



BORDEAUX 2015 EN PRIMEUR VINTAGE REPORT

Generally, 2015 is an excellent vintage. Across the region, the wines do not possess the consistency demonstrated by 2009 or 2010 at this stage, though you could argue that it might pip the quality of 2005 due to subsequent advances in technology and know-how. Certainly, I cannot remember the 2005s displaying such fine tannin, although they did show more density and structure out of barrel.

As mentioned in this introduction, quality is not geographically uniform. The best wines tend to be in the southern Médoc, specifically Margaux and Pessac-Léognan, across the Right Bank in Saint Emilion and Pomerol, then into several satellite appellations. Limestone soils and vineyards with a healthy proportion of Cabernet Franc produced many of the vintage's peaks. Elsewhere, it is a little patchier for sure, but with many gems to be found.

The heady peaks of 2015 stand shoulder to shoulder with 2009 and 2010. I am not certain everyone will agree with that, however, there is a small cluster of wines that will be benchmarks for their respective estates. This is where there is a conjunction of favorable climatic conditions, propitious *terroir* and clever winemaking practiced by a clever winemaker.

The best 2015s have the substance, balance and complexity to merit long-term aging. My fear, one shared with winemakers, is that many of these 2015s will not be given the opportunity to reach their plateau of maturity after 20, 30 or 40 years. That would be a crying shame. There are plenty of wines that are born to drink earlier and will give just as much pleasure.

It is clear that the northern reaches Médoc were affected by the September rain. That does not imply that they are poor or not worth consideration (depending on prices). On the contrary, many are very good. It is simply that when juxtaposed with their counterparts further south, in areas unaffected by rain, you can discern that potential quality in the final blend was compromised, despite Herculean efforts by some winemaking teams.

The dry white Bordeaux are generally high in quality due to benign conditions during the summer and harvest. Some of the Sémillons were occasionally affected by the August rain, but less so the Sauvignon Blanc. Acidity levels were locked in by the cool nights in early September and though many are drunk young, they will repay cellaring.

Do not overlook Sauternes! You will...I know that...but there is no harm in repeating it. The region produced a host of outstanding sweet wines with good botrytis levels, rich in sugar between 130-150 grams per liter, but more crucially, marked acidity and tension. One mark of the 2015 vintage is a consistency across the board thanks to the almost leisurely manner in which botrytis spread across the vineyards. For once, the pickers in Sauternes had "options" and the results can be seen in the glass.

-- Neal Martin erobertparker.com

2015 is the best vintage since 2010, alongside 2010, 2009 and 2005.

St Estephe	Neal Martin	JM	JS	Price
Montrose	93-95	N.A	93-94	SOLD OUT
Neal Martin	The 2015 Montrose is a blend of 67% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot and 4% Cabernet Franc that was picked between 15 September and 8 October, the fruit sorted three times using three sorting tables, then an optical sorting machine and finally by hand. Matured in 65% new oak, it possesses some of the best aromatics you will find in the appellation - billowing blackberry, cassis and boysenberry scents all beautifully defined and seamlessly integrated with the new oak. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, commendable depth and a vibrant bead of acidity that lends this Montrose tension from start to finish. The class comes through strongly in this wine, perhaps the best Saint Estèphe this year. Give this a decade in bottle, more if you can, since Montrose tends to repay cellaring.			
JM	No tasting notes available.			
JS	Blueberry, black currant, fresh basil and lemon grass flavours. Full body, velvety tannins, clean finish. Spices. Depth.			
La Dame De Montrose	88-90	N.A	91-92	\$ 48.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 La Dame de Montrose is a blend of 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 41% Merlot and 4% Petit Verdot that was picked between 15 September and 8 October. It has a perfumed, floral and pure bouquet with black cherries, blueberry and violets, all with commendable delineation for a deuxième vin. The palate is well balanced with a more sumptuous texture compared to its fellow Saint Estèphes, thanks to that lush Merlot that forms the core of this wine. It has commendable energy and feels approachable, therefore with 3-4 years in bottle, you should have yourself a fine if not exceptional La Dame de Montrose.			
JM	No tasting notes available.			
JS	Polished tannins with lovely integration and finesse. Full body, round texture. Persistent finish. Second wine of Montrose.			
Calon Segur	91-93	89-92	93-94	SOLD OUT
Neal Martin	The 2015 Calon Segur is a blend of 82% Cabernet Sauvignon, 16% Merlot and 2% Petit Verdot (no Cabernet Franc in the Grand Vin this year). It was picked from 8 September until 5 October at a yield of 47 hl/ha and is matured in 100% new oak for the next 20 months. The Cabernet Sauvignon dominates the aromatics with blackberry, cedar and graphite aromas: quite linear, nicely focused and reserved compared to the 2014 last year. The palate is understated on the entry, the tannin very fine and the acidity very well judged. Like the nose, the Cabernet drives this wine forward: structured and a little "brittle" in the mouth, perhaps the most Pauillac-like Calon-Segur that I have encountered over many years of tasting. Afford this several years in bottle.			
JM	A solid effort, with plum and dark cherry fruit showing the fleshier side of the vintage. Shows silky tannins underneath and a pleasant tobacco edge on the finish.			
JS	This is very fine and intergrated with black currant, walnut and fresh tobacco. Full body, pretty polish. Sophisticated. Well done for the vintage for this appellation.			
Cos D'Estournel	92-94	N.A	97-98	\$ 208.00

Neal Martin	The 2015 Cos d'Estournel is a blend of 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23.5% Merlot and 1.5% Cabernet Franc that was picked between 17 September and 5 October at 44 hl/ha. It is being matured in 65% new oak, less than in recent years due to the tannin (IPT is 71). Deeper in color than the 2015 Pagodes, it has a very pure bouquet with tightly knitted blackberry, blueberry and violet scents, perhaps just a little Margaux-like in style. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin, well-judged acidity and harmonious in the mouth. What it does not quite deliver is the complexity of a top-tier Cos d'Estournel or the peacock's tail of flavors on the finish, which feels linear and conservative compared to its peers in more southerly appellations. You feel as if the vintage put a tight leash on this Saint Estèphe grandee. There is pedigree in this Grand Vin for sure and it is bound to give up to 20 years of pleasure.				
JM	No tasting notes available.				
JS	This shows what great selection did in the northern Medoc. Big surprise. Really excellent. Full body, chewy and rich tannins and load of if ripe fruit. Black currants, blueberries. It has hot and ripe tannins yet cool fruit.				
Les Pagodes De Cos		87-89	N.A	91-92	\$ 56.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Pagodes de Cos is a blend of 46.2% Merlot, 44% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5.8% Cabernet Franc and 4% Petit Verdot that will be matured in 30% new barrels. It has a generous bouquet of earthy, sous-bois-tinged black fruit, delineated if not as intense as the 2014 I recall from 12 months ago. The palate is medium-bodied and shows a little more sophisticated than the aromatics, principally because of the appealing fineness of the tannin and how well the oak is enmeshed into the fruit. That lends it a smooth and silky texture, and I suggest that after 2-3 years in bottle, this should drink nicely for up to another decade.				
JM	No tasting notes available.				
JS	Fine and silky second wine of Cos with blueberry, blackberry and walnut aromas and flavors.				
Ormes De Pez		87-89	86-89	91-92	\$ 35.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Les Ormes de Pez is a blend of 44% Cabernet Sauvignon, 49% Merlot, 6% Cabernet Franc and 7% Petit Verdot that is being matured in 45% new oak. It has a well-defined bouquet with blackberry and bilberry fruit, although compared to recent vintages, it does not quite possess the same fruit intensity, feels just a little muted at this stage. The palate is medium-bodied with grainy tannin, nicely balanced though a little angular at the moment. It needs just a bit more fruit to fill out the final third. Give this 4-5 years of bottle age and you will have a decent, if not top-tier Les Ormes de Pez.				
JM	Tangy, with pomegranate and red currant notes laced with a wet pebble spine. Direct.				
JS	A solid and chewy red with blackberry and black currant character. Full body, chewy tannins. Fresh finish.				
Phelan Segur		91-93	88-91	93-94	\$ 50.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Phelan Segur, a blend of 53% Cabernet Sauvignon and 47% Merlot aged in 50% new oak, is certainly one of the better offerings from the Saint Estèphe appellation. For sure, the bouquet is restrained, kept on a leash, but it trots along with crisp blackberry and raspberry fruit, interwoven with an attractive pencil lead note. The palate is medium-bodied with ripe tannin. It is structured and quite bold, considering the storm that swept across the appellation during harvest, clearly a lot of sorting here that engenders a clean and pure wine with appreciable mineralité and tension on the foursquare finish. If released at a sensible price, then this would be a recommended Saint Estèphe to consumer over 10-12 years.				
JM	This offers a good core of dark currant and bitter cherry notes, with hints of warm stone and tobacco filling in on the finish. Shows solid grip.				
JS	A full-bodied red with very dense and chewy tannins. Very persistent and intense. Very fine textured. One of the best Phelans ever?				
Lafon Rochet		90-92	87-90	91-92	\$ 50.00

Neal Martin	The 2015 Lafon Rochet is a blend of 54% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, 6% Cabernet Franc and 5% Petit Verdot, picked between 25 September and 9 October. Matured in 40% to 50% new oak from eight coopers including Stockinger since last year, it has a dense blackberry and boysenberry scented bouquet that is a little more voluptuous than its peers. The palate is again quite dense with "stocky" tannin, obdurate and a little hard at the moment, structured and clearly a Lafon-Rochet that is built for the long-term. It will need several years to just lose its brutishness.
JM	Fresh and direct, featuring a ripe beam of kirsch and black cherry fruit augmented by lilac and iron notes. Balanced, with a gentle structure.
JS	A firm and silky red with blueberry and dark chocolate aromas and flavours. Full to medium body, serious core of the fruit for the vintage.

Lilian Ladouys	88-90	86-89	89-90	\$ 28.00
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Neal Martin	The 2015 Château Lilian Ladouys is a blend of 62% Merlot, 33% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Petit Verdot and 2% Cabernet Franc. It has a broody, earthy, very Saint Estèphe bouquet that was showing a great deal of new oak when I tasted it. The palate is medium-bodied with soft tannin on the entry, quite masculine and foursquare, plenty of fruit with strong tobacco notes coming through on the finish. If I am being honest, I was just hoping for a little more from this ever-improving Cru Bourgeois under the guiding hand of Emmanuel Cruse, though I feel that it is just slightly compromised by the September storm clouds.
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JM	A bright, high-pitched style, with blood orange and red currant fruit inlaid with a singed balsam note. Stays a bit taut but shows length, suggesting this may fill in a bit more.
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JS	A fresh and clean red with blueberry, plum and light walnut aromas and flavours. Medium body, integrated tannins. Tight.
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Tour De Pez	85-87	86-89	89-90	\$ 21.00
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Neal Martin	The 2015 Tour de Pez has a high-toned cassis and blueberry-scented bouquet with a touch of espresso in the background. The palate is medium-bodied with quite firm tannin in the mouth. It feels as if it needs more depth on the mid-palate, attenuated slightly, although there is adequate freshness on the heady finish.
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JM	Focused, with a slightly tangy beam of red currant and bitter cherry flavors carrying through the lightly toasty finish. Light but pure.
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JS	A red with plum, dark chocolate and spice character. Medium body and firm tannins.
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Pauillac	Neal Martin	JM	JS	Price
Mouton Rothschild	97-99	N.A	96-97	\$ 680.00

Neal Martin	The 2015 Mouton-Rothschild is a blend of 82% Cabernet Sauvignon, 16% Merlot and 3% Cabernet Franc matured entirely in new oak, as usual. This represents a relatively high percentage of Merlot simply because, as winemaker Philippe Dhalluin told me, that quality was so good. I afforded my sample four to five minutes to open as it was a little reduced at first, but eventually it reveals a gorgeous, extraordinarily intense bouquet of blackberry, cassis, incense and cold slate aromas. In some ways it reminds me of Latour as much as Mouton Rothschild. The palate is medium-bodied with svelte tannin, perfectly pitched acidity, wonderful tension and impressive length. There is a strong graphite theme running through from start to finish that is little grainy and so it will require preferably a decade in cellar. But what freshness and panache here, a classic Mouton-Rothschild that will live for 50 or 60 years, not a million miles away from say, the 1986 or 2010. Expect this to settle at the top of my banded score once in bottle.
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JM	No tasting notes available.
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JS	Very racy refined with super polished tannins and focused dark fruits. Blackberry, orange peel, and black currant. Full. Very long and though-provoking. A wine that delivers power and finesse. Juicy and fresh.
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Le Petit Mouton		91-93	N.A	93-94	\$ 190.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Le Petit Mouton is a blend of 78% Cabernet Sauvignon, 17% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Franc, matured in 40% new oak and the remainder one-year-old. It has a very intense bouquet for this deuxième vin, a far cry from the rustic wines produced in the 1990s. It is almost opaque, a wall of blackberry, cassis and tobacco aromas, perhaps the most powerful that I have ever tasted under this label. Over ten minutes, I noticed it become more sensual and rounded. The palate is medium-bodied with very fine tannin, like the aromatics, incredibly powerful and assertive. Wonderful delineation here, very mineral-driven with a bravura of a finish. It begged the question...is this really a second wine? Maybe they should rename it "Le Grand Mouton"? It is amazing to think how humdrum vintages of this were in the 1990s. This is a completely different wine to those.				
JM	No tasting notes available.				
JS	Very rich and chewy and polished. The soft and silky tannins coat your mouth. Full and savory. Excellent.				
Lafite Rothschild		94-96	N.A	97-98	\$ 720.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Lafite-Rothschild is a blend of 91% Cabernet Sauvignon and 9% Merlot picked between 17 September and 6 October. Matured in 100% new oak, it has a tightly-wound bouquet with black cherries, cassis, cedar and graphite, though it does not quite possess the depth one would have expected the vintage would have bestowed. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin, harmonious on the entry and with the oak neatly integrated. There is a very fine grip towards the finish, which has a tangible spicy edge - white pepper with a touch of bay leaf and enough pencil lead to fill a stationery set. The aftertaste is extremely long here, more than a minute when I timed it on my watch. It is an excellent Lafite-Rothschild in the making and it often "finds its voice" only after bottling, so it could ultimately end with a higher score.				
JM	No tasting notes available.				
JS	Here is a Lafite with lots of muscle and tone. Very tannic and velvety textured. Full body, fresh acidity and a bright finish. Shows a tenderness at the end. Gorgeous.				
Carruades Lafite		89-91	N.A	92-93	\$ 209.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Carruades de Lafite is a blend of 57% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36% Merlot and 7% Cabernet Franc. This has a satisfying purity on the nose: blackberry and briary, a distant, cold slate-like note just underneath, with the new oak (close to 20%) neatly subsumed. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin. There is moderate depth to this slightly foursquare and conservative Carruades, but there is also plenty of freshness and it has an appealing, unassuming finish that is both harmonious and precise. Probably one of the most approachable deuxième vins, afford these 2-3 years in bottle before broaching.				
JM	No tasting notes available.				
JS	A silky and fine second wine of Lafite with blueberry, blackberry and flower aromas and flavors. Cedar and nuts too.				
Grand Puy Lacoste		94-96	91-94	94-95	SOLD OUT
Neal Martin	The 2015 Grand-Puy-Lacoste, 74% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot and 3% Cabernet Franc, matured in 75% new oak and was picked between September 18 until October 4 (although the "real" picking commenced from September 21). Now, Grand-Puy-Lacoste is often quite "aloof" at this early juncture, but that is not the case with the 2015. This is more approachable aromatically, beautifully defined, thanks to that expressive Merlot and Cabernet Franc. The palate is medium-bodied with svelte tannin and finely tuned acidity (pH 3.68). Beguilingly harmonious in the mouth, it boasts a silky smooth texture with wonderful salinity on the aftertaste that is sustained in the mouth. As usual, Xavier Borie has produced a "classic" Pauillac, but one that is a little more appealing to those that don't want to cellar for 20-30 years. You could describe the 2015 as being between 2009 and 2010...and that, folks, is not a bad place to be.				

JM	Pure, sleek and minerally today, with chalk and iron driving the core of red currant and damson plum fruit. The fruit is steadily emerging, and the length is there. Textbook Pauillac.
JS	This is very fine and elegant GPL with black currant and hints of walnuts, chocolate. Full body, sweet and petty tannins. Persistent. So polished.
Lynch Bages	93-95 92-95 95-96 \$ 145.00
Neal Martin	They 2015 Lynch Bages is a blend of 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot that was picked from 23 September until 2 October, matured in 75% new oak. There is an overwhelming sense of purity on the nose: perfumed, almost floral blackberry, wild strawberry, graphite and cedar scents, unmistakably Pauillac in style. The palate is medium-bodied with fine-grain tannin, a keen citrus thread that impart tension and ample freshness. Tasting this as the first wine of the day, it instantly refreshes the mouth and leaves it tingling with energy after it has departed. This is an excellent, top-grade Lynch Bages that deserves 8-10 years in bottle and then will offer three decade of pleasure, maybe more.
JM	This is packed with juicy currant, black cherry and blackberry fruit carried by warm stone and graphite notes. Offers lovely sweet spice hints through the finish, which is fleshy and integrated. Really sappy and intense, yet the smooth structure lets it all glide through beautifully.
JS	Very classic styled Lynch with pretty ripe fruit and tannin balanced. Full body, firm and chewy tannins yet polished and refined. Alcohol and fruit balance are lower than other top years and give this wine freshness and energy.
Pichon Lalande	95-97 94-97 96-97 \$ 162.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Pichon-Longueville Comtesse de Lalande is a blend of 68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot that was picked from 10 September with the young Merlot, finishing on 9 October. It includes 12.5% vin de presse (which incidentally was included in the blend). It has a very pure bouquet with expressive Merlot imparting black cherries and wild strawberry aromas that are embroidered with a thread of graphite. I noticed how it errs more towards black fruit with extended aeration. The palate is medium-bodied with edgy tannin on the entry, the Cabernet Sauvignon here in the driving seat despite that level of Merlot trying to get in a look. Together they give a sense of completeness to this Pichon Lalande that has semblances towards the great 1996. Whereas this Pauillac has a tendency to be more approachable than others, in fact, the 2015 has the backbone and substance to suggest that it will require a minimum of ten years' ageing, but patience will be amply rewarded. Nicolas Glumineau has overseen a quite brilliant Pichon Lalande here.
JM	This has excellent energy, featuring voluptuous blackberry and black currant fruit lined with cassis bush, bay leaf, wet stone and iron notes, with sweet tobacco filling in the background. The finish is broad and long, with a nice graphite edge. This is Pauillac.
JS	This is absolutely beautiful with super tannin quality that gives you the silkiest texture. Precise. It goes for minutes. Full and concentrated yet all in balance.
Pichon Baron	96-98 93-96 96-97 SOLD OUT
Neal Martin	The 2015 Pichon Baron is a blend of 77% Cabernet Sauvignon and 23% Merlot picked between 18 September until 9 October. Apparently Christian Seely made use of four additional 80-hectolitre wooden vats that augmented his stainless steel vessels. It has a very pure bouquet with lifted blackcurrant, blueberry and graphite aromas, beautifully delineated, the oak seamlessly embroidered with the fruit. The palate is medium-bodied with very fine tannin. This is disarmingly and utterly harmonious with a startling mineral core. Possibly the most sensual Pichon Baron that I have tasted at this nascent juncture, it gently unfolds in the mouth and leaves with an enormously persistent finish that leaves the senses tingling. If you want to know whether this 2015 is up there with the 2009 or 2010, the answer is unquestionably yes.

JM	Really packed, with very energetic blackberry, black currant and plum fruit, pushed by anise and sweet spice and rumbling through the broad, iron-edged finish. Shows lots of heft, but the impression is fresh, and this is built for the long haul. Impressive.
JS	Very solid and muscular Pichon Baron with ripe and velvety tannins. Full and very rich with balance of ripe fruit that deliver blackberry, walnut and spice. Warm and ripe yet finishes cool and sassy.
Clerc Milon	91-93 89-92 94-95 \$ 78.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Clerc Milon is a blend of 51% Cabernet Sauvignon, 34% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Franc, and 1% each of Petit Verdot and Carmenère, raised in 55% new oak. It has a highly perfumed bouquet with scents of small black cherries, graphite, touches of incense and wilted violets. This is a very extravagant bouquet for Clerc-Milon that wants to make an early impression. The palate is medium-bodied with fine-grain tannin, more expressive and delineated than the 2015 d'Armailhac, the finish beautifully focused with that graphite seam coming through on the sustained finish. This is potentially an outstanding Clerc-Milon, though it will need a decade in bottle to show its true potential.
JM	Offers a rounded, juicy feel, with cherry and black currant fruit moving along, backed by sweet tobacco notes and a flicker of anise. Pure and fresh.
JS	This is super fine textured with ultra-polished tannins. Full body, blackberry, blueberry and dark chocolate. Long and refined.
D'Armailhac	89-91 88-91 92-93 \$ 50.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Château d'Armailhac is a blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot, 9% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot, marking a slightly higher percentage of Merlot this year. Picking began on September 16 and finished October 5 - one of the longest harvest periods for this estate, according to Philippe Dhalluin. It has a very intense bouquet with layers of small dark cherries and cassis, the oak prominent, though the final blend will contain proportionally less. The palate is very concentrated and quite showy, as d'Armailhac has a proclivity of being at this early juncture. The acidity here is nicely judged with just a touch of graphite coming through on the finish. This is a satisfactory d'Armailhac, but there was a nagging feeling that this is one wine from the Mouton Rothschild stable that left me wanting more. Perhaps that will develop during its barrel maturation?
JM	This has good density midpalate, with red currant and plum fruit. Keeps a slightly racy edge overall, with a lightly chalky frame giving way to iron through the finish.
JS	A refined and pretty red with plum, blackberry and black cherry aromas and flavours. Full to medium body, fine tannins. Exuberant.
Duhart Milon	90-92 N.A 91-92 \$ 83.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Duhart Milon is a blend of 73% Cabernet Sauvignon and 27% Merlot picked between September 23 and October 6, the September 17-23 respectively. It will eventually see 40% new oak during its élevage. It has a tightly-wound bouquet with blackberry, bilberry and cassis fruit, moderate complexity, perhaps just a little static at the moment. The palate is medium-bodied with quite supple tannin for the normally obdurate Duhart-Milon, the acidity nicely judged with a pleasing salinity towards the finish. I would just like to see more personality come through by the time of bottling. Otherwise, this is a fine Duhart-Milon that is more compromising than the tannic "beasts" of yesteryear, and it should drink after 5-7 years in bottle.
JM	No tasting notes available.
JS	A firm and silky red with blackberry and chocolate character. Hints of walnut. Full and chewy. Fresh finish.
Pibran	89-91 89-92 90-91 \$ 38.00

Neal Martin	The 2015 Pibran is a blend of 50% Cabernet Sauvignon and 50% Merlot, matured in 50% new oak for the next 18 months. It was picked between 21 September and 8 October. It has a precise, tightly wound bouquet at first, graphite-tinged black fruit gently unfurling with a suggestion of iodine in the background. The palate is medium-bodied with grainy tannin, perhaps a little coarseness that will be abided by time, moderate depth leading to a classic, foursquare, tobacco-tinged finish. This is a slightly conservative Pibran, but stylish and sure to give 10-15 years of drinking pleasure.				
JM	Offers very nice purity from the get-go, with a core of cassis and cherry flavors that glide along, carried by a very fine chalky thread. This is lovely, with length and cut.				
JS	A juicy and savory wine with velvety tannins and a fresh and clean finish.				
Grand Puy Ducasse		90-92	88-91	90-91	\$ 45.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Grand-Puy-Ducasse has a classic pencil lead and cedar-scented bouquet that feels just a little foursquare at the moment. The palate is medium-bodied with a dash of spice on the entry. This is underpinned by quite robust tannin, but fortunately this Pauillac forages finesse towards the finish that is well balanced and offers attractive persistence. While not as showy out of barrel, I suspect it may coalesce and turn into one of the better wines from this estate in recent years. My banded score based upon that optimism.				
JM	This has a frankly toast frame around a solid core of plum and blackberry fruit. A toasty edge keeps the finish clamped down, but the stuffing is there.				
JS	A refined and balanced red for the vintage with a lovely core of fruit. Medium to full body, bright finish. Lovely citrus, earth and fruit undertones.				
Pontet Canet		94-96	N.A	97-98	\$ 132.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Pontet Canet was tasted on two occasions around two weeks apart and I noticed a superior showing the second time around. This year is a blend of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot that was picked from 18 September apropos the Merlot and from 28 September for the Cabernet, finishing on 3 October. It is matured in 50% new oak, 35% concrete and 15% one-year-old barrels. It has a pure and perfumed bouquet with small dark cherries, red plum and subtle violet scents, perhaps a little Margaux-like in style, the second showing demonstrating a little redder fruit character. The palate is medium-bodied with a slightly grainy texture on the entry. There is nicely judged acidity here, moderate depth, very supple tannin that lend this a silky texture. There is modest weight towards the second half, perhaps spicier than some of its Pauillac peers with an edgy, lightly peppered finish. It is an intriguing and complex, almost mercurial Pontet-Canet, a wine that I suspect will gain more weight during its élevage. Afford these 5-8 years in bottle and you should have a delicious, intellectual Pontet-Canet on your hands.				
JM	No tasting notes available.				
JS	This very fine and silky with a beautiful vivid blackberry and blueberry character. Super polished tannins. Refined and very, very long. Fabulous harmony to this young wine. Very classic Bordeaux. Superb depth and length. Real Bordeaux.				
Aile D'argent Blanc		90-92	N.A	96-97	\$ 90.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Aile d'Argent Blanc, a blend of 55% Sauvignon Blanc, 43% Sémillon and 2% Muscadelle, has an attractive bouquet of lime cordial, pink grapefruit and apricot that gently unfolds in the glass. The palate is very well balanced with a keen thread of acidity that runs through waxy-textured fresh pear, grapefruit and lime notes. There is just a touch of malolactic fermentation here (actually around 7% of the total according to winemaker Philippe Dhalluin) that just lends cohesion and smoothness to the finish. With a dash of lemongrass loitering on the aftertaste, this is a very fine Aile d'Argent that should age well over the course of a decade, possibly more.				
JM	No tasting notes available.				

JS	This has crazy energy with dried pineapple, pear and sliced apple. Full body, exotic and lively long. So exciting. 55% sauvignon 43% Semillon and muscadelle.			
St Julien	Neal Martin	JM	JS	Price
Leoville Las Cases	95-97	94-97	96-97	\$ 236.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Leoville Las-Cases has the highest Cabernet contents in recent years, 85% and 9% of Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc respectively, partly because some of the old Merlot vines were blended into the deuxième vin. Picked between 22 September and 9 October, a total of 15 days picking, it will be matured in 85% new oak. The alcohol level is 13.8%, higher than 2010 for example. Jean-Hubert Delon has crafted an extremely pure and tensile bouquet, almost pixelated with blackberry, briary, slate and oyster shell aromas that blossom in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied, svelte and sensual on the entry, the tannins a little edgy with a gentle crescendo: black fruit, tons of minerals, real focus and precision towards the finish. This is a superlative Léoville Las-Cases with the substance to suggest long-term aging will be repaid.			
JM	Very tightly focused, with both charcoal and iron harnessing the core of dark currant and blackberry fruit flavors. Sleek in feel, but not for lack of depth, as this is brimming with dark fruit and terroir, just in a more austere fashion.			
JS	This is an ethereal young wine with blackberry and violet aromas and flavours. Full body, very firm and silky tannins and a superb finish. Lovely length and purity to this. 85% sauvignon, 6% merlot and 9% cabernet franc.			
Leoville Barton	94-96	92-95	94-95	\$ 93.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Leoville Barton is a blend of 86% Cabernet Sauvignon and 14% Merlot picked between 19-22 September and 28 September until 5 October for the Merlot and Cabernet respectively. Matured in 60% new oak, it has a more compelling and intense bouquet than the 2015 Langoa Barton at this early stage, whereas in other years I have found the siblings closer together. It delivers some lovely blackberry, sage and cigar box scents. The palate is very refined with edgy tannin, beautifully balanced with seamlessly integrated oak. It is the classic Léoville-Barton style, full of energy and showing more breeding than the Langoa on the finish. This is just an outstanding, classic, drop-dead gorgeous Léoville Barton that is destined to give immense pleasure over the coming years. Bravo Anthony, Lilian et al.			
JM	Gutsy, with mouthfilling blackberry and black currant compote flavors buttressed with very lively bramble and licorice notes. There's loads of grip, but this is velvety in feel.			
JS	A very savory and fruity red with red currant and plum aromas and flavours. Full body, firm back bone of tannins and a fresh finish. A generous and fruity young red. Fruit forward in a reserved way.			
Leoville Poyferre	92-94	92-95	95-96	\$ 94.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Léoville Poyferré is a blend of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 26% Merlot, 6% Petit Verdot and 3% Cabernet Franc that was harvested between 24 September and 10 October. The IPT comes in at 80 with a pH 3.69. It has a typical Léoville-Poyferré bouquet at this stage: quite bullish and forthright, packed full of dense black cherries, red plum and cassis, the 85% new oak pronounced, but will be subsumed with bottle age. The palate is full-bodied with mouth-coating tannin: layers of graphite-infused black fruit, cedar and mint, almost Pauillac-like in personality with a sustained graphite finish. This is a sophisticated Saint Julien built for long-term ageing, perhaps less flamboyant than recent vintages, but the terroir shows through. Expect it to land at the top of my banded score, possibly higher.			
JM	This features depth and focus, with a really solid core of currant and blackberry lined with ample iron and briar notes. Not shy with the toast, but the finish is energetic, and everything is pulling together.			

JS	A dense and savory red with plenty of phenolic texture and ripe fruit character. Hints of walnut and spice too. Chewy finish. Solid center palate.			
Ducru Beaucaillou	94-96	N.A	95-96	\$ 207.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Ducru Beaucaillou is a blend of 95% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Merlot, picked from around 28 September to 6 October. Matured in 100% new oak for what will be 18 months, delivering 13.5% alcohol, it has a relatively opulent bouquet for Saint Julien, with ripe black plum mixed with blackberry and cranberry, very well defined and neatly interwoven with the new oak. The palate is medium-bodied with a slightly savory opening, gently but insistently gripping the mouth. It feels dense and structured with a subtle marine-like note towards the linear, black olive-tinged finish. Bruno Borie has a 2015 with backbone, with longevity in mind. I suspect this will require a decade for the tannins to soften and continue the purple patch for this grand estate.			
JM	No tasting notes available.			
JS	A dense and compressed red with loads of blackberry and blue berry character. Fresh wet vineyard soil. Some mushroom too. Full and very tannic yet polished and very refined. Super balance and depth.			
Beychevelle	92-94	91-94	93-94	\$ 86.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Beychevelle was picked between 22 September and 8 October, a blend of 42% Cabernet Sauvignon, 47% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc and 4% Petit Verdot that will be matured in 50% new oak. It has quite a high IPT at 81, a pH of 3.72. It has a clean and crisp bouquet, tightly-wound at first, then unfurls with redcurrant, cranberry and raspberry scents, leaning towards the red spectrum rather than black. There is impressive delineation here, no frills, almost clinical in its "aromatic efficiency." The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin. This is a suave Beychevelle in the making, harmonious in the mouth, supple even, gently building towards a lightly spiced finish. Among the Saint Julien wines, this is clearly one of the more understated 2015s. It is only when you swallow the wine that its lingering flavors remind you that this could evolve into one of Philippe Blanc's great Beychevelles. While it is not a headline-grabbing wine, a decade in bottle will be handsomely rewarded.			
JM	This has a plush, slightly smoky edge, with plum sauce and blackberry confiture notes forming the core. Shows ample stuffing through the finish, presenting a pleasantly chewy edge.			
JS	Mineral, lemon grass and berries on the nos. Full bodied, with ultra-fine tannins and a wonderful finish. Lasts for minutes. This is the best Beychevelle in years. Maybe decades.			
Langoa Barton	88-90	90-93	92-93	\$ 56.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Langoa Barton is a blend of 54% Cabernet Sauvignon, 38% Merlot and 8% Cabernet Franc picked between 19 September and 5 October, matured in 60% new oak. It has a slightly smudged bouquet at first, a mixture of red and black fruit, a little sous-bois and tobacco developing in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with gently grippy tannin, veering more towards red fruit here, but laced with tobacco and cedar notes. The finish is austere and perhaps mean at the moment, so hopefully it will develop more flesh by the time of bottling. I must confess that I cannot remember tasting Langoa next to Léoville Barton at this stage and finding such a disparity between the two wines, attested by tasting the 2014s just afterwards and finding them closer together in terms of quality.			
JM	Very fresh, with a sleek frame around bright red currant and plum notes. Shows really good cut through the finish.			
JS	Very ripe fruit with lots of mature berry and plum character. Full body, round tannins and a			
Clos Du Marquis	91-93	91-94	93-94	\$ 62.00

Neal Martin	The 2015 Clos du Marquis is a blend of 66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 31% Merlot and 3% Cabernet Franc cropped at 39 hl/ha between 22 September and 9 October, a total of 15 days of picking. Matured in 50% new oak, it has a pure and harmonious bouquet with blackberry, sous-bois and subtle tobacco aromas that gently unfold in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin in the mouth, a keen line of acidity, fine precision here with a mineral-rich finish that exudes terroir expression. This is a great Clos du Marquis from Jean-Hubert Delon and his team, a Clos du Marquis with swagger.–				
JM	Gorgeous, with anise, plum, blackberry and sweet tobacco notes already melded together seamlessly. Fleshy and inviting through the finish, with long, velvety tannins that are the hallmark of 2015. This is a delicious wine in the making.				
JS	Very fine Clos du Marquis and very pure. The cabernet sauvignon really comes through here with extremely pretty tannins and a mineral, dark fruit aftertaste. Clear and precise. Refined.				
Gruaud Larose		90-92	88-91	93-94	\$ 80.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Gruaud Larose is a blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 31% Merlot and 9% Cabernet Franc, picked from 21 September. It has a rather conservative bouquet, reticent at first, gradually unfolding with truffle-tinged black fruit, the oak nicely integrated but perhaps needing a little more energy. The palate is ripe and rounded on the entry, fleshier than many of its Saint Julien counterparts, quite sumptuous in terms of mouthfeel with a suave texture. There is a sense of linearity here, a strictness that particularly comes through on the finish. The purity is commendable and the tannin, fine, but what it needs is that final flourish. It just misses that killer blow on the finish and saunters to its conclusion. I hope that it gains more in barrel.				
JM	Nicely focused, with a beam of red and black currant fruit inlaid with subtle spice notes and carried by velvety tannins. A little shy on range, but this is solidly built.				
JS	A velvety and flavorful red with dusty tannins and lots of ripe fruit. It remains fresh and balanced. Harmony. Excited to see it develop in barrel.				
Talbot		88-90	90-93	92-93	\$ 66.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Talbot has a very typical nose for this Saint Julien estate: unapologetically classic in style, reserved even, with very subtle blackberry and briary scents tinged with pencil shavings. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, moderate weight in the mouth, but it feels very linear and conservative towards the finish. Talbot rarely shows well out of barrel and can improve in bottle, so I will be a little more optimistic in my score and hope that it gains matière during élevage.				
JM	This distinctive wine puts a slightly chewy and austere note of warm stone alongside the vintage's more typical lush tannins, giving this interesting contrast. The core sports solid currant and blackberry fruit, with ample length.				
JS	A refined yet chewy young red with lots of blackberry and blueberry aromas and flavours. Full body, ripe tannins and a fresh and clean finish.				
St Pierre		91-93	90-93	91-92	\$ 69.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Château Saint Pierre is a blend of 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 19% Merlot and 6% Cabernet Franc cropped at 48 hl/ha between 21 September and 7 October, matured in 50% new oak. It has a tightly wound bouquet with blackberry, raspberry and cedar, just a touch of pencil shaving surfacing with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied with succulent tannin on the entry, quite tensile with a fine bead of acidity. This is not the most complex Saint-Pierre that I have encountered, although it possesses 2015's elegance and refinement. This will have more to give after bottling and may ultimately overtake Gloria. Tasted twice with consistent notes.				
JM	A dark, strapping style, offering lots of tarry-edged grip around the blackberry and plum compote notes, with a pretty espresso hint through the finish. Lush overall, as the vintage's velvety tannins are here in spades.				
JS	Linear and lively with pretty blueberry, blackberry character. Polished tannins. Fine finish.				

Branaire Ducru		90-92	90-93	92-93	\$ 64.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Branaire-Ducru is a blend of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 26% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot and 4% Cabernet Franc that was picked between 18 September until 8 October, with two or three intervals in between. Matured in around 60% new oak (although as usual my barrel sample was from a new oak barrel), it has a high-toned, black cherry and cassis scented nose that perhaps feels a little constricted by the new wood in this sample, though not necessarily once in bottle. The palate is medium-bodied with a lightly spiced entry, white pepper and a touch of sage, gritty tannin, foursquare and a little conservative. There is commendable weight on the finish, if not quite the precision compared to its peers. I noticed this gaining more cohesion in the glass, which bodes well for once the Branaire-Ducru is in bottle. I expect this to rest at the top of my banded score.				
JM	Pretty and aromatic, with flavors of kirsch and cherry preserves mixed with tobacco and bay notes. Stays energetic through the relatively sleek finish. Wins on purity.				
JS	This is very structured and tight with chewy polished tannins and blueberry, blackberry. Full and savory. Should develop beautifully.				
Gloria		90-92	90-93	92-93	\$ 47.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Gloria is a blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc and 6% Petit Verdot cropped at 51 hl/ha, matured in 40% new wood. It was picked between 21 September and finishing on 7 October with the Cabernet Sauvignon. It has a fragrant bouquet with dark cherries, cedar and touches of cigar box - classic Saint Julien in many ways, though it does not have the complexity of great recent vintages such as the 2010. The palate is well balanced, clean and pure with fine tannin. The acidity is nicely judged, not a million miles away from the 2015 Lagrange in terms of its refinement, but this has perhaps a touch more detail on the finish. Perhaps one of the more approachable Saint Julien wines this vintage, give this 4-5 years in bottle and then drink over the next 20 years.				
JM	Rock-solid, with loads of bramble and bay leaf underscoring the ripe blackberry and black currant fruit. There's lots of grip, but this is plush, staying focused through the toasty finish. Shows nice refinement.				
JS	Pretty Gloria with plenty of tension and energy. Full body yet silky textured and extremely long. Exciting.				
Lagrange		90-92	89-92	N.A	\$ 50.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Lagrange is a blend of 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 17% Merlot and 8% Petit Verdot, continuing the estate's philosophy including more Cabernet in the Grand Vin (for example, in 2005 it was just 46%.) Cropped at 50 hl/ha and matured in around 50% to 55% new oak from six different cooperages, it has a tightly-knit bouquet with blackberry, cedar and light rose petal scents, elegant in style. The palate is medium-bodied with slightly grainy tannin, moderate weight in the mouth, not as intense as either the 2009 or 2010, although it is harmonious and graceful. There is a pleasant spicy, white pepper note that lingers on the aftertaste of what should be one of the earlier drinking Saint Julien wines.				
JM	Nicely packed, with enticing red and black currant fruit that is enlivened with anise, sweet tobacco and incense notes. Lightly toasty, with just a little tug of cedar at the end.				
JS	No tasting notes available.				

Margaux	Neal Martin	JM	JS	Price
Chateau Margaux	98-100	N.A	100-100	\$ 880.00

Neal Martin	The 2015 Château Margaux is a blend of 87% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot, all together representing 35% of the total production at the estate. Raised entirely in new oak, it has a lucid garnet color. The bouquet is aimed directly at the senses - there is no dilly-dallying about, as it almost knocks you off your stool with its intense mineralité embroidered into this iridescent, graphite-tinged nose. The focus and penetration here ranks among the finest that I have tasted at this estate since first coming here in 1997. The palate is astonishingly well balanced, perfectly poised with super-fine tannins wrapped around pure blackberry, bilberry, graphite and cedar fruit. Like the Pavillon Rouge this year, there is a Pauillac-like sense of authority and aristocracy, leavened by Margaux-inspired femininity that completes that standout 2015 on the Left Bank. Beg for a bottle and worry about the cost later. Post script: I composed this tasting note five days before the passing of Paul Pontallier. It is a final gift from a gifted winemaker.				
JM	No tasting notes available.				
JS	The greatest Margaux ever made. More than perfection. Full body, firm and ultra-silky tannins. Black currant, mineral and floral character. It starts slowly and seems almost endless on the palate. Seamless. I want to sing! This is the wine that Margaux never made in some of the classic vintages like 1961, 1959 and 1945. Maybe it's the 1900 all over again? Breathtaking.				
Pavillon Rouge Du Chateau Margaux		92-94	N.A	92-93	\$ 189.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Pavillon Rouge du Château Margaux, which represents just 23% of the total production this year, has a higher percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon than other years, 74%, with 21% Merlot and 4% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot. It has a very refined bouquet, focused and extraordinarily pure with blackcurrant, blueberry and minerals. The 50% new oak is beautifully integrated here. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, a little more masculine than I was expecting, a Pavillon with firm structure imparted by that higher proportion of Cabernet. But the freshness is ample and there is a long, satisfying graphite note that seems to last forever on the finish. What a great deuxième vin, a stunning Pavillon Rouge.				
JM	No tasting notes available.				
JS	Shows incredible depth and power with near perfect Margaux character of black fruits and power. Full body, very tannic yet polished and refined. It's like the gran vin but in a year like 2006 or 2007. Best ever.				
Pavillon Blanc ch Margaux		91-93	N.A	97-98	NR
Neal Martin	The 2015 Pavillon Blanc de Château Margaux was cropped at 20 hl/ha and represents just one-third of the production, equivalent to around 10,000 bottles. It has a fresh lime cordial, apple blossom and white peach scented bouquet that is very seductive. The palate is well balanced with a keen thread of acidity, engendered by the cool nights in August and September. It is very harmonious with almond and a touch of stem ginger and sour lemon towards the finish, an accomplished Pavillon Blanc that should offer 10-15 years of pleasure.				
JM	No tasting notes available.				
JS	This is like biting into perfectly ripe grapes with dried apple, peach and pear. Full and energetic with a pretty texture and length.				
Palmer		95-97	N.A	99-100	SOLD OUT

Neal Martin	The 2015 Palmer is a blend of 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 44% Merlot and 6% Petit Verdot matured into up to 70% new oak. The official start of the picking was 22 September, finishing on the 7 October with the Petit Verdot and the Cabernet Sauvignon. This has a wonderful bouquet with layers of dark cherry, boysenberry, a faint hint of dark chocolate and minerals. There is superb delineation here. The palate is medium-bodied, but this constitutes a decidedly more structured Palmer than I have encountered in recent years, perhaps a little more masculine due to the slightly higher Cabernet content. This is a classic Palmer made by winemaker Thomas Duroux, symmetrical in some way, poised and effortless on the finish. Those who like the showier Palmer might not warm to this 2015, but this has real class and sophistication, a Palmer that will repay those with the nous to cellar it for 10-15 years. Expect it to reside at the top of my banded score.				
JM	No tasting notes available.				
JS	A wine with incredible character and style with black ink and blueberry aromas and flavours. Full body, extremely fresh and structured with riffing tannins. It is muscular and powerful. White pepper, sea salt, mineral, stone character. A wine built for the long term. The making of the new 1961.				
Malescot St Euxpery		93-95	93-96	97-98	SOLD OUT
Neal Martin	The 2015 Malescot-St-Exupery has an intriguing and complex bouquet with oyster shells and seaweed infusing the intense black fruit. It is certainly well defined with nicely integrated new oak. The palate is medium-bodied with crisp tannin, a keen thread of acidity, very pure and smooth in texture, gently unfolding towards the lightly spiced finish that lingers long in the mouth. This is a superb Margaux, surfeit with breeding and sophistication, though it will need 10-15 years in bottle.				
JM	Very lush and warm, with delicious plum and boysenberry fruit flowing easily over the well-integrated structure. Generous in feel, offering a lingering black tea note. Very suave.				
JS	The beauty in the fruit here is so impressive. Full body, super fine tannins. It's very racy and incredibly long. Sexy and rich finish. Better than the legendary 2009? A blend of 70% cabernet sauvignon, 30% merlot.				
Cantenac Brown		92-94	91-94	93-94	\$ 58.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Cantenac Brown follows their excellent 2014 with another great Margaux. Here, a nuanced nose that does not come racing from the blocks, but keep your nose in the glass and it reveals detailed blackberry, cranberry and strawberry aromas that are neatly embroidered with the new oak. The palate is medium-bodied with fine, quite tensile tannin. There is breeding interwoven into this Margaux, palpable sophistication, and it finishes with panache, fanning out with lightly spiced red and black fruit. It is not the most ostentatious Margaux in what is a fecund season for the appellation, but I suspect it will surprise a few wine-lovers as its ages.				
JM	Very fresh, with well-defined red currant and raspberry coulis flavors that stream through, enhanced by a violet note on the mineral-edged finish.				
JS	Very structured and muscular with black currant, chewy tannins and a flavourful finish. Full body. Yet polished and intriguing.				
Giscours		94-96	92-95	96-97	SOLD OUT

Neal Martin	The 2015 Giscours is a blend of 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot and 5% Petit Verdot. That is in stark comparison to older vintages, for example the 2000 Giscours that was 50/50 Cabernet and Merlot. This vintage is matured in 50% new oak. Winemaker Alexandre Van Beek told me that the 2015 "...reflects the true terroir at Giscours that created the great wines of the 1960s and 1970s." That is something to live up to with fresh memories of the 1961 in my brain. The bouquet is very intense and almost "untamed" at first, but it calms down in the glass, revealing attractive scents of blackberry, raspberry, cedar and graphite. This is a Giscours determined to make a good impression...and it does. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, very pure, a little spicier than recent vintages, adorned with a gentle crescendo in the mouth towards a really quite fantastic, tensile, complex and compelling finish. Having tasted the 1961 and 1970 Giscours just a few months ago, I wager that the 2015 will be the best since the 1961. Time to fall back in love with this great Margaux property.			
JM	Solid, with warm plum, fig and blackberry reduction notes, inlaid with a lovely alder accent. Flows beautifully through the long, velvety finish.			
JS	This sets a new level for Giscours with blackberry, black truffle and blueberry. So much walnut and cedar. Full body, dense and incredibly long and powerful. Clearly the best Giscours since 1970 and 1975.			
Marojallia	91-93	93-96	93-94	\$ 52.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Marojallia, from vines located between Le Tertre and Monbrison, is a blend of 70% Cabernet Sauvignon and 30% Merlot. It unfolds in the glass with sumptuous black cherry and bilberry scents, the oak nicely integrated. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannins, a little chalky in texture and it is quite muscular towards the finish, but it lingers nicely in the mouth. This has great potential, one of the best Marojallias that I have tasted.			
JM	Energetic loganberry and blackberry fruit pumps along, supported by a fresh-edged bay leaf and iron finish. This has concentration, but it's silky and refined.			
JS	Best ever from here with blueberry, boysenberry and walnut aromas and flavours. Full body. Very velvety textured. Long, long finish.			
Alter Ego De Palmer	90-92	N.A	94-95	\$ 76.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Alter Ego de Palmer is a blend of 42% Cabernet Sauvignon, 52% Merlot and 6% Petit Verdot. It has a very open, ravishing, quite precocious bouquet with ripe black cherries, fresh dates and crème de cassis that gain intensity in the glass. The palate is more refined, reins it all back in thanks to quite tensile tannin, a crisp line of acidity, moderate depth in the mouth and a gentle grip. There is a touch of tarriness and cracked black pepper towards the finish with very good length. Give these 5-7 years in bottle.			
JM	No tasting notes available.			
JS	Very solid and powerful with dried mushroom and wet earth aromas and flavours. Complex. Full and chewy yet so polished and long. Spicy, meat and gorgeous. Most serious Alter ego ever. More inner Ego now! 52% merlot, 41% cabernet sauvignon and petit verdot 6%.			
Prieure-Lichine	88-90	89-92	95-96	\$ 48.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Prieuré-Lichine has a tightly wound bouquet, crisp and a little leaner than some of its Margaux compadres. It just feels contained at the moment. The palate is medium-bodied with gruff tannin on the entry. There is respectable depth here, but it feels linear and rather predictable towards the blackberry and cedar finish. I would like to see more complexity and personality come through by the time of bottling. It feels a bit bolshie at the moment.			
JM	Lovely dark currant and plum reduction notes are carried by velvety tannins, with a light charcoal shading on the finish. Suave.			

JS	This is really exceptional this year. Full body, very velvety tannins, wet earth, mushroom and currant character. Very stoney. Very long and flavourful. Greatest wine in the history of the estate.				
Rauzan Segla		96-98	92-95	97-98	SOLD OUT
Neal Martin	The 2015 Rauzan-Segla is a blend of 63% Cabernet Sauvignon, 33% Merlot, 3% Petit Verdot and 1% Cabernet Franc cropped at 40 hl/ha between 10 September with the young Merlot vines and finishing with the Cabernet Sauvignon, which was picked between 22 September and 9 October. It is matured in 65% new oak for around 18 months. It has a very intense, almost crystalline bouquet with blackberry, briary, flint and just a touch of violet petal. There is incredible delineation here and the new wood is seamlessly integrated. The palate is medium-bodied with extremely fine tannin, perfectly judged acidity, otherworldly purity and a mineralité rarely seen in this Margaux estate. This is a brilliant Rauzan-Ségla, not necessarily more powerful than previous vintages, though enhanced by its precision, frisson and energy, perhaps longer on the finish. Winemaker Nicolas Audebert has conspired with the benevolent growing season to produce a benchmark wine for the estate.				
JM	Juicy and bright, with lots of energy to the red currant and plum fruit, laced with savory, iron and black tea notes. A velvety edge pulls the finish together. Shows good character, with less reliance on flashy oak.				
JS	This is so sexy with superbly polished tannins that gives the wine super length and definition. Compacted and tight. Full body, tight yet flamboyant at the same time. Loving it.				
Du Tertre		91-93	90-93	94-95	\$ 44.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 du Tertre is a blend of 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% each of Petit Verdot, Cabernet Franc and Merlot, picked 9 September until 9 October, matured in around 47% new oak. The nose is impressive, more so than the 2014 twelve months ago with tightly-wound but very focused raspberry, cranberry and iodine aromas that gently unfurl with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied with good structure, impressive depth, a du Tertre with more substance and body than recent vintages. There is precision with satisfying length on the cedar and pencil lead finish. Alexandre Van Beek might have produced his best du Tertre to date.				
JM	Offers a velvety feel overall, with steeped plum and currant notes layered with accents of black tea and ganache, Shows a racy tobacco edge underneath.				
JS	A wine with definition and refinement. Hints of tobacco and chocolate. Fully body, super fine and flavorful. Juicy and savory. The walnut and spice on the end is gorgeous.				
Brane-Cantenac		93-95	90-93	93-94	\$ 77.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Brane-Cantenac is a blend of 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 26% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc and 1% Carmenère that was picked from 17 September until 7 October (that Carmenère was actually picked on 19 October). It was cropped at 51 hl/ha. This is classic Brane-Cantenac down the line: austere at first, almost aloof, but very well defined and over time it starts revealing lovely tobacco-stained black fruit. The palate is very well balanced with raspberry and wild strawberry on the entry, perhaps more red fruit than I was anticipating. Veins of undergrowth and cedar are in situ on this very well-balanced, reserved and classic Margaux boasting a long and persistent finish that feels satisfying, reassuring even. Not a Margaux for those that seek tons of fruit, it is nonetheless a very terroir-expressive wine that will repay those who know that this cru demands preferably 12-15 years in the cellar. Henri Lurton never wavers from his style of Margaux and it pays dividends here on this great wine for those with patience.				
JM	This has a mix of enticing dark plum and blueberry fruit woven with a solid graphite note and carrying through an alder-edged finish. Has the vintage's velvety feel, but a little extra cut.				
JS	This is very big and rich wine with dense and rich tannins, lots of ripe fruit. Blackberry, blueberry flavours. Muscular yet polished.				

Lascombes		89-91	87-90	94-95	\$ 86.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Lascombes has a dense, rich bouquet with licorice and cigar box-infused black fruit and a touch of wilted violet. It feels rather tight-fisted compared to its peers in the Margaux appellation. The palate is very smooth on the entry, plenty of new oak here, balanced but for want of a better word, missing some personality - especially on the finish that feels just a little labored.				
JM	B A frankly fruit-driven style, but delicious, with exuberant plum and blackberry paste flavors leading the way, backed by a melted licorice note. The velvety finish has good underlying acidity.				
JS	This is so powerful and rich with fantastic depth of fruit and tannin structure. Full body, chewy yet polished in impressive. Stretches the limit on tannin extraction but it's all there. Should develop beautifully in the barrel.				
Dissan		93-95	86-89	94-95	\$ 68.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Château d'Issan is a blend of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon and 35% Merlot cropped at 40 hl/ha, representing 55% of the production. Emmanuel Cruse told me how they suffered less rain on the weekend of 12 and 13 September, 32 millimeters being less than in the northern Médoc. Cropped between 21 September and 6 October, it has a very pure and sensual bouquet that takes time to open up, eventually offering black cherries and blueberry, a marine influence tucked in just behind (a common thread throughout various vintages of d'Issan). The palate is underpinned by extraordinarily fine tannin that gently caress the mouth. The 55% new oak is beautifully embroidered throughout this wine from start to finish, which displays energy, real frisson in the mouth. This may well turn out to be one of the greatest Château d'Issan made in the modern era. Tasted twice with consistent notes.				
JM	Focused, with a twinge of singed alder and cedar up front giving this a slightly old-school feel, followed by a good core of steeped plum and black currant fruit. Picks up a bit of the vintage's velvety edge on the finish, though the cedar note lingers as well.				
JS	This is solid and muscular Lssan with round and powerful tannins. Full and long. Impressively structured.				

Medoc		Neal Martin	JM	JS	Price
Sociando Mallet		85-87	N.A	92-93	\$ 39.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Sociando Mallet is a blend of 45% Cabernet Sauvignon, 50% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Franc this year. It has a rather introspective bouquet, broody and earthy, although with aeration it reveals pleasant blackberry and wild strawberry fruit. The palate is medium-bodied with chewy tannin, a little rustic and brutish at the moment with an abrasive finish that will hopefully soften by the time it is in bottle. I feel that this was just upended by the storms that swept across the region in September.				
JM	No tasting notes available.				
JS	A balanced and harmonious barrel sample with subtle yet firm tannin structure and a long and delicious finish. Should improve nicely with barrel aging.				
Chasse Spleen		87-89	89-92	94-95	\$ 34.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Chasse Spleen has a slightly introverted bouquet: earthy red berry fruit and dried herbs, perhaps conservative in the scheme of things. The palate is medium-bodied with a touch of chewiness on the entry, good body though needing more finesse and delineation to develop through its élevage. A stocky and somewhat saline Chasse Spleen that needs 3-4 years in bottle.				
JM	Enticing, with a tangy iron note to the fresh red currant and bitter cherry fruit flavors, followed by a lingering sanguine edge on the pleasantly dusty finish.				

JS	This is a very solid 2015 with lots of tannin and fruit at the finish. Full body. Long finish. Impressive. One of the best ever from here.			
Potensac	89-91	90-93	90-91	\$ 29.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Potensac is a blend of 45% Merlot, 38% Cabernet Sauvignon and 17% Cabernet Franc that was cropped at 50 hl/ha, and raised in one-third new oak. There is a sense of airiness on the nose: small dark cherries, crème de cassis and crushed strawberry, pretty and nicely focused. The palate is medium-bodied with edgy tannin, fresh and citrus in style, just a touch of reduction towards the finish, but they will blow off by the time it is in bottle. I would have just preferred more persistence on the finish, but otherwise this is a decent Potensac.			
JM	An austere style, offering a frame of warm stone around the core of currant and bitter cherry flavors, with tangy minerality through the finish. Perhaps not as broad as some of its peers, but with good cut, drive and focus.			
JS	Lots of mineral and stone aromas and flavours with blackberry and blueberry aromas. Full and very fine texture. Well made for the vintage considering the moisture in Northern Medoc.			
La Lagune	88-90	N.A	93-94	\$ 56.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 La Lagune has a rich and slightly heady bouquet with lavish black cherry and cassis fruit that need to obtain more definition and composure. This seems to be trying a little hard. The palate is ripe and rounded on the entry, the tannin here a little stringy with a straightforward, slightly attenuated and saline finish that I hope will flesh out during élevage. This just lacks the sparkle that I discerned in the 2014 last year - let's see how it turns out in bottle.			
JM	No tasting notes available.			
JS	The finesse and beauty in this wine is really something with blueberry, black berry and licorice character. Full body, ultra-fine tannins and a long gorgeous finish.			
Poujeaux	90-92	N.A	92-93	\$ 34.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Poujeaux is a blend of 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 42% Merlot, 6% Petit Verdot and 2% Cabernet Franc. It has a high-toned, floral bouquet with kirsch and raspberry coulis notes, opulent for this Moulis, but it manages to retain control. The palate is chewy on the entry with mouth-coating tannin, solid in the mouth, brutish at the moment, although the finish does show satisfactory freshness, and is long and minerally. This will be intriguing once in bottle.			
JM	No tasting notes available.			
JS	Shows excellent depth of fruit with chewy and polished tannins. Full and very long. Gorgeous length.			
Mauvesin Barton	88-90	N.A	N.A	\$ 18.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Mauvesin Barton is a blend of 42% Merlot, 38% Cabernet Sauvignon, 16% Cabernet Franc and 4% Petit Verdot, the first vintage that Mélanie Barton-Sartorius was "on her own" to make the wine. It has a straightforward raspberry and wild strawberry-scented bouquet, a little more tertiary in style than its peers, but with good definition. The palate is medium-bodied with light tannin, perhaps somewhat rustic in style compared to its peers, with a savory finish that needs to develop more persistence on the finish. This is a fine Moulis, although I think there is better to come.			
JM	No tasting notes available.			
JS	No tasting notes available.			

Graves & Pessac Leognan	Neal Martin	JM	JS	Price
La Mission Haut Brion	97-99	N.A	100-100	\$ 514.00

Neal Martin	The 2015 La Mission Haut Brion is a blend of 58% Merlot, 35% Cabernet Sauvignon and 7% Cabernet Franc that was picked between 9 September and 1 October. Matured in 78% new oak, it has an incredibly pure bouquet with intense blueberry, blackberry, iodine and cold stone aromas that soar from the glass. There is nothing holding back here - a La Mission with real exuberance. The palate is medium-bodied with incredible intensity in the mouth, but without any leaden weight. It is a startling La Mission Haut-Brion to behold at this early stage. It is one of those wines where as a professional critic, I had to adopt a poker face to hide the untrammelled joy this nascent wine imparts. Complete and profound, the 2015 will rank as one of the great modern-day classics from this grand estate, another to add to that long list of magical La Missions.				
JM	No tasting notes available.				
JS	The purity in this wine is really mind-blowing. So perfect. Licorice. Stone. Blackberry, blueberry. Full body. The power is amazing. But then it finishes ethereal and so agile and beautiful. I am lost for words. This will rank with the best ever from here including 1975 and 1929. 58% merlot, 35% cabernet sauvignon and cabernet franc.				
La Mission Haut Brion Blanc		92-94	N.A	97-98	\$ 808.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 La Mission Haut-Brion Blanc, a blend of one-third Sauvignon Blanc and two-thirds Semillon, picked between 28 August and 8 September, has an attractive bouquet with lime, Granny Smith apples, orange zest and cold stone, well defined if not the most complex that I have encountered over the years. The palate is lively on the entry with fine tension and impressive intensity, spicy on the tip of the tongue, almost fiery, with the Semillon dominating the finish and lending the complexity: hints of dried pineapple, almond and Cornice pear. This is an excellent La Mission Haut-Brion Blanc, but it needs a few years for the aromatics to really open, just as Laville Haut-Brion did in the old days.				
JM	No tasting notes available.				
JS	Very balanced and fresh with stone and dried peach aromas and flavours. Very aromatic. Full body, fine phenolics and licorice. Show power and richness.				
La Chapelle de la Mission Haut Brion		91-93	N.A	94-95	\$ 102.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 La Chapelle de la Mission Haut-Brion is a blend of 30% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Franc and 45% Cabernet Sauvignon picked between 9 September until 1 October, harvested early to preserve the freshness of the Merlot and taking time to pick the Cabernet at optimal ripeness. The bouquet is tightly wound at the moment, but precise, revealing blackcurrant, cranberry and hints of marmalade scents with time in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with quite sturdy tannin on the entry that exert a firm grip, but there is more than enough fruit to back that all up. Touches of cedar and tobacco surface towards the second half and there is a sustained, chalky note on the finish that ensures that this a great deuxième vin.				
JM	No tasting notes available.				
JS	Very powerful and tannic yet salty and savory. Full body, dense and chewy yet polished and bright. Great second wine from La Mission. Only 30% merlot.				
Haut Brion		98-100	N.A	97-98	\$ 680.00

Neal Martin	The 2015 Haut Brion, a blend of 50% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc and 42% Cabernet Sauvignon, was picked between 8 September and 5 October, and is matured in the same level of new oak (78%) and IPT (75) as the La Mission. It has a heavenly bouquet that like the La Mission bestows instant gratification - a veritable kaleidoscope of aromas so crystalline that you can pick them out one by one: dark plum, blackcurrant, Kalamata olive and graphite. It is tempting to just nose this all day. The palate has an indescribably stunning balance and like the La Mission, there is a paradoxical sense of intensity married to weightlessness. Everything here is so precise, so pure and yet as it crescendos towards the finish, it offers a profundity that is unmatched across Bordeaux in this vintage. Having had the pleasure of many great wines from this estate in the past - 1945, 1955, 1959, 1961 and 1989 - the 2015 belongs among that pantheon.				
JM	No tasting notes available.				
JS	A structured and powerful Haut-Brion with so much finesse and beauty. Complex and long. It's full and ultra-refined. Super length and polish. A formed and sexy Haut-Brion.				
Haut Brion Blanc		94-96	N.A	93-94	\$ 1,016.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Haut Brion Blanc is a blend of 69% Sauvignon Blanc and 31% Semillon that was picked between 28 August and 7 September. Like the 2015 La Mission Haut Brion Blanc, the bouquet was quite backward despite rigorous aeration, reluctantly proffering aromas of lime, citrus lemon, gooseberry and a touch of tinned peach. The palate is very well balanced with a fine line of acidity, perhaps even more tensile and precise than the 2015 La Mission Haut-Brion with greengage, citrus lemon and a touch of pineapple furnishing the long finish. This is a beautifully crafted Haut Brion Blanc that will reward those with the nous to cellar it for 10-15 years.				
JM	No tasting notes available.				
JS	The change here is impressive with bright and vivid aromas and flavours of tropical fruits, stones and minerals. Underlying energy and intensity in this white. Full and flavorful.				
La Clarte de Haut-Brion Blanc		87-90	N.A	92-93	\$ 103.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 La Clarté de Haut-Brion is a blend of 27% Sauvignon Bland and 73% Semillon picked between August 28 and September 8. Lime and dried pineapple furnish the nose that is uncomplicated, but fresh and charming, with hints of honeysuckle developing in the glass. The palate is fresh and edgy on the entry with lime, green apple and chalky notes, moderate weight in the mouth with just a slightly clipped finish. Enjoy this over the next decade.				
JM	No tasting notes available.				
JS	A solid wine with sliced apple and pear aromas and flavors. Full body and energetic. Lively. Second wine of Haut-Brion and La Mission.				
Smith Haut Lafitte		95-97	94-97	97-98	SOLD OUT
Neal Martin	The 2015 Smith-Haut-Lafitte is adorned with a special label to celebrate the 650th anniversary of the château and the 25th vintage made under the ownership of Daniel and Florence Cathiard. It is a blend of 63% Cabernet Sauvignon, 33% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot, picked between 23 September until 12 October with the Cabernet Franc. Matured in 65% new oak (although technical director Fabien Teitgen mentioned that he could have added more if he felt it would benefit), it has a very intense, blueberry and crème de cassis scented bouquet, a touch more opulent than its peers with hints of freshly shucked oyster shell developing with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied with filigree tannin couched in gorgeous, satin-textured black cherry and cassis fruit, tinged with cedar and pencil shavings. It lingers very long and sensually in the mouth, completing a sophisticated and powerful Smith Haut-Lafitte that should age in splendid fashion.				

JM	Ripe and succulent in feel, with warm plum and blackberry confiture notes leading the way. Picks up singed alder and tar details through the finish, gaining extra depth. Very pure, but with ample grip in reserve. A serious wine.				
JS	This is a very polished and precise young wine with beautiful depth and intensity. Full and sexy. It shows blueberry and blackcurrant character with walnut and chocolate undertones. The tannins have a lovely texture. Joy to taste.				
Smith Haut Lafite Blanc		94-96	95-98	96-97	\$ 109.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Smith-Haut-Lafite Blanc is a blend of 90% Sauvignon Blanc, 5% Sauvignon Gris and 5% Sauvignon Blanc matured in 50% new oak. It has a crisp, conservative bouquet, tightly wound at first, reticent even, though with a couple of minutes' swirling, it reveals intense fresh lime flower, pink grapefruit, guava and blood orange scents. The palate is extremely well balanced with a silver bead of acidity, a dab of sour lemon than cleanses the mouth, followed by pink grapefruit, citrus lemon and green apple notes towards the long finish. This is another outstanding white Smith-Haut-Lafite from winemaker Fabien Tietgen and the famille Cathiard.				
JM	This is a breed apart, featuring a wide range of verbena, chamomile and honeysuckle notes on the floral side, flavors of lemon curd, white peach and star fruit at the core, and a long finish that ripples with salted butter, brioche and acacia details. Beautiful.				
JS	A beautiful white with pretty density and richness. Bright and clear with intense aromas and flavors of lilacs and stones. Some violet. Full and bright. Firm phenolic tension. Bright acidity.				
Le Clarence Haut Brion		91-93	N.A	93-94	\$ 143.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Le Clarence de Haut-Brion is a blend of 57% Merlot, 1% Cabernet Franc and 42% Cabernet Sauvignon picked between 8 September and 5 October. Compared directly with the La Chapelle Mission Haut-Brion, I find that this does not quite possess the same delineation at the moment. This is broodier and more introspective in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with grippy tannin, layers of dark berry fruit tinged with tobacco and cedar, gaining weight towards the finish that fans out with a sense of conviction. This should turn out to be an authoritative deuxième vin that will probably be consumed in its youth, but clearly possesses the substance to repay ageing. Those with wise heads will afford it 5-6 years in bottle.				
JM	No tasting notes available.				
JS	Racy and refined second wine with polished and pretty tannins. Full body. Pretty.				
Carnes Haut Brion		92-94	92-95	96-97	\$ 81.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Les Carnes Haut Brion is a blend of 30% Merlot, 45% Cabernet Franc and 25% Cabernet Sauvignon that was cropped at 25 hl/ha between 24 September and 11 October. This vintage includes around 45% whole cluster fruit and it went through a four-week ferment with just one pump-over and one pigeage, using a bladder inside the tank to submerge the cap (like an infusion tea). It is aged 10% in clay amphora and 90% in oak barrels, which includes 20% in Stockinger barrels, around 60% new wood. The alcohol degree is 14% and a pH of 3.7. "This vintage is very sensual because of the softness of tannin. I think it is very typical of Pessac," ex-Chapoutier winemaker Guillaume Pouthier told me. The nascent wine is inky purple in color. The nose is very closed and demands a lot of coaxing from the glass, reluctantly giving up black cherries, cassis and iodine scents. The palate is medium-bodied with fine-grain tannin, extremely pure, hints of black olive and Japanese nori infusing the black fruit. It has a very fine structure with good grip on the finish. The Cabernet Franc comes through strongly here, defining the start and finish and in some ways, it needs the Merlot to become more expressive to "fill in the gaps." Of course, that is precisely what élevage is for. This is an intriguing Pessac-Léognan that reminds me of Pomerol (Lafleur perhaps?). Difficult to judge now, I look forward to retasting this once in bottle, because it may well deserve a higher score.				

JM	Deliciously pure and velvety, with plum and blackberry sauce notes gliding along, enhanced by black tea and anise accents. Seductive in feel.				
JS	This shows incredible texture with the finest velvet mouthfeel. Super character of chocolate, walnut and orange peel. Great length and subtlety. Lots of whole berry fermentation and maceration gives the wine grace and fruit. Then it kick in. Great power and structure at the end. Very unique. 45% cabernet franc, 25% cabernet sauvignon and 30% merlot. 30,000 bottles made.				
Pape Clement		95-97	93-96	97-98	SOLD OUT
Neal Martin	The 2015 Pape Clement is a blend of 56% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot and 4% Cabernet Franc. It was cropped at 40 hl/ha between 25 September and 15 October with berry by berry destemming. It has a drop-dead gorgeous bouquet that continues the ever greater finesse that has been imparted into this Pape-Clément in recent years. It is extremely precise, almost crystalline. The palate is underpinned by fine tannin, pitch-perfect acidity, a sense of cohesion and harmony that is outstanding. There is not a hair out of place on this barrel sample and it will doubtless evolve into one of the best wines this state has produced since the 14th century, when Bertrand de Goth was planting its first vines. This comes highly recommended - a Pape-Clément that will reward those who can resist temptation and cellar this wine for 10+ years. Tasted on four separate occasions.				
JM	Big, broad and overt in style, with a thick frame of espresso and roasted apple wood around a core of dense plum paste and cassis flavors. Strides along authoritatively, as melted licorice and fruitcake notes fill in on the hefty finish. Shows more style than terroir, but pulls it off.				
JS	Shows amazing depth of fruit with fabulous polish and length. Electric acidity. Full body, very integrated and refined tannins. Phenolic finesse shows here. Great finish. It lasts for minutes. Best young Pape Clement I have tasted. Grows in the glass.				
Pape Clement Blanc		92-94	92-95	95-96	\$ 162.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Pape Clement Blanc is a blend of 50% Sauvignon Blanc, 40% Semillon and 10% Sauvignon Gris picked between 12 and 15 September at 29.5 hl/ha. Around 15% of the production was aged on egg-shaped concrete tanks. The nose is actually more introverted than the deuxième vin at the moment, but the complexity is locked in via shucked oyster shell and citrus notes. The palate is extremely well balanced with a keen line of acidity that imparts tension and freshness. This is a succinctly crafted white Bordeaux, almost understated at first, but it is only when it departs down the throat that its quality become apparent. Like the aforementioned deuxième vin, this comes highly recommended.				
JM	This relies on a fairly obvious oak treatment, with lush macadamia, butter and brioche notes coating the core of creamed apple and melon flavors. Shows threads of verbena and chamomile, but they're way in the background. For fans of the style only.				
JS	So dense and powerful. Layered and chewy. Phenolic. Full body, dried apple and pear. Pineapple too. Goes on for minutes.				
Domaine De Chevalier		95-97	91-94	96-97	SOLD OUT

Neal Martin	The 2015 Domaine de Chevalier is a blend of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and 5% Petit Verdot picked from 23 September until 15 October at just 35 hl/ha, matured in 35% new oak. It has a sophisticated bouquet that is more reserved than its peers. It possesses one of the most precise, detailed aromatic profiles that I have encountered from this estate, wonderfully poised with black fruit, incense and cold stone. It has wonderful focus and class. The palate is medium-bodied with very fine tannin, very complex with lightly peppered black fruit. What marks this Domaine de Chevalier is the reserve and precision on the finish, a wine that is holding something back for its secondary evolution, a salinity that beckons you back for another sip. What a fabulous, intellectual wine from Olivier Bernard. Expect four decades of drinking pleasure - probably more - given my experience of ancient vintages. Tasted three times with consistent notes.				
JM	Offers an open, easy feel. The creamy structure lets juicy plum and raspberry notes flow along and linger on the finish. Almost languid in character, and very suave.				
JS	This shows class and finesse with ultra-fine tannins and succulent fruit. Full body yet elegant and long. Gorgeous wine. Such length. Vibrant and focused.				
Domaine De Chevalier Blanc		92-94	93-96	97-98	\$ 113.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Domaine de Chevalier Blanc, which is matured in around 40% new oak, has a refined bouquet with gooseberry, lime, almond and grapefruit aromas, the oak neatly interwoven, gradually unfolding in the glass yet remaining focused. The palate has an almost flinty opening, very edgy but not shrill, a tensile and linear Domaine de Chevalier Blanc that is driven by the acidity, touches of crustacea coming through on the energetic finish. There is a twist of sour lemon and chalk popping up on the aftertaste. This is a great, intellectual, comparatively more reserved white from Olivier Bernard.				
JM	A distinctive style, with a rich core of tangerine, peach and Jonagold apple flavors that stretch out through the long finish, picking up salted butter, honeysuckle and mineral accents. Somewhat Burgundian in style, with more than enough stuffing to cellar once bottled.				
JS	Incredible depth of fruit and density. Full and powerful with so much fruit and richness yet remains fresh and clean. Purity. Massive yet vibrant and electric. Minerality length. Love the to taste this.				
Carbonnieux		91-93	90-93	93-94	\$ 40.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Carbonnieux is a blend of 52% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot and 8% Petit Verdot matured in 30% new barrels for 15-18 months. It has a surprisingly high-toned and opulent bouquet, with kirsch and orange sorbet infusing the cassis and raspberry fruit. The palate is sweet and generous in style, harmonious in the mouth, with the structure only becoming apparent as it wends its way to the finish. Perhaps it just cuts away a little swiftly, but otherwise this remains a very well-crafted and highly enjoyable Pessac-Léognan.				
JM	Vibrant, with a tangy damson plum note lifting the dark currant and blackberry fruit, while subtle juniper and black tea accents line the finish. Shows good character.				
JS	A very tannic young wine with lots of extract. Full body, chewy and rich. Needs careful barrel maturation. Could be the best red ever from here. Traditional style.				
Carbonnieux Blanc		90-92	89-92	92-93	\$ 36.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Carbonnieux Blanc is a blend of 75% Sauvignon Blanc and 25% Semillon. It has a tightly wound grapefruit, white peach and citrus scented bouquet that slowly unfurls in the glass. Given a couple of minutes, it attains impressive harmony and focus. The palate is well defined on the entry, very crisp and pure, seguing into a saline finish that lingers nicely in the mouth. This is a very well-crafted Carbonnieux Blanc with class and poise.				
JM	A broad, juicy style, with anise, yellow apple and white peach notes that are open and inviting, backed by light brioche and candied citrus hints. Has some zip, but more flattering in style overall.				

JS	A fruity and attractive white with pear and green mango aromas and flavors. Full body. Flavourful.			
De Fieuzal	92-94	89-92	93-94	\$ 42.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 de Fieuzal has a very seductive bouquet, almost Saint Emilion in style (perhaps the hand of consultant Hubert de Boüiard at play?). I mean that in a positive sense: it is extremely pure and sensual, an aromatic femme fatale. The palate is ripe and generous on the entry, but simultaneously poised and minerally, almost edgy towards the sustained and focused finish. There is wonderful freshness and vitality here, yet another really quite stupendous Pessac-Léognan that is going to be a joy to drink over the next 20-25 years.			
JM	Slightly higher pitched than most of its peers, with up-front damson plum and violet notes followed by cherry and red licorice flavors. The finish is tight but remains long. Should unwind with the élevage.			
JS	Lots of blackberry and black currant aromas and flavors. Full body, round tannins, salty and earthy undertones. Very long and flavorful. 48% cabernet sauvignon, 45% merlot, 5% cabernet franc and 2% petit verdot.			
De Fieuzal Blanc	90-92	90-93	95-96	SOLD OUT
Neal Martin	The 2015 de Fieuzal Blanc has plenty of tropical fruit on the nose - pineapple, pink grapefruit and lime aromas that are designed to seduce. The palate has a little fatness on the entry, a little lower in acidity than its peers, with rounded peach and pineapple notes flourishing on the finish. A classy crowd-pleaser, in other words.			
JM	Shows a mouthwatering salty tang from the start, cutting through the yellow apple, straw and verbena notes. Ends with lovely cut and persistence.			
JS	Powerful and dense white with so much fruit and structure. This is one of the best whites from here in a while. Looking forward to see its evolution. 55% sauvignon and 45% Semillon.			
Latour Martillac	92-94	N.A	93-94	\$ 39.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 La Tour Martillac is a blend of 54% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot and 6% Petit Verdot matured in 40% new French oak. It has a slightly more high-toned and outgoing bouquet, with dark cherries and blackcurrant aromas, a smidgen of cassis emerging with time in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, a pleasant saltiness here, very focused with a finish of real pedigree. This is a superb Pessac-Léognan from the estate - one of the best in recent years.			
JM	No tasting notes available.			
JS	A firm and beautiful wine with blueberry and blackberry aromas and flavors. Full body, silky tannins and a bright and fresh wine. Racy with a fine line. 54% cabernet sauvignon, 40% merlot and 6% petit verdot.			
Latour Martillac Blanc	93-95	N.A	94-95	SOLD OUT
Neal Martin	The 2015 La Tour Martillac has a gorgeous, complex nose, subtle pear and green apple scents, a whiff of the old sea spray coming in from the Atlantic. The palate is very well balanced with crisp acidity, very complex in the mouth with lip-smacking salinity towards the finish. What a fabulous white Bordeaux from the estate, certainly one of the best that I have ever encountered.			
JM	No tasting notes available.			
JS	A brilliant and intense white with oyster shell, lemon, pear and sea salt character. Full body, flavorful finish.			
Malartic La Graviere	94-96	91-94	96-97	\$ 58.00

Neal Martin	The 2015 Malartic-Lagraviere is a blend of 53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc and 7% Petit Verdot that was harvested between 21 September and 7 October at 43 hl/ha, matured in 80% new oak. It has a tightly wound bouquet, a little more reticent than its peers at first, opening gradually with blackberry, raspberry coulis and strawberry pastilles. The palate is medium-bodied with fine-grain tannin, a keen line of acidity, fresh and brisk with plenty of mineralité on the finish. This is a classic, serious Malartic with huge potential. Chapeau to the Bonnie family for creating a stupendous Pessac-Léognan.
JM	Offers a sleek, fresh feel, with plum and cassis notes streaming along, carried by a tarry hint. Stays lively through the defined finish.
JS	This shows fabulous depth of fruit and ripe tannins that last for minutes. Full body. Insane finish. Powerful. Greatest ever from here.
Malartic La Graviere Blanc	
	94-96 91-94 95-96 \$ 64.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Malartic Lagraviere Blanc is a blend of 85% Sauvignon Blanc and 15% Semillon that was picked from 8-15 September and matured in 65% new oak. It has a crisp, vibrant, quite minerally bouquet, cold limestone and subtle patisserie/almost whipped cream-like scents. The palate is very well defined with a crisp line of acidity, citrus lemon and lime fanning out with confidence on the finish that completes one of the best Malartic-Lagravière whites that I have encountered at this stage.
JM	Rich but energetic, with gooseberry, fennel and yellow apple notes forming the core, offset by bracing salted butter and thyme accents.
JS	A fresh white with sliced green apple, lemon rind and cream. Full body, bright acidity and a long and flavorful finish. Layered and very dense. Wonderful backbone.

Saint Emilion	Neal Martin	JM	JS	Price
Cheval Blanc	97-99	N.A	96-97	\$ 866.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Cheval Blanc represents the entire vineyard this year, since there is no Le Petit Cheval (two plots that did not meet requirements were not included in any blend). A blend of 45% Cabernet Franc/Cabernet Sauvignon and 55% Merlot, matured in 100% new oak, it has a very complex bouquet, subtle and tightly wound, very precise with dark berry fruit, hints of graphite, minerals and a hint of black pepper, perhaps a little spicier than recent vintages. The palate is medium-bodied with extraordinarily fine tannin. Beautifully balanced, perfectly controlled, this Cheval Blanc gently builds in the mouth, but remains strict and precise. The Cabernet Franc here is very expressive (though apparently the Merlot was showier prior to malolactic). This is an intellectual Cheval Blanc, thoroughly enjoyable, but it will need 10-12 years to really show its pedigree. A profound wine in the making, it will rank with the great			
JM	No tasting notes available.			
JS	A Cheval with a depth and finesse that reminds me of the 1998. Full body, ultra-fine tannins and amazing length and beauty. Such finesse and harmony. Super silky and classic for Cheval			
Ausone	95-97	N.A	100-100	\$ 926.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Ausone is a blend of 50% Cabernet Franc and 50% Merlot this year, cropped at 30 hl/ha between 29 September and 2 October for the Merlot and 8-10 October for the Cabernet Franc. Matured in 85% new oak, it has a very intense bouquet of small dark cherries, cassis, violets and incense, a hint of blood orange originating from the Merlot tucked underneath. The palate is medium-bodied with svelte tannin, seamlessly integrated oak. It is an intense Saint Emilion with a superb arching structure on the finish, while maintaining sufficient freshness from start to finish. It grips the mouth a little more than some of its peers, implying that it will need longer in bottle, but it will be worth the wait. Patience advised for this great Ausone courtesy of Alain and Pauline Vauthier.			

JM	No tasting notes available.				
JS	A mindbinder of a wine with pure fruit and so much fine tannins and mineral character. It's hyper tight and super polished. The palate starts off slowly and ends with a bang. Amazing endless finish. What an energy.				
Chapelle D'Ausone		91-93	N.A	95-96	\$ 228.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Chapelle d'Ausone is a blend of 45% Cabernet Franc, 45% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon picked between 29 September and 15 October, matured in 85% new oak for 20 months. Pauline Vauthier commented that it was relatively easy to parse the lots between grand vin and deuxième vin this year. The nose is a little broody at first, a touch of mintiness coming through the black cherry and cassis scents. The palate is medium-bodied with a touch of dark chocolate on the entry, plenty of cassis fruit, fine tannin with a gentle grip towards the finish that feels a little more structured than recent vintages. This will probably offer 8-10 years' pleasure, possibly more.				
JM	No tasting notes available.				
JS	This is really intense and powerful with fantastic energy and character. So much dark berry and walnut character. Full and chewy. Yet polished. Second wine of Ausone.				
Belair Monange		95-97	95-98	98-99	\$ 182.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Belair-Monange is a blend of 88% Merlot and 12% Cabernet Franc. It has a reticent bouquet at first, but it soon opens up with layers of blackberry, raspberry coulis, orange sorbet and floral aromas. This is beautifully defined and intellectual, a Saint Emilion with aromatic secrets that will only be revealed with bottle age. The palate is medium-bodied with quite sturdy tannin. There is a firm backbone to this Belair-Monange, a serious Saint Emilion, complex and intellectual with precise red and black fruit, a touch of spice and a dash of white pepper on the finish. Dare I say, it represents the first Belair-Monange that ranks among JP Moueix's finest wines since the family acquired the property in 2011.				
JM	Features some seriously racy raspberry and plum coulis flavors, glistening with bitter orange and rooibos tea accents before picking up a long chalky spine on the finish. Tightly focused, revealing impressive perfume that should unfurl slowly.				
JS	Incredible depth of fruit to this wine with ultra-powerful tannins that remain agile and soft. So much intensity. It's layered with ripe fruit and caressing mouthfeel. Neoclassical in style. Mostly merlot with a touch of cabernet franc.				
Pavie		96-98	95-98	100-100	SOLD OUT
Neal Martin	The 2015 Pavie is a blend of 60% Merlot, 22% Cabernet Franc and 18% Cabernet Sauvignon that is matured in 80% new oak and 20% one-year-old barrels. It has a really quite glorious bouquet that is sensual and very well defined and pure. In my opinion, just dialing down the new oak even by 15% is allowing more personality and more terroir-expression to filter through. The palate is medium-bodied with supple, ripe, lace-like tannins and a fine bead of acidity. It feels caressing and sensual in the mouth with superb mineralité and purity on the vivacious and sustained finish. This is unquestionably the best wine from Gérard Perse in 2015: a great Pavie with a very long life ahead, though I would cellar it for at least a decade to witness it in full flight.				
JM	This delivers some serious fruit firepower, with blueberry, blackberry and plum notes that pump along authoritatively, pulling the creamy tannins along with them. Echoes of tobacco and violet emerge through the finish, along with a buried mineral accent. A contender for wine of the vintage on the Right Bank.				
JS	For me, this redefines Pavie. The depth and intensity and more important, the clarity, is really something. Full and ultra-fine tannins. It shows such great tannins and finesse. It is the essences of Pavie.				

L'Angelus		95-97	N.A	99-100	SOLD OUT
Neal Martin	The 2015 Angelus is a blend of 62% Merlot and 38% Cabernet Franc, picked from 22 September finishing on 14 October. "We found a nice homogeneity with the Merlot lots," I was told when I visited. "The old Cabernet Franc was very nice, but the younger vines were blended into the second label. This year, it is especially the Merlot that lends a lot of harmony to the wine. This year, the Merlot have some of the qualities of the Cabernet Franc, the precision and freshness. They give the generosity and sweetness." The wine was aged in 100% new oak at 11 degrees Celsius so they could add less sulfur to keep the freshness of the aromas and maintain the elegance of the wine. It offers a complex array of aromas such as black cherry, camphor, oyster shells and Japanese nori, beautifully defined and very focused. The palate is medium-bodied but powerful with layer of svelte tannins and a keen thread of acidity; layers of black fruit laced with spices, baking powder, mint and white pepper. It feels long in the mouth, insistently clinging for a minute after the wine has departed. Oh là là. This is a sexy, but compelling Angelus, fit for "007" and wine-lovers everywhere.				
JM	No tasting notes available.				
JS	This shows the purity of Angelus. I have never tasted a wine from here with such incredible clarity. Full body, full fruit and full beauty. Super silky tannins. A joy to taste. Makes you want to drink it. 62% merlot and 38% cabernet franc.				
Beausejour Duffau		91-93	92-95	98-99	SOLD OUT
Neal Martin	The 2015 Beausejour (Duffau Lagarrosse) is a blend of 90% Merlot picked between 25 September and 5 October, 10% Cabernet Franc picked on 5 and 12 October. It was cropped at 34 hl/ha. It has a very intense, quite opulent bouquet, just like the 2015 Pavie-Macquin from barrel, with fig-tinged red cherry fruit, hints of kirsch and glycerin. The palate likewise shows more refinement and class, the tannins fine and the acidity well judged. It has a fresh finish, though it just needs to muster a touch more tension and sense of energy right on the finish. Let's see what happens during its élevage, because it has the materials to turn into a very fine Saint Emilion.				
JM	Offers lovely richness, with a very caressing feel to the layers of warm plum compote and boysenberry comfiture. Underneath all the fruit is a very fine-edged chalky thread, yet the feeling overall is velvety and lush. A beauty.				
JS	I don't know what to say here other than it's better than any BDL I drank since 1989 including the 1990. There's a transparency and beauty like a rainbow. Full body, extremely long and bright. Super fine tannins. Pure fruit.				
Canon		98-100	94-97	100-100	SOLD OUT
Neal Martin	The 2015 Canon is going to be a benchmark for this historic estate. A blend of 72% Merlot and 28% Cabernet Franc, it was cropped at 42 hl/ha between 14-25 September and 30 September until 2 October respectively. The alcohol level is an average 14.5% with a pH 3.78, matured for 18 months in 70% new barrels (except for one barrel of Cabernet Franc that they will bottle separately - just to see). Lucid in color, it has an intense bouquet that exudes extraordinary purity with scents of raspberry, wild strawberry, limestone and violets. It makes a huge impression. The palate is medium-bodied and multilayered with vivacious red and black fruit infused with minerals. The acidity lends the tension here from start to finish, but what this Canon possesses unlike the dozens of other vintages that I have tasted, is an overarching structure that will see it age in similar fashion to past classics such as the 1929, 1947 and 1964. It lingers very long in the mouth, the oak just surfacing a little on the aftertaste, although that will be subsumed with time. This estate has been in the ascendant in recent vintages under winemaker John Kolasa and now Nicolas Audebert, together with a benevolent growing season, has elevated Canon to a level that few could have predicted.				

JM	This delivers a pretty awesome display of blueberry, plum and raspberry fruit, both in its purity and depth, while the finish is carried by a very refined minerality. Large-scaled for sure, but seriously pure.				
JS	This is the greatest red ever produced here, even better than the great wines of the 1950s and 1960s. Full body yet tight and reserved. Superbly refined tannins. Yet rich and flamboyant. Fruit yet salty and minerally. Electric finish. Stone and chalk undertones. A wonder of a young wine.				
La Gaffeliere		92-94	90-93	94-95	\$ 74.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 La Gaffeliere is a blend of 70% Merlot and 30% Cabernet Franc. It offers attractive black cherries, boysenberry and mulberry fruit on the nose. Maybe it would benefit from a little more delineation, but the aromatics are focused and in sync with the oak. The palate is medium-bodied with fine grain tannin. The acidity is pitched nicely here lending ample freshness and poise. Energetic and vivacious, this is one of the best barrel samples that I have tasted from an estate that was revered during the 1960s. Time for a comeback?				
JM	A textbook modern St.-Emilion, with a core bursting with ripe plum and raspberry fruit, and a long finish that pumps out licorice and bramble accents. The fruit is matched by the energy.				
JS	A silky and pretty wine with plum and berry aromas and flavors. Full body, refined and silky. Super refined tannins. Goes on for minutes.				
Bellevue		93-95	91-94	96-97	NR
Neal Martin	The 2015 Bellevue is a pure Merlot picked on September 17, then a pause for two weeks before picking again from October 4-7. It has quite an intense bouquet with lovely floral tones, crème de cassis mixed with licorice, almost brine-like aromas. The palate is very smooth on the entry with good weight in the mouth, plush but structured underneath with fine tannin and precision all the way through to the minerally finish. This estate deserves greater attention.				
JM	A lush, modern style, with plum sauce and raspberry pâte de fruit flavors backed by a broad swath of melted red licorice and sweet spice notes. Features the caressing feel of the vintage as				
JS	A sexy and beautiful wine with incredible blackberry, dark chocolate and salt character. Full body, chewy and powerful. Great length. 100% merlot.				
Barde Haut		91-93	91-94	95-96	NR
Neal Martin	The Château Barde-Haut 2014 is a blend of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc picked between 28 September until 7 October. Matured in 80% new oak, the nose is not a million miles away from the Cathiard family's Poesia: quite upfront in style with cassis, black cherries with just a slight tang of seaweed. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannins and fine tension. There is good backbone here and a lovely spicy finish that lingers nicely in the mouth. The best wine from Patrice and Hélène Garçin-Léveque this year? Most probably.				
JM	Intense and vibrant, this packs juicy plum, currant and raspberry fruit into the core, while the very racy, energetic structure drives the finish.				
JS	This is very rich and powerful with blackberry, blueberry, mineral and stone. Full body, very fine tannins. Very chalky and intense on the finish. Best ever?				
Carillon Angelus		90-92	N.A	92-93	NR
Neal Martin	The 2015 Le Carillon d'Angelus is a blend of 50% Merlot, 40% Cabernet Franc and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon. It has a perfumed, marine-tinged bouquet, the lifted cassis fruit tinged with seaweed. The palate is medium-bodied with silky tannin, very well-judged acidity and very harmonious. It is not a Carillon of enormous depth and therefore, it will drink 2-3 years after bottling, but it does have class and would probably show up many other Saint Emilion grand crus.				
JM	No tasting notes available.				
JS	A racy second wine with blackberry, blueberry and chocolate aromas and flavors. Full body, firm tannins and a fresh finish. 50% merlot, 40% cabernet franc and 10% cabernet sauvignon.				

Grand Mayne		92-94	89-92	90-91	\$ 44.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Grand Mayne has a ripe small, dark cherry and mulberry scented bouquet, very perfumed with cassis scents emerging with time. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, very elegant and poised, part of a new style of Grand Mayne that is much more refined than the vintages of the 1990s and 2000s. In a word, what Jean-Antoine Nony and his team have made here is a "stylish" Saint Emilion.				
JM	Nicely packed together, with juicy raspberry and plum paste flavors buttressed by licorice and ganache. Shows some energy through the finish, but this is more about heft than grace.				
JS	A juicy and rich red with roasted coffee, chocolate and ripe fruit. Full body, velvety tannins. A little over extracted now but could come around with proper barrel aging.				
Berliquet		91-93	92-95	90-91	\$ 42.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Berliquet is a blend of 75% Merlot and 25% Cabernet Franc picked between 22 September and 9 October, 8-9 October respectively at 35 hl/ha. It has a tight, linear nose at first, precise but tightly-coiled with black cherry and bilberry fruit, a touch of slate in the background. The palate is very well balanced with elegant tannin, nicely pitched acidity, nothing ambitious or outrageous, an almost "courtly" Saint Emilion with grace and style. It should turn into a delicious wine, perhaps one more approachable than others.				
JM	Delightfully pure, with great drive, offering a gorgeous beam of cassis, damson plum and raspberry coulis flavors. Though not shy on depth, this has a pretty iron note throughout and a long, floral-edged finish.				
JS	Here is a wine with great pedigree near Ausone. Full body, yet fast and agile. The finish lasts for minutes. You see the chalky soil in the wine.				
La Dominique		90-92	89-92	94-95	\$ 58.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 La Dominique is a blend of 85% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Franc and 2% Cabernet Sauvignon that was picked between September 18 and October 7 at 38 hectoliters per hectare; 10% went through "vinification intégrale" and then it was matured in 60% new oak. It has a very deep inky color. The bouquet is well-defined but broody at the moment, with blackcurrant, blueberry and even graphite scents, the latter deriving from the Cabernet component of the blend. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin on the entry. This errs towards black rather than red fruit, specifically black cherries and a touch of boysenberry. There is quite a rigid structure packed in behind the fruit, the spicy finish showing just a little more finesse than recent vintages. Although, I feel there is still some way to go in terms of reaching the full potential of the vineyard.				
JM	A toasty, fleshy style, with a broad swath of fig and blackberry paste flavors melded with dark ganache accents and a heavy tobacco note. A bit obvious in style, but this has range and length.				
JS	This has crazy concentration of stone, blueberry and blackberry character. Full body, yet racy and toned. Exciting. Pushing envelope here.				
Saintayme		N.A	90-93	N.A	\$ 18.00
Neal Martin	No tasting notes available.				
JM	Delivers a blast of dark plum, fig and boysenberry fruit pushed from behind by ganache and licorice notes, with a long finish. Not shy in style, but integrated and caressing in feel.				
JS	No tasting notes available.				
Canon La Gaffeliere		93-95	94-97	94-95	\$ 97.00

Neal Martin	The 2015 Canon la Gaffeliere is a blend of 55% Merlot, 38% Cabernet Franc and 7% Cabernet Sauvignon picked between 19 September and 6 October at 37 hl/ha and matured in 55% new oak barrels. It has another "cool" bouquet, a common thread among Comte Stephan Von Neipperg's 2015s - very restrained at first, nicely focused and gradually revealing undergrowth and even a subtle charcoal scent (probably from the Cabernet Sauvignon). The palate is medium-bodied with black fruit laced with graphite and cedar, the Cabernet brothers really defining the character of this Saint Emilion and edging it towards say, more Figeac in style. This is a fascinating 2015, more cerebral than previous vintages that I have tasted over the years.				
JM	Dark and winey, with currant paste and fig notes backed by slightly briary grip and an ample dose of toast. There's good energy here and nice vivacity, despite the darker profile today, and this should easily round into form after the élevage.				
JS	Very tight yet shows wonderful cream and lemon rind texture. Full and powerful with walnut and spice character. Linear and focused. 55% merlot, 37% cabernet franc and 8% cabernet sauvignon.				
Larcis-Ducasse		94-96	93-96	98-99	\$ 80.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Larcis-Ducasse is a blend of 87% Merlot and 13% Cabernet France, picked between 28 September and 10 October, 7-13 October respectively. Cropped at 37 hl/ha it is being matured in 500-liter barrels. It has an intense nose of raspberry preserve, boysenberries and an almost honeyed-like richness that thankfully retains freshness and delineation, when it could have been over-powering. The palate is medium-bodied with very fine tannin, a little grainy in texture, very well-balanced and graceful, gently building to a convincing, quite mineral, blackberry and wild strawberry finish. There is superb terroir expression here, an excellent Larcis-Ducasse that should offer 3-4 decades of drinking pleasure.				
JM	Lush, with velvety structure that lets the raspberry, plum and cassis fruit glide beautifully through the spice-tinged finish. Still very primal, but has length and fruit for days.				
JS	Hard to believe this. It has a minerality and intensity like a great white wine with so much chalky character that it gives an oyster shell flavor. Full and racy. Shaking my head in intrigue. Wonderfully silky tannins.				
Figeac		97-99	94-97	94-95	\$ 184.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Figeac is a blend of 29% Merlot, 28% Cabernet Franc and 43% Cabernet Sauvignon that was picked from 21 September with the Merlot until 15 October with the Cabernet Sauvignon at 41 hectoliters per hectare. The Cabernet comes through strongly on the nose - classic Figeac in many ways - black fruit, a touch of cassis, pencil and a touch of rose petal. The palate is drop-dead gorgeous, its foundation a lattice of filigree tannin and perfectly judged acidity. It is very fresh from its vivacious start to its pencil-lead finish imbued with effortless grace. It is almost comical that naysayers decried that Michel Rolland would turn Figeac into some kind of fruit bomb. Head winemaker Frédéric Faye has overseen a tip-top classic Figeac without any of the greenness that occasionally affected older vintages, now boasting a level of precision up there with the very best in the Right Bank. It was difficult to find fault with this quite astonishing Saint Emilion and who knows what could transpire once it is in bottle.				
JM	This has eye-opening power and depth, with a well of currant, fig and blackberry fruit that is supported by fresh tobacco and warm stones notes. Grippy through the finish, with a loam note adding more bass, this still stays focused and integrated.				
JS	This is the most structured Figeac in modern times. I tasted wines from this estate from the 1920s and 1910s but this is something. Full and powerful. Pure and focused. Extracted cabernet sauvignon, merlot and cabernet franc.				
Pavie Macquin		91-93	94-97	96-97	\$ 94.00

Neal Martin	The 2015 Pavie-Macquin is a blend of 84% Merlot, 14% Cabernet Franc and 2% Cabernet Sauvignon picked between 29 September and 17 October at 40 hl/ha. It has an almost decadent bouquet, perhaps more lascivious than the 2015 Larcis-Ducasse tasted alongside (as part of Nicolas Thienpont's "stable"), with fig-tinged red cherry and blackberry fruit, powerful but perhaps needing to muster a little more finesse? The palate is medium-bodied with a sweet core of citrus-fresh fruit. There is more nuance and precision here at the moment, fleshy and sensual with blood orange and cassis layered over the exuberant finish. It should be a delicious Saint Emilion this year, although I feel that the Larcis-Ducasse will have the sophistication and more longevity.				
JM	A pure style, with a bright cassis aroma and a core of plum and bitter cherry notes, allied to a lightly chalky spine. Long and refined, showing lovely cut and precision.				
JS	The purity of fruit and focus in this wine is so impressive. Full body, powerful and persistent. It goes on or minutes here.				
Clos Fourtet		95-97	94-97	96-97	\$ 116.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Clos Fourtet is a blend of 90% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Sauvignon and 3% Cabernet Franc, and it was picked between 18 September and 12 October. It has a voluminous bouquet with sweet cassis and blueberry aromas, rather smudged with violets coming through with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied with rounded tannin, ripe and voluptuous, dark chocolate infusing the red and black fruit with a touch of mint on the structured, graceful finish. What a fabulous Saint Emilion from Mathieu Cuvelier and his team - Clos Fourtet with breeding and class. It deserves 5-8 years in bottle.				
JM	Enticing, with raspberry, plum and boysenberry fruit taking hold from the start, followed by lively spice and black tea notes. The finish is threaded with a fine chalky spine. Focused and refined.				
JS	This is very velvety and flamboyant with a sexy mouthfeel and rich and delicious fruit. Exotic and more-ish. All there. So much fun to taste.				
Monbousquet		90-92	93-96	94-95	\$ 60.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Monbousquet is a blend of 60% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Franc and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon matured in 70% new oak. It has a ripe and sexy bouquet with black cherries, black olive and blueberry. The oak is nicely integrated here. The palate is full-bodied with saturated tannin, supple in the mouth, easy-going in some ways with a smooth rounded finish of licorice-tinged black fruit mixed with cassis and a hint of cedar, more evident on a second sample I tasted outside the château. What it needs is just more finesse and delineation but it should turn out nicely once in bottle.				
JM	Dark and winey, with a large-scale core of cassis, plum and currant fruit, inlaid with dense yet polished structure. A gorgeous apple wood backdrop through the finish gives this a bit of muscle to match the fruit.				
JS	Tight and structured with blackberry and blueberry character. Hints of almonds and spice. Full and savory. Velvety tannins.				
Pavie Decesse		93-95	93-96	97-98	\$ 156.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Pavie-Decesse is a blend of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc matured entirely in new oak. The nose is backward at first and needed much encouragement in the glass, eventually revealing black cherries, crème de cassis, blood orange and almost honeyed aromas. The palate is medium-bodied with rounded tannin, a modest level of acidity, fine grained with a spicy finish that lingers with a peppery aftertaste. It is an assertive Pavie-Decesse, particularly at the end where it cannot compete with the 2015 Pavie in terms of clarity, but the components will come together with 4-5 years in bottle.				

JM	Beautiful, with remarkably lush raspberry, plum and cassis flavors that glide over a substantial yet creamy structure. The finish has beautiful flow. Dressed for the ball, but stays refined thanks to minimal accessorizing.				
JS	This shows a power and finesse at the same time with silky and refined tannins and a pretty finish. Such precision and length. Gorgeous, racy.				
Troplong Mondot		92-94	93-96	96-97	\$ 146.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Troplong Mondot is inky black in color. The nose was initially arresting with a carapace of toasty new oak, but it only takes several swirls of the glass for that to dissipate and leave scents of intense black fruit, crème de cassis, spice box and violets. It is verging on "heady" in style, powered along by that Merlot. The palate is medium-bodied with succulent ripe tannin, layers of ripe, sensual, lavish black fruit interlaced with black pepper and clove. The acidity binds everything together, maintains control through to the finish that fans out nicely. It leans towards the hedonistic style of Saint Emilion, but it is not pushed over the edge as I have found in previous recent vintages. What it needs to develop is just the charm and personality of the finest Saint Emilion wines this vintage.				
JM	This has some exotic ripeness, with açai berry and loganberry fruit pumping through, carried by substantial brambly tannins and backed by a long, spice- and black tea-infused finish. Shows power and range.				
JS	A luscious and rich red with blackberry, chocolate and walnut aromas and flavors. Full body, very harmonious and super bright. All about clarity. A majority of merlot with some cabernet sauvignon and cabernet franc.				
Beausejour Becot		93-95	92-95	N.A	\$ 73.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Beau-Sejour-Becot is a blend of 80% Merlot, 16% Cabernet Franc and 4% Cabernet Sauvignon picked between 5-17 October, matured in 70% new oak barrels. It has a seductive and sensual bouquet with dark berries, blackberry and a subtle marine influence - kelp, perhaps brine. The palate is very smooth, satin-like tannin accompanied by a fresh line of acidity. Harmonious, almost sultry in style and yet there is plenty of freshness on the caressing finish. What a gorgeous Beausejour Bécot. To quote 1980s chanteuse Sade - this is a "smooth operator".				
JM	This offers the ripe, layered boysenberry and raspberry fruit and velvety tannins of the vintage, with an extra dimension thanks to a racy mineral edge. Judicious toast lets the finish shine.				
JS	No tasting notes available.				
Bellevue Mondotte		91-93	91-94	98-99	\$ 188.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Bellevue Mondotte is the one wine from Gérard Perse that tends to leave me cold. This year it is a blend of 90% Merlot with 5% each of Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon, matured entirely in new oak. It has a very powerful and intense bouquet with sweet ripe blueberry, boysenberry jam and honey-like aromas that almost knock you sideways. The palate is medium-bodied with sweet ripe tannin, not as tannic or as aggressive as I have occasionally discerned this wine, a little gentler and caressing towards the velvety smooth finish that just needs a little more personality to come through. It is always a brute out of barrel, but tends to mellow with bottle age, so don't even think about approaching this young. While it is undoubtedly surpassed by the 2015 Pavie, I am fascinated to see how this shows with age and who knows, maybe I will be proved wrong.				
JM	Ripe and showy, featuring exuberant raspberry, plum and boysenberry fruit, carried by well-integrated grip. This has spine, but remains lush and velvety through the finish, with the fruit echoing.				

JS	This has a focus and intensity that I haven't seen before. I go wide in the palate and then compresses with great precision and beauty. Full and excellent. So great. Best I ever had from here.
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Pomerol		Neal Martin	JM	JS	Price
Le Gay		94-96	93-96	95-96	\$ 128.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Le Gay comes from the 6.5-hectare Pomerol estate, of which 2.09 hectares are currently being restructured. It is a blend of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc picked from 27 September until 8 October at one degree lower alcohol than Montviel; it has a fragrant bouquet with delineated red cherries, crushed strawberry and hints of vanilla from the 100% new oak. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, ripe and rounded in the mouth, very well balanced and very smooth. This just glides across the mouth and once that new oak has been absorbed, this will be a gorgeous Le Gay to behold. Do not overlook this Cru because it has been on a roll in recent years.				
JM	Goes for a showy style and pulls it off, with a cashmere feel to the layers of warm fig, blackberry coulis and plum reduction. Ganache and warm espresso notes line the hedonistic finish.				
JS	A tight and racy red with walnut skin, pecan nuts, chilli and spice. Blackberry. Full body, round texture. Chewy. Very promising. Like the great Le Gays from the 1980s.				
Le Pin		N.A	N.A	100-100	\$ 1,998.00
Neal Martin	No tasting notes available.				
JM	No tasting notes available.				
JS	I have not had a Le Pin like this since the 1980s. It is so large and velvety textured yet remains agile and electric. The aromas are complex and complete with orange peel, chocolate and plum. Full and dense with an endless finish. Infinitely polished. The sweetness of fruit is impressive yet the wine remains fresh and dry. A new benchmark for Le Pin? Only 20 barrels made.				
Lafleur Petrus		94-96	95-98	99-100	SOLD OUT
Neal Martin	The 2015 La Fleur Petrus is a blend of 93% Merlot and 7% Cabernet Franc, having absorbed Château Guillot back in 2012. It has a clean and precise bouquet with ebullient red cherry, blackcurrant and cold stone aromas that are very succinct. There is nothing showy here, but it is very refined and graceful. The palate is very well balanced with succulent ripe tannin, clean and precise, lightly spiced red fruit with outstanding focus and tension on the finish. This La Fleur Petrus has an effortless cool about it. I am sure it will be wondrous once in bottle.				
JM	Gorgeously integrated already, with loads of blackberry and boysenberry fruit infused with black tea and dark wood spice accents, carried by charcoal and warm earth notes. The elements sail through a large-scale finish that has remarkable cut for a wine of this size.				
JS	The power and depth of fruit here is extraordinary with incredible phenolic texture and caressing mouthfeel. Full and enticing. It's a wine that shows power with finesse. Such contrast and greatness. 92% merlot, 7.5% cabernet franc and 0.5% petit verdot.				
La Violette		92-94	92-95	98-99	\$ 309.00

Neal Martin	The 2015 La Violette is the late Catherine Père-Vergé's haut couture Pomerol: pure Merlot destemmed by hand and micro-vinified, then matured in 100% new Saury barrels. Delivering an alcohol at a modest 14.5%, it has a red cherry, kirsch, bergamot and dried orange peel scented bouquet that is defined with a touch of puppy fat; it handles the new oak in stride. The palate is medium-bodied with saturated tannin, well-judged acidity, silky smooth in texture, but perhaps not quite delivering that killer blow on the finish. Nevertheless, it is utterly seductive and very well crafted, one to watch when it is bottled. If you want a polished Pomerol, this is probably the place to come, for character and Pomerol typicité, turn to Le Gay.				
JM	A hedonist style, with a caressing feel to the boysenberry and raspberry fruit flavors that meld into fruit cake and melted licorice notes on the velvety finish. This wine has flair.				
JS	This is a massive Pomerol with incredible concentration and power yet it holds together beautifully with chocolate, walnut and dark fruit character. Remains vibrant and lively.				
Vieux Chateau Certan		98-100	N.A	98-99	SOLD OUT
Neal Martin	The 2015 Vieux Château Certan is a blend of 80% Merlot., 19% Cabernet Franc and 1% Cabernet Sauvignon, cropped between September 17 and October 2 at 42 hectoliters per hectare. The IPT is healthy 83 and the pH is 3.72, the alcohol 14.6%. Enough statistics. What you need to know is that it is a beguiling Pomerol that will set hearts aflutter. It is bridled with a heavenly bouquet with intense red and black fruit, black truffle and a touch of smoke, opening wonderfully in the glass; the Cabernet Franc is very expressive and imparting a licorice note after ten minutes. The palate is medium-bodied with intensity, with a killer line of acidity that imparts freshness from the very start. There is life-affirming tension interwoven throughout this extremely complex wine from Alexandre and Guillaume Thienpont. There are layers, more like a mille-feuille of blackberry, boysenberry, mineral, truffle and a touch of spice towards the finish, just a touch of warmth from the alcohol that merely complements an extraordinary and profound Pomerol.				
JM	No tasting notes available.				
JS	A powerful and rich wine with super concentration and length. Deep and very rich. Glorious blackberry and black chocolate. Full and super velvety. A creamy texture of stone, chalk and lemon rind from the tannins and acidity. Wow. Loving it. The caressing character is so memorable. 80% merlot and 20% cabernet franc.				
Lévangile		96-98	NA	99-100	\$ 260.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 L'Evangile is a blend of 84% Merlot and 16% Cabernet Franc picked between September 15 and October 5, and September 29 to October 5 respectively. Matured almost in 100% new oak, it has a very pure and charming bouquet, the Merlot dominant and slightly shrouding the Cabernet Franc at the moment. It is worth staying with this Pomerol, because it does change after four to five minutes in the glass, revealing touches of truffle and iodine. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin, well-judged acidity, understated on the entry but gaining momentum in the glass, retaining a wonderful sense of symmetry and finishing with precision and class. This could well be the pick of the wines from the Domaines Barons Rothschild stable in 2015 and kudos to winemaker Jean-Pascal Vazart.				
JM	No tasting notes available.				
JS	What a wine here. It is so traditional and powerful with super depth of fruit and chewy tannins.				
Hosanna		95-97	93-96	98-99	SOLD OUT

Neal Martin	The 2015 Hosanna is a blend of 82% Merlot and 18% Cabernet Franc. Now Hosanna is usually quite exuberant on the nose at this early stage, however, this is a very different Hosanna - much more reserved and introverted, yet still complex with a melange of black fruit, undergrowth, truffle and brine aromas. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin, plenty of trufflettinged fruit, a lovely spicy edge and a persuasive peacock's tail finish that lingers long in the mouth while maintaining wonderful freshness. This is an outstanding Hosanna from the JP Moueix team, perhaps the first vintage to really convince me of its greatness since its debut.				
JM	Dense, with a muscular feel, though the core of cassis and blackberry paste is very pure. This is inlaid with some hefty roasted apple wood and melted licorice notes, giving way to warm Christmas pudding on the finish, all while maintaining a serious tannic spine.				
JS	This has the creamy magic texture of all superb 2015 Pomerol. Full and ultra-velvety with creamy, minerally and citrus rind mouthfeel. Amazing depth of fruit. A triumph. 82% merlot and 18% cabernet franc.				
Léglise Clinet		96-98	94-97	98-99	\$ 308.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 L'Eglise-Clinet is a blend of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc, picked between 21-25 September at 41 hl/ha and matured in 70% new oak. Denis Durantou poured two samples for me. First from Darnajou barrel. Here, a very composed, effortless bouquet with extremely pure raspberry coulis, strawberry, almost confit-like scents that display ethereal delineation. This is not a powerful or intense bouquet, rather one that is sophisticated and refined, bunches of violet emerging with time. The palate is medium-bodied with sappy red berry fruit, crisp acidity, mineral-rich and tensile. There is tangible energy and refinement on the finish that lingers long and tenderly in the mouth, a wine constantly having something more to say. The second came from Demptos barrel. This was deeper on the nose, showing a touch more fruit, slightly higher toned. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, structured in the mouth, perhaps the barrel impressing its character more on the wine than the Darnajou. Together, they should combine to create a quite magical 2015 L'Eglise-Clinet.				
JM	Very restrained and graceful now, this has serious cut and persistence to the blood orange, bitter cherry and plum fruit flavors. Shows a minerally edge through the finish, with ample flesh that should expand a bit more with the élevage. Fresh and long.				
JS	Lively and energized. Full body, intense and dense tannins. Great wine. Goes on for minutes. Such focus and clarity.				
Clinet (VERY LIMITED QUANTITIES)		95-97	94-97	99-100	SOLD OUT
Neal Martin	The 2015 Clinet is a blend of 90% Merlot, 9% Cabernet Sauvignon and 1% Cabernet Franc, cropped at 37 hl/ha and matured in 65% new oak. It was picked from 15 September commencing with the young Merlot vines, and finishing between 28 and 1 October with the very old Merlots and the Cabernets. A couple of specific features to note: the alcohol level is 14.3%, perhaps a little lower than some of Clinet's peers and also a IPT of up to 88, higher than 2010 even. Broody at first, it eventually develops a perfumed bouquet as it opens, with black fruit, melted tar and a brush of black truffle. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin. There is plenty of nascent energy in this Clinet, spicier than other vintages that I have tasted over the years, linear at first and then fanning out towards the finish with a dash of white pepper on the aftertaste. It is a very harmonious Clinet, one that I suspect will favor those with the nous to age this Pomerol for 5-7 years, even though it might tempt you earlier. This is a great Pomerol from Ronan Laborde and his team.				
JM	The fleshy plum, blackberry and boysenberry fruit flavors sail along, gilded with a hint of anise and backed by velvety tannins. Shows serious length already and latent depth. A hedonistic wine in the making.				

JS	OMG. This is really dense and rich with velvety tannins and so much fruit and length. Super concentration and structure. Greatest Clinet ever. No jam. Just class.				
Clos L�glise		94-96	92-95	92-93	SOLD OUT
Neal Martin	The 2015 Clos l'Eglise was picked on 8, 14 and 23 September apropos the Merlot and the Cabernet Franc on 23 September. Co-proprietor H�l�ne Gar�in-L�veque told me that for the first time, Clos l'Eglise was one of the first Pomerols to be picked since they felt that the grapes were fully ripe. So why wait? That clearly is vindicated by the bouquet with ebullient, ripe blackberry and wild strawberry fruit, almost Burgundy-like in terms of its purity. The palate is medium-bodied with very fine, tensile tannin, brimming over with energy, tightly packed towards the more linear finish than usual. This is a Clos l'Eglise built for long-term bottle ageing, though I suspect it will actually come round a little earlier than usual. A wonderful Pomerol, almost understated, but full of personality.				
JM	Offers a delicious core of plum, raspberry and cherry preserve notes, backed by flavors of apple wood and licorice that still need to integrate fully. A solid wine in the making.				
JS	A soft and fruity red with walnut, plum and earth aromas and flavors. Full to medium body, clean finish. Refined and pretty.				
Gazin		94-96	91-94	N.A	\$ 79.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Gazin has a perfumed bouquet with layers of black cherry, raspberry coulis and truffle scents, more welcoming and sensual than the wines a decade ago from barrel when they intermittently felt under-ripe. There is none of that here for sure. The palate is medium-bodied with sappy black fruit on the entry. There is excellent structure here, a masculine Gazin with plenty of grip, counterbalanced by abundant tertiary, tobacco-tinged black fruit. There is real salinity towards the finish, completing a superb wine by Nicolas de Bailliencourt and his team. Do not overlook this Pomerol. It is one of the subtler expressions of the 2015 vintage and one that I am sure will develop beautifully in cask.				
JM	Ripe, rounded and inviting in feel, with a red licorice frame around a core of plum sauce and cherry preserves. A touch of alder peeks out on the finish, as this has yet to digest the oak, but the pieces are in place for a rock-solid Pomerol.				
JS	No tasting notes available.				
La Conseillante		95-97	93-96	96-97	\$ 202.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 La Conseillante, a blend of 81% Merlot and 19% Cabernet Franc, is extraordinarily pure and elegant on the nose. Here, I find a little more red fruit than black fruit, extremely elegant and articulating the terroir with great clarity. At first, wild strawberry and cranberry, then crushed stone, a touch of black truffle and tobacco. The palate is medium-bodied, fresh and elegant with fine tannin on the entry. This is one of the most approachable La Conseillante wines that I have tasted in barrel, the acidity very well judged, "classic" in style, good backbone here with a structured finish. It does not quite possess the bravura of the 2010 La Conseillante and I would agree with winemaker Marielle Cazaux that it bears more resemblances to the 2005 La Conseillante at this stage, and even bore common traits with its neighbour, Vieux Ch�teau Certan. This is an intellectual and to put it prosaically, "delicious" La Conseillante.				
JM	Lush notes of dark fig, boysenberry and blackberry p�te de fruit glide over ample but velvety tannins, with suave black tea and ganache accents. This is long and should be gorgeous when finished.				
JS	This is the most powerful La Conseillante I have tasted with lots of muscle and intensity. Full and savory. Chewy. Agile and formed. Beautiful ripe fruit in the center palate. This is a little pushed to the limit like the great Conseillants of the 1960s and 1970s.				
Lafleur		97-99	92-95	100-100	\$ 1,080.00

Neal Martin	The 2015 Lafleur is a blend of 51% Merlot and 49% Cabernet Franc picked 11-15 September and 1-2 October respectively. As usual, I waited for the Grand Vin to open in the glass, so I chewed the fat with Baptiste Guinaudeau before I started to tap away at the laptop. It unfurls beautifully delivering small red cherries, cranberry and Japanese nori aromas that gain intensity with every swirl. The palate is medium-bodied with full and rounded tannin, very complex with layers of cranberry and raspberry fruit, veins of white pepper and bay leaf, structured on the finish but not as foreboding as the leviathan 2010 Lafleur. It will still require ten years in bottle to reach its plateau, but it will be one of the standout wines of the vintage.
JM	Offers an alluring licorice frame, with currant and plum sauce flavors giving this a slightly dark profile. Shows a velvety edge throughout.
JS	It's hard to describe perfection. It's not just power and depth. It's something mystical and ethereal. The wine just floats on your palate with incredible density yet precise. Taste it and you want forever. So creamy and textured. Glorious.
Pensees de Lafleur	91-93 N.A 94-95 \$ 158.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Les Pensees de Lafleur is a blend of 54% Merlot, picked on September 21, and 46% Cabernet Franc that was picked on October 2. It has a broody bouquet with cranberry and raspberry coulis aromas, touches of dried herbs and brine developing with time in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with lightly spiced red berry fruit, vibrant in the mouth, very harmonious with superb precision on the finish. What a gorgeous deuxième vin from Baptiste Guinaudeau.
JM	No tasting notes available.
JS	Fabulous balance and finesse with blackberry and blueberry. Hints of walnut and milk chocolate. Full body, seamless tannins and beauty. Super balance and length. 54% merlots and 46% cabernet.
Lafleur Gazin	85-87 92-95 91-94 \$ 46.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Lafleur-Gazin is a blend of 98% Merlot and 2% Cabernet Franc. This is one Pomerol Cru shown at J-P Moueix that I found a little muddled on the nose at the moment; it did not really "sing" from the glass. The palate is medium-bodied and shows more cohesion and focus than the aromatics - grainy tannin, quite saline in the mouth with a touch of black truffle on the finish. Hopefully the bouquet will get its act together by the time it is in bottle.
JM	Offers an alluring licorice frame, with currant and plum sauce flavors giving this a slightly dark profile. Shows a velvety edge throughout.
JS	The best wine I have ever had from here. Super depth of fruit and deep and velvety tannins. Full and gorgeous throughout. A study in strength with finesse. Mostly merlot with a touch of cabernet franc.
Lafleur De Gay	91-93 90-93 94-95 \$ 105.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 La Fleur de Gay was actually more timid on the nose than the La Croix de Gay, possibly due to the higher percentage of new oak used here. Still, with aeration, it is clear that there is more than enough fruit waiting in the wings. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin, lithe in the mouth and well balanced with layers of licorice-tinged black fruit. Perhaps it does not require all that new wood on the finish, but I suspect it will be absorbed with 4-6 years in bottle.
JM	This has range, with plum, anise, blueberry and blackberry notes slowly melding together. There is still a dose of toast to soak up, but this shows fleshy drive through the finish.
JS	Such finesse and depth to this beautiful young wine with blueberry, blackberry and walnut
Nenin	92-94 91-94 94-95 \$ 74.00

Neal Martin	The 2015 Nenin is a blend of 67% Merlot and 33% Cabernet Franc, cropped at 37 hl/ha between 17 September and 5 October over nine picking days. The alcohol arrives at 14.3%. Matured in 35% new oak, it sports a precise and elegant bouquet. This is a more nuanced Nenin compared to recent vintages whereby the Merlot is more expressive than the Cabernet Franc at present. The palate is medium-bodied with fine-grain tannin. This is very well balanced, a more sophisticated Nenin than in recent years, due to Jean-Hubert Delon's decision to deselect some worthy parcels into the deuxième vin. There is an attractive sappiness towards the finish that lingers nicely in the mouth. I would just like to see that Cabernet Franc finding its voice by the time this 2015 is in bottle, but this Nenin has very good potential. One to watch.			
JM	Packed with fresh plum, black licorice and boysenberry coulis flavors, all inlaid with enticing spice notes. Offers a pure finish, leaning a bit toward stony cut rather than the velvety side. A very solid effort.			
JS	Most structured and powerful Nenin I have tasted in 30 years. Full body incredible brightness and beauty. Loads of blackberry and mineral character. Extremely long and intense. Creamy texture goes on for minutes. 33% cabernet franc and 63% merlot.			
La Pointe	91-93	91-94	94-95	\$ 46.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 La Pointe is a blend of 84% Merlot and 16% Cabernet Franc, picked between 27 September for the younger vines for the second wines, and 1 October for the heart of the Merlot, the Cabernet picked 8 and 12 October. Eric Monnoret told me that the 2015 was matured in 50% new oak. It has a comparatively flamboyant bouquet compared to recent vintages of La Pointe, with opulent red berry fruit, kirsch, cassis and patina of tar. The palate is medium-bodied, firm in the mouth at the moment, quite structured, the oak nicely integrated with a slightly savory finish. This is a robust La Pointe, quite spicy in the mouth with a long aftertaste. It will gain more harmony during its élevage.			
JM	On the darker side, with plum and blackberry notes, but still has some grace, showing hints of black tea and incense weaving through. Has some wood left to soak up, so this should put on weight as it integrates.			
JS	This is really tannic and structured with loads of ripe tannins and fruit. Full body. Massive for this estate yet agile. Best ever. 84% merlot and 16% cabernet franc.			
Le Bon Pasteur	90-92	90-93	95-96	SOLD OUT
Neal Martin	The 2015 Bon Pasteur was unusually tight on the nose when I tasted it, coaxing out black cherries and raspberry fruit laced with sous-bois with time. I appreciate the delineation and focus here. The palate is medium-bodied with a touch of dark chocolate on the entry. It has grainy tannin, moderate depth, just a little abruptness towards the finish, although the acidity is nicely tuned. It just feels a little linear and constrained at the moment, but it should spread its wings after bottling.			
JM	Shows gusto, wrestling a thick structure into a very ripe, concentrated core of dark fig and			
JS	This is very powerful and bright with lots of mineral, salt and white pepper character. Full body, velvety tannins. Velvety texture. 70% of this is made in barrel. A small percentage of co-fermentation of merlot and cabernet franc. 80% merlot. Racy winemaking. Showing more finesse and tannins compared to the past. Wow.			
Petit Village	90-92	91-94	95-96	\$ 83.00

Neal Martin	The 2015 Petit Village is a blend of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc, the first wine to be made by Diana Garcia-Berrouet (the daughter-in-law of Jean-Claude for those that recognize the appended name). It has a straightforward black cherry and iodine-scented bouquet that needs to muster a little more complexity given the terroir. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, perhaps more filigree than previous vintages. Given the precocity on the Right Bank, I would have liked more depth on the finish, though it is well balanced with ample freshness on the finish. It is a Pomerol estate that just needs to find its "groove."
JM	Offers a juicy feel, with lots of singed anise and fruitcake notes out in front of the dark plum and blackberry fruit. Delivers ample spice through the finish. Flirts with the exotic side, but there's focus and cut here.
JS	Shows wonderful balance and finesse with salt, mineral and dark fruit. Hints of walnut too. Full body, ultra-fine tannins and a bright finish. Wow. Best ever.

Sauternes / Barsac		Neal Martin	JM	JS	Price
Coutet		94-96	94-97	94-95	\$ 47.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Coutet comes with 153 grams per liter of residual sugar at 13.8% alcohol. It has a fragrant bouquet with acacia honey, citrus scents and a touch of melted butter, all very well defined. The palate is medium-bodied with impressive purity, those limestone soils imparting the acidity that defined this Barsac, and lending great precision and tension on the live-wire finish. This is a wonderful Coutet that feels energetic - a compressed spring coil that will drink earlier than the likes of Climens or de Fargues, but has the DNA to age gracefully over 25-30 years.				
JM	Vibrant, with a singed almond frame sprinting along, this offers nectarine, white peach and star fruit notes. Mirabelle plum and pineapple details echo through the finish. Very long, boasting terrific range.				
JS	A Coutet with great depth and fruit. So much dried topical fruit character, bright acidity and fruit sweetness. Vivid and clean.				
Léxtravagant Doisy Daene (375ml)		96-98	95-98	N.A	SOLD OUT
Neal Martin	The 2015 L'Extravagant de Doisy Daene has a powerful, intense but very pure bouquet laden with acacia honey, peach and quince, yet very defined and not at all overwhelming - remarkable given the richness locked into this Sauternes. The palate is medium-bodied with sensual, rounded, honeyed fruit, plenty of botrytis as you would expect, but leavened with a keen line of acidity. The finish offers peach and nectarine mixed with wild honey and a dash of spice to complete a fabulous wine from Denis Dubourdieu.				
JM	A scintillating wine, with apricot, pear and nectarine notes that are rich yet piercing. Heather and jasmine details gild the finish, which is very long and shows serious cut.				
JS	No tasting notes available.				
Guiraud		94-96	93-96	96-97	\$ 53.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Guiraud, tasted in two occasions, has a sumptuous bouquet with scents of wild honey, apricot and a faint smear of marmalade. The palate is fresh and tensile on the entry, brimming with energy with impressive energy towards the blood orange and quince-tinged finish. This is a stylish, suave Guiraud that should age beautifully in bottle.				
JM	Very expressive, with nectarine, mirabelle plum, green plum and white peach notes melding well, backed by a pronounced honeysuckle edge. Shows excellent range, with power in reserve.				
JS	This is really something. I have never tasted a Guiraud like this. This is full-bodied yet so fresh and incredibly crisp and lively. Spicy and energetic. Fantastic acidity!				
Suduiraut		95-97	93-96	97-98	SOLD OUT

Neal Martin	The 2015 Suduiraut comes with 123 grams per liter of residual sugar, more modest than some of its Sauternes peers and 4.56 grams per liter of acidity. It has a sense of completeness on the nose already: immense clarity with wild honey and quince aromas that gain intensity in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with very pure botrytised fruit, very focused and one of the most intense Sauternes you will find this year. It feels long and sophisticated in the mouth yet never overpowers, never really has to put its foot right down on the accelerator. This is a wonderful Suduiraut, not quite up to the level of the ethereal 2009...although not too far off.				
JM	A ripe, rounded style, with loads of apricot, mango and glazed peach flavors, followed by a warm tarte Tatin finish. Still a touch youthfully raw, but shows serious depth.				
JS	A phenomenal white with dried fruits such as apricots and mangos. Masses of botrytis spice. Full body yet agile and bright with incredible lightness and delicacy. So much cherry blossom too. Small white flowers. Medium sweet. Ginger. Great finish.				
Doisy Daene		95-97	93-96	95-96	\$ 47.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Doisy-Daene has a detailed bouquet, very correct, nothing showy or flamboyant as is typical of Denis Dubourdieu's Barsac. The palate is extremely well balanced and very pure: citrus fruit infusing the honeyed botrytis, veins of white peach and quince, leading to a very precise and sustained finish that leaves you with a smile on your face...and the wine ain't even finished yet! Just a wonderful wine - full of class and nascent joie-de-vivre. Chapeau Denis!				
JM	Rippling with energy, this is pure and refined already, showing clearly defined chamomile, peach, pear and apricot notes that are bright and engaging. Still tight but very long, showing ample richness, with minerality in reserve.				
JS	Wow. This is really impressive with a fabulous density and style. So much mushroom, almond and dried apple, apricot character. Fresh and bright. Joyous.				
Rieussec		95-97	N.A	97-98	\$ 72.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Rieussec, a blend of 86% Semillon and 14% Sauvignon Blanc, was picked over five tries through the vineyard between 9 September and 27 October. "We had a bit of frost towards the end and 10% was harvested afterwards. The quality was affected and this was put into the second wine," winemaker Eric Kohler informed me. This year the grand vin constitutes between one-third and one-fourth of the total crop. It has a fragrant bouquet, of honey, white almond and peach, that is disarmingly seductive. The palate is refined and poised: a lovely thread of acidity here, with a keen mineral-laden finish that leaves the mouth tingling with pleasure. This is a top-tier Rieussec that hits all the right buttons.				
JM	No tasting notes available.				
JS	The is a phenomenal wine with dried pineapple and pear aromas and flavors. Full, very sweet. Incredible depth and power. Super complex.				
Raymond Lafon		92-94	91-94	N.A	\$ 46.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Raymond-Lafon has an attractive bouquet in the making: intense honey, acacia and white flower scents soaring from the glass. The palate is very well balanced and pure: mineral-tinged honeyed fruit, great tension with plenty of finesse on the finish. This is one of the best vintages that I have tasted in recent years.				
JM	Solidly built, with juicy nectarine, peach and apricot flavors, backed by a substantial singed almond note. Has the zip to stay lively.				
JS	No tasting notes available.				
Carmes De Rieussec		90-92	N.A	92-93	\$ 25.00

Neal Martin	The 2015 Carmes de Rieussec is a blend of 87% Semillon, 7% Sauvignon Blanc and 6% Muscadelle. It has a gorgeous lemon curd, honeysuckle and vanilla-scented bouquet that transcends what you consider to be a deuxième vin. The palate is very well balanced with a crisp line of acidity, very harmonious with fine weight and tension. This is a delightful Sauternes from the Rieussec team that should drink early, but clearly has the substance to age.				
JM	No tasting notes available.				
JS	A bright and fruity with spicy, earth, dried fruit and pineapple aromas and flavors. Full and medium sweet. Wonderful finish. Second wine? This is almost too good.				
La Tour Blanche		92-94	91-94	93-94	\$ 49.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 La Tour Blanche has a noticeably deeper color than the other barrel samples that I tasted. The bouquet is quite intense, although I feel that it does not quite have the complexity of its peers. The palate is much better: smooth and unctuous on the entry, layers of honeyed fruit tinged with peach and almond, delivering a very composed and powerful finish that lingers long in the mouth. Give this 3-4 years in bottle until the aromatics find their voice.				
JM	Shows good intensity, with a bitter orange note adding some cut to the core of peach, mango, quince and papaya flavors. The long finish lets everything drape pleasantly.				
JS	Shows energy and intensity with dried apple, pineapple character. Medium to full body very sweet and a spicy, botrytis aftertaste. Excellent.				
La Faurie Peyraguey		93-95	93-96	95-96	\$ 60.00
Neal Martin	The 2015 Lafaurie-Peyraguey has a slightly taciturn bouquet at first, though it soon awakens to deliver pure wild honey and subtle marmalade notes, though it maintains a sense of restraint. The palate is well balanced and very pure, a sensual Lafaurie-Peyraguey with a very harmonious, light-spiced marmalade and honeyed finish. This is stylish and understated, but I suspect it will age extremely well.				
JM	A ripe, unctuous style, with a big core of nectarine, peach, mango and quince flavors, backed by lots of spice and ginger. Among the more backward examples at this early stage, but everything is here.				
JS	A purity and finesse to this young Sauternes with mushroom, botrytis and flower character. The sweetness, fruit, phenolics and acidity balance it out to an ethereal level. Lovely finish.				

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