014 MALARTIC-LAGRAVIERE PESSAC-LEOGNAN $75 RED 91

JebDunnuck.com Let the Good Times Roll: 2015 Bordeaux
A blend of 85% Sauvignon and 15% Sémillon, the 2015 Malartic-Lagravière Blanc is straight up smokin’ good. Made under the guidance of Michel Rolland, it boasts tons of minerality as well as classic citrus, lime and tangerine nuances. With terrific elegance, a fresh, elegant texture, and impressive concentration, it just another example of how good the whites are from the Graves region in 2015. Tasted three times.

The 2015 Malartic-Lagravière is also terrific and comes from a 46-hectare vineyard in Léognan. Made from 53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot and the rest Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot, it offers a smorgasbord of aromatics including red currants, ripe cherries, cassis, licorice, toasty oak, and spice. With full-bodied richness, building tannin, and a rounded, supple style, as well as a great finish, it’s going to benefit from several years in the cellar and keep for 15-20 years. Tasted three times.

A terrific success in the vintage, the 2014 Château Malartic-Lagravière is a blend of 52% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc and 3% Petit Verdot that was brought up in 70% new oak. Hitting 13.5% natural alcohol, it offers a vibrant ruby/purple color as well as vibrant aromatics of cherries, mulberries, red plums, exotic flowers, and lead pencil shavings. Medium-bodied and beautifully polished and elegant, with solid acidity, it’s a juicy, vibrant, fresh 2014 that’s going to drink nicely for 15-20 years.

CHATEAU MAGEAT 2015 CHATEAU MAGEAT HAUT-MEDOC $NA RED 92

Staying nicely balanced, fresh, and incredibly drinkable, it’s already hard to resist yet will keep for 15 years or more.

MALROME 2015 MALROME BORDEAUX SUPERIOR $NA RED 87

Another incredibly successful Cru Bourgeois is the 2015 Château Malescasse which comes from an estate located between Margaux and Saint-Julien. A rough blend of 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot and 5% Petit Verdot, this beauty boasts a deep ruby/purple color as well as loads of ripe dark fruits, chocolate, bay leaf and exotic spices. Medium-bodied, nicely concentrated, with ripe tannin and the upfront, sexy charm of the 2015 vintage, give bottles a couple years in the cellar and enjoy through 2027.

The 2014 Château Malescasse is also terrific and is really cut from the same cloth as the 2015. Offering plenty of red plums, currants and black cherry fruits intermixed with notions of fruit cakes and spice, this beauty is soft, upfront, and elegant, with a ready to go style. There’s no harm drinking today but it should keep for 7-8 years.

CHATEAU MALESCASSE 2015 CHATEAU MALESCASSE HAUT-MEDOC $NA RED 90

One of the most successful Cru Bourgeois I was able to taste is the 2015 Château Malescasse which comes from an estate located between Margaux and Saint-Julien. A blend of 85% Sauvignon and 15% Sémillon, the 2015 Malartic-Lagravière offers relatively clean, pure notes of caramelized orange rind, honey, and white flowers, and packs serious amounts of sugar and sweetness on the palate. This estate has fashioned a seriously good Sauternes, and while my sample set is small, 2015 looks to be an incredible vintage for these dessert wines. The 2015 Malartic-Lagravière is a blend of 85% Sauvignon and 15% Sémillon, the 2015 Malartic-Lagravière is also terrific and comes from a 46-hectare vineyard in Léognan. Made from 53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot and the rest Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot, it offers a smorgasbord of aromatics including red currants, ripe cherries, cassis, licorice, toasty oak, and spice. With full-bodied richness, building tannin, and a rounded, supple style, as well as a great finish, it’s going to benefit from several years in the cellar and keep for 15-20 years. Tasted three times.

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CHATEAU MALESCASSE 2014 CHATEAU MALESCASSE HAUT-MEDOC $NA RED 89

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CHATEAU MALESCASSE 2014 CHATEAU MALESCASSE HAUT-MEDOC $NA RED 90

I put the 2014 Malescasc St-Expuery up with the crème de la crème of this vintage and it offers a wonderfully complete, balanced, concentrated style offers loads of class and personality. With loads of blackcurrant and black cherry fruits intermixed with notions of graphite/lead pencil, spring flowers, and damp earth, it’s medium to full-bodied, beautifully pure, layered, and ripe, with sweet tannin and rock-solid underlying acidity. This is a straight up gorgeous, classy, elegant Margaux that’s going to benefit from 2-4 years of bottle age and shine for 15-20 years. Unfortunately, I wasn’t able to taste the 2015 for this report.

CHATEAU DE MALLE 2015 CHATEAU DE MALLE SAUTERNES $NA RED 92

This estate has fashioned a seriously good Sauternes, and while my sample set is small, 2015 looks to be an incredible vintage for these dessert wines. The 2015 Château de Malle offers relatively clean, pure notes of caramelized orange rind, honey, and white flowers, and packs serious amounts of sugar and sweetness on the palate. Staying nicely balanced, fresh, and incredibly drinkable, it’s already hard to resist yet will keep for 15 years or more.

CHATEAU DE MALLERET 2015 CHATEAU DE MALLERET HAUT-MEDOC $NA RED 90

Another incredibly successful Cru Bourgeois is the 2015 Château De Malleret which comes from an estate located just north of Bordeaux, in the southern part of the Médoc. It packs a surprising amount of fruit and texture and gives up classic notes of lead pencil and cedary as well as leafy herbs, truffle, and underbrush. Drink this plump, medium-bodied, nicely concentrated Haut-Médoc anytime over the coming decade or so. It’s worth checking out.

MALROME 2015 MALROME BORDEAUX SUPERIOR $NA RED 87

The 2015 Malrome is a charming, medium-bodied Bordeaux Superior that offers plenty of plummy, strawberry fruits as well as notes of violets and bay leaf, medium body, a rounded texture and a good finish. Drink it over the coming 7-8 years.

MANGOT 2015 MANGOT SAINT-EMILION $NA RED 89

A ripe, enjoyable, opulent even, Saint-Emilion, the 2015 Mangot gives up lots of dark fruits, and smoked herbs, moderate acidity, and an unctuous texture. It’s slightly straightforward, yet packs plenty of fruit and is certainly enjoyable.

Cut from the same cloth, the 2015 Mangot Cuvee Quintessence offers slightly more elegance as well as ripe dark fruits, violets, and incense. With medium-bodied depth and richness, a soft, graceful, light texture, and an overall pretty, charming, gulpable style, drink it over the coming 6-7 years.

In the same ballpark as the Quintessence cuvee, the 2015 Mangot Cuvee Todeschini is another sweetly fruited, opulent, pleasure-bent beauty that exhibits a deep purple color, notes of cassis, plums, and licorice, medium body, ripe, moderate tannin and a solid finish. I wouldn’t push the aging curve, but it will certainly offer ample pleasure over the coming 6-7 years.
The 2015 Pavillon Blanc is another terrific Bordeaux Blanc from this great vintage. Made from 100% Sauvignon Blanc aged in 25% new French oak (which is slightly less than normal), it boasts classic notes of caramelized limes, white grapefruit, and white flowers, medium to full-bodied richness, vibrant, racy acidity and blockbuster length on the finish. It’s unquestionably one of the gem dry whites in the vintage.

The second wine of the estate is the 2015 Pavillon Rouge and its 74% Cabernet Sauvignon, 21% Merlot, 4% Petit Verdot and 1% Cabernet Franc raised in 60% new French oak. It’s a sensational wine in its own right, offering smokin’ good notes of crème de cassis, blueberries, toasted spices and ample minerality. Rich, full-bodied, opulent and concentrated with notable tannin, give bottles 4-5 years and enjoy over the following two decades or more.

The grand vin is the 2015 Château Margaux and it’s as good a wine as I’ve ever tasted. Coming from just over one-third of the total production and a blend of 87% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc and the balance Petit Verdot, brought up in 100% new French oak, its deep ruby/purple-tinged color is followed by a thrilling bouquet of crème de cassis, toasted spice, hints of toasty oak, and cedar wood. Incredibly elegant and finesse-driven, yet packed with fruit, depth, richness, and structure, it has as much class as you can fit inside a glass. While the vintage provides plenty of upfront charm, this is a wine to cellar for at least a decade, and enjoy over the following 40+ years.

As with the 2015, the 2014 Pavillon Blanc is a stunning wine, and I actually prefer it to the 2015 at the moment. From 100% Sauvignon Blanc brought up mostly in barrel, this beauty offers an exotic, taut, racy style as well as loads of lime peel, Meyer lemon, and orange blossom, with a building minerality and liquid rock-like character coming through with time in the glass. Vibrant, concentrated, and beautifully balanced, you can safely drink bottles over the coming 4-5 years or cellar for a decade more.

The 2014 Pavillon Rouge is made from 77% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot and a splash of Petit Verdot. It’s a beautiful second wine that shines for its elegance, as well as its sexy, sumptuous texture. Giving up lots of spice, dried flowers, sandalwood, and cassis fruits, it has more than a passing resemblance to its bigger sibling. With medium-bodied richness, sweet tannin, nicely integrated oak, and charming, character filled personality, I’d happily drink bottles any day over the coming two decades.

The grand vin from the Mentzelopoulos family and late manager Paul Pontallier is the 2014 Château Margaux which checks in as a blend of 90% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Merlot, and the balance Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot, as always, raised in 100% new barrels, and represents a scant 36% of the total production from the estate. A regal, classy, and nuanced beauty, its ruby/purple-tinged color is followed by a terrific perfume of cassis, licorice, spicy oak, sandalwood and a hint of vanilla. With a beautiful core of sweet fruit, ripe, polished tannin, no hard edges, and a great finish, this full-bodied 2014 shows the classy, elegant style of the vintage brilliantly. Give bottles 5-7 years and it should deliver plenty of pleasure over the following three decades.

From the home estate of Pierre Lurton (of Cheval Blanc), the 2015 Château Marjosse is a little gem in the vintage that offers complex notes of black cherries, earth, and cedar herbs. This medium-bodied, juicy, elegant 2015 has good density, integrated acidity, polished tannin, and a classic, chiseled feel. It’s ideal for drinking over the coming 5-7 years.

Another top-notch Margaux savvy readers should snatch up is the 2015 Château Marquis d’Alesme Becker. Which comes from a tiny estate owned by Philippe Porcheron, with the wine made by Muriel Andraud and Jean-Luc Thunevin, with consulting advice from Michel Rolland. From a 70/30 split of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot harvest between September 30th and October 12th, this beauty boasts a thrilling, medium to full-bodied, concentrated personality as well as classic notes of blackcurrants, smoke tobacco, grapefruit, and flowers. It has the ripe, sexy fruit quality that was easy to get in the vintage, yet also has a stacked mid-palate, notable structure, and terrific purity of fruit. If I had multiple bottles, I’d probably drink one today, yet it should benefit from 4-5 years of bottle age and keep for two decades or more.

The deep ruby colored 2015 Château Les Ormes gives up a solid bouquet of ripe black cherries, leather, plums, and spiced coffee notes as well as medium-bodied richness and a balanced, well-made style. With good acidity, a clean finish, and plenty to love, it should keep nicely for 10-12 years.

From an estate readers should watch going forward, the 2015 Château Marquis d’Alesme Becker from relatively new owner Marjolain De Coninck is impressive and offers lots of Cabernet Sauvignon blue fruits as well as ample toastiness in a relatively modern style. A blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and the balance Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot, aged in 65% new oak, it has a ripe, full-bodied, opulent mouthfeel, bright acidity, and a tight, concentrated personality that’s going to take time to come together. Give bottles 3-4 years and drink over the following 15-20.

Another gem from Margaux is the 2015 Marquis De Terme and this supple, full-bodied, concentrated beauty boasts a deep ruby/purple color along with terrific purity in its ripe cassis fruits, violets/spring flowers, obvious minerality, and background oak. Like most 2015s, it’s already beautiful and shows the sweet fruit of the vintage, yet should keep for at least two decades. Tasted twice.

The 2015 Château La Marzelle checks in as a blend of 80% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Franc and the rest Cabernet Sauvignon and was described as their best vintage since they arrived by owners Jacqueline Sioen and Philippe Genevey. They’ll get no argument from me and it’s a ripe, concentrated effort that gives up tons of chocolatey
dark fruits, licorice, wood smoke and damp earth. Full-bodied, opulent and expansive on the palate, it has a kiss of toasty oak, yet is beautifully balanced, has sweet tannin and a great finish.

**CHATEAU MAUCAILLOU** 2015  
**MOULIS-EN-MEDOC**  
**SNA**  
**RED 90**

Already upfront and charming with a complex bouquet of red fruits, underbrush, dusty earth and an almost peppery note, the 2015 Château Maucaillou is elegant and nicely textured on the palate, with terrific depth of fruit. Drink it over the coming 7-10 years.

**CHATEAU MAUCAMPS** 2015  
**HAUT-MEDOC**  
**SNA**  
**RED 91**

The 2015 Château Maucaillou is a serious overachiever that’s from an estate located near Macau, in the southern end of the Médoc, which was certainly the sweet spot in 2015. Notes of cassis, tobacco, and cedar and emerge from this incredibly classic, elegant Haut-Médoc that has excellent ripeness, polished tannin and a great finish. Bravo to this team and this little beauty is going to drink nicely for at least a decade.

**CHATEAU MAURAC** 2015  
**HAUT-MEDOC**  
**SNA**  
**RED 90**

Another Haut Médoc that overdelivers is the 2015 Château Maurac. Based on 55% Cabernet Sauvignon and 45% Merlot from vines plated just north of Saint-Estèphe, it offers a forward, supple, beautifully balanced style as well as notes of black raspberries, spice, flowers and lead pencil, moderate acidity and sweet tannin, all of which make for a delicious, sumptuous 2015 to enjoy over the coming 7-8 years.

**CHATEAU MEJEAN** 2015  
**GRAVES**  
**SNA**  
**RED 90**

Another exclusive release from merchant Jeffry Davies that showed beautifully, the 2015 Château Méjean (mostly Merlot, with 27% Cabernet Sauvignon) is a terrific little Graves that offers lots of dark fruits, mocha, and spice in its ripe, heady, sexy personality. This is a fruit-driven, pleasure-bent beauty best enjoyed over the coming 7-8 years.

**CHATEAU MÉRIC** 2015  
**MEDOC**  
**SNA**  
**RED 85**

The 2015 Château Méric is a competent effort that offers medium-bodied, tight, reserved aromas and flavors, juicy acidity, and a firm, classic feel.

**MESTE-JEAN** 2015  
**CADILLAC COTES DE BORDEAUX**  
**SNA**  
**RED 88**

The 2015 Meste-Jean, made with help of consultant Claude Gros, is an interesting blend of one-third each of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Petit Verdot, aged in 20% new wood. Inky colored and ripe, sexy, and unctuous, with lots of darker blue fruits and earthy nuances, it doesn’t shine for its elegant or nuances, yet packs serious amounts of fruit.

**CHATEAU MEYRE** 2015  
**HAUT-MEDOC**  
**SNA**  
**RED 86**

Notes of strawberries, cherries and bay leaf emerge from the 2015 Château Meyre and it’s a soft, charming, upfront 2015 offering good purity and an easy going, delicious style. Drink it over the coming 5-6 years.

**MICHEL DE MONTAIGNE LES ESSAIS** 2015  
**BERGERAC**  
**SNA**  
**RED 88**

The 2015 Michel De Montaigne Les Essais is another charming 2015 made with guidance from Michel Rolland. Notes of red and black fruits, dried soil/loamy earth, and leafy herbs all give way to a medium-bodied, fresh, nicely balanced, enjoyable Bergerac that’s going to drink nicely for 7-8 years.

**MIRAMBEAU** 2015  
**BORDEAUX SUPERIOR**  
**SNA**  
**RED 89**

The 2015 Mirambeau checks in as 70% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, and is another fine effort made with help of oenologist Claude Gros. Its medium ruby/purple color is followed by lots of cassis-like fruits, vanilla, and licorice aromatics. With lots of upfront, sweet fruit, medium-bodied richness, and ripe tannin, it’s another 2015 that’s just a delicious mouthful of fruit. Drink it over the coming 7-8 years.

**MIRAMBEAU** 2015  
**BORDEAUX SUPERIOR**  
**SNA**  
**RED 90**

The 2015 Mirambeau Cuvee Passion includes slightly more Merlot and is 82% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon and 8% Cabernet Franc. It's another inky colored effort that has more density in its currant and blueberry fruit, medium to full-bodied richness, notable minerality, and a textured, chewy, mouth-filling style.
The 2015 La Mission Haut Brion Blanc is a Sémillon dominated white (there’s roughly 33% Sauvignon Blanc) from this team and it’s a ripe, opulent effort that gives up smokin’ good notes of orange blossom, citrus oil, and white peach. Rich, unctuous, and loaded with character, this full-bodied beauty fills the mouth with fruit, yet has bright minerality and acidity keeping it fresh and lively. It’s going to keep for two decades.

The 2014 La Mission Haut Brion Blanc is a Sémillon dominated cuvée in 2014 and incorporates 28% Sauvignon Blanc, all brought up in barrel. It offers a rich, concentrated, medium to full-bodied style, as well as a sensational sense of minerality and rockiness on both the nose and palate. Meyer lemons, green herbs, citrus, wood smoke, and mint are just some of the nuances here, and this beauty is perfectly balanced and layered, with integrated acidity and great finish.

As to the reds, the 2015 La Chapelle de la Mission Haut Brion is a terrific second wine well worth seeking out. Tobacco leaf, asphalt, earth and loads of ripe black fruits all emerge from this sexy, opulent, medium to full-bodied, beauty that shares plenty of similarities to its bigger brother. With ripe tannin and a great finish, drink it anytime over the coming two decades.

More opulent, sexy, and concentrated, the 2015 La Mission Haut Brion is a tour de force that has everything you could want from Bordeaux. A huge nose of smoke tobacco, gravelly earth, graphite, cassis, and blackcurrants gives way to a full-bodied, concentrated, perfectly balanced beauty that has incredible depth of flavor and intensity, yet with no weight. While the overall impression is upfront and in your face, it has incredible elegance and length on the finish (as well as ripe tannin), and will keep for three decades.

The 2014 La Chapelle De La Mission Haut Brion is an outstanding second wine that’s made in an open, sexy, ready to go style. A blend of 45% Merlot, 31% Cabernet Franc and the rest Cabernet Sauvignon, it boasts a great bouquet of currants, kirsch, toasted bread, and Asian spices. Medium to full-bodied, front-end loaded, ripe and sexy, it’s already impossible to resist yet I suspect will still be showing great in 10-12 years.

The 2014 Château La Mission Haut Brion is slightly more elegant and pretty compared to the richer, slightly more masculine Haut Brion. A blend of 54% Merlot, 45% Cabernet Sauvignon and a splash of Cabernet Franc, it shows a kiss of red fruits in its core of darker currants, smoke tobacco, scorched earth, vanilla bean, and spice-driven aromas and flavors. With medium to full-bodied richness, impeccable balance, fine tannin, and a great, great finish, it’s a downright classy La Mission that will benefit from 4-5 years of bottle age and keep for 20+.

The 2015 Monbousquet is currently dominated by its chocolaty oak component and is a touch hard to read, yet has a big, full-bodied, opulent style on the palate that’s certainly promising. Give bottles 2-3 years at which point it’s going to be clear if its drunk up or if this amount of oak can actually integrate.

The 2015 Château Monbrison is a smokin’ good Margaux to seek out. With a deep ruby/purple color and terrific notes of caramelized cherries, currants, bay leaf, and toasty oak, it hits the palate with medium to full-bodied richness, fine, polished tannin, plenty of freshness, and a rich, yet undeniably elegant personality. Give bottles 2-3 years and enjoy over the following two decades.

Readers looking for a mouthful of ripe, sexy fruit should check out the 2015 Château Moncets. This medium to full-bodied beauty gives up lots of cherry and currants fruits, notes of chocolate and graphite, impressive ripeness, and sweet tannin, all of which make for a delicious Lalande de Pomerol. Drink it over the coming 7-8 years.

The deep purple, inky-colored 2015 La Mondotte is something to behold and one of the top handful of wines in the vintage, as well as a perfect wine. Coming from an organically farmed 4.5-hectare parcel of clay and limestone soils located behind Pavie Decesse and a blend of 85% Merlot and 15% Cabernet Franc (it hit 14.5% alcohol), it boasts awesome aromatics of crème de cassis, graphite, black licorice, and toasty oak, with building minerality coming through with time in the glass. It’s incredible on the palate as well and possesses a huge, super-concentrated, yet thrillingly pure, elegant style as well as lots of sweet tannins and a huge finish. It’s a primordial baby at the moment, but wow, what a wine. Give bottles 4-5 years of cellaring and it should keep for two to three decades.

The 2014 La Mondotte is no lightweight either and while it comes in behind the otherworldly 2015, it’s one of the gems in the vintage. A blend of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc from a single parcel of limestone/clay soils in the sweet spot of the appellation, it reveals a saturated ruby color as well as a brilliant perfume of blackberry liqueur, Asian spices, graphite, and background oak. With a full-bodied, supple, voluptuous mouthfeel, impressive mid-palate density, ripe tannin, and a great, great finish, it’s a blockbuster from a vintage that yielded few superstars. Give bottles 2-4 years and enjoy over the following 15-20 years.

The violet/ruby/translucent colored 2015 Château Mongravey offers a tobacco and cedar-tinged bouquet, medium-bodied richness, and a nicely textured, rounded style on the palate. It’s a competent, enjoyable effort that has the class and structure to keep for a decade.

Made with help of Michel Rolland, the 2015 Monolithe is a deeply colored, structured, full-bodied wine that’s going to require patience. A blend of 100% Cabernet Franc brought up in new oak, it offers complex notes of cassis, blackberry jam, toasty oak and crushed violets, with an almost iron-like bloodiness coming through with time in the glass. Possessing terrific purity of fruit, solid balance and ripe tannin, hide bottles for 4-5 years I suspect it will keep for two decades.
MONREGARD LA CROIX 2015 MONREGARD LA CROIX POMEROL $NA RED 90

With a plump, forward, sweetly fruited style, the 2015 Monregard La Croix reveals a ruby/purple color and exotic notes of ripe cherries, mint, bay leaf and leafy herbs. With a broad, expansive, medium to full-bodied feel on the palate, drink it over the coming 8-10 years.

CHATEAU MONTLANDRIE 2015 CHATEAU MONTLANDRIE COTES DE CASTILLON $NA RED 91

The 2015 Château Montlandrie is another gem in this terrific vintage. Made from mostly Merlot blended with 20% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon and brought up in just under 50% new barrels, it offers lots of black cherries, forest floor, toasted spice and dried earth aromas and flavors. Deep, rich, beautifully concentrated and with plenty of tannins, it shows the sexier side to the vintage, yet has structure, acidity, and terrific purity. It’s hard to resist today, but will be even better in 2-3 years and have 10-15 years or more of overall longevity.

MONTLISSE 2015 MONTLISSE SAINT-EMILION $NA RED 92

Coming from mostly clay soils, the 2015 Montlisse is seriously good, offering medium to full-bodied, rounded, sexy aromas and flavors of plums, currants, Asian spices, and dried flowers. It has moderate acidity and ripe tannin, as well as beautiful balance, and while already hard to resist, with keep for upwards of a decade.

CHATEAU MONT-PERAT 2015 CHATEAU MONT-PERAT BORDEAUX $NA RED 89

I’ve always loved this wine and just recently finished a case of the 2003. The 2015 Château Mont-Perat is certainly a little gem and over-delivers with its ripe blackberry and plum fruit, bouquet garni and earthy aromas, medium-bodied richness, fine tannin, and just all around delicious, incredibly drinkable style. It should drink nicely for 5-10 years.

MONTROSE 2016 LA DAME DE MONTROSE SAINT-ESTEPHE $NA RED 91-93

Deep ruby/purple-colored, the 2016 Montrose might be the wine of the vintage and offers an extraordinary bouquet of crème de cassis, dried flowers, underbrush, blueberries, and graphite. Gorgeously concentrated, pure, elegant and balanced on the palate, it has incredible purity of fruit, building, ripe tannin and a great, great finish. Reminding me of the 2003, yet more fresh, vibrant and delineated, this awesome 2016 is going to require patience, yet should rival the truly great vintages from this estate.

In this critic’s opinion, Château Montrose is at the top of the pyramid in terms of quality in Saint-Estèphe. They’ve produced some of the best wines in the vintage from the northern Médoc in 2015, and possibly the wine of the vintage in 2016.

Starting with the second wine and more exuberant and sexy than its 2015 counterpart, the 2016 La Dame de Montrose is a seriously impressive wine in its own right and gives a hint of the incredible quality found in the grand vin. Black raspberries, cassis, spring flowers and incense notes all emerge from this ripe, rounded, mouth-filling Saint-Estèphe. It should be a terrific wine and keep for 15-20 years.

A blend of 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 41% Merlot and the rest Petit Verdot, the 2015 La Dame de Montrose is a classic wine from this fabulous estate. Notes of graphite, damp earth, tobacco leaf, and that classic cassis fruit of Saint-Estèphe gives way to a medium to full-bodied, seamless, elegant 2015 that has fine, polished tannin, perfect balance, and a great finish. Tasted twice.

Another wine I was able to taste on multiple occasions, the 2015 Montrose is a certainly the wine of Saint-Estèphe in 2015. Notes of cassis, damp earth, violets, and graphite/lead pencil notes all flow to a beautifully pure, elegant and multi-dimensional 2015 that has fine, polished tannin, perfect balance, and a great finish. The 2015 is a blend of 67% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot and 4% Cabernet Franc, all of which was brought up in 65% new oak. This isn’t a blockbuster yet is pure class all the way. It will be better in 4-5 years and keep for 2-3 decades.

As to the 2014s, these are beautiful wines and certainly a match for the 2015s. The 2014 La Dame de Montrose offers a deep purple color and classic Cabernet Sauvignon notes as well as a touch of violets, spring flowers and leafy herbs. This medium-bodied, elegant, spicy, complex 2014 has loads of charm yet should keep nicely for 15+ years.

I loved the 2014 Montrose and it has an incredible purity and elegance that sets it apart from its peers. A blend of 61% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and the rest Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot, it offers a deeper, richer profile with gorgeous cassis and currant fruits intermixed with licorice, chocolate, graphite and beautiful minerality. A spitting image of class on the palate, with fine tannin, integrated acidity, and medium to full-bodied richness, this terrific 2014 is up with the crème de la crème of the Médoc and keep for two to three decades.

MONTVIEL 2015 MONTVIEL POMEROL $NA RED 92

MONTVIEL 2014 MONTVIEL POMEROL $NA RED 89
Showing similar from barrel, the 2015 Montviel is another sexy, forward Pomerol offering terrific notes of chocolatey dark fruits, dried flowers and Asian spice-like aromas and flavors. A blend of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc, it reveals medium to full-bodied richness, moderate acidity, sweet tannin, and a charming, undeniably sumptuous personality that will keep for 10-15 years.

A step back from the terrific 2015, the 2014 Montviel is still an impressive wine. Made from 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc it offers fruity, forward, medium-bodied style as well as classic Pomerol notes of ripe black cherries, licorice, chocolate, and earth. Drink this elegant, nicely balanced 2014 anytime over the coming 10-15 years.

While not from Bordeaux, I was able to taste these releases from Nicolas Hirissou and opted to include them here. Both are impressive wines from the southwest of France. Made from 100% Braucol, the 2015 Gaillac Florentin sports a deep ruby, purple tinged color to go with an exotic, perfumed bouquet of red plums, black raspberries, spring flowers and mint. This rich, medium to full-bodied red has present, ripe tannin, beautifully integrated acidity, and a great finish. It’s going to benefit from 2-3 years of bottle age and keep through 2027.

On another level, the 2015 Gaillac L’Aigle Cinto checks in as a blend of 60% Tannat, 30% Syrah and 10% Braucol. It’s vibrant purple color is followed by terrific notes of black raspberries, blueberries, violets, roasted herbs and licorice. It’s a big, rich, concentrated 2015 that has terrific purity, integrated acidity and lots of chalky tannin, all of which suggest short term cellaring, as well as a long lived, terrific wine.
The difference in the quality of the 2015 and 2014 vintages is obvious when tasting the 2014 Château Nenin next to the 2015. A blend of 68% Merlot and 32% Cabernet Franc, it’s a charming, medium-bodied, elegant effort that lacks the exuberance, depth, and layers of the 2015. With notes of chocolaty dark fruits, licorice, damp earth and tobacco, it’s already drinking nicely yet should keep for 15 years or so.

### CHATEAU NOAILLAC 2015 CHATEAU NOAILLAC MEDOC $NA RED 86

The 2015 Château Noaillac is another charming, rounder, elegant Cru Bourgeois that gives up pretty notes of raspberries, strawberries, and dried flowers. Drink this straightforward, moderately concentrated effort over the coming 5-6 years.

### CHATEAU ORMES DE PEZ 2014 CHATEAU ORMES DE PEZ SAINT-ESTEPHE $NA RED 91

While the 2015 wasn’t presented, the 2014 Château Ormes de Pez from a bottle purchased locally showed beautifully. A blend of 47% Cabernet Sauvignon, 42% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc and the rest Petit Verdot, is reveal a deep purple color as well as rich, concentrated notes of ripe black cherries, licorice, singed cedar, and tobacco. Concentrated, medium-bodied, incredibly pure and focused, with impressive balance, it’s certainly an outstanding wine that’s going to benefit from 3-4 years of bottle age and shine for 15+. It’s a classic, well-made 2014 I’d happily drink.

### PALMER 2015 PALMER MARGAUX $285 RED 98

One of the gems in Margaux is unquestionably the 2015 Palmer. Possessing more elegance and purity, as well as concentration, than the Alter Ego, it offers up a gorgeous bouquet of crème de cassis, caramalized cherries, charcoal, and graphite, with just a hint of spring flowers in the background. A final blend of 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 44% Merlot and 6% Petit Verdot that was brought up in 70% new oak, this full-bodied, ripe, incredibly polished 2015 is already hard to resist given its elegance and purity, yet should be at its best from 2023-2043. If you have more than one bottle, it’s sensational today as well.

### PALMER ALTER EGO DE PALMER 2015 PALMER ALTER EGO DE PALMER MARGAUX $NA RED 93

The 2015 Alter Ego de Palmer is a sensational wine in its own right. Loaded with notes of black cherries, cassis, scorched earth and hints of toasty oak all emerge from this full-bodied, ripe, yet beautifully balanced Margaux. With ripe tannin, solid mid-palate depth and ample sweet fruit, it shows the charm of the vintage and is already hard to resist, yet should keep for 10-15 years.

### PALMER 2014 PALMER MARGAUX $285 RED 95

The 2014 Palmer is up with the crème de la crème of the vintage and should merit an even higher score in 5-7 years. A blend of 49% Cabernet Sauvignon, 45% Merlot and the rest Petit Verdot brought up in 65% new French oak, its deep ruby/purple-tinged color is followed by a rich, opulent bouquet of blackcurrants, black cherries, chocolate, and tobacco, with hints of graphite and background oak. With more texture and mid-palate depth than most in the vintage, this terrific 2014 is medium to full-bodied, beautifully concentrated, layered and as hedonistic and sexy as it gets in the vintage. Give bottle 4-5 years and it should drink nicely for two decades.

### CHATEAU PALOUMEY 2015 CHATEAU PALOUMEY HAUT-MEDOC $20 RED 90

From the southern part of the Médoc (which is the sweet spot in 2015), the 2015 Château Paloumey offers a kiss of oak in its ripe red and black fruits, lead pencil shavings, cedar and saddle leather aromas and flavors. This ripe, medium-bodied 2015 has beautiful fruit, a balanced texture, light tannin, and a great finish, and it’s unquestionably one of the many hidden gems in the vintage. It has the class and depth to keep for at least 7-8 years.

### CHATEAU DE PANIGON 2015 CHATEAU DE PANIGON MEDOC $NA RED 87

Notes of raspberries, blackberries, leafy herbs and spice all emerge from the 2015 Château De Panigon and it’s a competent, medium-bodied, elegant red that has plenty of charm. Drink it over the coming 7-8 years.

### CHATEAU PAPE CLEMENT 2015 CHATEAU PAPE CLEMENT BLANC PESEAC-LEOGNAN $NA WHITE 96

The 2015 Château Pape Clément Blanc is sensational stuff, and along with Domaine de Chevalier’s Blanc, a candidate for the white wine of the vintage. Made from close to equal amounts of Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon, with 10% Sauvignon Gris, from a 7.2-hectare section of the Pessac Vineyard, it offers a perfumed bouquet of lime, lychee, crushed rocks, and green citrus. Fabulous on the palate as well, with full-bodied richness and a ripe, sexy, concentrated style, it stays fresh and lively, and is an absolute joy to drink. You can drink bottles over the coming 4-5 years or cellar for 15+. Tasted twice and rated it 96 and 97, so I’m being conservative on the rating.

As with the white, the 2015 Château Pape Clément is up at the top of the hierarchy and is a tour de force in Red Bordeaux that should be snapped up by readers. Coming from a 50-hectare parcel of the gravelly soils and harvest between September 25th and October 15th, it’s a blend of 56% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot and 4% Cabernet Franc that saw a long maceration (30-40 days) and 18 months in 80% new French oak. With a deep ruby/plum color and awesome notes of currants, black cherries, truffles, chocolate and graphite, this beauty hits the palate with a massive, full-bodied, opulent, sexy, yet never heavy style. With terrific concentration, perfect balance, and ripe tannin, as well as plenty of oak, give bottles 4-5 years of cellaring and enjoy over the following 2-3 decades. Tasted three times.

### CHATEAU PATACHE D'AUX 2015 CHATEAU PATACHE D'AUX MEDOC $NA RED 86

The 2015 Château Patache D’Aux offers pretty cherry and plum fruits, cedary spice and a touch of earth, medium-bodied richness, and a straightforward, enjoyable style. Drink it over the coming 5-6 years.

### CHATEAU PAUILLAC 2015 CHATEAU PAUILLAC PAUILLAC $NA RED 91

Named after the creator of the estate, “Dame Pauillac”, who was responsible for building the small Chateau in 1871, and made with help of famed consultant Michel Rolland, the deep ruby colored 2015 Château Pauillac offers a ripe, concentrated, slightly rustic style as well as terrific intensity in its chocolatey dark fruits, tobacco
The longevity. Cut from the same cloth as the 2015, the famed consultant Michel Rolland for the winemaking. All these wines reviewed here are beautiful.

The 2015 Château Pavie is going to be a candidate for the wine of the vintage, both from the right and left banks, it’s that good. Made from 60% Merlot, 22% Cabernet Franc and the rest Cabernet Sauvignon, this truly great wine sports an inky purple color and to-die-for notes of crème de cassis, toasted bread, liquid flowers, and a building, gravely, liquid rock-like minerality. Possessing full-bodied richness, ultra-fine tannin, and integrated acidity, with perfect ripeness and balance, it will need at least 4-5 years of bottle age to be drinkable but is going to keep for decades. I wrote “Wow” more than once in my notes.

Château Pavie Decesse 2015 Château Pavie Decesse Saint-Emilion $160 Red 95-97+

Not yet bottled, the 2015 Château Pavie Décesse comes from a tiny 3.5-hectare parcel and is 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc brought up in 90% new oak. It will be bottled at the same time as Château Pavie. Offering an inky, glass staining color and a huge nose of cassis, toasted spice, violets and spring flowers, it’s another massively concentrated, opulent, yet weightless, elegant wine from Gérard Perse. As with the Pavie release, it’s the purity of fruit, intensity, and balance that sets this beauty apart. Bravo!

Château Pavie Macquin 2015 Château Pavie Macquin Saint-Emilion $100 Red 94

Château Pavie Macquin 2014 Château Pavie Macquin Saint-Emilion $75 Red 92+

Notes of cassis, toasted spice, toasty oak, and crushed flowers emerge from the 2015 Château Pavie Macquin, and it’s a rockin’ effort that marries elegance with full-bodied power and structure. With fine, fine tannin, high, yet integrated acidity, and a great mid-palate, it’s more approachable than either of the other Pavie releases, yet is still backward and unevolved. Give bottles 4-5 years of cellaring and enjoy over the following two to three decades.

Coming from two parcels planted on the upper plateau, with a terroir like Troplong-Mondot, the 2014 Château Pavie Macquin is more backward than the 2015 (which is expected) and offers a masculine, firm, edgy style as well as lots of black cherry and currant fruits intermixed with smoked herbs, scorched earth and lots of minerality. This medium to full-bodied 2014 has good concentration, high, integrated acidity, and an age-worthy, classic style that needs 5-6 years of bottle age. It should have three decades of overall longevity.

Pey La Fuerges 2016 Pey La Fuerges Saint-Emilion $NA Red 95-97

Pey La Fuerges 2015 Pey La Fuerges Saint-Emilion $160 Red 97

Pey La Fuerges 2014 Pey La Fuerges Saint-Emilion $160 Red 95

Pey La Fuerges 2012 Pey La Fuerges Saint-Emilion $160 Red 96

Pey La Fuerges 2010 Pey La Fuerges Saint-Emilion $160 Red 97+

Pey La Fuerges 2009 Pey La Fuerges Saint-Emilion $160 Red 99

This cuvée from Swiss owner Silvio Denz comes from a 7.45-hectare portion of the Faugères vineyard, which lies on the eastern edge of Saint-Emilion, on the Saint-Emilion/Castillon border. The parcel is mostly older vines and is a unique southeast facing slopes of brown limestone soils. It’s worth mentioning that Jean-Luc Thunevin’s blockbuster Valandraud cuvée comes from a site not far from here and this sensational wine is made with guidance from Stephan von Neipperg for the viticulture and famed consultant Michel Rolland for the winemaking. All these of these wines reviewed here are beautiful.

Cut from the same cloth as the 2015, the 2016 Château Pauty Faugères is made from 100% Merlot that saw malolactic fermentation in barrel and is still aging in close to 100% new oak. With a glass staining, inky color and sensational notes of blue fruits, liquid flowers, and toasty oak, this totally thrilling barrel sample hits the palate with full-bodied richness, a pure, elegant, finesse-driven texture, and serious amounts of tannin. Hide bottles of 7-8 years and it’s going to have three decades of overall longevity.

The 2015 Château Pauty Faugères is a blockbuster that’s up with the top wines from this estate. As with the 2016, it’s 100% Merlot raised in 90% new oak. A big wine that checks in north of 15% alcohol (you’d never know it by tasting it), it offers a huge bouquet of cassis, graphite, bouquet garni, scorched earth, and toasty oak. With a full-bodied, layered, seamless style on the palate and awesome purity of fruit, it has the concentration, balance, and freshness to improve for 7-8 years and keep for two decades. Tasted twice.

While the 2014 Château Pauty Faugères isn’t going to make you forget the 2015 (or 2009 and 2010), it’s a gorgeous wine in 2014 that’s more than worth your time and money. From tiny yields and the oldest Merlot vines of the estate planted on a mostly south facing hillside, this beauty offers sensational purity in its blackberries, smoked earth, espresso, spring flowers and pencil shavings aromas and flavors, as well as additional minerality with time in the glass. An inky colored, sexy, flamboyant 2014, it has full-bodied richness, polished, ripe tannin, impeccable balance, and a great finish. While it’s certainly a more modern styled wine, it has beautiful purity, notable freshness, only subtle oak, and a silky texture, and is, again, beautifully balanced. Don’t let anyone tell you it won’t age or doesn’t show its terroir. Give this terrific 2014 3-4 years of bottle age and enjoy over the following 15.
The 2012 Pey Faugeres is another beauty, and shows how strong this vintage is for the right bank. Dense purple-colored with a terrific, ripe, opulent style in its deep black fruits, black cherry, chocolate, and graphite aromas and flavors, it has no hard edges, sweet tannin, just hints of background oak, and a big finish. It’s already drinking brilliantly yet will cruise for another 15-20 years.

An absolutely prodigious, massively concentrated Saint-Emilion is the 2010 Pey Faugeres, which is 100% old vine Merlot, from a single parcel of south-facing limestone soils, brought up all in new oak. This beauty’s deep purple, almost blue, color is followed by a dense, backward bouquet of black and blue fruits, scorched earth, graphite, chocolatey oak, and an incredible minerality. More backward, dense, and brooding compared to the sexy 2009, hide bottle for another 3-4 years and enjoy over the following 20-25 years. It’s an awesome wine.

The opposite of the backward, classically styled, inward 2010, the 2009 Pey Faugeres is an extroverted, hedonistic, sexpot of a wine that delivers just about everything you could want from a bottle of wine. It too is inky colored and offers a heavenly perfume of blueberries, cassis, scorched earth, incense, licorice and hints of flowers. It’s a massive, full-bodied, opulent wine, yet stays light and graceful on the palate, with a weightless feel, which is even more remarkable given its incredible concentration, extract, tannic structure, and length. It’s a joy to drink today (in a youthful sort of way) but has another two to three decades of prime drinking. Bravo!

**CHATEAU PEYDEMONTE** 2015 CHATEAU PEYDEMONTE PAUILLAC $NA RED 90

This estate was purchased in 2009 by Jacky Lorenzetti, who had previously purchased Château Lilian Ladouys, in Saint-Estèphe, in 2008. In addition to the 26 hectares of Château Pédesclaux, Lorenzetti was also able to purchase 12 hectares of high-density plantings interspersed with those of Mouton and Lafite, bringing the total number of hectare the estate to just under 50 hectares. Since the takeover, the vineyard management has been revamped, everything is processed via gravity, and the wines are aged 18 months in 60% new and 40% once used barrels. Today this estate is managed by Emmanuel Cruse with Eric Boissenot lending his consulting advice.

From an estate on the upswing, the 2015 Château Pédesclaux is a Cabernet Sauvignon dominated effort that includes a big chunk of Merlot (42%) and a small amount of Petit Verdot. It offers a medium-bodied, beautifully balanced and silky personality as well as top-notch notes of blackberries, dried flowers, and cedary spice. With fine, polished tannin, no hard edges, and impressive purity of fruit, drink it anytime over the coming two decades.

**CHATEAU PERRON** 2015 CHATEAU PERRON LALANDE-DE-POMEROL $NA RED 90

The 2015 Château Perron is a blend of 80% Merlot and 10% each of Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc that was brought up all in larger foudre. This deep ruby colored beauty offers a terrific floral character as well as outstanding notes of black cherries, bay leaf, and underbrush. Medium-bodied, elegant, and seamless on the palate, with ripe tannin, it’s another terrific wine made under the guidance of consultant Claude Gros.

The flagship cuvee is the 2015 Château Perron La Fleur and it’s 100% Merlot brought up in a new foudre. This deep, opulent, full-bodied beauty boasts awesome notes of cassis, plums, toasted spice and dried herbs. With a rich, viscous texture, ripe tannin, and a great finish, it still shows a beautiful elegance and purity making it a joy to drink. It’s should keep for 10-15 years.

**CHATEAU PETIT GRAVET AINE** 2015 CHATEAU PETIT GRAVET AINE SAINT-EMILION $NA RED 95

From a great, yet tiny, sandy/clay terroir near Canon-la-Gaffelière and a unique Cabernet Franc-dominated blend mixed with 20% Merlot aged in new barrels, the 2015 Château Petit Gravet Aîné boasts a complex, exotic bouquet of incense, spring flowers, and dried herbs, with a beautiful core of black cherry and plum fruit. The palate is where this gem shines, however, and it’s sensationaly pure, layered, and elegant, with a full-bodied, sexy style that just begs to be drunk. Give bottles a few years and enjoy over the following 15-20 years. This is an awesome wine brought to the US by American merchant Jeffrey Davies.

The 2014 Château Petit Gravet Aîné is also terrific. A blend of 80% Cabernet Franc and 20% Merlot, this deeply colored 2014 shows the more reserved, classic style of the 2014 vintage, yet certainly does not come up short on depth or concentration. Black raspberries, currants, acacia flowers, toasty oak, and graphite, as well as background minerality, all emerge from this beautiful, medium to full-bodied, layered Saint-Emilion that has a great mid-palate, a ripe, textured, and building tannin. With both terrific complexity and beautiful richness, give bottles 2-3 years and enjoy over the following two decades.

**CHATEAU PEY DE PONT** 2015 CHATEAU PEY DE PONT MEDOC $NA RED 87

The 2015 Château Pey De Pont is made in a pretty, charming, upfront style and offers moderately intense notes of strawberries, cherries, spice, and underbrush. With medium-bodied richness, a light, elegant style, and good length, it should drink nicely for upwards of a decade.

**PEY LA TOUR RÉSERVE** 2015 PEY LA TOUR RÉSERVE BORDEAUX SUPERIOR $NA RED 89
Made with guidance from oenologist Michel Rolland, the 2015 Pey La Tour Réserve is another high quality, medium-bodied, incredibly charming Bordeaux Superior that reveals a deep ruby/plum color and notes of red and black fruits, candied violets, and bay leaf. Drink this fruit-loaded, balanced, pleasure-bent 2015 over the coming 7-8 years.

PEYRAT-FOURTHON 2015 CHATEAU PEYRAT-FOURTHON HAUT-MEDOC $NA RED 90+

A wine with some upside, the 2015 Château Peyrat-Fourthon is a rough blend of 51% Cabernet Sauvignon, 41% Merlot and the rest Petit Verdot, from vines west of Pauillac, that was brought up in new barrels. This medium to full-bodied 2015 has a deep ruby/purple-tinged color, terrific notes of cassis, toasted spice, graphite, and oak, solid mid-palate depth, and beautiful purity of fruit. It’s still tight and reserved on the palate, so give bottles 2-3 years, and it should keep for 8-10.

PEYREDON LAGRAVETTE 2015 CHATEAU PEYREDON LAGRAVETTE HAUT-MEDOC $NA RED 87

The 2015 Château Peyredon Lagravette comes from a tiny estate in Listrac and is a rough blend of 60/40 Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. With lots of red and black fruits, underbrush, bouquet garni and earthy aromas and flavors, it hits the palate with medium-bodied richness, nicely integrated acidity, and a clean finish. It’s not groundbreaking but is balanced and incredibly drinkable. It should last for 8-10 years.

CHATEAU DE PEZ 2015 CHATEAU DE PEZ SAINT-ESTEPHE $NA RED 91

Loads of Asian spice, toasty oak, dried flowers and red and black fruits emerge from the 2015 Château de Pez and it’s an open-knit, sexy 2015 that does well in the vintage. With fine tannin, a charming style, and a good finish, it should continue to drink nicely for 10-15 years. This wine is 51% Merlot, 44% Cabernet Sauvignon and the rest Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot.

PHELAN SEGUR 2015 PHELAN SEGUR SAINT-ESTEPHE $50 RED 91+

I was able to taste the 2015 Phelan Segur on multiple occasion and it showed beautifully both times. Black currants, scorched earth, espresso and hints of chocolate all emerge from this medium to full-bodied, concentrated, firm, structured, dense Saint-Estèphe. It needs 3-4 years of bottle age but will see its 20th birthday in fine form.

CHATEAU PIBRAN 2015 CHATEAU PIBRAN PAUILLAC $NA RED 92

A blend of equal parts Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon brought up in 50% new oak, the 2015 Château Pibran is a beautiful Pauillac that does well in a vintage which can be erratic for this appellation. Very classic notes of cassis, tobacco leaf, lead pencil shavings, and spice give way to a medium to full-bodied, elegant red that has fine tannin, nicely integrated acidity, and top-notch purity of fruit. This is a tiny estate owned by Pichon-Longueville Baron, and it’s a Pauillac well worth checking out. I suspect it’s also a great value and should keep for 15-20 years.

I also loved the 2014 Château Pibran, which is a similar blend to the 2015, albeit with slightly less Cabernet Sauvignon. It offers a terrific bouquet of plum, mulberries, cedary spice, flowers, and toasty oak. This flows to a medium-bodied, elegant Pauillac that’s beautifully balanced, has top notch purity, integrated acidity, and clean, focused finish. This is classy stuff that’s already approachable, yet will benefit from 3-4 years of cellaring and keep for another 15+.

PICHON-LONGUEVILLE BARON 2015 LES GRIFFONS DE PICHON BARON PAUILLAC $NA RED 92

The second wine of the estate (of which there are two) first made in 2012, the 2015 Les Griffons De Pichon Baron sports a deep ruby/purple color as well as a medium to full-bodied, concentrated, firm, structured, dense Saint-Estèphe. It needs 3-4 years of bottle age but will see its 20th birthday in fine form.

PICHON-LONGUEVILLE BARON 2015 LES TOURELLES DE LONGUEVILLE PAUILLAC $NA RED 89

The 2015 Pichon-Longueville Baron is another high quality, medium-bodied, incredibly charming Bordeaux Superior that reveals a deep ruby/plum color and notes of red and black fruits, candied violets, and bay leaf. Drink this fruit-loaded, balanced, pleasure-bent 2015 over the coming 7-8 years.

PICHON-LONGUEVILLE BARON 2014 PICHON-LONGUEVILLE BARON PAUILLAC $175 RED 95

Reminding me of the 1990, the 2015 Château Pichon Baron is a sensational bottle of wine made from 80% Cabernet Sauvignon and 20% Merlot that spent 18 months in 80% new French oak. Boasting a deep purple color as well as awesome notes of black raspberries, toasted spices, cassis, lead pencil shavings, tobacco leaf and building minerality, this full-bodied, concentrated 2015 has sweet tannin, a great texture, and a big, big finish. Pauillac all the way, with both opulence and finesse, forget bottles of 4-5 years and enjoy anytime over the following two to three decades. This is a match for the 2009, 2000, and 1990.

More reserved and classically styled than the 2015, the 2014 Pichon-Longueville Baron is nevertheless a beautiful wine and up with the top wines in the vintage. Possessing deep ruby/plum color as well as terrific notes of blackberries, smoke tobacco, graphite, chocolate, and hints of cedar, it has a regal, understated, yet concentrated style that builds with time in the glass. Medium to full-bodied, ripe, layered, and beautifully textured, it’s a classy wine from this estate that’s going to benefit from 3-4 years of bottle age and keep for two decades.

PICHON-LONGUEVILLE COMTESSE 2015 RESERVE DE COMTESSE DE LALANDE PAUILLAC $NA RED 92

JebDunnuck.com Let the Good Times Roll: 2015 Bordeaux
While this estate lies just to the north of Château Latour, most of its vineyards are located west of highway D2, in more gravelly soils, at times overlapping into the appellation of Saint-Julien to the south. This estate always produces a regal, yet incredibly seductive style of Pauillac, which I suspect is due in part to the inclusion of a larger percentage of Merlot in the final blend, which can be upwards of 30%. This estate has a brand new, state of the art winery and utilizes optical sorting, fermentation in stainless steel, and aging occurring in roughly 60% new barrels and 40% in once used. Manager Nicolas Glumineau is doing an incredible job at this estate and both the 2014s and 2015s are beautiful wines.

The second wine of Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande is the 2015 Reserve De Comtesse De Lalande and it’s a beautiful wine in 2015 that surpasses most Château’s grand vin. A blend of 53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot and the balance Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot, it reveals a deep ruby/purple color as well as medium to full-bodied notes of cassis, plums, ground herbs and spring flowers. This is a ripe, sexy, opulent second wine that’s ideal for drinking over the coming 10-15 years.

I tasted the 2015 Château Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande on three separate occasions rating it 97 twice and 98 once. Checking in as a final blend of 68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot and the rest Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot, this is a nuanced style of wine that grows on you with time in the glass, and the larger Merlot component always gives it a more supple, seductive texture. Crème de cassis, black raspberries, spring flowers, leafy herbs and lead pencil notes all flow to a full-bodied, ultra-pure, seamless beauty that builds on the palate, has fine tannin and a great, great finish. As classy as they come, it will continue to impress for two to three decades.

Both of the 2014s are a small step back from what was accomplished in 2015, but are nevertheless terrific wines and up with the crème de la crème of the vintage. The 2014 Reserve De Comtesse De Lalande offers a classic Cabernet Sauvignon nose of ripe currants, plums, and Asian spices in a rounded, medium to full-bodied, plump, seductive style. It’s already impossible to resist (and I see no need to delay gratification) but will keep for 10-15 years.

Showing the hallmark elegance and seductiveness of this terrific estate, the 2014 Pichon Longueville Comtesse De Lalande is deeply colored (especially in the vintage) and delivers a heavenly bouquet of crème de cassis, ripe plums, graphite, pencil, roasted coffee, and tons of building minerality and liquid rock-like nuances. Incredibly pure, textured, full-bodied, and with a seamless integration of its fruit, tannin, and acidity, it’s already approachable but will keep for two to three decades.

CHATEAU PICQUE CAILLOU 2015 CHATEAU PICQUE CAILLOU PESSAC-LEOGNAN $30 RED 89

From a site in the northern part of the appellation, the 2015 Château Picque Caillou sports a deep ruby/purple color as well as complex notes of both red and black currants, lavender, wet stone and spring flowers. It’s a fresh, elegant, beautifully focused Pessac that has impeccable balanced and ripe tannin, as well as solid length. It’s ideal for drinking over the coming decade.

CHATEAU PIERRE 1ER 2015 CHATEAU PIERRE 1ER SAINT-EMILION $25 RED 90

The 2015 Château Pierre 1er is a juicy, forward, delicious effort that offers lots of red and black currants, leafy herbs, cedar wood and sous bois. This medium-bodied, charming, moderately concentrated 2015 has plenty of fruit, a rounded texture, moderate acidity and ripe tannin, all suggesting it will keep for a decade or more.

CHATEAU LES CRUZELLES 2015 CHATEAU LES CRUZELLES LALANDE DE POMEROL $NA RED 91

Another release from Denis Durantou, the 2015 Château Les Cruselles comes from the Lalande de Pomerol appellation and is 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc aged in 45% new French oak. It offers a gorgeous bouquet of black cherries, red currants, spring flowers and smoked herbs, with a touch of background oak. With almost a hint of blue fruits, a terrific floral undercurrent, good acidity, and sweet tannin, it’s just another beautiful wine from Durantou that’s well worth seeking out. It will keep for a decade or more.

CHATEAU PIERRE DE LUNE 2015 CHATEAU PIERRE DE LUNE SAINT-EMILION $NA RED 90

The 2015 Château Pierre de Lune comes from a tiny vineyard (1.05 hectares) next to Château Monbousquet, owned by the manager of Clos Fourtet, Tony Ballu, and is primarily Merlot blended with a splash of Cabernet Sauvignon. It’s a rich, sexy, forward wine that offers lots of pretty red and black fruits, chocolate and spring flower notes as well as medium to full-bodied richness, a soft mid-palate, and fine tannin. The overall impression here is one of upfront charm and accessibility, yet I suspect it will keep for a decade. The 2015 is 92% Merlot and 8% Cabernet Sauvignon that saw half blend go through malolactic fermentation in barrel and aging covers 15 months in 50% new oak.

CHATEAU PIERRE DE MONTIGNAC 2015 CHATEAU PIERRE DE MONTIGNAC MEDOC $NA RED 86

From a northern Médoc estate and based largely on Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon, the 2015 Château Pierre De Montignac has an oaky, sweetly fruited, medium-bodied style that’s short and fleeting, yet enjoyable.

CHATEAU PLANTEY 2015 CHATEAU PLANTEY PAUILLAC $NA RED 87

The 2015 Château Plantey is medium-bodied and moderately concentrated, with notes of plums, ground herbs, and cedar. It has a slightly stretched feel and could use more flesh, but is enjoyable.

CHATEAU PLANTIER ROSE 2015 CHATEAU PLANTIER ROSE SAINT-ESTEPHE $NA RED 87

Based on 62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and the rest Petit Verdot, the 2015 Château Plantier Rose is a solid, medium-bodied, slightly diluted 2015 that has terrific notes of red fruits (strawberries, raspberries), flowers and seaweed. With light tannin and a balanced profile, drink it over the coming 7-8 years.

CHATEAU PLINCE 2015 CHATEAU PLINCE POMEROL $NA RED 90

Another terrific Pomerol from the Moueix team and based on 72% Merlot and 28% Cabernet Franc, the 2015 Château Plince offers the sexy, approachable style of the vintage as well as lots of sweet red and black fruits, underbrush, and hints of vanilla. This medium-bodied 2015 has surprising elegance, as well as silky texture, and it’s already hard to resist. Drink it over the coming decade.
The 2015 Château Poitevin is a beauty made from the Poitevin Family’s estate located far up in the northern part of the Médoc. It offers lots of plum and black cherry fruits, notes of tobacco leaf, medium body, and a plump, layered, pure style. Drink it over the coming decade.

The 2016 Pontet Canet from Alfred Tesseron and estate manager Jean-Michel Comme saw a touch more new oak than normal (55%) and is a blend of 70% Cabernet Sauvignon and the rest Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. It also had 35% of the blend brought up in amphora. Showing the now hallmark purity and elegance of the estate in its crème de cassis, violet, and spring flower-laced bouquet, this beauty is full-bodied, has bright acidity, and sensational purity of fruit. It’s going to be for those with patience and cold cellars, however, and I wouldn’t touch bottle for at least 7-8 years.

The 2015 Pontet Canet is 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and 5% Petit Verdot, the 2015 Château Pontoise Cabarrus is a Cabernet Sauvignon dominated red that includes 42% Merlot, 6% Petit Verdot and 2% Cabernet Franc. It’s a medium-bodied, classic Potensac offering notes of black cherries, underbrush, violets and even a hint of peppery herbs. With medium-bodied richness, juicy acidity and fine, nicely integrated tannin, it’s a classic 2015 to drink over the coming 10-15 years.

A blend of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and 5% Petit Verdot, the 2014 Pontet-Canet is brilliant stuff, and I was able to taste this wine from barrel as well as multiple times from bottle, both at the estate and from a bottle purchased in the United States. It offers a sensational bouquet of crème de cassis, black raspberries, tobacco leaf, and minerals, as well as an unmistakable Pauillac lead pencil characteristics that I just adore. Possessing full-bodied richness, a rounded, surprisingly opulent, sexy texture, awesome purity, and sweet, succulent tannin, it’s a sensational 2014 that might just surpass what they accomplished in 2015. This is a 2014 you won’t regret buying in bulk as it’s going to keep for 2-3 decades and be drinkable for the vast majority of it. Bravo to Alfred Tesseron and his team!

The 2015 Château Pontoise Cabarrus is a plump, dark fruited, easy going Haut-Médoc that has good acidity and a charming style. It’s best drunk in its youth.

The 2015 Potensac comes from vines near the northern edge of Saint-Estèphe and is 45% Merlot, 38% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 17% Cabernet Franc. It’s a rock-solid, medium-bodied, classic Potensac offering notes of black cherries, underbrush, violets and even a hint of peppery herbs. With medium-bodied richness, juicy acidity and fine, nicely integrated tannin, it’s a classic 2015 to drink over the coming 10-15 years.

A blend of 39% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, 18% Cabernet Franc and the rest Petit Verdot, the 2014 Potensac is more herbal and woody compared to the 2015, yet offers medium-bodied richness and sweet fruit on the palate. It’s a charming, forward, easy going 2014 to drink over the coming decade.

The 2015 Château Poujeaux is a Cabernet Sauvignon dominated red that includes 42% Merlot, 6% Petit Verdot and 2% Cabernet Franc. It’s a medium-bodied, classic, workhorse styled beauty offering lots of currant and black cherry fruits, plenty of minerality, fine tannin and solid concentration. It has more density than most Moulis and will keep for 10-15 years.

The 2014 Château La Prade is a pretty, medium-bodied, elegant 2014 (that’s the vintage) offering notes of dried tobacco and both red and black fruits. It has fine tannin, a supple, nicely layered texture, and will keep for a decade. It’s a thoroughly enjoyable, albeit not groundbreaking, red that’s from a tiny part of the Côtes de Castillon region.

Coming from the upper plateau (limestone) as well as the slopes (clay) of the appellation, the 2015 Château De Pressac checks in as a blend of 70% Merlot, 14% Cabernet Franc and the rest Cabernet Sauvignon, Carmenere and Malbec. It has a terrific freshness and purity, as well as rich aromas and flavors of crème de cassis, candle wax, graphite, and violets. With full-bodied richness, gorgeous purity, polished tannin, and a silky texture, drink it over the coming 15-20 years.

A fine, well-made Cru Bourgeois, the 2015 Château Preuillac comes from vines around the town of Lesparre-Médoc and is mostly Merlot blended with 38% Cabernet Sauvignon and 4% Cabernet Franc. Offering exotic notes of red fruits (strawberries, cherry pie) and crushed flowers, it has moderate depth and richness, yet a medium-bodied, charming, forward, delicious style. Drink it over the coming 7-8 years.
The 2015 Château Prieuré Lichine is slightly baked and rustic, and a solid step back from the 2014 (which is rarely the case). Chocolate, cooked cherries, licorice and earthy notes all emerge from the glass, and it offers medium-bodied textures and depth on the palate. It’s good, but not one of the best out there and from an appellation that’s at the top of the heap in 2015, this is a disappointment.

From the southern part of Margaux, the 2014 Château Prieuré Lichine is little gem well worth seeking out. Offering lots of classic black cherry fruit, tobacco, herbs, and damp earth, it’s medium to full-bodied, impeccably balanced, and has moderate, chalky tannins on the finish. Like most 2014s, it’s already drinking nicely, yet is going to keep for 15 years or so. Tasted twice.

CHATEAU PUY BLANQUET 2015 CHATEAU PUY BLANQUET SAINT-EMILION $NA RED 92

The 2015 Château Puy Blanquet is another top-quality Saint-Emilion in the vintage. A blend of 75% Merlot and the rest Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon, this full-bodied, ripe, sexy beauty boasts terrific notes of cherries, crème de cassis, chocolate, and hints of charcoal. It has present tannin, yet they’re sweet and integrated, solid mid-palate depth and a great finish, all making for one seriously delicious 2015 to drink over the coming 10-15 years.

CHATEAU QUINAULT L'ENCLOS 2015 CHATEAU QUINAULT L’ENCLOS SAINT-EMILION $NA RED 95

A ripe, heady, blockbuster styled beauty, the 2015 Château Quinault l’Enclos (69% Merlot and the rest Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc) reveals a deep purple color as well as super ripe (but not overripe) notes of blackcurrants, Asian spices, cherries, and earth. With full-bodied richness, high, yet sweet tannin, and an incredible texture that seemed to improve every time I came back to the glass, it’s already beautifully but will keep for 15-20 years.

CHATEAU RAHOUL 2015 CHATEAU RAHOUL BLANC GRAVES $25 WHITE 92

Another terrific white from the vintage (and from the Graves regions, which is an undeniable success in 2015) is the 2015 Château Rahoul Blanc. This medium-bodied, clean, crisp effort offers classic notes of caramelized citrus, crushed rocks, white flowers and lots of brioche and toasted bread notes. It’s rich, impeccably balanced and elegant, and is high-class stuff.

CHATEAU RAMAFORT 2015 CHATEAU RAMAFORT MEDOC $NA RED 87

The 2015 Château Ramafort comes from an estate located north of Saint-Estèphe and is close to an even split of Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon. This deep ruby colored 2015 offers impressive notes of black cherries, plums, incense, graphite, and violets, and is medium-bodied, nicely balanced, and totally satisfying. Drink it anytime over the coming decade.

RAUZAN DESPAGNE 2015 RAUZAN DESPAGNE BORDEAUX SUPERIOR $NA RED 90

RAUZAN DESPAGNE 2015 RAUZAN DESPAGNE RESERVE BORDEAUX SUPERIOR $NA RED 91

Made with help of top consultant Claude Gros, the 2015 Rauzan Despagne is ripe, opulent blend of 70% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc and the rest Cabernet Sauvignon. Coming from sandy, gravelly soils, it’s deep purple color gives way to ripe aromas of crème de cassis, toasted spice, and background oak. With medium to full-bodied richness, plenty of fat and texture, sweet tannin and a great finish, it’s a seriously good Bordeaux to enjoy over the coming 8-10 years.

Cut from the same cloth as the straight cuvée, the 2015 Rauzan Despagne Reserve is similarly inky colored yet offers slightly more complexity, elegance, as well as minerality. It too should keep nicely for 8-10 years.

RAUZAN-GASSIES 2015 RAUZAN-GASSIES MARGAUX $NA RED 92+
One of the more structured wines in the vintage is the **2015 Rauzan-Gassies**. Deep ruby/purple colored with a fabulous bouquet of currants, charcoal, black cherries and crushed rocks, it is a full-bodied, incredibly pure, concentrated Margaux that has integrated tannin and a focused, chiseled feel. Forget bottles for 5-6 years and it should reward for upwards of two decades.

**RAUZAN-SEGLA 2015**  
**RAUZAN-SEGLA**  
**MARGAUX**  
**$80**  
RED  
95+

I loved the **2015 Rauzan-Segla** and it’s another sensational Margaux and is another data point showing Margaux was the most successful appellation in the Médoc. Deep purple/ruby-hued with an elegant perfume of currants, raspberries, dried flowers, and toasted spices, with ample background oak, this full-bodied, incredibly elegance, pure Margaux has sweet tannin, impressive mid-palate depth, and a great finish. It has awesome purity of fruit and promises to evolve for 30+ years.

**REIGNAC 2015**  
**REIGNAC**  
**BORDEAUX SUPERIOR**  
**$NA**  
RED  
91

Reader looking for a classic, age-worthy Bordeaux that won’t break the back should look no further than the **2015 Reignac**. Offering impressive amounts of ripe currants, dried flowers, toasty oak and dried flower, this medium-bodied beauty is impeccably balanced and has integrated tannins. It’s classic stuff all the way and will drink nicely for 10 to 15 years.

**RENON 2015**  
**RENON**  
**CADILLAC COTES DE BORDEAUX**  
**$NA**  
RED  
87

A medium-bodied, moderately concentrated, nicely balanced and thoroughly enjoyable effort is the **2015 Renon**. Deep ruby colored with notes of cherries, currants and leafy herbs, drink it over the coming 7-8 years.

**CHATEAU REYSSON 2015**  
**CHATEAU REYSSON**  
**HAUT-MEDOC**  
**$NA**  
RED  
88

The **2015 Château Reysson** is red fruited, medium-bodied Haut Médoc from vines planted just west of Saint-Éstèphe. Based on 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, it has notable balance, integrated acidity, and complex notes of spice, incense and spring flowers. It’s undeniably high-quality and should evolve nicely for 10-15 years.

**CHATEAU LA RIBAUD 2015**  
**CHATEAU LA RIBAUD**  
**MEDOC**  
**$NA**  
RED  
86

A medium-bodied, classic, herbal effort, the **2015 Château La Ribaud** offers attractive fruit on the palate, has a supple, easy texture and some elegance.

**CHATEAU RIGAUD 2015**  
**CHATEAU RIGAUD**  
**SAINT-EMILION**  
**$NA**  
RED  
91

From an organically farmed, cool terroir in Saint-Emilion, the **2015 Château Rigaud** is mostly Merlot brought up in tank, with one-third in barrel. This deep, inky-colored effort offers complex notes of black cherries, leather, dried herbs, and incense, medium to full body, present tannin, and a ripe, hedonistic character. Drink it over the coming decade. This is another estate utilizing the expertise of Claude Gros.

**CHATEAU RIPEAU 2015**  
**CHATEAU RIPEAU**  
**SAINT-EMILION**  
**$NA**  
RED  
95+

**CHATEAU RIPEAU 2015**  
**TOUR DE RIPEAU**  
**SAINT-EMILION**  
**$NA**  
RED  
90

From an estate owned by the Grégoire family and managed by Julien Salles that’s seeing huge investments and renovation, the **2015 Château Ripeau** checks in as 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc brought up all in new oak. It’s a gorgeous wine on all accounts, which given that this terroir is located near Cheval Blanc, La Conseillante, and Figeac, should surprise no one. Beautiful notes of crème de cassis, blueberries, toasty oak, lead pencil shavings, and Asian spice all emerge from the glass and this beauty is full-bodied, concentrated and layered, with enough underlying structure to warrant 3-4 years of bottle age. This estate also utilizes consultant Claude Gros and this estate’s bandwagon is worth getting on for readers looking for an up and coming superstar.

Another wine from Château Ripeau is the **2015 Tour De Ripeau** and it’s a blend of 65% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Sauvignon and the rest Cabernet Franc. From younger vine and designated parcels, made with an eye on elegance and tension, it offers pretty notes of ripe cherries, blueberries, fruit cake, and spice as well as medium body, fine tannin, and nicely integrated acidity. It shows a very pretty, graceful style and should keep or 10-15 years.

**CHATEAU ROCHEBELLE 2015**  
**CHATEAU ROCHEBELLE**  
**SAINT-EMILION**  
**$80**  
RED  
92

The **2015 Château Rochebelle** is a blend of mostly Merlot aged 18 months in new barrels. Its deep ruby/purple color is followed by a ripe, opulent and sexy 2015 that boasts terrific notes of black cherries, damp earth, cassis, and graphite, with just a hint of floral nuances showing with air. A big, ripe, textured red, it stays light and balanced on the palate, has moderate, sweet tannin, and a ready to go style. It’s not the most concentrated or structured out there, so plan on drinking bottles over the coming 8-10 years.

**CHATEAU ROCHEYRON 2016**  
**CHATEAU ROCHEYRON**  
**SAINT-EMILION**  
**$NA**  
RED  
92-95

**CHATEAU ROCHEYRON 2015**  
**CHATEAU ROCHEYRON**  
**SAINT-EMILION**  
**$NA**  
RED  
92

The **2016 Château Rocheyron** from Silvio Denz and Peter Sisseck comes from the upper plateau in Saint-Emilion and has more than a little potential. Made from 70% Merlot and 30% Cabernet Franc brought up in 50% new oak, it has firm, tight, structured vibe as well as terrific minerality in its blue fruits, liquid violet, bouquet garni and graphite aromatics. With high, yet integrated tannin, impressive purity, and good acidity, it’s going to be for those with some patience.

The same blend as the 2016 (there’ might be slightly less Cabernet Franc), the **2015 Château Rocheyron** is much more upfront and sexy and reveals deep purple color as well as terrific notes of black raspberries, salty minerality, Asian spices, and a distinct iron, almost bloody quality on both the nose and palate. With sweet tannin, no hard edges, and beautiful purity of fruit, drink this sumptuous, opulent Saint-Emilion anytime over the coming 15-20 years.
Loads of ripe black raspberries, cassis, spice and floral notes emerge from the **2015 Rolland Maillet**, which is medium to full-bodied, elegant, and beautifully balanced. From a property of Michel Rolland and a blend of 75-80% Merlot and the rest Cabernet Franc, it has moderate, yet sweet tannin, integrated acidity, and impressive length. It’s just another sumptuous, incredibly delicious wine from Rolland that should deliver tons of pleasure over the coming decade.

**CHATEAU LA RONCHERAIE** 2015 **LE PARADOXE DU CHATEAU LA RONCHERAIE** COTES DE CASTILLON SNA RED 90

The second wine of the Château la Roncheraie is the **2015 Le Paradoxe Du Château La Roncheraie** and it’s mostly Merlot with small amounts of Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon. It offers a classic bouquet of black raspberry and cassis fruits, lead pencil shavings, and assert herbal/underbrush nuances. With gorgeous fruit and medium-bodied richness on the palate, as well as notable opulence, it’s ideal for drinking over the coming 8-10 years or more.

**CHATEAU LA RONCHERAIE** 2015 **CHATEAU LA RONCHERAIE** COTES DE CASTILLON SNA RED 92

The top cuvee is **2015 Château La Roncheraie** and it’s 95% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Franc that saw malolactic fermentation in barrel and aging in one-third new 600-liters demi-muids. One of the top Côtes de Castillon releases out there, it offers an incredibly concentrated, ripe, opulent personality as well as sensational notes of cassis, toasted spices, and lead pencil/cedar shaving nuances. Made in a ripe, pedal-to-the-metal style, it’s balanced, has ripe tannin, and great finish. In short, it’s a terrific 2015 to drink over the coming decade.

**CHATEAU LA ROQUE DE BY** 2015 **CHATEAU LA ROQUE DE BY** MEDOC SNA RED 85

The 2015 Château La Roque De By is medium-bodied, firm, angular and linear, with darker berry fruits, earth, and leather. It’s a competent, bistro effort to drink over the coming 4-7 years.

**LA ROSE PERRIERE** 2015 **LA ROSE PERRIERE** SAINT-EMILION $25 RED 91

A gem in the vintage that’s made with advice from oenologist Michel Rolland, the **2015 La Rose Perriere** offers a Merlot dominated bouquet of ripe plums, cassis, black licorice and tobacco leaf. Possessing medium to full-bodied richness, a ripe, sexy, opulent personality, and sweet tannin, drink it anytime over the coming decade. Tasted twice.

**ROUGET** 2015 **ROUGET** POMEROL SNA RED 91

Another gem from the Michel Rolland team is the **2015 Rouget**. Offering a hedonistic, fruit-loaded, full-bodied style as well as lots of darker fruits, espresso roast, chocolate and damp earth, it’s a textbook Pomerol that’s going to benefit from a year or three of bottle age and keep for a decade.

**SAINTAYME** 2015 **SAINTAYME** SAINT-EMILION $20 RED 90

Checking in as 100% Merlot, the **2015 Saintayme** from Denis Durantou is another terrific value from this vintage. Loaded with notions of red currants, black cherries, dried earth and hints of toasty oak, it has beautiful fruit, a plump, mouth-filling texture, ripe tannin a great finish. It has the ripe, sexy fruit of the vintage and will keep for 7-8 years, if not longer.

**SAINT GEORGES** 2015 **SAINT GEORGES** SAINT-EMILION SNA RED 89

The **2015 Saint Georges** a forward, charming 2015, of which there are plenty in the terrific vintage. With lots of plum/currant fruit, bouquet garni and earthy aromatics, medium to full-bodied richness and sweet tannin, it’s already hard to resist but should keep for 10-15 years.

**CHATEAU SAINT-AUBIN** 2015 **CHATEAU SAINT-AUBIN** MEDOC SNA RED 87

The **2015 Château Saint-Aubin** offers moderate amounts of camphor, violets, and dried red fruits in a medium-bodied, pretty, upfront style. It’s a pleasure-bent effort to drink over the coming 7-8 years.

**SAINT-GEORGES CÔTE PAVIE** 2015 **SAINT-GEORGES CÔTE PAVIE** SAINT-EMILION SNA RED 87

The **2015 Château Saint-Georges Côte Pavie** is a charming, ripe, slightly superficial effort from the vintage that gives up lots of red and black fruits, hints of spicy oak, truffle and leafy herbs, medium to full-bodied richness and present tannin. It’s a solid, workhorse effort that has plenty of fat, density, and texture.

**CHATEAU SAINT JACQUES** 2015 **CHATEAU SAINT JACQUES** POMEROL SNA RED 89

The **2015 Château Saint Jacques** is a charmer that shows the more elegant, ethereal side of the vintage. Offering beautiful notes of kirsch, dried flowers, framboise and cedary spice, this beauty hits the palate with medium-bodied richness, ripe, sweet tannin, a silky texture and an excellent finish. It’s not going to wow you with opulence and decadence, but it’s a layered, nuanced, balanced 2015 that will keep for a decade.

**CHATEAU SAINT-PAUL** 2015 **CHATEAU SAINT-PAUL** HAUT-MEDOC SNA RED 88

Coming from the northern part of the Médoc, past Saint-Éstèphe, the **2015 Château Saint-Paul** is a classic, old-school red with an herbal edge in its red and black currants, cigar smoke, cedar and even meaty bouquet. With medium-bodied richness, plenty of complexity, firm tannin and a silky profile on the palate, it should keep for a decade.

**SAINT-PIERRE (SAINT-JULIEN)** 2015 **CHATEAU SAINT-PIERRE** SAINT-JULIEN SNA RED 97

This 17-hectare estate has been rejuvenated by owner Jean-Louis Triaud and is certainly producing some of the top wines from the appellation today. I tasted the deep, inky-colored **2015 Château Saint-Pierre** twice and it’s reminiscent of the 2010, only with more elegance. In 2015 the wine is a blend of 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 19% Merlot and 6% Cabernet Franc and it spent 14 months in 50% new and 50% once used barrels. Chocolate covered dark fruits, damp earth, tobacco leaf, and lead pencil

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shaving-like notes emerge from this huge, concentrated beauty that has building tannin and a huge mid-palate. It’s an incredible wine that builds with time in the glass, has no hard edges and is going to 3-4 decades of life. Bravo!

### CHATEAU SAINT-PIERRE (POMEROL) 2014

**CHATEAU SAINT-PIERRE**

POMEROL

$NA

RED 89

From a tiny estate in Pomerol, not to be confused with Château Saint-Pierre in Saint-Julien, the **2014 Château Saint-Pierre** is a high-quality wine offering plenty of black fruits, dampe earth, red and black currants and underbrush, medium body, rock-solid balance and an endearing elegance. Drink it over the coming 20 years or so.

### CHATEAU SANSONNET 2015

**CHATEAU SANSONNET**

SAINT-EMILION

$40

RED 94

The finest vintage I’ve tasted from this estate, the **2015 Château Sansonnnet** is a deep, full-bodied, opulent beauty with notes of chocolaty dark fruits, leafy herbs and lots of graphite. Possessing a wealth of fruit and sweet, yet building tannin, this thick, beautifully layered wine is an awesome effort that will keep for 15+ years. The lieu-dit Sansonnnet lies just east of the village of Saint-Emilion and covers 6.96 hectares. It was purchased by Marie and Christophe Lefèvre in 2009 and this 2015 is 90% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Sauvignon and 3% Cabernet Franc, aged 16 months in 80% new oak.

### CHATEAU SARANSOT-DUPRÉ 2015

**CHATEAU SARANSOT-DUPRÉ**

LISTRAC-MEDOC

$NA

RED 86

The **2015 Château Saransot-Dupré** is competent, enjoyable effort that offers suppleness, forward, charming aromas and flavors of ripe cherry and strawberry fruits, spice and flowers. Drink this plum, ready to go beauty over the coming 7-8 years.

### CHATEAU SÉRILHAN 2015

**CHATEAU SÉRILHAN**

SAINT-ESTEPHE

$NA

RED 87

Another little gem in the vintage (and this vintage is packed with value-priced gems), the **2015 Château Sérilhan** offers lots of baked cherries, raspberries and leather notes, medium body, fine tannin, and nicely integrated acidity. It’s already delicious yet should keep for 10-15 years.

### CHATEAU LA SERRE 2015

**CHATEAU LA SERRE**

SAINT-EMILION

$NA

RED 93

Made from 75% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, the **2015 Château La Sèrre** is a ripe, sexy beauty that's packed with fruit. Black cherries, blueberries, leafy herbs and hints of tobacco all emerge from this ripe, opulent 2015 that has sweet tannin, a charming, forward style, moderate concentration, and a great finish. It should be a smoking value and delivers loads of pleasure already. Tasted twice.

### CHATEAU SIGALAS RABAUD 2015

**CHATEAU SIGALAS RABAUD**

SAUTERNES

$NA

RED 94

A heavenly Sauternes that shows the richness and opulence of the vintage, the **2015 Château Sigalas Rabaud** offers up a beautiful bouquet of caramelized citrus, honeyed flowers, and crème caramel. This is followed by a full-bodied, deep, hedonistic white that stays beautifully balanced and pure, with nicely integrated acidity. You can safely open a bottle anytime over the coming 15-20 years or more.

### CHATEAU SIMARD 2015

**CHATEAU SIMARD**

SAINT-EMILION

$NA

RED 89

Made from 100% Merlot, the **2015 Château Simard** is a solid, elegant, lightly textured Saint-Emilion that offers plenty of cherry and blackberry fruit intermixed with underbrush, spring flowers, and an almost peppery note. It has an herbal edge, medium body, integrated acidity and a clean finish, all of which make for a charming, incredibly drinkable 2015 that will last for 15 years.

### CHATEAU SIRAN 2014

**CHATEAU SIRAN**

MARGAUX

$NA

RED 90

While I wasn’t able to taste the 2015, I purchased a bottle of the **2014 Chateau Siran** for this report. It’s a charming, elegant 2014 that offers good ripeness in its black cherry, currants, licorice, and damp earth aromatics, as well as subtle minerality with time in the glass. With a touch of herbacousness, medium body, integrated acidity and a good finish, it’s an impressive, classic Margaux to drink over the coming 15 years or so.

### SMITH-HAUT-LAFITTE 2015

**SMITH-HAUT-LAFITTE**

PESSAC-LEOGNAN

$115

WHITE 96

**SMITH-HAUT-LAFITTE**

2014

PESSAC-LEOGNAN

$NA

WHITE 93

**SMITH-HAUT-LAFITTE**

2015

PESSAC-LEOGNAN

$115

RED 96+

**SMITH-HAUT-LAFITTE**

2014

PESSAC-LEOGNAN

$110

RED 93

**SMITH-HAUT-LAFITTE**

2011

PESSAC-LEOGNAN

$85

RED 93+

I was able to taste the **2015 Smith Haut Lafitte Blanc** twice and it showed beautifully on both occasions. Based on 90% Sauvignon Blanc and the balance Sémillon and Sauvignon Gris, aged in plenty of new wood, this ripe, sexy 2015 knocks it out of the park with its citrus oil, caramelized lemons, tangerine and honeysuckle aromatics. This palate doesn’t lose a beat either and is full-bodied and concentrated, with vibrant acidity and blockbuster length. I’d drink bottles over the coming 10-15 years, yet I suspect it will keep longer. It’s in the top 2-3 whites of the vintage.

The **2014 Smith Haut Lafitte Blanc** doesn’t have the weight of it younger brother, yet is still gorgeous on all accounts. Caramelized limes, citrus oil and exotic floral notes all emerge from this fresh, lively 2014 that has good concentrated and notable acidity. I love its texture, it’s impeccably balanced, and should cruise for a decade or more, although there’s no harm drinking today.

Another wine from the Cathiard family I was able to taste on multiple occasions is the **2015 Smith Haut Lafitte** and it’s brilliant stuff readers should snatch up. Offering a huge nose of chocolatey dark fruits, roasted herbs, graphite and flowers, this big, rich, opulent beauty has building tannin, loads of structure and great mid-palate. It will drink nicely for 20+ years.

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The **2014 Smith Haut Lafitte** shows the elegant style of the vintage, yet the depth of fruit that’s common from this estate. Blackberries, currants, scorched earth, spicy oak and tobacco leaf nuances give way to a medium to full-bodied, beautifully textured 2014 that has ripe tannin and nicely integrated acidity. It has tons of character and is a beautiful, elegant wine to drink over the coming 15 years or so.

The **2011 Smith Haut Lafitte** plays in the same ballpark as the 2014, yet is slightly more concentrated, as well as backward. Blackcurrants, cedar, licorice and hints of oak all emerge from this medium to full-bodied, elegant, impeccably balanced beauty. It needs another year or two and will shine for over a decade.

**CHATEAU SOUTARD**  
2015 CHATEAU SOUTARD SAINT-EMILION $50 RED 92

The **2015 Château Soutard** shows plenty of oak, yet offers ample crème de cassis, toasted spice, raspberry jam and licorice aromatics. Medium-bodied, supple and polished on the palate, with ripe tannin, tons of charming fruit, and sweet tannin, it’s a ripe, sexy wine that also has rock solid elegance and purity.

**CHATEAU SOUTARD-CADET**  
2015 CHATEAU SOUTARD-CADET SAINT-EMILION $NA RED 95

The **2015 Château Soutard-Cadet** is a beauty! From a tiny vineyard (2.1 hectares) purchased by the Lefèvère family in 2015 and a blend of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc, it offers a huge nose of crème de cassis, toasted bread, plums, Asian spices, and chocolate. Ripe, opulent and incredibly sexy, with sweet tannin, this medium to full-bodied 2015 offers layers of fruit, no hard edges and impeccable balance, all making for a brilliant Saint-Emilion that’s going to drink beautifully for two decades or more. There are only 300 cases of this elixir so buy it if you can find it.

**CHATEAU TALBOT**  
2015 CHATEAU TALBOT SAINT-JULIEN $NA RED 91

Notes of black cherries, underbrush, tobacco and smoked herbs all emerge from the **2015 Château Talbot** and it’s an old-school, classic, concentrated 2015 that does everything right. With medium-bodied richness, good concentration, and solid overall balance, it’s already approachable, as are most in the vintage, yet will benefit from short-term cellaring and deep for 10-15 years.

Cut from the same cloth as the 2015, just more classic in style, the **2014 Château Talbot** offers lots of black fruits, smoked herbs, graphite and a touch of lead pencil on the nose. This is followed by a classically styled, medium-bodied, dense, impressively concentrated 2014 that has another 10-15 years of prime drinking. This is always a well-made, classic Saint-Julien and readers can’t go wrong here.

**LE TERTRE ROTEBOEUF**  
2014 LE TERTRE ROTEBOEUF SAINT-EMILION $140 RED 94

The **2014 Le Tertre Roteboeuf** is an exuberant, generous, incredibly sexy wine in a vintage they yielded more classic, straightforward efforts. Boasting a deep ruby/plum color as well as a rockin’ bouquet of espresso, spice-box, blackberries, new leather and Asian spice, this ripe, medium to full-bodied, layered 2014 has terrific purity of fruit as well as an undeniable hedonistic, opulent personality. It’s one of the stronger wines in the vintage and can be drunk now or cellared for 15+ years.

**CHATEAU LA TONNELLE**  
2015 CHATEAU LA TONNELLE HAUT-MEDOC $NA RED 90

I loved the **2015 Château La Tonnelle** and it comes from a larger estate in the southern end of the Médoc and is 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot and 5% Petit Verdot. Cassis, toasted bread, spicy oak and toasted bread notes flow to a medium-bodied, polished nicely balanced, seamless 2015 that has terrific tannin quality and a great finish. I couldn’t get a retail price, but I suspect it’s a terrific value and should drink nicely for 8-10 years.

**TOUR BAYARD**  
2015 TOUR BAYARD MONTAGNE-SAINT-EMILION $NA RED 87

A plump, opulent, lifted, full-bodied style emerges from the **2015 Tour Bayard** and it boasts a deep purple color as well as loads of ripe, chocolaty dark fruits, toasty oak, violet, and lead pencil/graphite aromas and flavors. Made with guidance from Michel Rolland, it has a touch of dry tannin that gives me pause, but should round into form with a year or three in the cellar and drink nicely for a decade.

**CHATEAU TOUR CASTILLON**  
2015 CHATEAU TOUR CASTILLON MEDOC $NA RED 85

The ruby/semi-translucent **2015 Château Tour Castillon** offers some spice and red fruits before turning firm, angular and tannic on the palate. Give it a year and hope for the best.

**CHATEAU LA TOUR DE BY**  
2015 CHATEAU LA TOUR DE BY MEDOC $NA RED 88

Medium-bodied notes of ripe cherry and strawberry fruits, flowers, and a hint of sappy herbs emerge from the **2015 Château La Tour de By**, which is medium-bodied, fresh, and elegant on the palate. With moderate ripeness and a straightforward, delicious style, drink it over the coming 6-7 years.

**CHATEAU TOUR DE PEZ**  
2015 CHATEAU TOUR DE PEZ SAINT-ESTEPHE $NA RED 88

The **2015 Château Tour De Pez** is a fine, elegant, mineral-driven, mid-weight Saint-Éstèphe that’s representative of the vintage in the northern part of the Médoc. Blueberries, blackberries, violets, and spring flowers notes all emerge from this medium-bodied, elegant, pretty 2015 that has fine tannin, a touch of lifted acidity, and an easy going, balanced style. It should drink nicely for 7-8 years.

**CHATEAU TOUR DES TERMES**  
2015 CHATEAU TOUR DES TERMES SAINT-ESTEPHE $NA RED 88
The 2015 Château Tour Des Termes offers an enjoyable, fresh, moderately concentrated style as well as plenty of red and black fruits, flowers, and that classic Saint-Estèphe damp earth/underbrush/tobacco characteristics. It’s not the most massive wine out there, but is nicely balanced, charming, and undeniably delicious. Drink it over the coming decade or so.

CHATEAU TOUR DU HAUT MOULIN 2015 CHATEAU TOUR DU HAUT MOULIN HAUT-MEDOC $NA RED 86

Notes of mulberries, underbrush, and flowers emerge from the 2015 Château Tour Du Haut Moulin and it’s a soft, forward, plump effort geared for near-term drinking.

CHATEAU LA TOUR FIGEAC 2015 CHATEAU LA TOUR FIGEAC SAINT-EMILION $65 RED 93
CHATEAU LA TOUR FIGEAC 2014 CHATEAU LA TOUR FIGEAC SAINT-EMILION $65 RED 89

Made with guidance from Stéphane Derenoncourt and from a great terroir near the Saint-Emilion/Pomerol border, the 2015 Château La Tour Figeac is a classic effort that offers lots of ripe red and black fruits, tobacco, damp earth and truffle aromas and flavors. It’s ripe, polished and balanced, with sweet tannin, integrated acidity, and a clean, classy feel, all of which make it a joy to drink already. Nevertheless, it should be at its best from 2020-2032. Tasted twice.

Less exuberant and concentrated compared to the 2015, the 2014 Château La Tour Figeac (70% Merlot and 30% Cabernet Franc) sports a medium ruby/purple color as well as classy notes of black cherries, loamy earth, forest floor, and mushrooms. With a medium-bodied, elegant style on the palate, moderate mid-palate depth, yet balance, class, and length, it’s already drinking nicely yet should keep for 10-15 years.

CHATEAU TOUR HAUT-CAUSSAN 2015 CHATEAU TOUR HAUT-CAUSSAN MEDOC $NA RED 86

The 2015 Château Tour Haut-Caussan is a mid-weight charmer that gives up pretty notes of strawberries, mint and rose petal. It lacks density and character, yet is certainly deliciously gulpable.

CHATEAU TOUR PRIGNAC 2015 CHATEAU TOUR PRIGNAC MEDOC $NA RED 88

Notes of black raspberries, spice, lots of leafy herbs, and a hint of cassis, emerge from the 2015 Château Tour Prignac. This terrific little Médoc comes from a large estate in the southern end of the Médoc, and they’ve hit a home run with this medium-bodied, impressively textured, balanced beauty. Made from 60% Cabernet Sauvignon and 40% Merlot, it has the depth and tannic structure to keep for 10-12 years.

CHATEAU TOUR SAINT CHRISTOPHE 2015 CHATEAU TOUR SAINT CHRISTOPHE SAINT-EMILION $NA RED 95

A total blockbuster from new owner Peter Kwok, who purchased the estate in 2012, the 2015 Château Tour Saint Christophe is 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc brought up in 40% new wood. It boasts a deep purple color and sensational notes of ripe currants and crème de cassis, as well as background graphite, cedar, and spice nuances. Full-bodied, deep, layered, and perfectly balanced, with sweet tannin and integrated acidity, it’s one of those wines where everything is in the right place, it has no hard edges, and a beautiful finish. It needs short-term cellaring to come together, but you shouldn’t miss this beauty. It’s worth mentioning the estate is managed by the talented Jérôme Aguirre and utilizes Michel Rolland as a consultant.

CHATEAU TOUR SAINT VINCENT 2015 CHATEAU TOUR SAINT VINCENT MEDOC $NA RED 87

Offering lots of violets and floral notes intermixed with damp earth, saddle leather and plum fruit notes, the 2015 Château Tour Saint Vincent is charming, mid-weight, rounded, and satisfying. Drink it over the coming 7-10 years.

TREYTINS 2015 TREYTINS MONTAGNE SAINT-EMILION $NA RED 88

Lots of black cherry, fruit cake, dried herbs, and a touch of earth all emerge from the 2015 Treytins, which is made with consulting advice from Michel Rolland. With fine tannin, medium-bodied richness, moderate acidity, and a character filled personality, it’s a gem from this small Saint-Emilion satellite appellation.

CHATEAU TROIS MOULINS 2015 CHATEAU TROIS MOULINS HAUT-MEDOC $NA RED 86

A forward, herbal, simple wine is the 2015 Château Trois Moulins. With pretty notes of cedar pencil, mulberries, currants, and lots of leafy herbs, enjoy this medium-bodied Haut Médoc over the coming 7-8 years.

TRONQUOY LALANDE 2016 TRONQUOY LALANDE SAINT-ESTEPHE $NA RED 93-95
TRONQUOY LALANDE 2015 TRONQUOY LALANDE SAINT-ESTEPHE $NA RED 92
TRONQUOY LALANDE 2014 TRONQUOY LALANDE SAINT-ESTEPHE $NA RED 91

I suspect a step up over the 2015, the 2016 Tronquoy Lalande is a full-bodied, pure, impressively concentrated Saint-Estèphe that boast awesome aromatics of cassis, ripe plums, graphite, violets and earth. Again, incredibly pure and concentrated, it has enough tannin to warrant 4-5 years of cellaring and should keep for three decades. This is a seriously impressive barrel sample.

While a step back from the sensational looking 2016, the 2015 Tronquoy Lalande is nevertheless a smokin’ good bottle of wine. Plums, graphite, earth and smoked herb notes all flow to a medium to full-bodied, nicely concentration, plump, rounded 2015 that’s a huge success for the northern Médoc in 2015. Give it a few years and enjoy over the following two decades.

From the owners of Château Montrose, the 2014 Tronquoy Lalande is a beautifully ripe, pure, nicely concentrated, and classic wine from this estate that literally screams “Saint-Estèphe” in its dark currant and cassis fruits and notes of damp earth, tobacco, and underbrush. With a medium-bodied, reserved feel on the palate, it certainly has the 2014 vintage’s elegant, balanced style, as well as nicely integrated acidity and polished tannin. It doesn’t have the wow factor of the 2015 and 2016, but is a beautiful wine none the less that should blossom with 3-4 years of bottle age and keep for a decade or more.
There are big changes in store for Troplong Mondot, which was sold in 2017 by Xavier Pariente to the large insurance firm, SCOR. Aymeric de Gironde, formerly at Cos d’Estournel, has been brought in as the new director, and it will be interesting to see what and if any changes are implemented. I had a terrific visit with Xavier for this report, which was on his last day at the estate, and he was reflective and introspective about the sale, as well as tight-lipped about any future plans. Nevertheless, this is a gorgeous property, lying at heart of Saint-Emilion at the highest point of the plateau, and they’ve produced some of the wines of the vintage in both 2015 and 2016.

I was able to taste the 2016 Troplong Mondot at the estate and it looks to be a perfect wine in the making. Offering an incredible bouquet of black and blue fruits, violets, espresso and graphite, this monster hits the palate with full-bodied richness and depth, yet just glides over the palate with ultra-fine tannin. With awesome purity of fruit and perfect balance, it’s a drop dead gorgeous barrel sample.

A wine I was able to taste on multiple occasions, the 2015 Troplong Mondot is a tour de force that readers need to snatch up. This cuvee comes from the cool, clay and limestone soils on the upper plateau (it’s the highest point in the appellation) and is a blend of 92% Merlot, 6% Cabernet Sauvignon and 2% Cabernet Franc, harvest between September 30th and October 21st, that was brought up in 85% new French oak. Sporting a deep, inky color as well as a sensational bouquet of creme de cassis, blackberry, toasted spice, licorice and spring flowers, it’s another huge wine from this estate that has perfect balance between its fruit, oak and tannin, a stacked mid-palate, and an incredible finish. I wrote “crazy good” more than once in my notes. It has enough fruit and texture to drink nicely even today, yet needs 4-5 years of cellaring and will keep for two to three decades. It’s one of the great wines of the vintage.

The 2014 Troplong Mondot is unquestionably one of the wines of the vintage, and this beauty has more intensity, richness, and exuberance than just about every other wine in 2014. A blend of 90% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Sauvignon and 2% Cabernet Franc brought up in 85% new French oak, it sports a deep purple/plum color as well as a smorgasbord of blackcurrants, blackberries, scorched earth, toasty oak, graphite, espresso, and earth. With full-bodied richness, beautiful purity of fruit, and a rich, yet weightless texture, it’s a big, yet classy, elegant, and seamless wine from Xavier Pariente that should be snatched up by readers. It’s already drinking well but has 20-25 years of prime drinking to go.

The 2011 Troplong Mondot (89% Merlot, 9% Cabernet Sauvignon and 2% Cabernet Franc) is a beautiful wine in this slightly challenging vintage and has a perfumed, sexy, complex style in its black raspberry, truffle, forest floor and new saddle leather aromas and flavors. This medium to full-bodied beauty is nicely balanced, has ripe tannin, and a great finish, all of which make it irresistible today. Enjoy bottles anytime over the coming 15+ years.

Pure perfection in a glass, the incredible 2009 Troplong Mondot offers off the chart notes of blackcurrants, licorice, truffles and saddle leather that just soar from the glass. This is a big, ripe, incredibly sexy wine that hits the palate with a huge texture, building, ripe tannin, no weight, and a finish that just won’t quit. Utterly brilliant stuff, it’s slightly more approachable than the 2005, but both vintages play in the same style. Drink bottles anytime over the coming two to three decades. Bravo!

CHATEAU TROTTEVIEILLE 2015 CHATEAU TROTTEVIEILLE SAINT-EMILION $NA RED 92

Notes of black raspberries, framboise, vanilla and lots of toasty oak emerge from the 2015 Château TrotteVieille, and it stays fresh and lively on the palate, with charming, sweet fruit, light tannin, and a good finish. Give it a few years to integrate its oak and enjoy over the following decade or more.

VALANDRAUD 2015 VALANDRAUD SAINT-EMILION $150 RED 99

A wine that will be a candidate for perfection at maturity, the 2015 Valandraud is a heavenly wine that exhibits a deep, saturated ruby/purple color as well as a sensational bouquet of blackcurrants, cassis, crème caramel, graphite, and chocolate. This full-bodied, expansive, super concentrated 2015 is a hedonistic dream and has exceptional purity, balance, and equilibrium. While it offers pleasure today, it needs short-term cellaring and will keep for 20+ years.

The 2014 Valandraud from Saint-Emilion superstar Jean-Luc Thunevin is certainly up with the crème de la crème of the vintage, and while I can be a little humdrum with regards to 2014, this is one of the few that will cause your heart rate to jump. A deep purple/ruby color is accompanied by a terrific perfume of ripe black cherries, blackberries, Asian spices, decaying flowers and hints of tobacco. Deep, layered, full-bodied, and tannic, it needs to be forgotten for at least 4-5 years and will keep for two decades. It’s one of the few “do not miss” wines in 2014.

CHATEAU VERMONT 2015 CHATEAU VERMONT LA GRANDE CUVEE BORDEAUX SUPERIOR $NA RED 92

The 2015 Château La Valière offers a weedy, peppery nose as well as medium-bodied depth and richness on the palate. There’s more charm on the palate than the nose, but this could more charm.
The **2015 Château Vermont La Grande Cuvée** is a blend of 95% Merlot and 5% Petit Verdot, from a selection of old vines, brought up in new, larger barrels. This crazy good Bordeaux Superior boasts loads of cassis, toasted spices, vanilla and subtle oak, full body, a ripe, seamless texture, and sweet tannin. It’s not for old-school claret lovers and has terrific fruit and intensity.

### VEYRY 2015 VEYRY COTES DE CASTILLON $NA RED 92

About as powerful and opulent a Côtes Castillon as you’ll find, the **2015 Veyry** offers loads of black fruits, tobacco, bouquet garni and graphite/oak as well as a full-bodied, sexy, decadent personality. It’s a big, rich wine, no doubt, but it has balance, purity of fruit, and fine tannin. Drink it anytime over the coming decade.

### CHATEAU VICTORIA 2015 CHATEAU VICTORIA HAUT-MEDOC $NA RED 87

The **2015 Château Victoria** is a forward, delicious effort that offers classy notes of red fruits (cherries, raspberries), flowers, and bay leaf. With medium-bodied richness, fine tannin, and moderate depth, drink it over the coming 7-8 years.

#### LA VIEILLE CURE 2015 LA VIEILLE CURE FRONSAÇ $50 RED 92

A year in, year out value, the **2015 La Vieille Cure** might just be the best yet. This full-bodied, opulent, incredibly sexy 2015 gives up loads of black currants, tobacco, Asian spices, and earth-like aromas and flavors. With low acidity, a mouth-filling, dense, sumptuous texture, and sweet tannin, it’s a downright old-world fruit bomb that’s a joy to drink. Buy a case and drink bottles over the coming decade or more.

Cut from the same cloth as the 2015, the **2014 La Vieille Cure** is a ripe, opulent Fronsac has surprising depth and richness in the vintage. Black cherries, currants, chocolate, truffle and a touch of earthy tobacco emerge from the glass and it has a plump, rounded style, as well as solid underlying tannin. It’s another terrific wine from this consistent and impeccably run estate.

### VIEUX CHATEAU DES ROCHERS 2015 VIEUX CHATEAU DES ROCHERS MONTAIGNE SAINT-EMILION $NA RED 88

Classy notes of ripe cherries and framboise fruit, lots of minerality, and a hint of white truffle emerge from the **2015 Vieux Château Des Rochers** and it’s an elegant, medium-bodied, nuanced wine. With fine tannin and a forward, pretty style, it’s already drinking nicely yet should keep for 7-8 years, probably longer.

#### CHATEAU VIEUX ROBIN 2015 CHATEAU VIEUX ROBIN MEDOC $NA RED 88

Made from the same mold as the classic cuvee, the **2015 Vieux Château Des Rochers Cuvée Prestige** is slightly deeper and richer, with notes of black cherries, black raspberries, toasted spice and chalky minerality. Made with guidance from Michel Rolland, this estate has turned out two beautiful 2015s.

### CHATEAU VILLEMAURINE 2015 CHATEAU VILLEMAURINE SAINT-EMILION $NA RED 93+

Sporting a dense ruby/purple color as well as terrific purity in its cassis, currants, leafy herbs, spring flowers and spicy oak aromas and flavors, the **2015 Château Villemaurine** is fresh and lively on the palate, with again, terrific purity, and a straight, tight, focused feel that needs 4-5 years of cellaring. A blend of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc from an 11-hectare vineyard located just above La Clotte and Le Prieuré, this serious, age-worthy 2015 is well worth seeking out.

### LA VIOLETTE 2015 LA VIOLETTE POMEROL $NA RED 97

I loved the **2015 La Violette** from barrel and it didn’t disappoint from bottle. Sporting a deep purple color as well as sensational notes of violets, black currants, toasty oak, and graphite, this awesome 2015 hits the palate with full-bodied richness, a seamless, sexy texture, no hard edges and fine, fine tannin. It’s the purity of fruit that really sets this gem apart and despite carrying serious amounts of richness and depth, it glides across the palate and is almost weightless. Give this heavenly little Garage wine 4-5 years of cellaring, count yourself lucky, and enjoy over the following two decades.

Like the 2015, the **2014 La Violette** is made at the Le Gay estate in Pomerol and is 100% Merlot, from very fine, gravelly soils, that’s fermented and aged all in new French oak. It’s a much more finesse driven wine compared to its Le Gay counterpart and offers an ethereal, silky, full-bodied, incredibly elegant style. With a deep purple color, fine tannin, no hard edges and a terrific perfume of black cherries, blueberries, violets, and spring flowers, it’s a sensational 2014 that needs 3-4 years of bottle age and will keep for two decades.
Loads of white peach, flowers, and hints of citrus blossom emerge from the **2015 Virginie De Valandraud Blanc**. With medium-bodied richness, moderate acidity, and a balanced, clean, impeccably made style, enjoy it over the coming couple of years.

The **2015 Virginie De Valandraud** is a gem made from 70% Merlot and 30% Cabernet Franc, brought up all in new barrels. This beauty is loaded with notions of ripe black raspberries, cassis, and toasty oak, and hits the palate with medium to full-bodied richness, sweet tannin, and a great finish. It’s not the most intellectual wine, yet ticks all the right hedonistic pleasure boxes and is perfect for drinking over the coming 10-15 years.

**CHATEAU VRAI CANON BOUCHE** 2015
**CANON FRONSAC** $NA  RED 90

Big, exotic notes of white truffle, flowers, spices and assorted mostly red fruits emerge from the **2015 Château Vrai Canon Bouche**. This is followed by a medium to full-bodied, beautifully pure, silky Fronsac that’s already hard to resist, yet should keep for 10-15 years.

**CHATEAU VRAI CANON BOUCHE** 2014
**CANON FRONSAC** $NA  RED 87

The **2014 Château Vrai Canon Bouche** is more restrained compared to the 2015 and lacks that vintage’s exuberance and elegance. Notes of ripe currants, smoked earth, charred meats and a hint of oak emerge from this medium-bodied, nicely concentrated 2014. With some rustic tannin, solid overall ripeness, and a charming, mouth filling style, drink it over the coming decade.

**CHATEAU YON FIGEAC** 2015
**SAINT-EMILION** $70  RED 92

Made from 80% Merlot, 12% Cabernet Franc and 6% Petit Verdot, the **2015 Château Yon Figeac** has considerable class and length. Black raspberries, toasted spice, licorice, hints of truffle and dried flowers all emerge from this concentrated, rich, yet beautifully textured 2015 that has sweet tannin and a great finish. It’s a seriously good Saint-Emilion to drink over the coming decade or more.

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