



Bordeaux En-Primeur 2013

We are proud to announce the commencement of our Bordeaux En-Primeur 2013!

As you've might have heard, the 2013 vintage was one that posed a number of challenges to the winemakers; rot, rain and under-ripeness plagued most vineyards and it would be tempting to call it the worst vintage of the last decade.

However, never underestimate the abilities of the winemakers, who've come a long way since similar challenges ravaged the 1992 vintage; modern winemaking and technological advances means that now winemakers are way more well-equipped to deal with the trials before them, and quality, while not great, is still there to be found, especially with Chateaus with the financial clout to call upon large amounts of pickers to make the most of the limited timeframe inbetween rain storms to obtain the best fruits as well as to reject any grape deemed unworthy of the Chateau's stature.

*'Top chateaux with sophisticated equipment are likely to fare the best, observers say, but even they have had to be unusually selective. **Chateau Lafite**, for example, will only use 30% of its grape for its first wine - its grand vin - versus 38% in 2011 and 40% in 2010.'*

- Chris Mercer, Decanter

'You [will] see most of the big estates on both Left and Right Bank making small quantities of good wine," he says. "But they will have worked like dogs to do so.'

- Stephane Derenoncourt, Consultant

The list of En-Primeur offered by Wine Culture this year will be small; it is a carefully curated list of wines that we have selected and we believe offers the best quality in a challenging vintage.

En-Primeur Terms and Conditions

- *All prices are Ex-Bordeaux
- *Payment is required to ensure immediate confirmation of orders
- *Payment in Cash or Cheque only. Payment via credit card will be subject to additional 2% charge
Due to market forces, prices quoted are subject to change with prior notice
- *Additional shipping charges will apply to all orders (at approximately \$20 per 750ml) and is payable upon collection of wines
- *All confirmed orders are non-refundable and non-exchangable
- *All purchases are subject to the prevailing GST at time of collection, and payable at time of collection
- *All bottles in 750ml unless otherwise stated
- *Minimum order of 12 bottles per label

St Estephe	RP	JM	JS	Price
Calon Segur	92-94	89-92	89-90	Sold Out
<p>The 2013 Calon Segur is unquestionably one of the stars of the vintage. The harvest ran from early October for the Merlot grape and to the second full week of October for the Cabernet Sauvignon. I don't recall (although I'd have to go through all my notes for the last 3-4 years) a Calon Segur with this high a percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon, as Merlot has always been a prominent player in the final blend. It is opaque purple in color with a glorious nose of incense, creme de cassis, licorice and a touch of graphite. The wine is full-bodied, opulent, fleshy and surprisingly deep and dense, especially for a wine from this vintage. It is almost atypically thick and rich for a 2013. Nevertheless, the tannins are soft and the wine should be relatively approachable after 2-3 years bottle age. This is a property on the move, upward. Smart and shrewd readers will take a look at this vintage, as well as future vintages of Calon Segur, a terroir with true first-growth potential.</p> <p>Calon Segur was purchased from the Gasqueton family by Suravenir, a large French insurance company. It is no secret that this is one of the greatest vineyards in Bordeaux, if not the world, and while the wines have always been impressive, there has always been considerable room for improvement. 2013 may mark an historic transition from a consistently excellent-to-outstanding wine, to one that is poised to be another potential first-growth of the Medoc. The yields were 36 hectoliters per hectare producing a final blend of 92 % Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Merlot and 2% Petit Verdot with an impressive natural alcohol level of 13.1%. – RP</p>				
<p>This has freshness and cut, with lively bay and savory notes leading the way for a mix of red and black currant fruit. Iron-tinged minerality lines the finish, featuring judicious, integrated toast. A very solid effort. –JM</p>				
<p>This is fresh and spicy with currant and berry character. Medium to full body with hazelnut, currant and hints of cloves. –JS</p>				
Cos D'estournel	86-88	86	91-93	Sold Out
<p>The smallest crop since 1991 has produced a 2013 Cos d'Estournel composed of 78% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot and 2% Cabernet Franc. The wine's attractive dark ruby color is followed by decent fruit on the attack, but then narrows out to reveal an elegant but superficial wine that needs to be drunk over the next 7-8 years. Yields were a striking low 27 hectoliters per hectare. – RP</p>				
<p>Rather waxy in feel, with a paraffin note surrounding the core of brioche, lemon chiffon, wet straw and lightly muddled lemon. Finishes softly, but shows impressive breadth. Drink now. 583 cases made. –JM</p>				
<p>A fresh, spicy young wine with a subtle fruit and tannin structure. Bright fruit and acidity. It's like the 1985 but cleaner. I like the balance to this for the vintage. Only 12.7% alcohol. –JS</p>				
Montrose	87-88	90-93	91-93	\$100
<p>No Cabernet Franc was included in the final blend of the 2013 Montrose, which is composed of 91% Cabernet Sauvignon and 9% Merlot. It is a dark ruby-hued, pleasant, charming, fruit-forward, but superficial effort. There is an absence of tannic strength, and the acidity seems adequate and unobtrusive. This is a pleasant, straightforward, fluid Montrose to drink in its first 7-10 years of life.</p> <p>The 2013 harvest at Montrose was very early because of the pressure from high humidity and the fear of rot. – RP</p>				
<p>Pure, with a whiff of sage lining the core of plum, red currant and black cherry fruit. Light tobacco and warm stone shadings appear on the supple finish. Well done. –JM</p>				
<p>A firm Montrose with very silky tannins and a pretty acid-fruit balance. Full body. Integrated and seamless for the vintage. Spicy undertones. A blend of 68% cabernet sauvignon, 29% merlot and 3% petit verdot. –JS</p>				

Pauillac	RP	JM	JS	Price
Carruades de Lafite	77-79	88-91	86-87	\$173
A blend of 64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot and the rest Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot, the 2013 Carruades de Lafite includes about 50% of the crop. As at many properties in 2013, yields were very small (30 hectoliters per hectare), but that has not resulted in much character or concentration in the wine. It is light to medium ruby-hued with dusty, loamy soil notes, modest, superficial fruit, and a fading, angular finish. Drink it up.– <i>RP</i>				
Perfumed, with black tea notes out front, followed by racy, tightly focused red currant and black cherry fruit. The sleek, tobacco-fueled finish has a pleasant racy edge. Not dense, but balanced and defined.– <i>JM</i>				
A delicate wine with berry, tobacco and chocolate character. Medium body, light finish. Very light. – <i>JS</i>				
Duhart Milon	85 – 87	88-91	89-90	\$91
This charming blend of 80% Cabernet Sauvignon and 20% Merlot reveals plenty of red and black currant fruit, a clean, pure mouthfeel, modest body and undeniable finesse as well as elegance. Enjoy it over the next 7-8 years.– <i>RP</i>				
Offers a sappy core of kirsch and blackberry fruit, harnessed by a sanguine edge that holds the finish. A light cedary note provides the backdrop. A touch austere in the end.– <i>JM</i>				
A beautiful wine with plum, berry and Spanish cedar. Some chocolate, too. Medium to full body, fine tannins and a fresh finish. Fine tannin texture. – <i>JS</i>				
Lafite Rothschild	87-89	89-92	92-93	\$575
Only one-third of the tiny 2013 crop made it into the 2013 Lafite Rothschild, which may be the lowest rated Lafite produced in the last twenty years. Composed of 98% Cabernet Sauvignon and 2% Merlot, only the 1994 (99% Cabernet Sauvignon) and 1961 (100% Cabernet Sauvignon) had higher percentages of Cabernet Sauvignon in the final blend. The 2013 possesses a dark ruby color, but it does not reveal much of the Lafite Rothschild character in the aromatics or flavors. Elegant, with dark cherry fruit interwoven with underbrush and damp wood-like notes, it narrows in the mouth, and while it is above-average, possibly even excellent, it is hardly an inspiring wine. At its price point, it is a major underachiever in this vintage.– <i>RP</i>				
Still a bit clouded by oak today, this presents a slightly firm frame and a whiff of bread dough, but there's persistence to the red currant, floral, iron and sanguine flavors, all carried by finely beaded acidity. Noticeably austere throughout. – <i>JM</i>				
This is exceptionally high in cabernet sauvignon at 98%, with only 2% merlot. It shows aromas of blackcurrants, flowers and cigar box. Full body, fine tannins and a long finish. It's subtle and polished. – <i>JS</i>				
Lynch Bages	86-88	98-92	91-92	\$97
Fruity, light-bodied, pleasant, lush and charming, Lynch Bages' winemaking team was hesitant to push for any kind of extraction or density because of the pressures from rot. However, they have avoided any harshness in the tannins and vegetal characteristics. The result is an uncharacteristically superficial Lynch Bages that is a modern day version of their 1973.– <i>RP</i>				
The plum pit frame lends an austere feel, but the core shows good plum and black cherry fruit while the finish picks up savory and charcoal notes. This has the character of the vintage and keeps everything balanced.– <i>JM</i>				
A pretty, tangy Lynch with lemon and orange peel, plus hints of red fruits and iron. Full to medium body with firm tannins. Bright, lively finish. Chewy. – <i>JS</i>				
Mouton Rothschild	91 – 93	91-94	92-93	\$430
The 2013 Mouton Rothschild is the best of the Medoc first-growths in this vintage. It was the smallest crop at Mouton since 1969, even smaller than their 1991. Only 45% of the crop made it into the final blend of 89% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Merlot and 4% Cabernet Franc. One of the few 2013s to reveal serious depth, it displays a dense saturated ruby/purple color along with spicy creme de cassis, licorice and forest floor characteristics. Elegant, medium-bodied and more concentrated than most of its peers, it even reveals some tannins, suggesting 2-5 years of bottle age may be needed. It should last for 15-20 years. Kudos to administrator Philippe Dhalluin.– <i>RP</i>				

Shows solid flesh from the start, with plum paste notes that belie the vintage, bolstered by dark currant, crushed cherry and raspberry coulis flavors. Offers lots of anise and juniper hints through the finish, accented by an echo of licorice snap. Delivers impressive range and depth. Pure.– <i>JM</i>				
Very aromatic and fresh with flowers, currants and cherries. Full to medium body with fine tannins and a bright, fruity finish. I like the way it builds on the palate at the end. Salty, too. 89% cabernet sauvignon, 7% merlot and 4% cabernet franc. – <i>JS</i>				
Le Petit Mouton	87 – 88	88-91	88-89	\$130
The second wine, the 2013 Le Petit Mouton, represents about one-fourth of the crop. Composed of 93% Cabernet Sauvignon and 7% Merlot, it is a ripe, tasty, round, easygoing effort with red and black currant, licorice and spice box notes as well as a soft finish. Drink it over the next 7-8 years.– <i>RP</i>				
Dark currant, plum and anise notes mingle with singed alder and cedar accents, showing lightly dusty edges but enough of a plump feel for balance. Picks up a light savory character through the finish, where the tannins are relatively gentle.– <i>JM</i>				
A delicate, fruity style of the second wine of Mouton. Medium to light body. Light roasted fruit and spice. Fresh finish. 93% cabernet sauvignon and 7% merlot. – <i>JS</i>				
Pichon Baron	91 – 93	88-91	92-93	\$105
As for the big sibling, the 2012 Pichon Baron (80% Cabernet Sauvignon and 20% Merlot) probably has the most saturated purple color of the Pauillacs. Its structure is apparent, and the wine offers a wealth of blackcurrant fruit interwoven with licorice, graphite, and background toasty oak. Full-bodied, opulent and moderately tannic, this wine is approachable now because of its low acidity, but promises to age beautifully for 20+ years. This is another great classic from Pichon Baron.– <i>RP</i>				
Offers plum pit, cherry and loganberry notes, with some singed spice details in the background. Presents a taut, iron-tinged finish. – <i>JM</i>				
This is fantastic for 2013 with seamless tannins and a long finish. Extremely well made. Full body with lovely core of fruit and a fresh finish. Tannin tension here. Reminds me of the excellent 1988. About 82% cabernet sauvignon and 18% merlot.– <i>JS</i>				
Pichon Lalande	87 – 89	89-92	88-89	\$112
A rarity in terms of the final blend for a Pichon Lalande, the 2013 is 100% Cabernet Sauvignon, which is an historic first at this estate. Only 33% of the crop made it into the final blend. New manager Nicolas Glumineau worked at Montrose until hired away by the owners, the Roederer Champagne house. Yields were absurdly low at 13 hectoliters per hectare. This hasn't translated into a blockbuster, massive wine by any means. The vintage wouldn't permit that. However, the 2013 Pichon Lalande shows attractive red and black currant fruit, hints of bay leaf and underbrush, soft tannins, medium body and a supple, charming, seductive character. I'd be hard-pressed to guess that this is 100% Cabernet Sauvignon based on how it smells and tastes, but it is. Drink it over the next 10-12 years.– <i>RP</i>				
shows a juicy edge, with plum, black currant and cherry notes mixed together. A hint of charcoal adds range and texture on the finish. Reveals an elegant feel overall, accented by a distinct echo of savory.– <i>JM</i>				
A delicate, fruity wine with blackberry, blueberry and blackcurrant aromas and flavors. Medium body with fine tannins and a clean, fruity finish. Delicious already. This is 100% cabernet sauvignon. Purity.– <i>JS</i>				
Pontet Canet	90 – 92	89-92	92-93	\$118
A blend of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and the rest Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot, this biodynamically farmed vineyard (a rarity, but increasing in the Bordeaux viticulture), had tiny yields of 15 hectoliters per hectare. This doesn't translate into super concentration, but this is certainly an outstanding effort in an extremely difficult vintage. The wine has a dense purple color, and classic creme de cassis, licorice and mocha and espresso roast notes that Pontet-Canet has displayed recently. The wine is medium-bodied, possesses excellent purity, equilibrium and sweet, but noticeable tannin. This is by no means at the level of the great vintages that have been so common of late from this incredible property on the Plateau of Pauillac across from Mouton Rothschild, but it's certainly one of the vintage's more noteworthy efforts. Give it 2-3 years of bottle age and drink it over the following 15 or so years.– <i>RP</i>				
A lovely, aromatic expression of fresh plum, just-warmed cherry confiture and violet, giving way to a very supple, gentle feel as the silky tannins let the red and blue fruits glide through. Quite pretty and stylish, and				

a 180-degree turn from the 2011 in style. Very light, pure and balanced. A true display of the vintage. –*JM*
 An aromatic wine with exceptional delicacy and suppleness for the vintage, featuring blackberry, mineral, spice and flower character. Very fine tannins. Seamless structure. It's a wine with a pleasant savory, fruity character that makes you want to drink it. Harmonious. –*JS*

St Julien	RP	JM	JS	Price
Beychevelle	88 – 90	87-90		\$74
A solid effort from this beautiful St.-Julien estate, the 2013 Beychevelle displays a healthy dark plum/ruby/purple-tinged color along with a floral-scented nose offering notes of black and red currants, forest floor, and subtle oak. With excellent richness, fine-grained, soft tannin and enough acidity for definition, it should drink well for 10-12 years. – <i>RP</i>				
Presents a piercing feel to the plum pit and red currant fruit, with a hint of graphite lining the finish, set against a backdrop of warm stone notes. – <i>JM</i>				
Delicate and pretty with blueberry and mineral character. Medium body, fine tannins, fresh finish. Well-crafted for the vintage. – <i>JS</i>				
Leoville Las Cases	89-92+	91-94	92-93	Sold Out
Better than many of the Medoc first-growths, the 2013 Las Cases was harvested relatively late, between October 2 and 17. It is a blend of 74% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Merlot and the rest Cabernet Franc. Only 40% of the production made it into the grand vin, and the finished alcohol was 13.1%. It reveals a dense ruby/purple color, supple tannins, good texture and depth, excellent freshness and intense dark currant and black cherry fruit notes. While not a blockbuster, it is a medium-bodied, well-endowed 2013 that should drink well for 10-15 years. – <i>RP</i>				
A touch taut, with a tobacco and cedar overlay to the racy red currant, plum and bitter cherry notes. Shows lovely austerity through the finish, presenting a long echo of cold fireplace. Distinctive. – <i>JM</i>				
A dense, rich young wine with licorice and spice character. Some tar, too. Medium to full body with firm tannins and a fresh, clean finish. Dense fruit structure for the vintage. – <i>JS</i>				
Leoville Barton	90 – 92	90-93	91-92	\$82
One of the more pigmented and denser colored 2013s, Leoville Barton is atypically forward and tasty at this stage of its development. It possesses a dense ruby/plum color in addition to abundant cassis notes, sound acidity, pure fruit, and a broad, savory mouthfeel. Medium-bodied and packed, it should drink nicely for 10-15 years, and will be one of the longer-lived 2013s. – <i>RP</i>				
The flesh sets this apart from the pack, with layers of black cherry, black currant and plum skin lined with well-integrated apple wood and briar notes. The long, muscular finish maintains the dark profile. Rock-solid – <i>JM</i>				
This shows a solid core of fruit, with a wonderful asphalt, berry and mineral character. Full body with excellent tannin, fruit and acid balance. Impressive. The extra dose of cabernet sauvignon at 85% and the absence of cabernet franc make this wine exceptional for the vintage. – <i>JS</i>				
Leoville Poyferre	90 – 92	89-92	90-91	\$74
This wine's nearly opaque dense ruby/purple color is hardly that of an inferior vintage. The 2013 Leoville Poyferre exhibits a beautiful bouquet of blackberries and creme de cassis. This pure, luscious, long, luxurious (especially for the vintage) 2013 possesses adequate acidity, beautiful purity, and medium- to full-bodied density. One of the superstars of the vintage, it should drink well for 10-15 years. – <i>RP</i>				
Features a mix of red currant, raspberry and boysenberry fruit, with a decidedly racy feel as iron and graphite notes emerge on the finish. Solid – <i>JM</i>				
This shows a pretty finish with a long, persistent character at the end of the palate. Full to medium body with a cedar, hazelnut and currant aftertaste. Very good fruit-acid balance here. – <i>JS</i>				

Margaux	JP	JM	JS	Price
Chateau Margaux	88 – 90		94-95	\$430
<p>A Cabernet Sauvignon-dominated wine that reflects the vintage, the 2013 Chateau Margaux is a blend of 94% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot. For the first time, there is no Merlot in the blend. Moreover, only 38% of the crop made it into Margaux, a finesse-styled, classic effort offering notes of spring flowers, blue and red fruits, decent acidity, sweet tannin, and a lovely, round, medium-bodied mouthfeel. The 2013 is not as concentrated as a great vintage, nor does it have the power and length of a top year, but it is a well-made, charming red to enjoy during its first 10-12 years of life. – <i>RP</i></p> <p>Spectacular for the vintage. This is a wine that I want to buy. The aromas are like rose petals and perfume. Speechless. Palate is full-bodied but refined and beautiful, with perfectly polished tannins. It's wonderfully balanced. 99% cabernet sauvignon and 1% petit verdot. – <i>JS</i></p>				
Pavillion Rouge Du Chateau Margaux	87 – 88	87-90	88-89	\$140
<p>The 2013 Pavillion Rouge du Chateau Margaux, which represents only 21% of the harvest, is composed of 84% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Merlot and the rest Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc. It possesses a medium ruby color as well as sweet kirsch and currant fruit intermixed with hints of spice box and loamy soil undertones. This soft, supple 2013 does not reveal any aggressive tannins, so it can be consumed over the next 7-8 years. – <i>RP</i></p> <p>A very perfumy, elegant style, with sandalwood, rooibos tea and bergamot notes, backed by fine, dusty structure and a lingering hint of cherry paste. The selection here was just 21% of the crop, and this is the smallest amount of Pavillion Rouge ever produced. – <i>JM</i></p> <p>This is so delicious and savory now, with plum, light meat and berry character. Full body, soft tannins, juicy finish. You really want to drink this. – <i>JS</i></p>				
Rauzan Segla	88 – 91	88-91		\$64
<p>Thirty-nine percent of the production made it into the 2013 Rauzan Segla, a blend of 58% Cabernet Sauvignon, 39% Merlot and the rest Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc. One of the stars of the appellation, it reveals fatness and texture, which were not easy to achieve in this vintage. A dense ruby/purple color is followed by loads of black currant, licorice and smoky oak in the background. Medium-bodied with sweet tannin and good acidity that provides uplift and vibrancy, this successful 2013 can be consumed over the next decade or more. – <i>RP</i></p> <p>Good flesh to the plum and cherry paste notes. Finish is relatively rounded, with a good red licorice edge. Not a ton of range but this managed to get some flesh, and delivers nice mouthfeel too. – <i>JM</i></p> <p>A 2013 with a firm, silky tannin texture and fresh, clean fruit. Medium to full body with a lovely textured mouthfeel and a long finish. Savory and delicate. – <i>JS</i></p>				

Graves & Pessac Leognan	RP	JM	JS	Price
Haut Brion Rouge	90 – 92	91 - 94	92-93	\$430
<p>Its bigger sibling, the 2013 Haut-Brion, is a blend of 50% Merlot, 45% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Cabernet Franc. This classic effort tastes like a Haut-Brion, a major accomplishment in this vintage. Slightly fuller, richer and more complete than its nearby rival, La Mission Haut-Brion, it exhibits a deep ruby/purple color as well as hints of scorched earth, barbecue, charcoal, red and black currant, Asian plum sauce and spice notes. Fine-grained tannins are present, but well-integrated, and the acidity is not excessive. The result is a relatively plush, mid-weight, stylish, potentially complex Haut-Brion to drink over the next 15+ years. – <i>RP</i></p> <p>This has weight, length and cut for days, as white peach, tangerine oil, blanched almond, pear eau-de-vie, macadamia nut, chamomile and green plum notes all fit together seamlessly, while the finish sails on and on, with echoes of macadamia nut and brioche. Opulent and pure, showing stunning mouthfeel to boot. Rare for a white to be the wine of the vintage in Bordeaux, but this may be it. Best from 2017 through 2030. – <i>JM</i></p>				

This has one of the best finishes of all reds in Bordeaux in 2013. Full and balanced with medium density in the mid-palate but it lasts for minutes on the finish. Tobacco, currant and spice character. Only 13.1% alcohol – <i>JS</i>				
La Chapelle de la Mission Haut Brion	85 – 86	87-90	88-89	\$58
The second wine of La Mission Haut-Brion, the 2013 La Chapelle de la Mission Haut-Brion was the result of a relatively severe selection. It is slightly rustic with high acids that give the wine a tart character. This is almost as much made of this wine as La Mission, because of the challenges of the harvest. Crisp, elegant pomegranate and red cherry notes, high acid and a narrowly constructed mouthfeel emerge from this pleasant, easygoing wine. Drink it over the next 5-8 years. – <i>RP</i>				
Shows a chalky frame, with racy red currant fruit and a bright sanguine note through the finish. An echo of pomegranate leaves a slightly tangy feel. Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc. – Tasted non-blind. – <i>JM</i>				
This is chewy and mineral with an oyster-shell and light iodine undertone. Full body, round tannins and a fresh finish. Intense acidity. – <i>JS</i>				
La Mission Haut Brion	88 – 89	90-93	91-92	\$232
Its big sister, the 2013 La Mission Haut-Brion (65% Merlot, 32% Cabernet Sauvignon and 3% Cabernet Franc) represents 3,000 cases. This very good to excellent 2013 exhibits a deep plum/ruby color as well as notes of subtle barbecue spice, black currants, incense and wet rocks. With good fruit on the attack, medium body and a short finish, it has the potential to be outstanding if it fleshes out. Drink it over the next 10-15 years. – <i>RP</i>				
Taut, with a tangy edge to the red currant, damson plum and blackberry notes, framed with plum skin and blood orange accents and backed by a solid roasted apple wood edge on the finish. This has a rather obvious tannic spine but is not woody in feel. Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc. – <i>JM</i>				
This unfolds on your palate with an oyster, raspberry and stone character. It slowly opens and builds. Chewy but polished. Reserved LMHB. – <i>JS</i>				
La Mission Haut Brion Blanc	93 – 95		95-96	\$1155
From the property formerly known as Laville Haut-Brion, the 2013 La Mission Haut-Brion Blanc is one of the great dry whites of the vintage. Aromas of tangerine oil, caramelized grapefruit, figs and honeysuckle soar from this medium to full-bodied, rich, concentrated white wine. With terrific acidity as well as a vibrant, medium- to full-bodied mouthfeel and finish, it should provide immense pleasure for at least 2-3 decades. – <i>RP</i>				
A white with a fabulous minerality and citrus character as well as hints of papaya and other tropical fruits. Full body with a wonderful backbone and length. Focused and powerful. Half sauvignon blanc and half sémillon. – <i>JS</i>				
La Clarence de Haut Brion	87 – 88	88-91	89-90	\$96
The second wine of Haut-Brion, the 2013 Le Clarence de Haut-Brion, is a blend of 57% Merlot, 27% Cabernet Sauvignon and the rest Cabernet Franc. It is better than its nearby rival, the second wine of La Mission Haut-Brion, La Chapelle de La Mission Haut-Brion, because it is more charming and has plenty of black currant, cherry and plum-like fruit. It has good color, not a lot of tannin, structure or density, but does have the Graves-like minerality one expects from this appellation. It is meant to be drunk in its exuberant youthfulness and thus should be consumed in its first 7-8 years of life. – <i>RP</i>				
No tasting notes available.				
Iodine and oyster shell with stones. Full body with chewy tannins and a medium finish. Creamy texture. – <i>JS</i>				
Smith Haut Lafitte Blanc	93 – 95	94-97	95-96	\$105
This spectacular dry white is usually 90% Sauvignon Blanc and the balance Sauvignon Gris. Copious notes/aromas of peach, honeyed grapefruit, spring flowers and a caramelized melony aspect can be found in this very elegant, pure, complex dry white. Medium-bodied, crisp, fresh and deep, this 2013 can evolve for 12-15 years or more. – <i>RP</i>				
A talc note gives way quickly to straw, verbena and shortbread flavors at the core, along with macadamia nut, lemon curd and brioche. Richly layered, with impressive range, this flattering style has nicely				

embedded acidity to carry it all. A gorgeous white in the making. – <i>JM</i>				
Why drink Silex from Dagueneau? This is really something exceptional with incredible density and power. Full-bodied, dry and mineral and lemon zest with fabulous length and beauty. This is definitely one to buy in 2013. 90% sauvignon blanc, 5% sauvignon gris and 5% sémillon. – <i>JS</i>				
Smith Haut Lafitte Rouge	86 – 88	89-92	91-92	\$74
The Cathiard family has fashioned a medium-bodied, light-styled 2013 Smith Haut Lafitte exhibiting a medium dark ruby color, attractive red and black currant fruit, a hint of graphite, and a one-dimensional mouthfeel. If it puts on weight and depth, it may merit a higher score. Based on this estate's perfect wines in 2009, 2010 and great 2008, the so-so 2013 is somewhat disappointing. It should drink well for 6-10 years. – <i>RP</i>				
Open and fresh, with a caressing edge to the plum, raspberry and lilac notes, lined with a subtle twinge of singed vanilla on the finish. Restrained for now, but shows lovely length. – <i>JM</i>				
This is very, very fresh with a bright berry and currant character. Medium to full body with fine tannins. Very pretty finish. Subtle and delicate. 60% cabernet sauvignon, 35% merlot and a touch of cabernet franc and petit verdot. – <i>JS</i>				

Saint Emilion	RP	JM	JS	Price
Ausone	93 – 95		91-93	\$569
Probably the wine of the vintage, once again. Only 9,000 bottles of the 2013 Ausone were produced, as crop size was 50% of normal. However, proprietor Alain Vauthier and his daughter certainly have proven a truly great wine can be produced in some of the most trying conditions Bordeaux wine producers have had to deal with over the last 20 years. Yields were only 22 hectoliters per hectare and the final blend was 55% Cabernet Franc and 45% Merlot. The haunting aromas of wet rocks, spring flowers, blue and black fruits and forest floor are followed by an incredibly dense, attractive wine with sweet tannin, stunning concentration and texture, medium body and a depth that is essentially unreal in a vintage such as this. The wine is a superb example of great winemaking under the most difficult circumstances. Unlike more recent Ausones, this should be reasonably drinkable in 5-6 years and yet be capable of lasting 25-30. – <i>RP</i>				
No tasting notes available.				
A balanced red for the vintage with a solid core of fruit and a dense palate. Silky tannins and stylish character. Full body with a outstanding intensity and finesse for the vintage. Hazelnut and minerals. Half the normal production. – <i>JS</i>				
Beausejour Duffau	90 – 92	88-91	91-92	\$88
I had this three different times, consistently scoring it the same. The final blend was 88% Merlot and 12% Cabernet Franc. This great terroir of over 19 acres consists of pure limestone with some clay – all situated on the southern slopes of St.-Emilion – and has been under fabulous vineyard management and winemaking hands for close to a decade or more. The 2009 and 2010 are legendary if you can still find any. Fifty-seven percent of the total production made it into this wine, which tips the scales at 14.3% natural alcohol, giving you an idea that even in a very tough vintage this terroir can still produce ripe fruit. Yields were – get this – 13 hectoliters per hectare. A huge nose of crushed chalk, licorice, blueberry liqueur, graphite and a hint of truffle and camphor jump from the glass of this opaque ruby/purple-colored wine. Medium-bodied, it doesn't have the great depth, power and broad swath across the palate that the 2009 and 2010 possessed, but it's still a beauty. This is elegant and should drink well in 3-4 years. This is one 2013 that may well last and improve beyond 12-15 years. – <i>RP</i>				
Dense, with plum compote, blackberry paste and toasted anise notes melded together and backed by a fresh, broad finish. – <i>JM</i>				
There's an intense mineral, almost salty character to this, with dark fruits. Full body with a dense palate and a long finish. Racy and exciting to taste for the vintage. – <i>JS</i>				
Chapelle d'Ausone	88 – 91		89-90	\$173

<p>Even Ausone's second wine is special in this mediocre Bordeaux vintage. The ripe 2013 La Chapelle d'Ausone offers hints of violets and crushed rocks as well as a soft, silky richness, medium body and loads of fruit. This successful St.-Emilion may turn out to be outstanding. It should drink well for 10-15 years. – <i>RP</i></p>				
<p>No Tasting notes available.</p>				
<p>A pretty red with dried-cherry and flower character, plus hints of lemons. Medium body with a solid core of fruit and bright acidity. – <i>JS</i></p>				
Clos Fourtet	88-90	90-93		Sold Out
<p>One can sense the chalky limestone soil base of much of the Clos Fourtet vineyard (adjacent to the walls of this medieval showcase town). The dense ruby/plum-colored 2013 offers sweet black cherry and cassis fruit, good minerality, slightly angular acids (a characteristic of many 2013s), and ripe tannins. It should turn out to be very good, but it is clearly not one of the great Clos Fourtets made over the last decade or more. Drink it over the next 10-12 years. – <i>RP</i></p>				
<p>Long and racy, with lovely persistence to the chalky minerality and bright, unadorned cassis, damson plum and raspberry fruit flavors. Shows a lovely echo of rooibos tea at the very end. – <i>JM</i></p>				
<p>No Tasting notes available.</p>				
Figeac	89-91	91-94	90-91	Sold Out
<p>The final blend, from yields of 36 hectoliters per hectare, is 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc. With an average alcohol of 13%, the wine is outstanding and probably, for me, the best Figeac in many a year - even though it is from a difficult vintage. A tribute to not only Madame Manoncourt, but to Jean-Valmy Nicolas and Michel Rolland. The wine is a dense ruby/purple with a beautiful nose of creme de cassis, cedar wood and a touch of tobacco leaf. The wine is medium-bodied and has opulence on the attack, after which tannins kick in. This exhibits good purity and far more texture and depth than about any recent Figeac has possessed. A wine that was over-cropped, picked underripe and simply a major underperformer for such a great terroir. It should drink well for 10-15 years. – <i>RP</i></p>				
<p>This delivers a very solid core of plum, cassis and blackberry fruit, with polished edges and a good underpinning of iron and violet notes through the finish. Long and solidly built without overreaching. One of the top surprises of the vintage. – <i>JM</i></p>				
<p>A balanced, silky wine for the vintage, with mineral, currant, licorice and light spice. Medium body, fine tannins and a fresh finish. I like the hints of sweet tobacco, too. Very different blend: 50% cabernet sauvignon, 30% merlot and 20% cabernet franc; in a normal year, it's one third of each. – <i>JS</i></p>				
Pavie Macquin	89 – 92	90-93	92-93	\$59
<p>Opaque purple in color with notes of barbecue smoke, chalk dust, sweet medium to full-bodied blackcurrant mouthfeel with impressive, texture, purity, equilibrium and light to moderate tannins in the finish, this is certainly one of the most successful wines of the vintage. Because of the year, in this vintage, the wine is much more evolved and forward than it normally is. This beauty can be drunk in two or so years and should last 12-15.</p>				
<p>On the Cote Pavie, this 47-acre vineyard has produced a wine made from 85% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Franc and 2% Cabernet Sauvignon. Only about 4,000+ cases are going to be made because of the low yields of 25 hectoliters per hectare and the severe selection. The wine showed extremely well in my tastings in June in Bordeaux. – <i>RP</i></p>				
<p>Pure violet and bluebell aromas lead the way, followed by silky plum, raspberry and black cherry fruit. Long and refined on the finish, with a mouthwatering edge to the acidity. This feels like it's putting on weight during the <i>élevage</i>. – Non-blind Pavie Macquin vertical (December 2014). 3,633 cases made. – <i>JM</i></p>				
<p>This is incredibly long and intense for the vintage, with raspberry and citrus character. Fine tannins. It goes on for minutes. An electrifying wine for the vintage, from organically grown grapes. – <i>JS</i></p>				

Pomerol	RP	JM	JS	Price
Clinet	91 – 93	87-90	90-91	\$74
A terrific success and star in this vintage, this blend of 90% Merlot, 9% Cabernet Sauvignon and the rest Cabernet Franc came from a mere 25 acres of vineyard and averaged 33 hectoliters per hectare, with close to 13% natural alcohol. The entire harvest took place September 30-October 12. The wine is impressive in this vintage, its beautiful, dense, blue/black color is followed by a striking nose of creme de cassis, blackberry fruit, charcoal and a hint of camphor. The wine is rich and medium to full-bodied, displaying surprising texture, depth and breadth. This is a rich wine with good acidity and ripe tannin. It is a relatively big boy for the vintage and should drink well in 2-3 years and last up to 15 or more. It is so good, it is clearly a sleeper of the vintage, even though Clinet has been doing fabulous work for a number of years.– <i>RP</i>				
Offers a fresh, racy feel, with raspberry and bitter cherry notes followed by a blood orange accent. Modest spice accents show on the finish.– <i>JM</i>				
A 2013 with attractive mineral, salt and iron character, plus a creamy acidity. Medium body solid core of fruit and a fresh finish. Very good concentration for the vintage. – <i>JS</i>				
La Conseillante	89-91	88-91	90-91	Sold Out
The grand vin, the 2013 La Conseillante, is a delicious, supple wine displaying notes of violets, incense, licorice, black cherries and raspberries. Well-made and medium-bodied, but neither as deep nor concentrated as the 2009 and 2010, its soft, seductive style argue well for drinking over the next decade.– <i>RP</i>				
Focused, with black tea, anise, blackberry coulis and black cherry notes that display good range and finesse through the finish.– <i>JM</i>				
This is lively and refined with a blueberry and cherry character. Medium body with fine tannins and a tangy finish. Bright and lively. Salty. Savory. 87% merlot and 13% cabernet franc. – <i>JS</i>				
La Violette	86 – 88			\$248
A successful 2013, La Violette exhibits its tell-tale floral notes intermixed with raspberry and black currant fruit. Medium-bodied and fresh with crisp acids as well as a decent finish, it can be drunk over the next 5-7 years.– <i>RP</i>				
No tasting Notes Available.				
No tasting Notes Available.				
L’Eglise Clinet	92-94	89-92	93-94	\$230
A 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc blend from the Plateau of Pomerol near the church, the wine has an inky/purple color, a sweet kiss of mulberry and black cherry liqueurs, interwoven with licorice, truffle, a hint of melted road tar and background spice and oak. The wine is opulent, medium to full-bodied and unquestionably a tour de force for this vintage. Kudos to Durantou. If you can find it, this is clearly one of the candidates for the wine of the vintage and a real star. Drink from 2018-2027.				
It-s no surprise that perfectionist/meticulous proprietor Denis Durantou has turned out one of the best wines of the vintage. Harvested September 27-October 6, only 10,000 bottles were produced in this tiny yielding vintage that also required a draconian-like selection process to keep the best fruit under the top label.– <i>RP</i>				
Well-rendered, with sleek raspberry and blackberry coulis notes, presenting a backdrop of anise and warm fruitcake flavors and a fleshy, polished finish. Pure and lengthy.– <i>JM</i>				
One of the most naturally structured wines from the vintage. Full body with mineral character and intensity. The old-vine cabernet franc gives it the backbone. This will need aging.– <i>JS</i>				
L’Evangile	88-89	90-93	86-87	\$189
The 2013 l’Evangile shows a slightly deeper color as well as more noticeable ripe raspberry and black cherry fruit intermixed with notions of licorice and incense. Again, there is no hint of herbaceousness or tannic astringency in this mid-weight, slightly superficial, but charming, pretty 2013. Consume it over the next 7-8 years.				

<p>This magnificent estate owned by the Rothschild family appears to be the number one challenger to the supremacy of Petrus, one of its neighbors. The owners have purchased 15 acres from La Croix de Gay, all on the high plateau of Pomerol. Consequently, l'Évangile now covers 55 acres and 37 different parcels. Obviously, 2013 was a challenge from the beginning, although the 2013 l-Évangile has turned out to be charming, fruity and easy-to-drink. The problem is the price of entry for a good rather than inspirational effort. – <i>RP</i></p>				
<p>Offers a solid core of plum and boysenberry fruit, with lots of smoldering charcoal, bay and roasted alder notes. Shows impressive grip, balanced by the slightly angular acidity of the vintage. Should settle in nicely. An impressive effort. Merlot and Cabernet Franc. – <i>JM</i></p>				
<p>A fruity, delicious wine already with berry, chocolate and light vanilla character. Medium body, light tannins and a bright finish. Second wine of L'Évangile. – <i>JS</i></p>				
Lafleur	89-91		93-94	\$628
<p>The dark ruby-colored 2013 Lafleur (55% Cabernet Franc and 45% Merlot) displays excellent licorice and kirsch notes, medium body, and attractive purity and ripeness in a pretty, mid-weight style. It should drink nicely for 10-15 years.</p>				
<p>This vintage's growing season – a cold spring, hot July and stressful September with high humidity with lots of pressure from botrytis forming in the red grapes – resulted in a small crop at Lafleur. – <i>RP</i></p>				
<p>No tasting Notes Available.</p>				
<p>This is very linear and pure with strawberry and cherry character. It really is the purity that gets you. Full body, with super linear tannins and a bright and racy finish. This focused and refined. Winemaker says that no botrytis was seen in his vineyard giving such wonderful quality. – <i>JS</i></p>				
Le Gay	85 – 87		92-93	\$91
<p>A successful effort in this vintage, the 2013 Le Gay is more muscular than most Pomerols (with the exception of Trotanoy). It has a dark ruby color, blue and red fruits, a pronounced acid profile and a medium-bodied finish. Drink it over the next 7-8 years. – <i>RP</i></p>				
<p>No tasting Notes Available.</p>				
<p>Excellent depth and balance for the vintage, with blackberry, dark-chocolate and mineral character. Full body, harmonious and well crafted. – <i>JS</i></p>				
Pensee Lafleur	87-88		90-91	\$123
<p>The delicious, open-knit 2013 Les Pensees de Lafleur (59% Merlot and 41% Cabernet Franc) reveals plenty of mocha and berry fruit, sweet tannin, and a lightweight, charming, seductive personality. Drink this consumer-friendly 2013 over the next 6-7 years.</p>				
<p>This vintage's growing season – a cold spring, hot July and stressful September with high humidity with lots of pressure from botrytis forming in the red grapes – resulted in a small crop at Lafleur. – <i>RP</i></p>				
<p>No tasting Notes Available.</p>				
<p>This is very pretty and dense for the vintage, with cherry and strawberry character, plus hints of chocolate. Full body with a solid core of fruit and a bright finish. 59% merlot and 41% cabernet franc. Second wine of Lafleur. – <i>JS</i></p>				
Vieux Chateau Certan	87 – 88	90-93		\$173
<p>Approximately 1,000 cases of the 2013 Vieux Chateau Certan (versus the normal 4,000 cases) were produced. Alexandre Thienpont told me that yields were 22 hectoliters per hectare, and the final blend was unusual in that it was 92% Merlot and 8% Cabernet Franc. The alcohol was a surprisingly lofty 13%. While charming, tasty and elegant, this wine does not possess the depth, fat or texture of a great vintage. The tropical September that spawned botrytis throughout Bordeaux vineyards had to be cut out, and the result was a ridiculously small crop that cost a fortune to produce, but will never sell for a high price since it is a good rather than exceptional wine. Drink it over the next 5-7 years. – <i>RP</i></p>				
<p>Shows lovely blue and purple fruit, with a decidedly floral feel. Very expressive in terms of aroma. Long and refined through the finish, delivering polish and a lingering tobacco profile, echoing gently. Merlot and Cabernet Franc. – <i>JM</i></p>				
<p>Another lively 2013 with lemon peel, minerals and blueberries. Medium body with fine tannins and a bright, delicious finish. Delicate. Tangy and bright. Only 1,000 cases instead of the usual 4,000. 92% merlot and 8% cabernet franc. – <i>JS</i></p>				