

LAY & WHEELER  
FINE WINE MERCHANTS SINCE 1854

# BORDEAUX 2020

INCLUDING  
LARGE  
(& SMALL)  
FORMATS

THE WINES TO  
SECURE EN PRIMEUR

[WWW.LAYWHEELER.COM/BORDEAUX20](http://WWW.LAYWHEELER.COM/BORDEAUX20)



## BUYER'S NOTE

# BORDEAUX 2020: WHERE TO LOOK

**E**ach spring, I taste hundreds of wines upon their release from Bordeaux, and for this, the 2020 vintage, I'm convinced of their quality up and down the hierarchy.

However, for a region so vast as Bordeaux, there's always nuance. And it's my role to bring this insight - and indeed, inside track - to guide you.

So, for the first year ever, I've made a selection of 25 wines, newly released, that I think are particularly worthy of a place in your cellar.

My reasons for each are varied, but for all, they are many. I've studied the market, and also taken into account a host of considerations; from who's hired a new winemaker, who's improved selection in the vineyard, who's factoring in climate change more ambitiously, and more generally, who are the names to watch in this ever-evolving region.

With all that's going on in the world, it'd be all too easy to blink, and miss Bordeaux's releases this year.

To miss out on this vintage in particular would be a mistake you will come to regret. These wines will each bring enormous enjoyment over the coming years.

In current times, that seems as good a reason as any to stock up now.

Best wishes,

**Robbie Toothill**  
Bordeaux Buyer  
July 2021








## FORMATS: THE INSIDE TRACK

What many people don't know is that one of the best reasons to buy Bordeaux en primeur is the opportunity to choose how you want your wine bottled.

Indeed, when you buy en primeur, you are buying the wine while it is still in the barrel.

Whether you're looking for halves that will drink earlier, for magnums as the centrepiece at a future dinner party, or for something bigger to celebrate a special occasion, you can select that format if you buy the wine now. You therefore also lock in a far lower price than will be possible further down the line.

In this brochure, we've included pricing for  **half bottles**,  **bottles**, and  **magnums**: all are available on the website.

If you're interested in **larger bottles**, whether a 3 litre **double magnum**, 6 litre **impériale**, or something even larger, do get in touch with your fine wine advisor, or at [sales@laywheeler.com](mailto:sales@laywheeler.com).

The deadline to request an alternative format is **31 July 2021**.

## CRITICS NOTES & SCORES

At times, I've included scores and notes from the following critics:

- **Jane Anson** writes for **Decanter**
- **Neal Martin & Antonio Galloni** write for **vinous.com**
- **Jeb Dunnuck** writes for **jebdunnuck.com**
- **Lisa Perrotti-Brown MW** writes for **The Wine Advocate**



*Note that some scores are listed in parentheses as an indication that the samples tasted were from barrel and not finished wines, although not all publications follow this convention. Some also list scores as ranges at this stage. We respect their individual ways of reporting which are reflected here.*

## ORDERS

The wines in this guide are available in limited quantities, which are updated in real time on our website.

Prices quoted are in bond, without duty and VAT, and are subject to change. Any updates will be reflected on our website.

**Our wine advisory team is always on hand if you have any questions about the vintage, the wines, or buying wines en primeur more generally. Please get in touch with your advisor, or by email at [sales@laywheeler.com](mailto:sales@laywheeler.com) or phone on 01473 313 300.**



## 2020 CHÂTEAU CARONNE STE GEMME, HAUT-MÉDOC

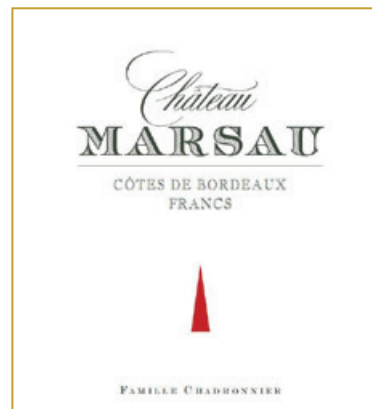
- Just down the road from St-Julien, on classic Médoc terroir
- Ages brilliantly: we've enjoyed bottles from the '70s and '80s
- A wine for any night of the week

 **£5.75 per half bottle**

 **£9.50 per bottle**

 **£21 per magnum**

 **2025-2039**



## 2020 CHÂTEAU MARSAU, CÔTES DE FRANCS

- A rising star in Bordeaux
- 100% Merlot planted on clay, like the best sites of Pomerol: Robert Parker once dubbed it "the Pétrus of the Côtes de Francs"
- Farmed organically, with a precise approach in the cellar

 **£7.25 per half bottle**

 **£12.50 per bottle**

 **£27 per magnum**

 **2025-2039**





## 2020 CHÂTEAU AMÉLISSE, ST-EMILION GRAND CRU

- Made by the Durantou family, who also own Château L'Eglise-Clinet in Pomerol
- Lay & Wheeler is the only place to secure this wine in the UK
- Consistently our best selling wine from anywhere, year after year

 **£7.25 per half bottle**

 **£12.50 per bottle**

 **£27 per magnum**

 **2025-2039**

**UK  
EXCLUSIVE**



## 2020 CHÂTEAU LA GARDE, PESSAC-LÉOGNAN

- Situated just above Latour-Martillac, on a deep gravel plateau: brilliant Pessac terroir
- Unclassified in 1955, because the then-owners already owned Smith-Haut-Lafitte, and were only allowed to submit one property: otherwise we're sure it would have been different
- Far more profound than its humble price suggests

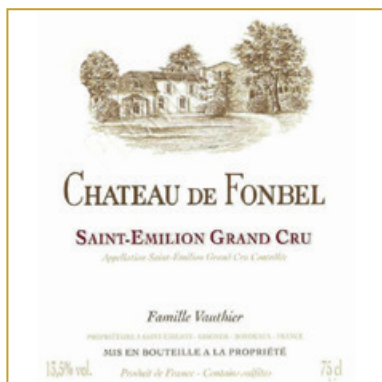
 **£7.75 per half bottle**

 **£13.50 per bottle**

 **£29 per magnum**

 **2026-2040**

**UNDER-  
THE-RADAR  
GEM**



## 2020 CHÂTEAU DE FONBEL, GRAND CRU ST-EMILION

- Made by the Vauthier family, who also own the Premier Grand Cru Classé (A) Château Ausone
- Juicy, fine-boned, and totally delicious in 2020
- A favourite value pick from St-Emilion

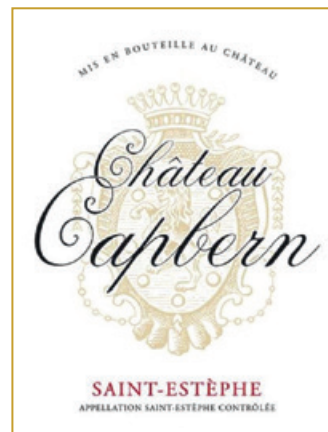
🍷 £8.25 per half bottle

🍷 £14.25 per bottle

🍷 £30.50 per magnum

🍷 2026-2037

FROM THE  
TEAM AT  
AUSONE



## 2020 CHÂTEAU CAPBERN, CRU BOURGEOIS ST-ESTÈPHE

- Made by the same team as at Third Growth Château Calon-Ségur, just down the road from its bigger brother
- “Readers looking for an off-the-charts value should snatch up the 2020 Château Capbern.” (94-96) points, Jeb Dunnuck

🍷 £9.25 per half bottle

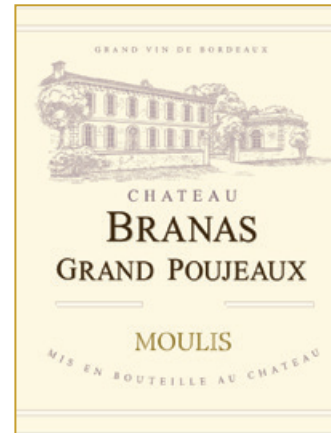
🍷 £16.25 per bottle

🍷 £34.50 per magnum

🍷 2026-2038

FROM  
THE CALON-  
SÉGUR  
STABLE





## 2020 CHÂTEAU BRANAS GRAND POUJEUX, MOULIS-EN-MÉDOC

- A small estate, brilliantly located in the heart of Moulis, that's on the up
- *"This is a fascinating and quite mercurial Moulis that will age beautifully in bottle."* (91-93) points, Neal Martin
- Jane Anson gives it 93 points, and calls it *"a top value pick"*

 £10.25 per half bottle

 £18.50 per bottle

 £39 per magnum

 2026-2045

**"A TOP  
VALUE  
PICK"**



## 2020 CHÂTEAU LAROQUE, GRAND CRU ST-EMILION

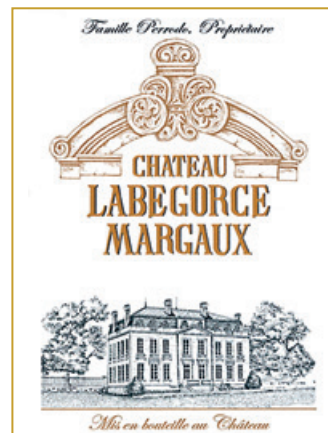
- Brilliantly located on the limestone plateau, and made by David Suire, who also makes Pavie-Macquin (among others)
- “Possibly the best Laroque that winemaker David Suire has overseen to date.” (93-95) points, Neal Martin
- “This is another terrific effort.” (93-95) points, Antonio Galloni

🍷 £10.50 per half bottle

🍷 £19 per bottle

🍷 £40 per magnum

🍷 2027-2043



## 2020 CHÂTEAU LABÉGORCE, CRU BOURGEOIS MARGAUX

- Unclassified in 1855, this estate punches at this level - albeit at Cru Bourgeois pricing
- Jane Anson calls it “good stuff”, and awards it 93 points
- “This is quintessential Margaux, a really disarmingly gorgeous Labégorce.” (92-94) points, Neal Martin

🍷 £11 per half bottle

🍷 £20 per bottle

🍷 £42 per magnum

🍷 2025-2040







## 2020 CHÂTEAU GLORIA, ST-JULIEN

- This estate was only created in 1942, hence it's not a Cru Classé - which is part of the secret to its attractive price to quality ratio
- Neal Martin gives the 2020 (93-95) points, and writes, "What a wonderful Gloria!"
- This vintage was awarded potentially its highest ever score in *The Wine Advocate*, with (92-94) points from Lisa Perrotti-Brown MW

🍷 £14.25 per half bottle

🍷 £26.50 per bottle

🍷 £55 per magnum

🍷 2025-2045



## 2020 CHÂTEAU LA LAGUNE, CRU CLASSÉ HAUT-MÉDOC

- This biodynamically-farmed Cru Classé flies under the radar
- "The 2020 La Lagune is a real standout." (92-94) points, Antonio Galloni
- Only the 2019 is available at a lower price on the market, marking this out as a smart buy in 2020

🍷 £14.50 per half bottle

🍷 £27 per bottle

🍷 £56 per magnum

🍷 2026-2043












## 2020 CHÂTEAU LAFON-ROCHET, CRU CLASSÉ ST-ESTÈPHE

- Only Cru Classé to release at a lower price than their 2019
- A Fourth Growth moving from strength to strength in all but price
- “One of the real under-the-radar gems of 2020.” (93-95) points, Antonio Galloni

 **£14.75 per half bottle**

 **£27.25 per bottle**

 **£56.50 per magnum**

 **2026-2046**



## 2020 CHÂTEAU BATAILLEY, CRU CLASSÉ PAUILLAC

- Good value claret in the most prestigious part of the Left Bank
- Quality is on the up here since they introduced a second wine, with ever more selection in the vineyards
- “The 2020 Batailley is quintessential Pauillac... if you love the style of Batailley you will love this.” (93-95) points, Neal Martin

 **£15.25 per half bottle**

 **£28.25 per bottle**

 **£58.50 per magnum**

 **2027-2042**







**2020 CHÂTEAU  
MALARTIC-LAGRAVIÈRE  
ROUGE,  
CRU CLASSÉ PESSAC-LÉOGNAN**

- One of Bordeaux's most-improved estates in recent years, with demand to match
- The 2020 sits below the current market price of the 2019, and well below the similarly highly-scored 2015 and 2016
- *"This is one of the best vintages of Malartic Lagravière that I have encountered."* (94-96) points, Neal Martin
- Quantities are well down due to frost in the spring: this is a wine to secure en primeur

 **£15.50 per half bottle**

 **£29 per bottle**

 **£60 per magnum**

 **2027-2045**


**REDUCED  
YIELDS,  
A SMART PRICE,  
A HIGH SCORE:  
A NO-BRAINER**



**2020 CHÂTEAU  
BRANAIRE-DUCRU,  
CRU CLASSÉ ST-JULIEN**

- Owner François-Xavier Maroteaux goes about his business quietly, but makes some of Bordeaux's most drinkable, well-priced wines
- This is the price of a village Burgundy, yet will age spectacularly, and will never cease to amaze with its finesse: a personal favourite of buyer Robbie Toothill
- *"The 2020 Branaire-Ducru is utterly magnificent. A wine of extraordinary depth and dimension...I don't think I have ever tasted a Branaire quite like this."* (94-96) points, Antonio Galloni

 **£16.50 per half bottle**

 **£31 per bottle**

 **£64 per magnum**

 **2027-2045**

**A PERSONAL  
FAVOURITE**



## 2020 CHÂTEAU CANTENAC BROWN, CRU CLASSÉ MARGAUX

- With new ownership since 2019, and considerable investment since, this is an estate to back now
- *"The 2020 Cantenac Brown is an outrageously beautiful wine...shaping up to be one of the wines of the vintage."* (95-97) points, Antonio Galloni
- *"This is a sophisticated and quite cerebral Margaux in a series of excellent recent releases from the estate. Highly recommended."* (94-96) points, Neal Martin

 **£18.25 per half bottle**

 **£34.50 per bottle**

 **£71 per magnum**

 **2026-2047**



## 2020 CHÂTEAU GISCOURS, CRU CLASSÉ MARGAUX

- Brilliantly-crafted Margaux, at a friendlier price than that of its neighbours
- *"A classy Giscours with plenty of breeding."* (93-95) points, Neal Martin
- *"This is an excellent Giscours, extremely precise, well drawn and seductive."* 95 points, Jane Anson

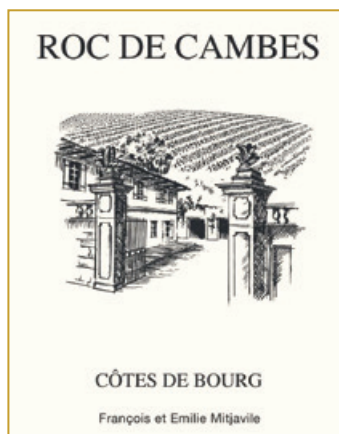
 **£21.50 per half bottle**

 **£41 per bottle**

 **£84 per magnum**

 **2026-2047**





## 2020 CHÂTEAU ROC DE CAMBES, CÔTES DE BOURG

- From François Mitjavile, the legendary winemaker best known for Le Tertre Roteboeuf in St-Emilion
- The real jewel in his crown: a wine that performs every year, at a fraction of the price of its big brother, that will age for decades
- Neal Martin agrees: *"This actually challenges Tertre Roteboeuf, as if to say, why should you take the gold medal every year? It's that good."* (92-94) points

 **£22.75 per half bottle**

 **£43.50 per bottle**

 **£89 per magnum**

 **2027-2047**



## 2020 CHÂTEAU GRAND-PUY-LACOSTE, CRU CLASSÉ PAUILLAC

- "GPL" remains a benchmark for Pauillac, and a customer favourite: many have verticals spanning not years but decades
- *"This is a brilliant GPL from the Borie family."* (95-97) points, Neal Martin
- *"A wine of vertical structure and precision, the 2020 is a total stunner. It simply dazzles from start to finish."* (94-96) points, Antonio Galloni

 **£26.25 per half bottle**

 **£50.50 per bottle**

 **£103 per magnum**

 **2026-2048**







## CHÂTEAU GUILLOT-CLAUZEL, POMEROL

CELLAR CIRCLE  
EXCLUSIVE

- Made by Guillaume Thienpont, who also makes Vieux Château Certan and Le Pin
- A brilliant location, just a few hundred metres from Le Pin itself; last year, James Suckling wondered if this is the “new Le Pin”
- Made in tiny quantities, with just a few thousand bottles produced

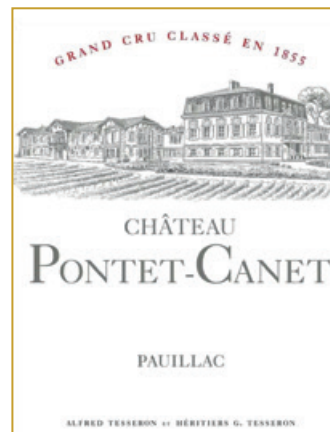
🍷 £33.50 per half bottle

🍷 £65 per bottle

🍷 £132 per magnum

🍷 2026-2047

TINY  
PRODUCTION  
POMEROL



## 2020 CHÂTEAU PONTET-CANET, CRU CLASSÉ PAUILLAC

- One of Pauillac’s “Flying Fifths”
- Pontet-Canet does everything differently: biodynamic farming with horses in the vineyards, use of amphorae in the cellar, and using virtually no electricity
- “This is a singular, fascinating expression of the vintage and highly recommended!”  
(96-98)+ points, Lisa Perrotti-Brown MW
- Released at well below the market price of the 2019, which has soared since release

🍷 £38.25 per half bottle

🍷 £74.25 per bottle

🍷 £150.50 per magnum

🍷 2027-2049

A UNIQUE  
PAUILLAC



## 2020 CHÂTEAU LYNCH-BAGES, CRU CLASSÉ PAUILLAC

- One for our most beloved wines, for customers and our team alike
- With a brand new cellar, and huge investment in the vineyards, this is a Cru Classé that's only going to become more highly prized
- Yields in 2020 were 20% less than 2019
- “Dare I say, reminiscent of Latour toward the finish...  
*This is a great Lynch-Bages.*” (94-96) points, Neal Martin

🍷 £44.50 per half bottle

🍷 £87 per bottle

🍷 £176 per magnum

🍷 2027-2050

**BRAND NEW  
CELLAR**








**2020 CHÂTEAU  
HAUT-BAILLY,  
CRU CLASSÉ  
PESSAC-LÉOGNAN**

- A stunning terroir in the heart of Pessac-Léognan, including a parcel of 120 year old Cabernet Sauvignon vines
- Yields are down by 25% on 2019, so this is in short supply
- *It's consistently high scoring in 2020:*  
(95-97) points from both Neal Martin and Antonio Galloni,  
(96-98+) points from Lisa Perrotti-Brown MW,  
and 96 points from Jane Anson

 **£49 per half bottle**

 **£96 per bottle**

 **£194 per magnum**

 **2028-2050**


**A MUST-BUY  
IN 2020**






## 2020 CHÂTEAU FIGEAC, 1ER GRAND CRU CLASSÉ ST-EMILION

- St-Emilion's next reclassification is in 2022 – there's rumour Figeac could make the jump up to Premier Grand Cru Classé (A)
- Another outstanding wine in the run of vintages (2019, 2018, 2016), though this enters the market at the lowest price of them all
- "This is a magnificent Figeac." (96-98) points, Neal Martin

 **£79 per half bottle**

 **£156 per bottle**

 **£314 per magnum**

 **2028-2055**

**"A  
MAGNIFICENT  
FIGEAC"**





## 2020 CHÂTEAU PALMER, CRU CLASSÉ MARGAUX

- A biodynamically-farmed estate now performing at First Growth level
- *"This is a Palmer destined for long-term ageing...It is a serious Palmer, very different from the previous two vintages, not a mix of the two, but content in just being itself."* (96-98) points, Neal Martin
- 20% less produced than in 2019

 **£121 per half bottle**

 **£240 per bottle**

 **£482 per magnum**

 **2027-2052**



**SCAN ME**

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