



BORDEAUX 2017 EN PRIMEUR ORDER FORM

We are pleased to present to you our releases for Bordeaux 2017 En-Primeur.

- The 2017 Bordeaux vintage is a good to very good vintage, but it is not close to 2015 or 2016 in all but a handful of cases. Some proprietors talked of a “2014-plus” which is pretty fair. To quote Christian Seely: “I think it is closer to 2014 than 2015 and 2016, but 2014 was the product of a cool summer and fantastic end of season, whereas this [2017] had a cool summer with a difficult end of season.” That is the reality.
- Frost damage affected quality only at lower levels of the hierarchy: inland vineyards on the Left Bank, on the plain in Saint-Émilion and lower reaches of Pomerol, especially in satellite appellations where second generation fruit was used.
- It is not a Left or Right Bank vintage. Quality can be found on both banks although as I compiled and edited my notes, I confess a lot of affection for the Right Bank thanks to performances in Saint-Émilion.
- On the Left Bank, the northern Médoc, Saint-Estèphe and Pauillac, appears to have done better than those more southerly, Saint-Julien and Margaux.
- On the Right Bank, the limestone plateau and the côtes did particularly well, a combination of terroir and avoidance of frost damage setting them apart.
- Sauternes shows good potential even if not within the top tier of quality compared to the best vintages over the last 15 years.
- Stylistically? The bouquet is often perfumed, a facet of winemaking that has vastly improved in recent years thanks to fine-tuning techniques in the winery. The wines frequently have a floral element, violets but quite often, more iris-like scents. The 2017s boast plenty of freshness with crisp acidity, noticeable but not strong or grippy tannins, more black fruit compared to recent vintages. They are not dense or weighty wines and are often linear in style. Finishes are moderate in length, often with an estuarine/brine-like aftertaste. Thanks to tannin management they ought to be very approachable, though most have the structure to suggest medium-term ageing potential, peaking from 10 to 20 years. Only the very top wines will deserve seriously long-term ageing and, in any case, you may well have the 2015 and 2016s for that. But their freshness ought to see them repay bottle maturation. One or two sages opined they resemble the 1988 albeit with much finer tannins and purity, again a view with good foundations.
- In banal terms, I like this vintage. I am not saying it is the best, but they were mostly a pleasure to taste and fascinating to learn about.

- Neal Martin, Vinous

The quality of 2017 is much better than most people might expect. Clearly, as I wrote earlier in the week, it's not in the same league as the outstanding 2016 and 2015 vintages. Yet, nor is it the largely disappointing 2013. Over the past two weeks tasting in Bordeaux, I rated many wines 90 points or more together with my son Jack. I scored some of the wines from the great names of Bordeaux, such as the first growths and blue-chip Right Bank wines, between 96 to 99 points. Of course, these were the rare exceptions where remarkable terroirs, precise viticulture and winemaking delivered terrific results. The 2017 vintage underlines that vintage variations among the top wines of Bordeaux — like most key wine regions in the world — are much less than in the past.

This is what makes Bordeaux so special today in the world of wine. It sometimes comes so close to greatness, and then Mother Nature robs some of the quality away at the last minute. The 2017 vintage will always be remembered for the horrible frost, but the top wines of the vintage should also add to the reputation of this unique year.

- James Suckling

The reds are fresh and pure, built on bright acidity rather than tannins, providing charming wines that will drink well in the near to mid-term. Dry whites are superb, and the sweet wines of Sauternes and Barsac are outstanding. But consumers will need to pick carefully, as a gray and dry summer resulted in a heterogeneous collection of wines that lack the punch and drive of great years.

- James Molesworth, Wine Spectator

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***As some prices have not yet been released, this list is still subject to further amendments and updates.**

ST ESTEPHE		Price	Quantity Required
Montrose		\$177	
Neal Martin 94-96	The 2017 Montrose represents 37% of the total production this year and it was cropped at around 45hl/ha. It has a little more volume and intensity compared to the Cos d'Estournel that was tasted immediately prior to my visit. Blackberry, raspberry, cedar and pressed flowers bloom in the glass, though there is a noticeable change with aeration after 20 minutes – hints of juniper and bay leaf, rendering a more nuanced and complex array of aromatics. The palate is medium-bodied with edgy tannin and it feels a little chalky in the mouth, yet also tensile and certainly extremely focused. There is already a palpable sense of energy in situ, well-structured and vivid, though not as complex or as nuanced as the 2016 Montrose on the finish since the growing season forbade that. I appreciate the pastille-like purity on the aftertaste and the potent tang of cracked black pepper and graphite that hang around for 45 seconds after the wine has departed. It is a fine, very classic Montrose and I suspect more approachable than those of yesteryear. Tasted twice at the château.		
JM 91-94	This has nice breadth, with cherry and cassis notes moving through atop light tobacco and warm earth flavors. Very bright savory and iron elements add lift and cut through the finish. Tight, but everything is in place.		
JS 96-97	This is pure and tight with gorgeous cabernet sauvignon character of blackcurrants, blueberries and crushed stones. Full-bodied, yet compacted and polished. It shows a long and beautiful tannin texture at the end. Just rolls off the palate.		
La Dame De Montrose		\$49	
Neal Martin 88-90	The 2017 La Dame de Montrose represents 40% of the total production this year. The Merlot, which constitutes nearly half the blend, occupies the driving seat on the nose with copious black cherry, raspberry and cedar scents that blossom in the glass. The palate is medium- bodied with a ripe, almost confit-like entry. It feels harmonious with fine tannin, perhaps not the length of say the 2014 or 2016 La Dame de Montrose, a little more compact in style at the moment, loosening up and gaining more harmony by the time of my second visit in mid-April. It certainly has pleasing purity and it should drink well over the next decade.		
JM			
JS 91-92	A juicy and savory second wine with blackberry, blueberry and wet-earth character. Medium- bodied, tight and silky. Fresh finish.		
Calon Segur		\$110	
Neal Martin 92-94	The 2017 Calon-Ségur was cropped at 43.5hl/ha and underwent a 20-day cuvaision after which it is matured entirely in new oak for 20 months. It contains 13.2° alcohol. At the moment the aromatics convey the 100% new oak but there is sufficient fruit underneath. There is a palpable sense of “coolness” imbuing the aromatics and like other Saint-Estèphe barrel samples, it conveys a subtle estuary-like tincture. The palate is medium-bodied with saturated tannin, beautifully integrated new oak that lends this a silky texture. Perhaps this is the smoothest of all the 2017s I encountered within this appellation, a classy and sophisticated Calon-Ségur in the making and heightened by the thrilling tension towards the finish and the latent energy that lingers in the mouth. Excellent.		
JM 91-94	This is very pure and sleek in feel, with an iron note running from start to finish while cassis, cherry and damson plum fruit plays out. The long, focused finish has light bay and savory hints while letting the minerality sing.		
JS 94-95	This is very delicate on the attack but it grows on the palate with firm and silky tannins that turn lightly chewy. Builds consistently. Compacted and tight.		

Cos D'Estournel		\$196
Neal Martin 94-96	The 2017 Cos d'Estournel is matured in 60% new oak and comprises 13% alcohol, approximately the same as the 2016. It has a more expressive and welcoming bouquet than usual, maybe more indicative of how this wine will mature in bottle, less opaque than the 2016. A common theme throughout the range from Cos d'Estournel is a Pauillac-inspired backbone/tannic structure coupled with an attractive scent wafting over from the estuary...think mudflats, oyster shells and the tang of sea spray. It gains a little intensity with aeration but never fully let go. The palate is very well balanced with filigree tannin, rendering this one of the most approachable barrel samples from the estate in recent years. The coolness of the latter part of the season defines this Saint-Estèphe more than the precocity of June: streamlined, cool and linear with a velvety finish that feels sleek, to the point of being understated, though that belies its length and focus. This is simply a very classy wine in the making and typical of the more recent sophisticated style pursued by the property in recent years.	
JM		
JS 97-98	Love tasting this wine. You almost want to drink it for its harmony and balance. Full-bodied and so complete with cloves, spices, dark berries and hints of chocolate. Wonderful integration on the finish.	
Les Pagodes De Cos		\$54
Neal Martin 90-92	The 2017 Les Pagodes de Cos, which is being matured in 30% new oak (half of the Grand Vin), has a very clean and pure bouquet with black cherries, boysenberry jam and Indian ink. There is certainly impressive intensity here considering this is the <i>deuxième vin</i> . The palate is medium-bodied with succulent ripe tannin. It is furnished with pretty blackberry and wild strawberry notes laced with white pepper and a subtle graphite seam. It has good sustain in the mouth with a "Pauillac" inspired finish in terms of discrete austerity and tannic backbone. I admire the focus here and even though there is not huge length this should age well. Tasted twice with consistent notes.	
JM		
JS 92-93	This is a tightly wound second wine with dark-berry, hazelnut and chocolate character. Full body, integrated tannins and a fresh and bright finish.	
Ormes De Pez		\$34
Neal Martin 91-93	The 2017 Les Ormes de Pez was matured in 45% new oak with 13.42% alcohol. None of the vines were touched by frost. Cropped at round 50hl/ha, it has a clean, pure red cherry, blackcurrant and cedar-scented bouquet, more Pauillac in style than Saint-Estèphe. The palate is well balanced with ripe tannin that feel more malleable than previous vintages at this stage, a little saline in the mouth with a silky smooth finish. This will be delicious over the next couple of decades and I suspect it will be more approachable than the 2016. Don't ignore this.	
JM 88-91	Open-knit, with a core of plum and cherry fruit carried by light cedar, tobacco and warm stone notes. Shows a light smoky echo at the end	
JS 92-93	The density for the vintage is impressive with dark-berry and cherry character. Medium to full body, velvety tannins and a fresh and bright finish. Linear and driven.	

Phelan Segur		\$58	
Neal Martin 89-91	The 2017 Phélan-Ségur, was harvested as late as possible, starting on 14 September with the Merlot and starting the Cabernet around 27 September and finished around mid-October. It is matured in 50% new oak. It appears to show more red fruit on the nose than its Saint-Estèphe peers, just a little disjointed at first but melding together with time, raspberry and briary scents mixed with dried rose petals. The palate is medium-bodied with grippy tannin, quite foursquare and masculine, needing more flesh to come through on the finish.		
JM 89-92	This has a core of dark plum and cherry paste flavors, with waves of warm tobacco and smoldering charcoal checking in on the finish. Has character and a bit more depth than most of its peers in the vintage.		
JS 92-93	This is tight and firm with a linear precision and dark fruit. Medium to full body. Bright and lightly juicy. Pretty center palate. A poised and focused young wine.		
Lafon Rochet		\$57	
Neal Martin 91-93	The 2017 Lafon-Rochet has matured in 50% new oak and the remainder in one-year old. I have to say, the bouquet is very expressive with plenty of blackberry, wild hedgerow, oyster shell and pressed flower that blossom in the glass. It is very well defined and more sophisticated than I have detected in recent vintages. Perhaps this is the first vintage where the new winery, replete with concrete vats, has really played a serious role in meliorating quality. The palate is medium-bodied with sappy black fruit, quite saline in the mouth with just a hint of black olive. There is a slightly grainy texture with a sustained peppery finish, completing a crisp and vivacious Lafon-Rochet that should please many wine-lovers. Expect this to land at the top of my banded score.		
JM 87-90	Prominent savory and tobacco notes lead to the core of crunchy pomegranate and black cherry fruit, with a lightly brisk finish.		
JS 92-93	Solid, ultra-clean 2017 with a very pretty core of fruit and chewy tannins. Flavorful and fresh. Extremely long and focused.		
Lilian Ladouys		\$26	
Neal Martin 89-91	The 2017 Lilian Ladouys was picked from 20 to 29 September and matured in 40% new oak. It has a perfumed, floral bouquet with blue and red fruit, a subtle chalkiness in the background. The palate is medium-bodied with grainy tannin, pinched on the mid-palate with a tightly wound, slightly austere finish. Not bad but it will need three or four years in bottle. I would like more charm to develop and indeed, when I encountered this growth towards the end of my trip, I felt that it was beginning to show more personality.		
JM 88-91	Lively, with a mix of red and black cherry fruit lined with lightly chalky tannins and flickers of savory and lilac. Has a touch of toast and light twinge of austerity at the very end.		
JS 90-91	A red with very primary fruit aromas and flavors of currant and green olive undertones. Medium body, juicy and savory. Salty aftertaste.		
Tour De Pez			
Neal Martin 89-91	The 2017 Tour de Pez has a refined and quite pure bouquet with blackberry, boysenberry and cassis fruit that feels cohesive and nicely entwined with the new oak. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, attractive graphite-infused black fruit and all that is really lacking some length towards the finish.		
JM			
JS 90-91	This is tight with raspberry and dark-tea character. Medium-bodied, firm and silky and bright on the finish.		

PAUILLAC		Price	Quantity Required
Mouton Rothschild		\$640	
Neal Martin 94-96	The 2017 Mouton-Rothschild was picked from 7 to 29 September and matured in 100% new oak. This First Growth is driven by the Cabernet Sauvignon, as you would expect given the high percentage, expressive pencil lead and cedar that infuse the slightly introspective black fruit. Dare I say that it actually reminds me of Latour in style? The palate is medium-bodied, finely tuned and precise, a more masculine Mouton-Rothschild compared to the last three vintages, fresh with a sustained, lightly spiced finish that lingers in the mouth. That backbone is accentuated more during my second visit in mid-April. It is a cliché but this Mouton-Rothschild is unashamedly “classic” in style, perchance “le petit frère” of the 2010 Mouton-Rothschild that also contained a lot of Cabernet Sauvignon (though before you search the archives, yes, the 2011 and 2012 contained the same proportion!) Tasted twice with consistent notes.		
JM 90-93	This has a pleasantly juicy and fleshy edge to the mix of cassis and cherry preserve flavors, while suave apple wood and warm stone notes glide in on the finish.		
JS 97-98	This is a very shy and tight Mouton with blackberries, blackcurrants and hints of terracotta. Full body and very integrated tannins that are extremely polished and beautiful. Spicy and white-pepper finish. Sexy and exciting. So long and refined.		
Le Petit Mouton		SOLD OUT	
Neal Martin	The 2017 Le Petit Mouton was tasted on two occasions, the first obviously reduced due to a later blending than its stablemates. Returning a second time in April, I still felt it needed a little more time and therefore I will seek to review this later in the year.		
JM 90-93	This has a pleasantly juicy and fleshy edge to the mix of cassis and cherry preserve flavors, while suave apple wood and warm stone notes glide in on the finish.		
JS 93-94	Blackberry and blueberry character with black licorice and aniseed. Full body, tight and chewy tannins and a long, flavorful finish. Tight at the end but shows plenty of potential. Second wine of Mouton.		
Lafite Rothschild		\$739	
Neal Martin 95-97	The 2017 Lafite-Rothschild had been blended in mid-March, a couple of weeks prior to my visit, therefore it was important to let this settle and aerate. Moreover, I returned on my final day in Bordeaux mid-April for a second reading. It feels very aloof at first, even a little green, although that ebbs away with time in the glass to reveal pure blackberry and bilberry fruit, touches of brine, cedar and graphite. Patience discloses a really quite sublime array of aromas. The palate is where all the action is: filigree tannin, very well judged acidity, harmonious and poised with a silky smooth finish that glides across the mouth. It does not possess enormous length but it is very precise and, for want of a better, less clichéd word, classic from start to finish. Tasted twice with consistent notes.		
JM			
JS 97-98	This is very tight and tannic with lots of blackcurrant and sweet-tobacco character. Firm and powerful tannin texture sets this up for a long and chewy finish, yet it remains very compact and polished. It’s a wine that possesses all the hallmarks of Lafite — everything from flavors to structure.		

Carruades Lafite			
Neal Martin 89-91	The 2017 Carruades de Lafite has a fine, quite pure bouquet, perhaps showing a little more fruit concentration than the Duhart-Milon at this stage. The palate is medium-bodied with sappy black fruit, oyster shell and a touch of black pepper. There is not an enormous depth to this wine, after all it is a <i>deuxième vin</i> , but I appreciate the precision and the brightness towards the finish. Tasted twice with consistent notes.		
JM			
JS 92-93	A bright Carruades with cedar and tobacco character. Medium to full body and medium chewy tannins. Very pretty center palate.		
Grand Puy Lacoste		\$97	
Neal Martin 91-93	The 2017 Grand Puy Lacoste was picked from 15 to 29 September cropped at 45hl/ha, matured in 75% new oak. It has a clean, precise and conservative bouquet that takes time to open. I like the mineral tension here, the focus, and hints of freshly shucked oyster shell emerging with time. The palate is medium-bodied with fine grain tannin, fresh in the mouth with plenty of cedar and tobacco-infused red and black fruit that drive a long, slightly peppery finish. It is a quintessential Grand Puy Lacoste, <i>sans</i> the frills of the 2016 and yet you can already imagine this being drunk to the very last drop in about ten years' time. It is simply a very likeable Grand Puy Lacoste in the making. Tasted twice with consistent notes.		
JM 91-94	This is crunchy and lively, offering a bright herbaceous note mixed in with red and black currant fruit. There's good iron-driven cut on the finish. A bit backward, but the pieces are there for a textbook, mineral-driven Pauillac.		
JS 92-93	Very pretty and focused with a tight and refined palate of juicy tannins and a savory finish. Elegant.		
Lynch Bages		\$132	
Neal Martin 91-93	The 2017 Lynch Bages was picked from 18 September with the young Merlot vines and finishing on 30 September. It was cropped at around 50hl/ha. It is aged in 75% new oak for 18 months. It offers good intensity on the nose, not as precise or as mineral-driven as the 2016 last year, with cedar and pencil shaving infusing the black fruit. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin, very refined, a touch of white pepper and cedar with impressive depth on the finish. This will be an approachable Lynch Bages, probably pre-destined to be overshadowed by the magnificent (if nascent) 2016 but it will certainly give 20 to 25 years of drinking pleasure. Tasted four times with consistent notes.		
JM 92-95	There's really good flesh here for the vintage, with cassis, plum and blackberry compote flavors that are a step ahead of the pack in concentration. Light charcoal and iron notes score the finish, which is racy and fresh. Textbook Pauillac.		
JS 95-96	This is an excellent Lynch that starts off slowly and then drives at the end with dark fruit and hints of hazelnuts. Strong and focused tannins. A beautiful young wine.		

Pichon Lalande		\$166
Neal Martin 93-95	The 2017 Pichon-Lalande was picked from 7 September to 2 October and underwent a 23 day <i>cuvaison</i> period. It is intense on the nose, the new oak coming through a little strongly since the sample came from a new barrel, the final blend consisting of 60% new wood. The palate is medium-bodied with firm tannin, the Cabernet Sauvignon driving this alone with layers of black fruit laced with cedar and graphite. It is a very "Pauillac" Pichon-Lalande, less opulent and giving than recent vintages and more in the style of say, the 1996 or 2010. There is very good persistence on the saline finish but it is clearly a wine that is going to require more cellaring than its peers. Tasted four times in total, each time this gained more substance and density.	
JM 92-95	Solid, with a rounded, enticing core of plum and black currant preserve flavors supported by savory and tobacco notes. Has sleek tannins and fresh acidity for ample length and a nice graphite edge at the end.	
JS 95-96	This is a really fascinating young Pichon-Lalande with a dense center palate of currants, crushed stones, salt and seashells. Really long and intense. Wonderful energy. Showing character of some of the top years of the 1980s.	
Pichon Baron		\$175
Neal Martin 93-95	The 2017 Pichon Baron was picked from 18 to 21 September for the Merlot and 27 September to 3 October for the Cabernet Sauvignon. It has a very sophisticated, pure and quite intense bouquet with black fruit, cedar and potent graphite aromas. This feels very focused and the 80% new oak is seamlessly integrated. The palate is medium-bodied with a smooth entry, very sleek and silky with a gentle grip. There is a lovely sweetness here, perhaps less austere than I was anticipating with a very long, quite spicy finish. Tasted four times with consistent notes.	
JM 92-95	This is nice, with dark plum and blackberry compote flavors that have a fleshy edge, while light bay, tobacco and savory notes add range, combining with the vintage's fresh acidity and bright mineral edge	
JS 91-92	Tight and focused with linearity to the way the blackcurrant and dark-chocolate character. Medium-bodied, fresh and clean. Shows brightness.	
Clerc Milon		\$97
Neal Martin 89-91	The 2017 Clerc Milon was picked from 13 to 29 September and matured in 50% new oak (which was represented in the blend tasted.) It has a more closed, backward bouquet compared to the sample of d'Armailhac. It actually reminds me of that other "Milon", Duhart-Milon in style. The palate is medium-bodied with grainy tannin, a fine bead of acidity, quite austere and conservative with a precise, pencil-lead, Valrhona chocolate and smoke infused finish that just pulls up a little short at the moment. Tasted three times with consistent notes.	
JM 90-93	Crunchy plum and black currant notes are fresh and focused, while chalk, iron and savory details line the finish. Shows nice purity and mineral drive.	
JS 92-93	Tight and compacted with chewy tannins and showing hot-stone, blackberry and blueberry character. Full body and a driven finish.	

Haut-Batailley		\$76	
Neal Martin 90-92	The 2017 Haut Batailley, which is matured in 60% new oak for 18 months, is clearly more sophisticated than the second wine, polished by the oak of course but underneath its intense blackberry and boysenberry fruit, quite floral with touches of violet and iris. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin, a fine bead of acidity, well-integrated oak and very smooth polished finish that glides across the mouth. There is fine precision on the finish. Tasted twice with consistent notes.		
JM 89-92	This has good currant and damson fruit lined with tobacco and iron notes. Offers slightly dusty tannins but remains fresh and focused overall.		
JS 94-95	This is very structured and serious. Full-bodied, tannic and powerful. Boom. This is one of the best Haut-Batailleys in years. From the new owners, who also own Lynch-Bages.		
D'Armailhac		\$58	
Neal Martin 90-92	The 2017 d'Armailhac has an opulent bouquet despite this comprising one of the highest percentages of Cabernet Sauvignon ever, which Philippe Dhalluin attributes to the maturity of the berries. There is some lovely cassis and blueberry fruit here with a smear of vanilla. The palate is structured with fine tannin, here the Cabernets are much more expressive with a fine bead of acidity, an attractive pencil lead tincture coming through towards the finish. This is a more floral d'Armailhac that will drink well for the next decades. [Readers should note that my sample included 60% new oak although the final blend will be 40%.] Tasted three times with consistent notes.		
JM 90-93	Juicy and forward, with anise-tinged plum and cherry fruit backed by a light brambly structure. A lingering chalk echo adds length. This delivers nice latent depth.		
JS 93-94	Opulent and powerful for d'Armailhac with blackcurrants, blackberries and black olives. Full-bodied, tannic and extremely muscular. Very well done indeed.		
Duhart Milon		\$84	
Neal Martin 89-91	The 2017 Duhart-Milon has a crisp, pencil lead scented bouquet, introverted at first, a little conservative with smoke and freshly rolled tobacco. It is classic Duhart-Milon really. The palate is medium-bodied with a sharp, pointed entry. This is already quite austere and saline in the mouth, just a little toughness towards the finish that should soften by the end of the élevage. There is something almost standoffish about this Pauillac, a noticeable bell pepper tang developing towards the finish that lingers after the wine has departed. Tasted twice with consistent notes.		
JM			
JS 90-91	Very pretty chocolate and dark-berry character with a medium to full body, soft and silky tannins and a fresh finish. Balanced and refined.		
Pibran		\$42	
Neal Martin 90-92	The 2017 Pibran is aged in 50% new oak for 18 months. It has a crisp, pure blackberry and graphite-scented bouquet that is very precise, one of the most detailed that I have come across with respect to this property. The palate is medium-bodied with crisp, chalky tannin. It is not a powerful or deep Pibran, but it is very tensile with an almost flinty finish. Given the reasonable price asked for this Pauillac, this could be one of the buys of 2017. Tasted twice with consistent notes.		
JM 89-92	Solid, featuring plum cake and fig notes at the core, with a finish streaked with warm tobacco and charcoal notes. Relatively soft and plush in feel.		
JS 91-92	A fresh red with lots of white pepper and salt. Blackcurrants and blueberries. Full-bodied, tight and focused. Ripe tannins. Nice sweetness at the end. Bright finish		

Grand Puy Ducasse		\$47
Neal Martin 88-90	The 2017 Grand Puy Ducasse, which was picked 13 September to 3 October, has a light violet-scented bouquet that you might mistake for a Margaux. There is moderate intensity here, though it does not manifest the complexity of the top tier Pauillac. The palate is medium-bodied with light tannin, although it feels a little hard towards the finish where I would like more fruit to develop and fill in the gaps. Tasted three times with consistent notes.	
JM 88-91	Crisp-edged, with plum and red currant notes lined with sleek iron and savory nuances. Bright, showing good focus and definition through the finish.	
JS 91-92	This young red shows a serious concentration of fruit for the vintage with firm and silky tannins and a fresh finish.	
Pontet Canet		\$150
Neal Martin 92-94	The 2017 Pontet Canet has a very ripe and pure, slightly high-toned bouquet with touches of iodine inflecting the black cherry and cassis fruit. There is a subtle floral aspect to this Pontet- Canet, more iris than violet. With aeration there are hints of graphite and crushed stone, some of its initial opulence ebbing away. The palate is medium-bodied with fine balance on the entry, slightly chalky tannin, a fine sense of energy and poise. On the two readings of this wine, this was perhaps the most difference. The mid-April tasting had a very similar nose however, the palate demonstrated far more backbone, linearity and <i>mineralité</i> , not to mention a sapidity that was not present in the showing at the end of March. Ah yes, that's the Pontet I love. I expect this to land at the upper end of my banded score once in bottle. Tasted twice at the property.	
JM 90-93	Starts off high-pitched but fills out steadily, featuring red currant and crushed plum fruit carried by fresh acidity and a bright iron note. Reveals a lingering savory streak on the finish. Built on purity rather than density, with the minerality lingering.	
JS 96-97	This is incredibly transparent and refined with blackcurrant, blueberry and mineral character. Full-bodied, layered and ethereal. Tannins have a crushed-stone character. Long and persistent.	
Aile D'argent Blanc		\$99
Neal Martin 90-92	The 2017 Aile d'Argent Blanc, which was the only cru to suffer some frost damage, underwent around 14% malolactic fermentation (normally it is around 30%). It has a fresh, lemon thyme and white peach scented bouquet. The palate is well balanced with fine tension, quite saline with moderate depth, a tang of grapefruit and a touch of stem ginger towards the finish. [Readers should note one-third of this wine will be bottled under composite cork for the first time.] Tasted twice with consistent notes.	
JM		
JS 95-96	The impressive ripeness and intensity combined with elegance and finesse are what make this wonderful white. Honeysuckle, apricots, glazed grapefruit, spices and nutmeg. Medium to full body and fleshy fruit that's lifted by the delicious acidity to the long finish.	

ST JULIEN		Price	Quantity Required
Leoville Las Cases		\$264	
Neal Martin 93-95	The 2017 Léoville Las-Cases was picked between 15 September and 4 October, cropped at 37hl/ha and as usual, comes from the oldest vines that average around 50-years old. This year there is 13.28° alcohol. It is matured in 90% new oak and contains 7.5% <i>vin de presse</i> . It has a very clean and precise bouquet with blackberry, just a touch of blueberry, violet and a hint of bay leapetitf. This gains intensity with aeration but it is not as detailed as last year's 2016. The palate is medium-bodied with more supple tannins than usual (that word is apt – there is nothing “soft” about this Saint-Julien). It has great depth with layers of black fruit laced with graphite and a pinch of white pepper, whilst it delivers fine salinity on the sappy finish. Excellent.		
JM 93-96	This has the vintage's fresh acidity, which does a wonderful job of driving the core of blueberry, black currant and blackberry fruit along. Light anise and graphite accents lend typicity, with a sleek mineral edge on the finish. Rock solid.		
JS 96-97	This is very muscular with formed and bright tannins that give the wine super drive and length. The tannins build on the finish with a lovely integration of black fruits. Serious for the vintage.		
Leoville Barton		\$98	
Neal Martin 93-95	The 2017 Léoville Barton has a high percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon this year at 93%, the remainder is Merlot. It was picked between 15 and 18 September for the Merlot and 22 to 29 September for the Cabernet Sauvignon, then aged in 60% new oak. It has a perfumed and pure bouquet that demonstrates a little more cohesion and refinement than some of its Saint-Julien peers. Blackberry and touches of bilberry fruit, cedar and crushed stone – this is a knockout nose with bags of potential. The palate is medium-bodied with filigree tannin, perfectly pitched acidity and beautifully integrated oak. Seriously, this is nudging (not equaling, nudging!) the 2016 in terms of quality and there are just a handful of properties where I can state that this year.		
JM 93-96	This manages to pack in some serious plum, blackberry and black currant compote flavors, along with layers of melted black licorice and tar on the finish. This has a density that sets it apart from the pack in the vintage, with a lovely roasted apple wood note on the finish.		
JS 94-95	This is a really excellent Leoville-Barton with wonderful cabernet sauvignon character of blackberries, blackcurrants and flowers. Full body, firm and lightly chewy tannins and a long and beautiful finish. This has tension and brightness.		
Leoville Poyferre		\$99	
Neal Martin 91-93	The 2017 Léoville Poyferré was cropped at around 50hl/ha between 20 September and 6 October at 44hl/ha. It has a gorgeous bouquet that is very pure with scents of black cherry, cassis, cedar and a touch of graphite, all very focused and neatly entwined with the 85% new oak. The palate is medium-bodied with fine-grain tannin, crisp and focused, very harmonious with a touch of cedar and black pepper towards the finish. I appreciate the combination of weight and finesse here, a really quite enthralling valedictory Léoville Poyferré who is due to retire this coming July. <i>Bon vin</i> .		
JM 92-95	Warm, displaying a slightly rounded feel for the vintage, this sports plum, cassis and blackberry compote flavors. A mouthwatering anise edge shows on the polished finish, with a well-buried graphite spine.		
JS 95-96	Very tight and energetic finish to this young, new red with currant and blackberry character. Hints of crushed stones. Dense and four-square with a chewy tannin structure and a long finish. Very muscular. Serious encore to the 2016. Same level?		

Ducru Beaucaillou		\$220
Neal Martin 93-96	The 2017 Ducru Beaucaillou was picked from 18 to 23 September for the Merlot, and from 25 to 30 September for the Cabernets. It is matured in 100% new oak over 18 months. It offers copious black fruit, violets, bay leaf and Asian spice notes on the nose that gathers momentum in the glass after a deceptively understated opening. The palate is medium-bodied with quite firm tannin, the oak nicely integrated, not quite as harmonious as the 2016 but then again, few 2017s are. There is a rigid structure to this Ducru Beaucaillou underneath the carapace of ripe black fruit with touches of tobacco and spice lingering on the aftertaste. It is probably going to require more cellar age than many of its peers but it will be worth the wait.	
JM 93-96	This has a warm and inviting feel, with mocha, Christmas pudding and blackberry and plum compote aromas and flavors flowing through atop fleshy, velvety structure. There's a graphite edge along with some alluring spice accents, and this stays polished and lengthy in the end.	
JS 97-98	Holy.... This is so powerful and dense with amazing depth of fruit and beautifully ripe tannins. Full body, layers of fruit and tannins. It's has a long finish but then kicks off at the end. Remains classic in style.	
Beychevelle		\$98
Neal Martin 90-92	The 2017 Beychevelle was cropped at 54hl/ha between 18 September and 3 October, matured in around 60% new oak with 13.4° alcohol. It has a very ripe blueberry, almost iodine-scented bouquet that is much more extroverted than its peers (like the 2016 last year.) The palate is medium-bodied with sweet black cherry and boysenberry fruit, and plenty of crushed violet. The palate is ripe and succulent; a sweet core of blue and black fruit here although perhaps its neighbor across the road, Branaire Ducru, displays a little more terroir at this early stage. Maybe that is because of the <i>saignée</i> ? I would just like to see a little more restraint come through in bottle while I noticed greater precision developing during the 30 minutes the sample spent in my glass.	
JM 90-93	This has a soft core of pure plum and cherry preserve flavors. Light cedar, vanilla and tobacco notes fill in on the finish. Very rounded, displaying a jammy feel rather than the vintage's overt freshness. A bit of an anomaly.	
JS 93-94	Very fine tannins already with a solid core of blackberry and blueberry character. Hints of flowers. Full-bodied, well-integrated and tight, not to mention fresh and long.	
Langoa Barton		\$60
Neal Martin 90-92	The 2017 Langoa Barton was picked from 15 to 18 September with respect to the Merlot and from 22 to 29 September for the Cabernets, matured in 60% new oak. It has a ripe, brine-tinged bouquet, not complex compared to previous vintages, but pure and developing light smoke and truffle scents with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied with quite sharp tannin to create a tensile Langoa-Barton, saline with moderate depth, just a touch of pencil lead that surfaces towards the finish. It is exactly what I expected, which is a good thing given the track record of this Saint-Julien.	
JM 90-93	A solid core of cassis and plum fruit fills out nicely here, with graphite and tobacco notes coursing underneath. Shows good cut and drive.	
JS 93-94	This is very solid and tannic with a beautiful core of blueberries, blackcurrants and other blue fruits. Crushed stones, to boot. Full body and a flavorful finish. Serious for the vintage.	

Clos Du Marquis		\$64	
Neal Martin 90-92	The 2017 Clos du Marquis was cropped at 37hl/ha between 15 September and 4 October during an overall 15 days of actual picking. It is matured in 55% new oak and includes 6.2% <i>vin de presse</i> from 25 different lots. It has a more backward, tightly wound bouquet than I was expecting but it opens up with time. And wow, give it 10 minutes and that estuarine saline scent feels quite pungent. There is impressive density imbued into this Clos du Marquis, if not the detail, the precision of last year's wine. There is plenty of "rondeur" towards the finish with a pleasant saltiness flanked by a hint of salted liquorice on the finish.		
JM 91-94	Blueberry, blackberry and plum fruit is lined with graphite, anise and sweet tobacco notes. There's juicy energy and a nice bramble hint at the very end. Has purity and typicity.		
JS 93-94	Firm and silky wine with very pretty dark-berry and cherry character with currant undertones. Pure quality of fruit is serious. Very salty on the finish. Bright acidity, too.		
Gruaud Larose		\$91	
Neal Martin 90-92	The 2017 Gruaud Larose was picked from 15 to 20 September for the Merlot and from 21 to 3 October for the Cabernets, fermented in wood and cement tanks and aged in French oak, 80% new for 18 to 24 months. It comes in with 12.88° alcohol. Quite deep in colour, it has an introverted bouquet at first that demands a lot of coaxing from the glass. There are notes of black cherry, iodine and just a touch of pencil lead. The palate is medium-bodied with finely balanced. An unpretentious but pretty Gruaud Larose that is benefitted by what is clearly a prudent extraction. The oak is neatly integrated with a linear, almost pastille-like finish and quite a sustained aftertaste.		
JM 91-94	Well-built, with plum and blackberry fruit that is very fresh, thanks to bright acidity. Light floral, anise and graphite notes add range. A savory streak keeps the finish going.		
JS 92-93	A firm and silky young red with an attractive center palate of fruit and hints of cedar. Fresh, tight and compacted.		
Talbot		\$68	
Neal Martin 90-92	The 2017 Talbot was picked from 18 to 4 October using manual and optical sorting, matured in 50% new oak. It has a relatively light but well-defined, floral bouquet, pressed flower filtering through that blackberry and boysenberry scents, a little clove and bay leaf lending complexity as it opens in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with fine but firm tannin that frame the slightly savory black fruit, just a little earthiness developing towards the finish. It is a classic Talbot really, exactly what you would expect for the vintage.		
JM 90-93	Solid, with currant and plum fruit at the core flanked by focused, chalky tannins. Savory and tobacco notes score the finish. A touch austere but shows impressive drive.		
JS 92-93	This is solid and structured with blackberry and currant character. Full-bodied, muscular and dialed-in.		
St Pierre		\$70	
Neal Martin 92-95	One of the real gems of the vintage, the 2017 Saint-Pierre is powerful, deep and quite concentrated. Despite its obvious richness, the 2017 has more than enough supporting structure to back it up. Gravel, smoke, tobacco, leather, licorice and spice lead into the potent finish in a muscular, tannic Saint-Julien built for the cellar. This is an outrageously beautiful wine. Tasted three times.		
JM 91-94	Focused, showing red and black currant preserve flavors driving along, with a racy graphite streak. Fresh acidity keeps it all moving through the anise-tinged finish. Should be delightful when released.		
JS 92-93	This is more layered and impressive than Gloria this year. Full and focused with structure and length.		

Branaire Ducru		\$63	
Neal Martin 91-93	The 2017 Branaire Ducru was picked 13 September until 4 October over a three-week period, cropped at 39.6hl/ha. The alcohol here is 13.2°. The wine is aged in 60% new oak, which is how the sample was made. It has a harmonious bouquet with brambly black fruit, melted tar and tobacco scents, not powerful but precise. The palate is medium-bodied with a smooth texture, fine tannin, just a subtle savory note developing and merging nicely with the black fruit, hints of white pepper and cedar towards the poised finish that is quintessential Saint-Julien. There is an essence of drinkability about this Branaire-Ducru and I can imagine this being approachable after three to four years. This is a very fine Branaire-Ducru.		
JM 90-93	The plum and cherry paste flavors show good energy, with floral lift and sleek graphite accents adding to the sense of range and definition. Well done.		
JS 92-93	This is very tight and focused with a precise depth of blackberry and blueberry fruit. Full body, melted tannins and a fresh and vivid finish. Shows a compacted style.		
Gloria		\$47	
Neal Martin 89-92	The 2017 Gloria, tasted from a new barrel though the final blend will include 50% new oak and the remainder one-year old, has a straightforward but pure bouquet with blackberry, briary and cedar aromas accompanied by a distant whiff off the estuary. The palate is medium-bodied with ripe tannin, crisp acidity, a little "brittle" in the mouth, but quite precise towards the finish. It actually ends much better than it begins so I will expand my banded score to indicate potential upgrade in quality. Let's see.		
JM 91-94	Plum, blackberry and black currant fruit has melded nicely with graphite and anise notes in this red, which shows good energy, with a mouthwatering tar note on the finish. Really solid.		
JS 90-91	A tight and focused red with currants, dark berries and hints of mushrooms. Medium body, firm and silky tannins and a juicy finish.		
Lagrange		\$56	
Neal Martin 87-89	The 2017 Lagrange was picked from 20 September until 4 October at 28hl/ha, the smallest since 1991, the Grand Vin matured in 50% new oak. The PH is around 3.6 and the alcohol around 13.3°. I found the bouquet missing the same cohesion as the 2014, 2015 and 2016 at this stage, a little light and missing the complexity that this property can produce. The palate is medium-bodied with firm tannin, a little masculine in style compared to the 2016 with a noticeable saline influence. What is missing is the flair and weight of the best vintages of Lagrange can offer, a Saint-Julien somehow "distracted" by the frost that reconfigured the final blend and feels less assured.		
JM 89-92	Juicy and open-knit, with blueberry and black currant fruit energized by brambly structure and fresh acidity. A touch shy on density, but has purity and typicity.		
JS 89-90	A juicy and fruity red with dark-berry and chocolate character. Some lemon undertones. Medium body and a tannic finish.		

MARGAUX		Price	Quantity Required
Chateau Margaux		\$640	
Neal Martin 93-95	The 2017 Margaux, matured in 100% new oak, was blended in the second half of February. It has a very pure, floral bouquet with scents of iris and violet infusing the black and subtle blue fruit. There are touches of crushed stone and with aeration, a little candied orange peel. The palate is medium-bodied with succulent ripe tannin, very harmonious in the mouth, caressing and sensual with black fruit, hints of graphite and a light marine influence. There is a fine build to this Château Margaux, commencing almost understated but finishing with an insistent grip and a long, quite spicy aftertaste. It's not the bewitching 2015 however, it purrs like a Rolls Royce and will age with panache.		
JM			
JS 97-98	This is very powerful with a super aftertaste of chalk, limestone, and crush sea shells. Full body, layered with phenolic texture that resembles a sleek red. Yet it's fresh vivid all the time like the excellent white it is. The white pepper character combined with dried citrus is fabulous. This is a very dense Margaux, and especially for the vintage, with a full body, grainy tannins and a long and rich finish. Impressive depth of fruit and structure. Luscious and muscular at the same time.		
Pavillon Rouge Du Chateau Margaux		\$240	
Neal Martin 88-90	The 2017 Pavillon Rouge de Margaux, which is matured in 50% new oak, has a lovely, melted tar-tinged bouquet with plenty of black fruit. I like the definition and focus here. The palate is medium-bodied with slightly gritty, rigid tannin on the entry that lend this Pavillon Rouge quite a firm backbone. It does not convey the elegance of the 2016 but there is plenty of spice and vigour on the finish.		
JM			
JS 94-95	There is very pretty purity of fruit to this with lots of currant, strawberry and plum character. Lots of chocolate and hazelnut too. Full body, velvety tannins and a chewy finish. Excellent for the vintage. About half the normal production. This is the same level of quality as 2016.		
Pavillon Blanc Du Chateau Margaux		\$266	
Neal Martin 91-93	The 2017 Pavillon Blanc de Margaux was picked 28 to 31 August and cropped at 22hl/ha despite the frost, which is about average for the last four years according to winemaker Paul Boscule. The bouquet is clean and pure with orange blossom and red apple, dried pineapple aromas that are very seductive. The palate is well balanced with a tang of orange rind and quince on the entry, just the right amount of bitterness to keep this Pavillon Blanc on edge, nicely focused with a hint of lemongrass towards the finish. Excellent.		
JM			
JS 97-98	This is very powerful with a super aftertaste of chalk, limestone, and crush sea shells. Full body, layered with phenolic texture that resembles a sleek red. Yet it's fresh vivid all the time like the excellent white it is. The white pepper character combined with dried citrus is fabulous.		

Palmer		\$362
Neal Martin 93-95	The 2017 Palmer was cropped at 38hl/ha between 20 and 29 September and then matured in 65% new oak (though this sample was taken from a used barrel as usual). For me there is quite a large difference between the Palmer and Alter Ego, the bouquet here is much more sophisticated and demonstrating more delineation: black fruit, iris, brown spices, a touch of clove and a subtle brine influence in the background. The palate is medium-bodied with very fine tannin, crisp acidity, smooth and harmonious with a palpable sense of tension. I love the purity here, almost to an extent that I felt like asking Thomas Duroux to eschew the new oak! This has great potential and I love the <i>typicité</i> that I hope will not be obstructed.	
JM 92-95	This is solidly ripe, with juicy energy adding extra lift to the mix of plum, cherry and blackberry fruit. A super-fresh iron streak checks in, along with mouthwatering bay and savory notes. This stands out from the pack.	
JS	This is a sexy and well-formed 2017 with very velvety and suave tannins that go on for minutes. Full-bodied, soft and round. Extremely long and last for minutes.	
Malescot St Exupery		\$65
Neal Martin 91-93	The 2017 Malescot St. Exupéry has a simpler bouquet than recent vintages with high-toned red cherry and raspberry fruit, quite “warm” compared to its peers and it would benefit from a little more delineation. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin. It is not a complex Malescot St. Exupéry but I admire the balance and focus. There is plenty of tightly wound red berry fruit laced with cedar and smoke, quite finessed towards the finish with a long spicy aftertaste. I would just like the aromatics to step up to the grade of the palate, so let’s see how this shows once in bottle.	
JM 90-93	A breezy and fresh style, with pretty damson plum and cherry fruit lined with high-pitched floral and savory notes. Elegant mineral details run through the silky finish. Pure and graceful, showing sneaky length.	
JS 95-96	A fantastic 2017 from Margaux with a deep and ripe core of fruit in the center palate. Silky and juicy tannins. Full body, plenty of fruit and a long, flavorful finish.	
Cantenac Brown		\$64
Neal Martin 89-91	The 2017 Cantenac Brown feels a little disjointed on the nose, not quite as ripe as its peers with moderate fruit intensity. There is just a little greenness that nags away in the background. The palate is medium-bodied with firm, quite grippy tannins. This is a structured and more masculine style of Cantenac Brown, although it manages to deliver plenty of finesse towards the finish and there is commendable length. I would just like a little more charm by the time of bottling. Tasted on three occasions.	
JM 89-92	A bright savory streak leads off here, offering fresh cassis and bitter plum fruit flavors. A tangy mineral note runs through the finish. A pure and elegant wine that should fill out a bit more with the <i>élevage</i> .	
JS 92-93	This is a very pretty cabernet sauvignon with currants, raspberries and blueberries. Bright and vivid. Medium to full body, firm and silky tannins and a fresh and clean finish.	

Giscours		\$77	
Neal Martin 90-92	The 2017 Giscours, picked 15 September to 5 October, is matured in 50% new oak with around 5 or 6% of <i>vin de presse</i> . It has a perfumed bouquet with black fruit, a touch of oyster shell and iris, very pure and quite sensual in style. It does not make an immediate impact but rather grows on you. The palate is medium-bodied, the mouthfeel supple, smooth and harmonious with fine-grain tannin, perhaps just missing a little structure towards the conservative, straight-laced finish. That suggests it will be an approachable Giscours compared to the 2015 and 2016, but one with breeding and class. Tasted on three occasions.		
JM 89-92	A mix of savory and mint notes lead off here, followed quickly by juicy dark plum and black cherry fruit. Light anise and iron hints show on the finish. Fairly breezy and open in feel throughout.		
JS 92-93	A firm and silky red with dark-berry, cherry and mineral aromas and flavors. Medium to full body, fine tannins and a driven finish. Very dialed-in.		
Marojallia			
Neal Martin 87-89	The 2017 Marojallia has a straightforward blackberry and briary scented bouquet that is just missing a sense of delineation and vigor. The palate is medium-bodied with powdery tannin, a little heavy on the new oak (100%) so that the wood tannin dominates the finish. The oak just needs to be pulled back so that it can express its terroir.		
JM 88-91	This has a succulent feel, with a mix of plum and boysenberry compote notes laced with dried anise and black tea hints. Offers a savory flash through the finish, while slightly perky acidity gives this a gangly feel.		
JS 90-91	A red with an attractive center palate of ripe fruit, firm tannins and freshness. Medium body and a clean finish.		
Alter Ego De Palmer			
Neal Martin 89-91	The 2017 Alter Ego is matured in 25% new oak. It has quite a rich, dark chocolate-tinged bouquet that is driven by the Merlot, almost Right Bank in style. It just lacks the same detail and clarity as the Grand Vin. The palate is medium-bodied with light tannin, nicely balanced, certainly one of the more approachable Alter Ego in recent years with a touch of spice and clove towards the finish.		
JM 89-92	Lively, featuring lots of lavender and savory hints mixed with black cherry and plum flavors. Shows a light bramble note. Open-knit, with juicy energy on the finish.		
JS 92-93	This shows excellent body and depth of fruit. Rich and very deep. Layered and flavorful. Solid and chewy. Serious second wine.		
Prieure-Lichine		\$50	
Neal Martin 88-90	The 2017 Prieuré-Lichine has a light, slightly earthy bouquet that is endowed with less fruit than some of its peers. There is just a touch of greenness here, though not to a degree that bothers me. The palate is medium-bodied with fine definition, a crisp line of acidity and a pretty, quite harmonious finish. It actually finishes with more panache than I expected though it does require more length.		
JM 89-92	Bright and fresh, with a mix of raspberry, pomegranate and plum notes guided by light floral and spice notes. Shows a brambly edge on the finish. On the lighter side but offers good energy.		
JS 93-94	This is really fresh and layered with currant, berry and floral aromas and flavors. Medium-to full-bodied, integrated and polished. Beautiful. Very focused. More cabernet in the blend than normal. Possibly at the same level as 2016.		

Rauzan Segla		\$98	
Neal Martin 92-94	The 2017 Rauzan-Ségla is matured in 50% new oak with 14% <i>vin de presse</i> , which was apparently from the high quality Cabernet this year. It has a fascinating bouquet with pure blackberry, iris, crushed stone and a light estuarine influence that becomes stronger with aeration, just a faint touch of oyster shell developing in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with very fine tannin, crisp acidity, very elegant and refined, possibly the most feminine Rauzan-Ségla in recent years with a silky smooth finish. It is not the instant showstopper like the 2015 – this is more understated and needs time for its quality to be fully appreciated. Tasted on three occasions.		
JM 91-94	Fresh, showing damson plum and bitter cherry fruit laced with a savory streak and boasting a bright iron note, this has a mouthwatering edge thanks to the acidity, which creates a very refined structure for this elegant red.		
JS 91-92	This is very bright and fruity with purity and freshness. Medium to full body. Love the youthful beauty of this second wine from Rauzan-Ségla.		
Du Tertre		\$52	
Neal Martin 89-91	The 2017 du Tertre was picked from 14 September to 2 October, matured in around 45% new oak. The blend has been 85% completed. It has a very pleasant bouquet, pure blackberry, briary and more iris than violet aromas. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin, a fine line of acidity, very harmonious and for want of a better expression, appears to be a Margaux that wears its heart on its sleeve. This will be worth seeking out once in bottle. Tasted on three occasions.		
JM 88-91	Bright and breezy in feel, with damson plum and bitter cherry fruit laced with light savory and thyme notes. Gently persistent acidity shows on the finish.		
JS 91-92	This is nicely done with currants, bright lemon and mineral character. Medium to full body, fine and silky tannins and a focused and vivid finish. Linear.		
Brane-Cantenac		\$86	
Neal Martin 91-93	The 2017 Brane-Cantenac was picked from 14 September to 2 October at 31.2hl/ha after frost destroyed 35% of the vines in April. It is matured in 75% new oak and 25% one-year old and it has 13% alcohol. It has a tightly wound bouquet with broody black fruit, tar and a touch of graphite, very Pauillac in style as usual. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, very linear and precise, not a deep Margaux and unashamedly classic in style with dry, slightly brusque tannin. The finish is dominated by tobacco and pencil lead notes with healthy pinch of pepper on the aftertaste. Classic Brane-Cantenac through and through. Tasted on three occasions.		
JM 88-91	A light singed alder hint leads the way here, along with light bay leaf and savory notes, while the core of gently steeped black cherry and plum fruit fills in slowly. Shows modest intensity through the finish but the flavors knit nicely.		
JS 92-93	Dark currant, berry and fresh herb character. Full-bodied, juicy and flavorful. Very structured. Solid finish and length. Better than 2014?		

Lascombes		\$90	
Neal Martin 89-91	The 2017 Lascombes feels a little smudged on the nose compared to its peers, though I find it less decadent and ostentatious than other recent vintages. The palate is medium-bodied with firm tannin, dense black fruit, quite spicy in style but the finish feels focused and with more tension and energy than I expected. Not bad at all.		
JM 88-91	A soft and alluring style, with warm boysenberry and blackberry puree flavors allied to a velvety structure. Light spice shadings emerge on the open-knit finish.		
JS 89-90	A linear and tight palate of dark fruits and hints of crushed stones. Medium-bodied, firm and a bright		
D'issan		\$77	
Neal Martin 86-88	The 2017 Blason d'Issan has a straightforward, slightly Pauillac-inspired bouquet, a little austere in style at the moment. The palate is medium-bodied with grainy tannin, masculine in style (especially for a <i>Deuxième Vin</i>). Quite fresh and firm towards the finish, this is a Blason that will benefit from a couple of years in bottle.		
JM			
JS 91-92	This is round and velvety with a juicy and fruity character and an undertone of sweet strawberries. Round and full-bodied. Sweet tannins.		

MEDOC		Price	Quantity Required
Sociando Mallet		\$40	
Neal Martin 90-92	The 2017 Sociando Mallet has quite a high-toned bouquet with macerated black cherries, boysenberry jam and top end violet scents. This is a showier Sociando than of late. The palate is medium-bodied with soft tannin, moderate depth, a more refined wine than I was expecting with a smooth, supple blackberry and bilberry finish laced with white pepper. There is a word I never expected to use apropos Sociando Mallet...gentle.		
JM			
JS 91-92	This shows focus and brightness for a 2017 with firm and silky tannins and a vivid character. Fine and polished texture. Beautiful. Close to the 2015		
Chasse Spleen		\$39	
Neal Martin 86-88	The 2017 Chasse-Spleen is a wine that I encountered two or three times during my tastings. I have a lot of admiration for this property however, every time I found evidence of under-ripeness on the nose that fed through onto the palate, whilst the finish is rather astringent. After great wines in both 2015 and 2016, the 2017 seems compromised by the growing season.		
JM			
JS 89-90	A tightly wound and layered Chasse-Spleen showing plenty of red fruit sandwiched between firm yet round tannins and driven through by pretty acidity to a medium chewy finish.		

Potensac		\$31	
Neal Martin 87-89	The 2017 Potensac was picked 14 to 29 September, represents just 55% of the production this year and it was matured in 35% new oak. The bouquet gently unfolds with graphite-infused black fruit, a touch of iris developing with aeration. The oak here is nicely integrated. The palate is just a little green on the entry, though not under-ripe, armed with grippy tannin and a tarry, pencil lead-tinged finish that just needs to find more precision during the remainder of its <i>élevage</i> .		
JM 88-91	A bright, high-pitched style, featuring cherry and pomegranate fruit laced with floral and chalk hints. On the leaner side, with the mineral edge holding sway on the finish, but this remains fresh and pure.		
JS 91-92	A bright and vivid young red with currant, berry and floral aromas and flavors. Medium-bodied, tight and concentrated. Fine tannins.		
La Lagune		\$56	
Neal Martin 90-92	The 2017 La Lagune was picked from 12 September until 30 September at 31hl/ha, matured in 50% new oak. It has a very clean and pure bouquet, quite floral in style, with scents of raspberry confit, crushed stone, a touch of mint and pressed flowers. This is precise and focused, one of the most refined bouquet that I have encountered on a La Lagune at this early stage. The palate is medium-bodied with slightly chalky tannin on the entry that presage a tensile, mineral-driven La Lagune. There is almost a flint-like element to this wine, like the nose, the palate extremely precise with a sustained Pauillac-inspired finish with pencil lead on the aftertaste.		
JM 88-91	A bright, high-pitched style, featuring cherry and pomegranate fruit laced with floral and chalk hints. On the leaner side, with the mineral edge holding sway on the finish, but this remains fresh and pure.		
JS 89-90	Slightly reductive and herbal at the moment, but shows a good concentration of fruit and relatively ripe tannins.		
Poujeaux			
Neal Martin 89-91	The 2017 Poujeaux has a generous, slightly smudged bouquet with cranberry, raspberry and cedar aromas, just a little greenness in the background. The palate is medium-bodied with fine grain tannin, dark berry fruit, black pepper and a little graphite. It just misses a sense of energy that I have found on the finest vintages of this Moulis, although there is a pleasant sappiness that develops.		
JM 90-93	Very charming, offering notes of black currant and black cherry preserves gliding through, with light tobacco and loam hints checking in, showing a supple finish that has sneaky depth and length. Nicely done.		
JS 87-88	A tangy and medium fruity red with dark-berry, lemon and plum character. Medium body and a straightforward finish.		

HAUT MEDOC		Price	Quantity Required
Cantemerle		\$37	
Neal Martin 88-90	The 2017 Cantemerle has quite a sultry bouquet with blackberry, damp earth and tobacco scents that reluctantly unfurl in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with grainy tannin that frame quite voluminous black dusky fruit. There is a powdery texture to this Cantemerle, quite long on the finish even if it is missing the refinement of a top vintage.		
JM 87-90	Lively, featuring a slightly crisp hint to the red currant and pomegranate fruit, with savory and iron notes. Open-knit finish.		
JS 93-94	This shows a polished yet encompassing structure of solid tannins, which support flavors of mulberries and black cherries. Medium-bodied, velvety with rather chewy. Long finish.		

GRAVES & PESSAC LEOGNAN		Price	Quantity Required
La Mission Haut Brion		\$410	
Neal Martin 93-95	The 2017 La Mission Haut-Brion was picked from 4 to 29 September and matured in 68% new oak with 14.1° alcohol. It has a more broody bouquet than previous years: dark berry fruit, brown spices, warm gravel and later, a touch of orange rind. This can sometimes be sultry out of barrel and the 2017 falls into that category. The palate is medium-bodied with very fine tannin. This La Mission Haut-Brion is built around a wonderful structure and symmetry. It feels precise with a detailed, saline finish that lingers in the mouth. I can see Jean-Philippe Delmas's comparison with the 2001 though I find the tannins finer in the 2017. Superb.		
JM			
JS 92-93	Quite tannic but in a very attractive way with blueberries, currants and spices. Medium-bodied, tight and chewy. Show tension and texture.		
La Mission Haut Brion Blanc		\$838	
Neal Martin 93-95	The 2017 La Mission Haut-Brion Blanc was picked 22 to 31 August and matured in 38% new oak. It is very precise on the nose with lovely scents of orange blossom, Cornice pear, nettle and yellow flowers. The palate is well balanced with a slight waxiness on the entry. There is an underlying resinous quality to this La Mission Blanc with citrus lemon, Granny Smith apples, stem ginger and tangible <i>mineralité</i> towards the finish. This is a classy, sophisticated La Mission Haut-Brion Blanc, one that is surpassed by the nascent Haut-Brion Blanc at the moment, but may have a trick up its sleeve with age thanks to the high proportion of Sémillon.		
JM			
JS 96-97	This is really layered yet tight and focused with searing minerality that gives it tension and energy. Full-bodied, bright and precise. Impressive. 76% cabernet and 24% sauvignon blanc.		

La Chapelle de la Mission Haut Brion			
Neal Martin 87-89	The 2017 La Chapelle de La Mission Haut-Brion was picked from 4 to 29 September and matured in 18% new oak. It has a slightly subdued bouquet at first, tarry black fruit, a little gravel with more red fruit emerging with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied with grainy tannin, crisp black fruit, touches of graphite with a linear, pencil-lead finish that contains fine precision, especially for a <i>deuxième vin</i> .		
JM			
JS 92-93	Quite tannic but in a very attractive way with blueberries, currants and spices. Medium- bodied, tight and chewy. Show tension and texture.		
Haut Brion		\$600	
Neal Martin 94-96	The 2017 Haut-Brion was picked from 31 August to 29 September, the longest harvest ever, matured in 69% new oak with 14.25% alcohol (lower than recent vintages.) It has a more generous bouquet than the La Mission Haut-Brion at this point: black cherries, blueberry, a little confit fruit, hints of warm gravel and clove. It is much more restrained than the previous vintages – cooler and linear. The palate is medium-bodied with firm tannin, nicely structured with more grip in the mouth than the La Mission. What it has in common with the aforementioned is a sense of symmetry. It feels very persistent with a light marine/oyster shell influence on the finish. This probably has the edge over the La Mission Haut-Brion at the moment, but intra-family competitiveness aside, it boils down to a great follow-up to the brilliant 2015 and 2016.		
JM			
JS 95-96	A tight and focused red with dark-berry, chocolate and hazelnut character. Medium to full body, firm and silky tannins and a linear and fine finish. Very refined. Elegant and balanced.		
Haut Brion Blanc		\$1,046	
Neal Martin 94-96	The 2017 Haut-Brion Blanc was picked from 22 to 30 August. It has a slightly more intense and voluminous bouquet compared to the La Mission Blanc. I adore the nose here, so striking and precise with scents of freshly squeezed lime, dew specked green apple, orange zest and later apricot blossom, all with wonderful definition. The palate is medium-bodied with a tensile entry. There are notes of orange rind, fresh ginger and a touch of bitter lemon towards the persistent finish. It is an excellent Haut Brion Blanc that should offer 20+ years of drinking pleasure.		
JM			
JS 94-95	A tight and linear white with an energetic line of lemon-rind and lime character. Medium to full body, bright acidity and a fresh finish. 56% sauvignon blanc and 44% semillon.		
La Clarté de Haut-Brion Blanc		\$108	
Neal Martin 86-88	The 2017 La Clarté de Haut Brion was picked from 22 to 31 August. It has an attractive lime flower, fresh pear and white flower scented bouquet that opens with aeration. The palate is nicely defined with crisp acidity, quite tensile in the mouth with a slightly short finish that just tends to flesh out during the remainder of its barrel maturation.		
JM			
JS 93-94	This shows beautiful density and layers for a baby white with cooked apples, pears and hints of yogurt. Full-bodied, fresh and bright.		

Smith Haut Lafitte		\$123
Neal Martin 93-95	The 2017 Smith Haut Lafitte was not affected by frost and is therefore a classic blend matured in 60% new oak. The bouquet demands a little encouragement from the glass this year, eventually opening with floral scents, more iris than violet, flanked by blackberry and bilberry. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin that comes across just a little chalky in style. This feels very cohesive and comes replete with a detailed and nuanced finish that might lack the flair and volume of the 2016, but it is certainly sustained and persistent. Give this four to five years in bottle and subject to optimal barrel maturation this may well land at the top of my banded score.	
JM 91-94	This has a good core of dark plum and blackberry fruit, with a twinge of licorice snap mixed in. A hint of bramble on the finish, with the vintage's refined, fresh acidity as well.	
JS 95-96	This is a solid Smith for the vintage with blackberry and blackcurrant character. Full to medium body, firm and silky tannins and a lingering finish. Excellent potential here.	
Smith Haut Lafitte Blanc		\$149
Neal Martin 92-94	The 2017 Smith Haut Lafitte Blanc was deprived of a hectare parcel of 80-year old Sauvignon that was pulled up last year. It has a focused bouquet with mineral-driven citrus fruit, yellow plum and honeysuckle, the 50% new oak nicely integrated. The palate is medium-bodied with taut citrus fruit laced with pineapple and tangerine. There is a subtle tropical undercurrent to this Smith Haut-Lafite Blanc. It fans out generously towards the finish with a long and satisfying, lightly honeyed finish. This is a very fine white Smith Haut-Lafitte, already surfeit with pedigree that should age with style and panache.	
JM 94-97	Tight, but with a lot to like, from the yellow apple, white peach and star fruit core to the extra brioche, straw, honeysuckle and verbena nuances that weave throughout. Shows weight and drive on the finish. A beauty.	
JS 96-97	This shows serious density and beauty with fantastic complexity and dimension. Full-bodied yet so fresh and beautiful. Layered and tight at the same time. Exciting to follow this one.	
Le Clarence Haut Brion		\$178
Neal Martin 89-91	The 2017 Le Clarence de Haut-Brion was picked from 31 August to 29 September, matured in 22% new oak. There is a little richness on the nose compared to the La Chapelle de la Mission, a touch more volume. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, crisp acidity, lively and tensile with a precise and quite sustained and supple, almost pastille-like finish.	
JM		
JS 93-94	A fresh and bright red with currant, walnut and wet-earth character. Medium to full body, tight tannins and a fresh finish. Second wine of Haut-Brion is focused.	

Carmes Haut Brion		\$100
Neal Martin 92-94	The 2017 Les Carmes Haut-Brion includes 10% more Cabernet Sauvignon than last year with 45% whole bunch fruit. There is 13.2° alcohol. It is aged in 60% new oak (less than previous years), 30% one-year old oak and 10% amphora that have been baked at 1,200° Celsius instead of 500° Celsius that means there is less oxygen ingress. It has a very pure and strangely, almost Burgundy-like bouquet, perhaps somewhere towards the mid-Côte de Nuits. Dark cherries, wild strawberry, a hint of orange sorbet and later a touch of glycerol. The palate is medium-bodied with fine grain tannin and plenty of sappy, black fruit sprinkled with white pepper and bay leaf. As Guillaume Pouthier mentioned in conversation, there is a linearity to this Les Carmes Haut-Brion and one has to admire the precision and focus on the finish. Afford this five or six years in bottle before approaching and you will have a very delicious and distinctive Pessac-Léognan on your hands.	
JM 89-92	Fresh cherry compote flavors and a light cassis thread work together, picking up light savory and iron notes. Shows charming energy, with twinges of spice and tobacco through the finish. Pure, but a bit shy on stuffing in the end.	
JS 94-95	A tight and linear red with a firm and intense, pretty center palate of blackberry and wet-earth character. Full-bodied, reserved and focused. Really compacted.	
Pape Clement		\$117
Neal Martin 92-94	The 2017 Pape Clément was not touched by the frost and was picked from 15 September to 3 October, manually de-stemmed berry by berry with some of the ripe stems added back into the blend (like Les Carmes Haut-Brion down the road). Malolactic is done in barrel where it aged for 18 months. It offers intense black cherry, raspberry, fig and <i>sous-bois</i> scents on the nose, tightly coiled at the moment with just a hint of cedar and tobacco. The palate is medium-bodied with ripe tannin, a mixture of red and black fruit, touches of cedar and white pepper, leading to a structured and fresh finish that leaves a spicy aftertaste. Classic in style, this Pape Clément will benefit from several years in bottle.	
JM 91-94	This has solid ripeness, with plum and cassis notes flowing through, along with an ambitious oak regimen that results in ample toasted vanilla hints. This clamps down a touch on the finish, but there's good purity and freshness, with fresh acidity buried within, leaving me optimistic	
JS 97-98	This is so serious with incredible density and a chewy texture. Focused and tight. Layered and fascinating. Lots of minerals and lemon rind. Great young white. Can't wait to see it after its élevage.	
Pape Clement Blanc		\$185
Neal Martin 91-93	The 2017 Pape Clément Blanc was picked from 30 August to 14 September, 15% of the production is aged in 8-hectolitre egg-shaped concrete vats and Burgundy barrels (30% new) for a total <i>élevage</i> of 14 months. The nose offers citrus fruit, kaffir lime and white flower scents that need a little encouragement from the glass. The palate is well balanced with a fine line of acidity. Freshly squeezed lime with white peach and a touch of mango lead to a crisp, lemongrass-tinged finish.	
JM 93-96	Enticing, with a lush brioche frame taking shape around a core of yellow apple, pear, green fig and straw flavors. Shows a long echo of macadamia nut on the finish. Will be on the exotic side and a winner when bottled.	
JS 97-98	This is so serious with incredible density and a chewy texture. Focused and tight. Layered and fascinating. Lots of minerals and lemon rind. Great young white. Can't wait to see it after its élevage.	

Domaine De Chevalier		\$76	
Neal Martin 92-94	The 2017 Domaine de Chevalier Rouge was cropped at 34hl/ha between 11 and 29 September and is matured in 35% new oak for 18 months. It has a vivacious bouquet with quite generous black fruit, raspberry, brine and black olive that is well-defined and focused, if not possessing the complexity of the previous two vintages. The palate is medium-bodied with fine, slightly edgy tannin – layers of black fruit interlaced with melted tar and graphite, closing in a little towards the finish with a gentle grip. I appreciate the deft manner in which this fans out and leaves a mineral residue on the finish. A Domaine de Chevalier of refinement rather than power, one with “ <i>buvabilité</i> ” or “ <i>drinkability</i> ”.		
JM			
JS 93-94	This is really delicious and round with soft and ripe tannins. Full body and juicy fruit. Shows ripeness and balance. A pretty wine to watch for the future.		
Domaine De Chevalier Blanc		\$123	
Neal Martin 93-95	The 2017 Domaine de Chevalier Blanc was picked from 31 August until 15 September via several tries through the vineyard that yielded 46hl/ha, with 13.5° alcohol. It has a very attractive, estuarine influenced bouquet with scents of cockle and oyster shell infusing the vivacious citrus fruit. This opens up very nicely with aeration in the glass. The palate is very well balanced with a fine bead of acidity. It feels quite saline and spicy in the mouth with a rather intense citric finish that is very persistent, the aftertaste again, quite saline.		
JM			
JS 96-97	This is a dense and beautiful DC with serious density and a fabulous layering of fruit. Phenolics are there but they melt into the wine already. Love the acid/fruit balance. A solid and serious white.		
Carbonnieux		\$49	
Neal Martin 92-94	The 2017 Carbonnieux has a light blackberry and raspberry scented bouquet with faint touches of iris developing through with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied with firm tannin, a fine bead of acidity; quite structured in style with a firm and slightly obdurate finish that just needs a little more flesh. This year I would opt for its white counterpart.		
JM 90-93	Features a dark profile, with plum and black currant fruit layered with tar and warm anise notes. Offers modest grip. A streak of savory adds lift on the finish.		
JS 90-91	This is very salty and flavorful with sliced green apples, limes and green pears. Medium-bodied, layered and flavorful. Plenty going on here as always. Minerally.		
Carbonnieux Blanc		\$39	
Neal Martin 88-91	The 2017 Carbonnieux Blanc has an impressive bouquet with scents of Granny Smith apples, crushed stone and nettle. There is certainly impressive intensity here – a bouquet that means business. The palate is well balanced with crisp acidity. This is one of the most sophisticated white Carbonnieux that I have encountered at this stage with wonderful <i>mineralité</i> and veins of ginger furnishing the finish that convey brio and confidence. This should evolve into an outstanding Pessac-Léognan.		
JM 89-92	Friendly white peach and honeysuckle notes breeze through, with a kiss of brioche at the very end.		
JS 90-91	This is very salty and flavorful with sliced green apples, limes and green pears. Medium-bodied, layered and flavorful. Plenty going on here as always. Minerally.		

Latour Martillac		\$35	
Neal Martin 89-91	The 2017 Latour-Martillac, which is aged in 40% new oak, picked from 12 to 29 September, contains 13.5° alcohol with a PH of 3.6. I must confess that this is the one property where I encountered some sample variation, a couple showing some oxidative issues. The best sample had a high-toned, gregarious bouquet with cassis, blackberry and boysenberry aromas tinged with <i>sous-bois</i> . The palate is medium-bodied with saturated tannin, compact in style with firm grip but missing the peacock's tail on the saline finish, as if ending the show before the final act. I will seek to re-taste this at a later date.		
JM 90-93	This sports some dark plum and fig fruit flavors allied to a gentle and silky structure. A light licorice snap hint echoes through the finish, with sweet spice notes. The polished finish shows a gloss of toast.		
JS 91-92	A dark-berry and dark-chocolate character with spices. Medium body and a delicious finish.		
Latour Martillac Blanc		\$36	
Neal Martin 91-93	The 2017 Latour-Martillac Blanc has a lifted linden, Granny Smith apple and nettle scented bouquet that opens nicely with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied with crisp acidity, fresh and focused with a satisfying sense of tension. It is a subtle Pessac-Léognan Blanc, unfolding in the glass to reveal light nectarine and stone fruit notes towards the finish. This is a strong performance from Latour-Martillac and it comes recommended.		
JM 89-92	This sports a profile of crunchy chive, tarragon and mâche flavors, with good energy through the finish. For fans of the brisk style.		
JS 92-93	A dense and salty white with loads of apple, lemon and lime character. Medium to full body. Vivid finish.		
Malartic La Graviere		\$62	
Neal Martin 90-92	The 2017 Malartic Lagravière Rouge has a precise and focused bouquet with blackberry, briary and mineral scents that gain intensity with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied with firm, grippy tannin. This is a more masculine and structured Malartic-Lagravière that might lack the sophistication of recent vintages but delivers fine depth towards the finish. Hopefully the <i>élevage</i> will soften up the edges to make this more approachable by the time it is bottled.		
JM			
JS			
Malartic La Graviere Blanc		\$78	
Neal Martin 92-94	The 2017 Malartic-Lagravière Blanc has a clean, precise and mineral-driven bouquet with touches of smoke and flint hovering like errant school-kids in the background. The palate is very well balanced and full of energy. The acidity neatly counterbalances with saline apply fruit with great persistence on the finish, and touches of lemongrass that linger on the aftertaste. This is one of the best Pessac-Léognan whites that you will find in this vintage.		
JM			
JS			

SAINT EMILION		Price	Quantity Required
Cheval Blanc		\$786	
Neal Martin 93-95	The 2017 Cheval Blanc comes from 97% first generation grapes and 3% second generation from two-thirds of the vineyard, using a sorting table to select the ripest berries that were matured separately in small vats. The rejected second generation were sold off in bulk and not blended into the <i>deuxième vin</i> . There is a high percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon and comparatively lower percentage of Cabernet Franc due to the frost damage. So this is a more Left Bank Cheval Blanc using more the gravel soils than clay since the latter are colder. It has a tightly wound, almost Saint Estèphe-inspired bouquet, with fresh blackberry, cedar, wet clay and light iris-like aromas. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, masculine in style, less corpulent than the 2015 or 2016, stricter and more linear, a “cool” Cheval Blanc that eschews the florality of previous vintages with a saline, marine-tinged finish. This is a cerebral Cheval Blanc, not the greatest in recent years, but one of the most interesting to sit and think about (and then drink of course!)		
JM			
JS 97-98	This is tight and very tannic with a linear and steely backbone of texture. Full-bodied, compacted and complete. Muscular and flexing it but polished and toned. Wow. There is 6% cabernet sauvignon in the blend, which may be giving this even more strength. Very, very long. Very Left Bank in terms of the power and depth.		
Ausone		\$846	
Neal Martin 94-96	The 2017 Ausone was cropped at 35hl/ha between 23 and 25 September with respect to the Merlot and 28 and 29 September for the Cabernet Franc. It is aged in 100% new oak as usual for 20 months. It has a crisp, precise, mineral-driven bouquet with slightly more red fruit than black this year: crushed strawberry, hints of cassis, blueberry and traits of freshly tilled loamy soil. The palate is medium-bodied with cashmere tannin and a fine line of acidity. It is very harmonious and already quite seductive. I admire the depth of this Ausone, the sensuality that is conveyed towards the sustained, glycerin-tinged, peacock’s tail finish that lingers for more than 45 seconds. What a great Ausone this is destined to be.		
JM			
JS 96-97	This is a centered and deep red with blueberry, raspberry, mineral, stone and lemon aromas. Full-bodied, focused and polished. Lovely length. Gentle yet structured. Supple.		
Chapelle D’Ausone		\$262	
Neal Martin 90-92	The 2017 Chapelle D’Ausone was cropped at 35hl/ha, picked between 23 September and 2 October. It is matured in 100% new oak for 20 months. At the moment, the oak is dominating the aromatics although with aeration one catches glimpses of black cherry, crushed strawberry fruit, plus a hint of vanilla extract. The palate is medium-bodied with smooth tannin, crisp black fruit with a light saline influence, moderate in length but perhaps just missing a little depth towards the finish. Otherwise this is a very competent <i>deuxième vin</i> .		
JM			
JS 93-94	Very minerally with lots of salt and white-pepper character that complements pure and dark fruits. Medium to full body, firm and silky tannins and a linear finish.		

Belair Monange		\$177
Neal Martin 94-96	The 2017 Bélair-Monange is fast-becoming the jewel in the crown of J-P Moueix, and also the home of Edouard Moueix and his family. It has a very perfumed and winsome bouquet, so pure and delineated with crystalline red cherries, crushed strawberry and very subtle cassis scents that are sutured with the oak. The palate is medium-bodied with fine grain tannin. Tensile from the start, this Bélair-Monange conveys a sense of tension and energy that lingers on the aftertaste, a touch of white pepper leaving the tongue tingling 30 seconds after it has departed. This is an assured, and bewitching Saint-Émilion, one that is really beginning to fire on all cylinders.	
JM 92-95	Ripe and fresh, featuring delightful plum and raspberry fruit pushing outward, while light savory, mineral and red licorice notes add range through the finish. Sneakily long, with the minerality showing some stamina.	
JS 94-95	A compacted and seamless young wine with ripe and fine tannins, focused dark fruit and a flavorful finish. A beauty.	
Pavie		\$498
Neal Martin 93-95	The 2017 Pavie, picked from 25 September and matured in 80% new oak, comes in with 14.61° alcohol and a PH of 3.61. It has a clean, pure bouquet with blackberry, briary, cedar and pencil lead aromas, the latter emanating from the Cabernet Sauvignon. This is one of the bouquets that you might mistake for a Left Bank due to the high Cabernet content. The palate is medium-bodied with firm tannin, layers of black fruit are laced with tar and tobacco – a far less opulent Pavie than recent vintages. Grippy and assertive, a more masculine Saint-Émilion compared to its peers, quite saline towards the finish. It is a Pavie for long-term ageing. Patience required.	
JM 93-96	Dark and admirably ripe, with layers of fig and blackberry compote liberally infused with tobacco, licorice snap and fruitcake flavors. Shows some heft through the finish, but there's enough energy to keep this moving along. A long, subtle echo of chalk is alluring.	
JS 96-97	This is very velvety with a very pretty density and richness. Full body and chewy tannins. Focused and tight on the finish. Succulent and savory, too. Shows strength and subtlety at the same time.	
L'Angelus		\$498
Neal Martin 94-96	The 2017 Angélu has a crisp, direct and very pure bouquet that is almost Burgundy-like in style. Crushed blackberry, hints of cassis, just a suggestion of bell pepper emanating from the Cabernet Franc and a faint estuarine scent all come through although unusually for this Saint-Émilion, they take three or four minutes to coalesce. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, but quite firm in the mouth. There is a marine-influence to this Saint-Émilion with a chalky, lightly spiced and, relative to 2015 and 2016, quite conservative and linear style. It feels very saline on the finish, perhaps more than I have encountered in recent years. It foregoes the roundness of recent vintages, perchance an Angélu that will be best shown on the dinner table instead of on its own. That's not a bad thing. Excellent.	
JM		
JS 93-94	Fascinating that this second wine of L'Angelus is 90% merlot and is so tight and structured. Full-bodied, tight and layered with linear tannins and freshness. Focused and serious.	

Beausejour Duffau			
Neal Martin 92-94	The 2017 Beauséjour Héritiers Duffau-Lagarrosse was picked at 38hl/ha from 22 September to 2 October for the Merlot and 29 September to 2 October for the Cabernet Franc. Around two-thirds of the crop entered the Grand Vin and 55% is matured in new oak. It has a not dissimilar bouquet to the Pavie-Macquin (also overseen by Nicolas Thienpont) perhaps showing a little more volume and decadence: macerated small dark cherries, fig, black plum and a touch of marmalade. The palate is medium-bodied with succulent ripe tannin, a fine bead of acidity, closing in a little towards the second half compared to the Pavie-Macquin that remains open throughout. There is a fine mineral core to this Saint-Émilion with a sappy, saliva-inducing finish. This will require four or five years in bottle and I wager that it should be consumed after the Pavie Macquin.		
JM 93-96	Intense, with juicy layers of fig, boysenberry and blackberry compote coursing through. Bramble and spice notes fire up on the finish, which kicks in with an extra bolt of energy at the end. A showy wine that pulls it off.		
JS 95-96	This is very driven and intense with so much limestone and salt character on the palate. Dark fruits, too. Linear and chewy, especially on the long finish. Beautiful center palate of fruit.		
Canon		SOLD OUT	
Neal Martin 92-94	The 2017 Canon was picked 4 to 21 September and 22 to 27 September for the Merlot and Cabernet Franc at 42hl/ha and matured in 56% new oak. There is 14.0° alcohol this year and the Ph comes in at 3.66. This takes a little time to open, eventually revealing blackberry, briary, crushed stone and light iris scents. The palate is medium-bodied with very fine tannins and good backbone. Strangely, it reminds me a little of modern-day Figeac, that Cabernet component smaller here but very expressive with touches of graphite and flint towards the linear but beguilingly fresh finish. I like the manner in which the limestone shines through the wine here, something noticeable in recent vintages. Whilst not the sensational 2015 or 2016, it is a damn fine Saint-Émilion that will settle at the top of my banded score.		
JM 93-96	A very pretty, slightly high-pitched version, featuring sleek cherry, cassis and damson plum fruit racing through, picking up light savory and mineral notes. The minerality blooms through the finish, with a floral gilding adding a sparkly effect on the long, unencumbered finish.		
JS 91-92	A tight and focused red with dark-berry, chocolate and blueberry character. Medium-bodied, firm and silky. Lovely depth.		
La Gaffeliere		\$99	
Neal Martin 90-92	The 2017 La Gaffelière has quite a high toned, floral, crème de cassis and black cherry scented bouquet that feels well defined, although the oak sticks out at the moment and will require several years to be absorbed. The palate is medium-bodied with quite bold tannin, layers of blackberry and black cherry fruit laced with graphite and spices. It feels like a solid La Gaffelière but it needs to manifest more elegance on the finish. However, I appreciate the purity of this Saint-Émilion and its persistence.		
JM 89-92	Offers a solid blast of warm plum and blackberry preserve notes, along with a slightly hefty roasted apple wood frame. Lightly dusty tannins line the finish. The fruit core is solid but needs to push through a bit more. Wait and see.		
JS 91-92	A St.-Emilion with deep fruit and spice character and some freshness, too. Full-bodied, textured and delicious already.		

Bellevue			
Neal Martin 90-92	The 2017 Bellevue, matured in around 95% new oak and underwent later malolactic fermentation than Angélu according to Hubert de Boüard, has a more perfumed bouquet compared to the Daugay with black berry, a touch of Dorset plum and shucked oyster shell. The palate is very smooth in the entry, a more sinewy and structured Bellevue compared to recent vintages with a saline, brine-tinged finish that gently fans out on the aftertaste. Fine.		
JM			
JS 94-95	Solid palate with pretty fruit and tight tannins that give the wine form and definition. Medium to full body. Polished structure and a focused finish. Excited to see how this will progress.		
Barde Haut		\$47	
Neal Martin 92-94	The 2017 Barde-Haut was picked from 18 September to 2 October, matured in 80% new oak for 18 months. It has a sensual bouquet with black cherries, a touch of oyster shell and iodine, well defined and focused. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin, a fine bead of acidity, more volume than the Poesia, especially towards the finish that exerts a gentle grip in the mouth. It feels very silky in texture with a persistent finish. This is a really excellent Barde-Haut, in my opinion, with the upper hand over the Clos l'Eglise this year, frankly not far off the 2016 in quality. Bravo Hélène et Patrice Garçin-Léveque.		
JM 90-93	Lovely plum, cassis and boysenberry fruit flavors glide through here, with polished toast and a bright red licorice accent on the finish. Nice energy.		
JS 93-94	Very tight and direct with lots of limestone and salt aromas and flavors. Full body and firm and silky tannins. Tightly wound. Impressive.		
Carillon Angelus			
Neal Martin 87-89	The 2017 Le Carillon d'Angelus offers pretty blackberry and blueberry scents, well defined with just a light touch of violet petals. The palate is medium-bodied with edgy tannin on the entry, quite fresh with a crisp line of acidity. Nicely structured for a <i>deuxième vin</i> , it just misses the length of a more benevolent growing season. I can certainly see this being approachable after a couple of years.		
JM			
JS 93-94	Fascinating that this second wine of L'Angelus is 90% merlot and is so tight and structured. Full-bodied, tight and layered with linear tannins and freshness. Focused and serious.		
Grand Mayne		\$46	
Neal Martin 90-92	The 2017 Grand Mayne has quite a powerful, voluminous bouquet with red berry fruit, smoke and truffle aromas, not quite delivering the same level of delineation as the previous vintage but still nicely focused. The palate is medium-bodied with fine-grain tannin, clean and precise with a fine bead of acidity. It is a lighter style of Grand Mayne compared to the wines of ten years ago, more nimble on its feet. The finish is lively, uncomplicated and quite mineral-driven, completing what is a fine follow-up to the 2016, though this will drink earlier.		
JM			
JS			

Berliquet			
Neal Martin 88-90	The 2017 Berliquet, which is matured in new oak, has quite a pure black cherry and iodine bouquet. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin, a fine bead of acidity, quite harmonious if just missing a little complexity towards the finish. This Saint-Émilion is more about the silky texture that I hope will be in situ after bottling.		
JM 89-92	Well-focused, with bright raspberry, plum and red licorice notes racing along, set against a backdrop of brambly structure.		
JS 92-93	Some berry and spice character and a salty undertone. Medium body and a fresh finish. Firm and silky tannins. Shows some drive at the end. This is the first year from the owners of Canon.		
La Dominique			
Neal Martin 89-91	The 2017 La Dominique was picked from 15 to 29 September at just 18hl/ha and matured in 30% new oak, less than previous years. The estate is now under the directorship of winemaker Gwendoline Lucas. It has a nicely focused bouquet that shows more elegance than recent vintages that I have been fairly critical of. Here there is more precision and more terroir expression, a tad herbaceous underneath the fruit that merely adds freshness rather than under-ripeness. The palate is medium-bodied with firm tannin that frame layers of red and black fruit infused with Hoisin and white pepper notes. It does not quite have the panache shown by the nose and it pulls up a little short but I have a sense of a change in direction, one that I like. It might be regarded as a work in progress but it should still drink well for a decade or more.		
JM 90-93	Bright, with a crunchy feel. Savory and mineral notes are prominent, along with sleek cassis and damson plum fruit. Not big, but the finish is racy and very pure.		
JS 87-88	A fresh and slightly herbal St.-Emilion, but it offers up plenty of berry and ivy character, a light to medium body, fine tannins and an easy finish.		
Saintayme		\$19.50	
Neal Martin 89-91	The 2017 Saintayme was picked between 29 September and 9 October, matured in 30% new oak. It has a well-defined, cranberry and blackberry scented nose, very natural and elegant, the oak neatly intertwined with the fruit. The palate is medium-bodied with slightly rustic tannin, but very well balanced and surfeit with charm. You could almost run away and drink this already! But for now, we should wait until at least Denis Durantou has bottled it.		
JM 89-92	Bright and fresh, with a beam of raspberry compote and a judicious overlay of anise-infused toast. A twinge of plum skin on the finish gives this a slightly extracted feel. Solid.		
JS 90-91	A fresh and clean wine with blackberry, blueberry and salty character. Medium body and firm and silky tannins.		

Canon La Gaffeliere		\$98
Neal Martin 87-89	The 2017 Canon-la-Gaffelière was picked 18 September to 10 October at 16hl/ha, matured in 55% new oak. It has a fairly straightforward bouquet with high-toned black cherry and cassis fruit, the second-generation fruit lending freshness, though it does not have the complexity or depth of a great Canon-la-Gaffelière and there are a number of those in recent years. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin, fleshy in the mouth and well balanced with notes of raspberry preserve, blackberry and light tea-leaves; smoky notes emerging towards the finish. This was sampled several times during my tastings, the final two showings undoubtedly superior. Yet despite the Herculean efforts I still feel that the second-generation fruit discombobulates what could have been a better wine. It should still offer a decade's worth of drinking pleasure and in any case, it will be fascinating to see how it evolves.	
JM 90-93	Charming cassis and blackberry puree flavors glide along the polished structure, with light rooibos tea and anise accents chiming in. Offers a bright, polished finish.	
JS 91-92	A St.-Emilion with deep fruit and spice character and some freshness, too. Full-bodied, textured and delicious already.	
Larcis-Ducasse		\$88
Neal Martin 91-93	The 2017 Larcis-Ducasse was cropped at 34hl/ha from 18 to 29 September for the Merlot and 29 September to 2 October for the Cabernet Franc. It has a very high-toned, iodine-tinged bouquet that just lacks the usual harmony, and certainly the cohesion that I discerned apropos the 2015 and 2016 vintages at this early stage. The palate is underpinned by fine tannin and here demonstrates much more harmony than the aromatics. The black fruit is flecked by black pepper and subtle fennel notes, the tannins are quite fine and the finish is much more linear and stricter than recent vintages. It is a more classically styled Larcis-Ducasse this year but it should age well. I expect it will land towards the upper end of my banded score.	
JM 92-95	Lovely blackberry and boysenberry puree flavors glide through, with suave toast, a pretty graphite note and a finely polished feel overall.	
JS 94-95	A very pretty and structured red with blackberries, blueberries and hints of limestone character. Medium to full body, solid tannins and a real freshness underneath. Long and flavorful.	
Figeac		\$219
Neal Martin 93-95	The 2017 Figeac was picked from 7 September to 3 October at 22hl/ha (average across frosted and non-frosted parcels) with 13.5° alcohol. It has a deep purple hue. The bouquet is very well defined, quite strict at first with well-behaved blackberry, raspberry, pressed rose petals and just a touch of violet. The palate is medium-bodied with a fine backbone, fresh in the mouth with a sense of energy, quite precise and linear with a pinch of spice towards the finish, a little graphite lingering on the aftertaste. This is unapologetically classic in style and whilst it might be over-shadowed by the sensational 2015 and 2016 Figeac, this is an impressive follow-up to that might pair that has really put Figeac back on the map.	
JM 92-95	Bright and fresh, offering lovely cassis and black cherry notes sitting atop a sleek iron spine. Floral and savory details run throughout. Shows a refined structure. Sneakily long, with persistent fruit.	
JS 88-89	This is a dense and layered red with blackberries, blueberries and hints of hazelnuts. Full-bodied, very tight and focused. Impressive young tannins. Velvety texture. Very pretty to taste. Juicy and delicious. 43% merlot, 47% caberent sauvignon and 10% cabernet franc. Less franc than normal due to the frost.	

Pavie Macquin		\$95
Neal Martin 92-94	The 2017 Pavie-Macquin was picked at 34hl/ha from 20 September to 9 October and is matured in 60% new oak. I am quite smitten by the nose here, perhaps more than Larcis- Ducasse at this early stage – very pure with scents of black cherries, cassis and violet, showing a little more opulence than the aforementioned Saint-Émilion. The palate is sweet and sensual on the entry with blackberry, raspberry, a pinch of white pepper and spice. The tannins here feel very fine and the final half is unapologetically silky smooth in texture, the new oak seamlessly integrated. This could turn out to be one of the picks on the Right Bank.	
JM 92-95	Deliciously engaging, with a pure, aromatic display of boysenberry and blackberry fruit running through, picking up light bramble and anise accents along the way. Fresh and nicely defined, showing plenty of crackle on the finish.	
JS 94-95	Very solid center palate of fruit and firm, silky tannins. Linear and bright with a focused and pretty finish. Full-bodied, tight and precise. Very clear and bright.	
Clos Fourtet		\$132
Neal Martin 92-94	The 2017 Clos Fourtet has a powerful, almost burly bouquet with upfront, quite bold blackberry, raspberry and strawberry fruit that maybe miss the precision of some of the appellation's more elegant offerings. There is just a touch of cassis and violet that emerges with continued aeration. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin, more rounded in texture than its peers. There is impressive volume towards the finish that is uncommon in this vintage, but you have to just stand back and admire its persistence.	
JM 93-96	Intense, with blackberry, cassis and boysenberry puree notes racing through, inlaid with subtle anise and black tea details. Offers a gorgeous feel, with a long, fine-grained chalky spine buried on the finish. A beauty.	
JS 94-95	A very sexy young wine with a solid center palate and refined, integrated tannins. Medium body. Everything is in the right place.	
Monbousquet		\$69
Neal Martin 87-89	The 2017 Monbousquet, which is matured in new oak, was picked from 18 to 22 September. It has a broody nose of dark berry fruit, a little earthy in style, certainly less opulent than previous vintages and missing a little harmony. The palate is medium-bodied, quite masculine and rustic in style with a smear of dark chocolate towards the finish that feels a little disjointed with the fruit. Despite their efforts this vintage is compromised by the frost and it should be consumed over the next four or five years.	
JM 89-92	Bright and fresh, featuring floral lift, a bright savory streak and light tobacco and cedar hints mixed with a core of cassis and cherry preserves. Easy to approach, with crunchy acidity. Shows the textbook profile of the vintage.	
JS 92-93	Tight and linear with dark berries and hints of toasted oak. Medium-to full-bodied, chewy and long.	

Pavie Decesse			
Neal Martin 90-92	The 2017 Pavie-Decesse comes from the 3.5-hectare estate just above Pavie that were unaffected by the frost. It was picked on 27 September in one day and is matured in 100% new oak. It has quite a dense bouquet with marine-tinged black cherry and boysenberry fruit, a touch of blood orange and kirsch developing with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied with furry tannin, very grippy in the mouth, quite dense and sinewy with a smear of dark chocolate towards the finish. It just cuts away a little swiftly at the moment and the wood tannins feel quite dominant.		
JM 90-93	Solid, with boysenberry and raspberry puree notes at the core backed by licorice and fruitcake accents. Offers a fleshy feel, with slightly prominent toast on the finish but enough fruit to soak it up.		
JS 95-96	This is very compacted and tight with firm and silky tannins. A focused and intense center palate with excellent dark fruit and a long finish. Tightly wound.		
Troplong Mondot			
Neal Martin 91-93	The 2017 Troplong Mondot, the first under the new regime of former Cos d'Estournel manager Aymeric de Gironde, has a gorgeous bouquet with well-defined red and black fruit, hints of dark chocolate and crushed flowers, a subtle mineral undercurrent that becomes more prominent with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin. This is a much fresher and balanced style of Troplong Mondot that tended to be over-egged in the past. The terroir is much more evident where it counts – in the glass. There is a pleasant spiciness that comes through with aeration and a touch of sense of tension from start to finish. If this represents how this estate will continue, then the new era is going to be festooned with some exemplary wines.		
JM 91-94	Good bramble and anise notes are matched by blackberry and black cherry compote flavors. A fresh savory streak underscores the finish. Sneakily long, with an emphasis on freshness.		
JS 95-96	A bright and vivid red with dark-berry and plum character. Floral and bright. Medium to full body. Intense and crystal-clear. Ultra-fine tannins with a long and beautiful. Wonderful balance and harmony.		
Beau-Séjour Bécot		\$75	
Neal Martin 91-93	The 2017 Beau-Séjour Bécot is less immediate on the nose compared to the 2015 and 2016. This takes a little time to unfurl, eventually offering a mixture of red and black fruit, crushed rose petals and just a touch of cassis. The palate is medium-bodied with fine grain tannin, fine structure and freshness. It is not a powerful Beau-Séjour-Bécot but is imbued with great freshness and whilst it does not possess the structure or depth as the last couple of vintages, I appreciate the mineral aftertaste here.		
JM 93-96	Shows a lovely, engaging feel, offering succulent blackberry and cherry compote notes. Delightfully pure, with light echoes of bramble, chalk and anise fluttering through the finish. Silky and refined, this has length to burn.		
JS 93-94	Beautiful and vivid dark fruits here with polished yet intense tannins and fruit balance. Juicy on the finish. Shows length and refinement already.		

Bellevue Mondotte	
Neal Martin 89-91	The 2017 Bellevue-Mondotte was picked on 27 September like the Pavie-Decesse. It has a very deep color, almost opaque. The bouquet is difficult to fathom, inky and high-toned, nothing volatile but it feels rather monotone. The palate is medium-bodied with grippy tannin, quite bold and assertive in style, impressive in depth but it is missing the finesse and refinement I would seek on the creamy-textured finish. In an odd way I find this reminiscent of how Pavie used to show a decade ago, but whereas Pavie has moved on, Bellevue-Mondotte seems unwilling to just take its foot off of the accelerator.
JM 91-94	An enticing red, with succulent fig and blackberry compote flavors at the core, this has a shot of flashy toast, which is well-integrated. A neat graphite streak shows on the finish.
JS 92-93	A chewy 2017 with lots of wet-earth and dark-berry character. Some bark, too. Full body, a medium center palate and a flavorful finish. Wait and see how it comes together.

POMEROL		Price	Quantity Required
Feytit Clinet			
Neal Martin 90-92	The 2017 Feytit-Clinet has quite a complex bouquet with red berry fruit, a touch of seaweed and smoke. It is not as powerful as the previous two vintages although it displays impressive focus. The palate is very refined on the entry, silky smooth in texture (as usual) with a fine bead of acidity. It just needs to manifest more precision towards the finish but that will hopefully develop during its barrel maturation. I have been a big supporter of Jeremy Chasseuil's often over-looked Pomerol and though, this is not from his top-drawer, it still shows potential. I am prudent with my assessment for now.		
JM			
JS 91-92	Some good fruit with hints of chocolate and berry character. Medium body, firm tannins and an open finish. Should develop nicely.		
Le Gay		\$128	
Neal Martin 90-92	The 2017 Le Gay has a strong whiff of the sea coming from the glass, brine and a little Japanese nori (seaweed) that is neatly sutured into the black fruit. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, a little oaky at the moment with dark chocolate and a little leather tincturing the black and red fruit. It just feels a little predictable on the finish whereas the best recent vintages of Le Gay have fanned out and demonstrated more precision. Nevertheless, Le Gay often blossoms during its <i>élevage</i> so this might surprise when in bottle.		
JM 91-94	This has some eye-opening toasty depths, with warm ganache and vanilla notes leading the way for a very polished core of plum preserve flavors. A bit monochromatic, but it is a pretty color.		
JS 93-94	Very pretty and refined with an excellent depth of fruit and attraction. Medium to full body, fine tannins and a fresh and subtle finish. Shows elegance.		

Le Pin		\$2,880	
Neal Martin 93-95	The 2017 Le Pin, which has 100% new oak as usual, was cropped at 32hl/ha with 13.9° alcohol. It has a perfumed bouquet with dark cherries, a touch of blue fruit, cold stone and a hint of incense. This is more opulent than the Vieux-Château-Certan, but with a bit more sensuality if not quite the same degree of complexity. The palate is medium-bodied with ripe tannin, very smooth in texture with red fruit laced with sea salt and a suggestion of iodine. There is certainly good backbone to this Le Pin, although it is so silky towards the finish that it is barely tangible. A more backward Le Pin at the moment compared to the last three vintages but I am fascinated to see how this ages. Tasted twice and showing a little more structure in the second showing. Jacques Thienpont told me that around 500 cases will be produced.		
JM			
JS 96-97	A squared and properly focused 2017 with chocolate, dark berries and silky tannins that envelop the palate. A Burgundian sensibility to this with a very fine texture of acidity and tannins that back up the elegant and supple fruit. A clarity and beauty to the wine.		
La Fleur Petrus		\$265	
Neal Martin 92-94	The 2017 La Fleur-Pétrus has the most expressive and flamboyant bouquet from the J-P Moueix range and I can see why Edouard Moueix is smitten by its early showings. There is a mélange of red and black fruit, crushed violet and a distant tang of the sea (or should that be the Dordogne river?) The palate is medium-bodied with succulent tannin, quite rich of the vintage but not overpowering or glossy, delivering a velvety smooth second-half that caresses the senses and leaves you utterly beguiled. If am to quibble, it just misses a little complexity and nuance on the finish but otherwise... <i>très bon vin</i> .		
JM 93-96	Fleshy and solid in feel, delivering warm plum and blackberry confiture notes inlaid with ample tobacco and licorice hints. There's a strong graphite streak through the finish, with admirable grip for the vintage.		
JS 95-96	This rolls over the palate with dark berries, dark chocolate and hints of cedar. Medium to full body, tight tannins and a lovely tension. Shows finesse and beauty.		
La Violette			
Neal Martin 92-94	The 2017 La Violette has a very precise bouquet with blackberry and raspberry scents, a touch of iris developing in the glass. This year I certainly find more complexity here than its sibling Le Gay. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin, a little savory compared to other recent vintages with a soft, velvety finish that feels pure and caressing. This is a delicious La Violette that is less ostentatious than recent vintages and frankly, all the better for it.		
JM 91-94	A bold style, with warm ganache and blackberry preserve flavors filling out the core nicely, while fruitcake and incense accents score the finish. Flashy, and will have fans for sure.		
JS 94-95	This shows substantial fruit and tannin concentration with plenty of dark-berry and dark- chocolate character. Full body, a rounded texture and a delicious finish. A wine that will please in its youth.		

Vieux Chateau Certan		\$306
Neal Martin 94-96	The 2017 Vieux Château Certan was picked in three passages through the vineyard, 12 and 13 September, 18 and 19 September and finally 25 September to 2 October. The yields are 37hl/ha with 14.2° alcohol and a 3.75 PH. It is the first vintage to contain Cabernet Sauvignon for several years. It has a very pure, Merlot-driven bouquet with black cherries, redcurrant and wild strawberry scents, just a hint of iris and incense in the background. The 70% new oak is nicely integrated here. The palate is medium-bodied with edgy tannin, a deep well of black and red fruit interwoven with allspice, truffle, white pepper and a little sage. This Vieux Château Certan manifests more complexity and profundity as it aerates, delivering genuine, spine-tingling <i>mineralité</i> on the persistent finish. It gains even more precision when I return to the property to re-taste it again. Tasted twice, ten days apart at the property.	
JM		
JS 97-98	This is a dense and compact center palate with a solid and pointed intensity. Full body, firm and silky tannins and an energetic finish. Complete. Harmonious.	
Lévangile		\$315
Neal Martin 90-92	The 2017 L'Evangile is picked from 4 September to 3 October. There is no Cabernet Franc since it was frosted over (50% of the vineyard) and so Jean-Pierre Vazart said it is missing some of its power. He marked all the vines with different colors to indicate those affected so that none of the second-generation fruit was used for the Grand Vin. Yields came in at 20hl/ha and it is matured in 100% new oak. It has a deep inky purple hue. The new wood comes over quite strongly as it often does, perhaps missing the Cabernet Franc component to support that level of wood? There are light floral scents: wilted iris and violet that spring up with aeration although I would still like to see more terroir expression. The palate is medium-bodied with grainy tannin, mocha and dark chocolate on the entry with a fine bead of acidity. But I have a nagging question of whether a more prudent approach to the new oak might have engendered a more endearing L'Evangile, I was a bit disturbed by the level of wood tannin on the finish. I will be more than happy to upgrade my score if the tannin will be absorbed during <i>élevage</i> and with bottle age and I will be more than happy to upgrade my score.	
JM		
JS 94-95	Very fine and velvety tannins in the mouth with juicy fruit that gives dark-berry, chocolate and spice character. Medium to full body. Bright acidity. Harmonious and very pretty. Pure merlot. Reminds me of the 2012, but shows a little more ripeness and suppleness.	
Hosanna		\$166
Neal Martin 94-96	The 2017 Hosanna has a sophisticated and quite beguiling bouquet that continues what I feel is a more cerebral take on the vineyard, earlier vintages being a little too ostentatious for my liking. This exudes panache and the oak here is seamlessly integrated. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin, enormous depth, harmonious and silky smooth in texture to the point where you almost overlook the power towards the finish. There is something ambitious about this Hosanna and it will surely age tremendously over the next 20 years. This vies with Trotanoy as one of the most enticing offerings from J-P Moueix this year.	
JM 91-94	Plush, with a blood orange note out front followed by darker plum and blackberry flavors along with anise and roasted apple wood hints. This is very polished and integrated feel, with a solid build.	
JS 95-96	This shows a very long finish with pretty fruit and sophisticated tannins. Chewy and exciting.	

L'eglise Clinet		\$306
Neal Martin 95-97	The 2017 L'Eglise-Clinet was picked between 12 and 22 September, the Cabernet Franc coming in on the last day. Nothing was touched by the frost. It is matured in 70% new oak. Denis Durantou did not specify the exact quantity produced, "Just enough for my friends" according to his spec sheet! The bouquet is very succinct, perhaps more open than either the 2015 or 2016 at this early stage, extraordinarily pure with blackberry, wild strawberry, smoke and truffle. It just gets better and better as it opens in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, linear and focused, very fresh with pointed acidity. This is full of tension and poise, a touch of graphite emerging towards the finish that lingers in the mouth with superb <i>salinité</i> at the end. It completes a triumvirate for Denis Durantou after the 2015 and 2016s.	
JM 92-95	A nice core of gently steeped plum and boysenberry fruit is liberally infused with anise accents. A light bramble edge carries the finish. This has good underlying energy, with some fruit in reserve.	
JS 97-98	This really rolls on the palate with fantastic fruit and tannins. Full-bodied, structured and layered. Long, long finish. Impressive all the way.	
Clinet		\$103
Neal Martin 92-94	The 2017 Clinet was picked from 19 to 26 September for the Merlot and on 29 September for the Cabernets at 35hl/ha. It is matured in 72% new oak and the remainder one year old. The alcohol is 13.1° compared to say 14.4° for 2016. It has a perfumed bouquet with mainly red berry fruit, top notes of loam and a touch of violet. It is certainly well defined. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin, well delineated, and saline in the mouth. It is quite open towards the finish, perhaps with less grip than other Pomerol that I have tasted, but it is undeniably elegant and well balanced with a hint of cured meat cropping up on the aftertaste. Classic Clinet!	
JM 92-95	Alluring, offering fleshy layers of fig, boysenberry and plum compote notes lined with anise and roasted apple wood accents, this is nicely integrated already, with fresh acidity embedded throughout.	
JS 92-93	Some green-olive and herb character. Medium body, firm tannins and a fresh finish. Shows some solid and linear length on the finish.	
Clos L'eglise		SOLD OUT
Neal Martin 91-93	The 2017 Clos l'Eglise was picked from 6 September to 2 October, the harvest was spread out for almost one month. It is matured in 90% new oak for 18 months. It has a well-defined, very pure bouquet with cranberry, dark cherries, bay leaf and crushed stone. It needs a little time to open in the glass and is not as immediate as the 2016 last year. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin, very smooth in texture with a slightly lactic note towards the finish. There is a touch of dark chocolate that infuses the red berry fruit with a subtle liquorice tincture that lingers on the aftertaste. This is a fine Clos l'Eglise although I do feel this year that its stablemate in Saint-Émilion, Barde-Haut, takes the top honor.	
JM 88-91	Blueberry, blackberry and anise flavors rush forth, with more modest structure behind them. Fresh acidity keeps this honest, but this will likely deliver more immediate appeal.	
JS 94	A tight and focused red with blackberry, dark-chocolate and hazelnut aromas and flavors, which follow through to a full body. Integrated and round tannins and a flavorful finish. Needs three or four years to soften but very focused and precise. Structured. Try in 2021.	

Gazin		\$106	
Neal Martin 91-93	The 2017 Gazin has a very classic Pomerol bouquet with black brambly fruit infused with black truffle and subtle raspberry confit notes. Then, as it opens, there are loamy aromas that lend more complexity. The palate is medium-bodied with fine grain tannin and a fine bead of acidity. There is a slightly powdery texture, feeling quite saline. White pepper and fennel notes become more conspicuous towards the finish. Just a classic Gazin from proprietor Nicolas de Baillencourt and his team.		
JM 89-92	Focused, with cherry and cassis notes driving through, flanked by singed vanilla accents and a light briar edge. Just a touch toothy through the finish, but should fill out well enough.		
JS 94-95	A dense and flavorful red already with dark-berry, seaweed and wet-earth undertones. Full body and round and chewy tannins. Green olives on the finish. Serious for the vintage.		
La Conseillante		\$218	
Neal Martin 93-95	The 2017 La Conseillante contains a little less Cabernet Franc than usual because four or five rows were damaged by frost. It has a classic Pomerol bouquet with touches of truffle and incense infusing the broody black fruit that take a few minutes to unwind in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, well balanced with a subtle sprinkling of white pepper and fennel. The Cabernet Franc, despite its diminished contribution, is quite expressive towards the balsamic-tinged finish that shows plenty of energy and decent persistence. It is less powerful than the 2016 at this stage but it is clearly a very well crafted, almost sensual Pomerol by winemaker Marielle Cazaux.		
JM			
JS 94-95	Tight and precise with focused tannins and a lovely texture to this young wine. Medium to full body. Compressed and serious. Some salty and dark fruit at the end.		
Lafleur		\$808	
Neal Martin 95-97	The 2017 Lafleur was picked 8 to 12 September and 28 and 29 September for the Merlot and Cabernet Franc respectively. It has a very impressive bouquet, frankly, one of the best that I have encountered in Pomerol, perhaps on the Right Bank. Despite the higher proportion of Cabernet Franc, the Merlot is more expressive with black cherries, a touch of cassis, sea spray and a hint of iodine. It just gains intensity with every swirl of the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with firm but fine tannin, layers of black and red fruit mixed with white pepper, sage and a slight ferrous note towards the persistent finish. This is an awesome 2017 from Baptiste Guinaudeau, one of the few that will oblige several years in the cellar.		
JM			
JS 97-98	A structured and muscular red with blackberry, dark-chocolate and mineral character. Violet undertones. Very tight and tannic. Full-bodied, extremely closed and concentrated. Steely.		
Pensées de Lafleur		\$173	
Neal Martin 91-93	For the first time, with respect to the 2017 Les Pensées de Lafleur, 100% of the Cabernet Franc comes from the <i>massale</i> selection. It has a very well defined bouquet with red berry fruit, pressed rose petal and crushed stone aromas. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin, quite a firm backbone with a subtle marine/iodine influence. It is very harmonious in style, becoming more linear and strict towards the saline finish. It is a little standoffish, so don't be afraid to give this four or five years in the cellar.		
JM			
JS 94-95	The aromas are really so floral and mineral but also comprise cloves, currants and blackberries. Full body, firm and silky tannins and a long and caressing finish. Tight and focused. Need five years to soften but so pretty. A selection of Lafleur. Drink in 2023.		

Lafleur Gazin			
Neal Martin 86-88	The 2017 Lafleur-Gazin has a more compact bouquet than others I tasted from J-P Moueix, unfurling gradually with blackberry, raspberry and cassis scents, a little steeliness surfacing with time. The palate is medium-bodied with chewy tannin. It is a more masculine and structured Lafleur-Gazin compared to recent vintages, quite saline in the mouth but missing that peacock's tail on the finish. Give it a year in bottle to just "loosen up".		
JM 88-91	This delivers a blast of up-front raspberry and blackberry fruit flavors, followed by supple licorice and toasted vanilla accents. The fruit is muscular but the structure is more demure. A more immediate wine in the making.		
JS 89-90	A medium-bodied, firm and silky red with dark-berry, herb and dark-chocolate character. Fresh and fine.		
Lafleur De Gay			
Neal Martin 90-92	The 2017 La Fleur de Gay offers much more concentration than its sibling La Croix de Gay, the vines located central on the gravel plateau bestowing higher quality fruit: crushed strawberry and cranberry, a touch of truffle and smoke. The palate is medium-bodied with sappy black fruit, a fine bead of acidity and a fresh finish with good tension and length. This is a very fine La Fleur de Gay that should age well in bottle.		
JM 91-94	Solid, with licorice root, ganache and fig notes forming a slightly muscular core, backed by brambly grip and a good dose of roasted apple wood on the finish. A touch rustic but has the core of fruit to fill out. For fans of the style.		
JS 91-92	A tight and focused red with dark-berry, light wet-earth and dark-chocolate character. Medium body, firm tannins and a clean finish.		
Nenin			
Neal Martin 89-91	The 2017 Nénin contains more Cabernet Franc this year because of the frost damage. The grapes were picked from 12 to 29 September although the team did go back to inspect the second generation frosted vines two weeks later but the tannins were unsatisfactory and the fruit abandoned. This means that the overall production was just 15.5hl/ha, matured in 35% new oak with the alcohol at 13.50°. The nose is fairly uncomplicated compared to the last two vintages: red fruit, briary and a touch of desiccated orange peel. The palate is medium-bodied with soft tannin, moderate depth, and gentle in the mouth but missing a little structure towards the airy finish. It is a decent, early-drinking Nénin in the making although it lags behind the previous two vintages.		
JM 90-93	Round, polished and fleshy in feel, with good underlying acidity that lets the cassis, plum sauce and raspberry fruit play out. Light anise and singed vanilla shadings show on the finish, with a little latent grip.		
JS 93-94	A creamy wine with a solid core of fruit and firm and silky tannins. Lots mineral and crushed-stone character. Full-bodied, rich and structured. Orange rind on the aftertaste. Less than 50% of the normal production. Solid finish.		

Le Bon Pasteur		SOLD OUT
Neal Martin 90-92	The 2017 Le Bon Pasteur is one of the few Chinese-owned properties in Pomerol since it was sold to Pan Sutong, though it should be noted that Dany and Michel Rolland continue to oversee the winemaking. It has a tightly wound, floral bouquet that demands more coaxing from the glass than recent vintages that I have tasted. The palate is medium-bodied with blackberry and boysenberry fruit. It feels supple in the mouth at first, but then quite firm tannins enter stage left towards the final third delivering satisfying freshness, if not quite the length of the best vintages.	
JM 90-93	Ripe and friendly in feel, with round, forward blackberry compote notes. Offers anise and ganache details, showing light brambly grip and good energy.	
JS 94-95	This is very impressive for the vintage with a solid core of focused fruit and refined tannins. Medium to full body, firm and silky tannins and a pretty finish. Shows length.	
Petit Village		\$92
Neal Martin 87-89	The 2017 Petit-Village is raised in 50% new oak for 15 months, the vines did not suffer frost damage at all. This is a Pomerol cru that has left me feeling nonplussed in recent vintages and I am still seeking a version that reflects the terroir. It has plenty of red cherry and red plum fruit on the nose, hints of blood orange and just a touch of cooked meat. The palate is medium-bodied with slightly dry tannin, moderate depth, and just attenuated a little towards the finish leaving you wanting more.	
JM 91-94	Very fresh, with a bright floral-infused core of raspberry, cherry and cassis flavors. Silky but persistent tannins let this linger nicely. There's some sneaky depth here too.	
JS 94-95	This is layered and very poised with plum and chocolate character. Full body and chewy tannins that are polished and focused. Very long and serious.	

SAUTERNES / BARSAC		Price	Quantity Required
Coutet		\$53	
Neal Martin 94-96	The 2017 Coutet, which was tasted both as a final blend and directly from several different lots in barrel, has a very well defined bouquet with pure wild honey and orange blossom aromas that gain intensity with aeration. The palate is crisp and fresh, underpinned by Coutet's trademark acidic drive that counterbalances the intense honeyed fruit laced with orange zest and white peach. Superb.		
JM 92-95	Bright pineapple and white peach flavors rush forth, with a zip of tangerine running through the creamy finish. Shows lots of honeysuckle accents on the finish. Youthfully tight, but delivers wonderful length.		
JS			
Climens			
Neal Martin			
JM			
JS			

Léxtravagant Doisy Daene (375ml)		\$506	
Neal Martin 95-97	The 2017 L'Extravagant de Doisy-Daëne comes from two <i>tries</i> , one at the end of September and the second during the first week of October. Although it has between 195 to 200g/L residual sugar, it has a less flamboyant bouquet than recent vintages. This feels much more controlled and focused with pure honeyed fruit laced with white peach, yellow plum and a light resinous scent. The palate is medium-bodied with sumptuous, unctuous honeyed fruit, mango, persimmon and a little lemon peel that lends tension towards the powerful, show- stopping finish. It lives up to its name. (Readers should note that there is just one and a half barrels instead of the normal three or four.)		
JM 93-96	This is lovely, with lots of tangerine, peach and orange flavors laced with piecrust, hazelnut and bitter almond notes. The long finish flows nicely. Should be lovely.		
JS			
Guiraud		\$51	
Neal Martin 91-93	The 2017 Guiraud has a pretty and comparatively light bouquet compared to de Fargues, missing some of the complexity demonstrated by its peers at this early stage. The palate is medium-bodied and showing more class: viscous honeyed fruit, a touch of spice and mandarin. The finish feels elegant and quite long although it does not quite provide the riveting experience of some of the best Sauternes released this year.		
JM 92-95	Lively, featuring orange peel, white peach, almond cream and apricot flavors that stay juicy and brightly defined. Elegant overall, with power in reserve.		
JS			
Suduiraut		\$85	
Neal Martin 94-96	The 2017 Suduiraut was picked via three <i>tries</i> , with 75% of the crop picked in the second <i>tries</i> from 4 to 15 October. The harvest finished on 19 October, one of the last in Sauternes and after Yquem. "We were touched by the frost but not in the top terroir," winemaker Pierre Montegut told me. It is matured in around 50% new oak. It has an expressive, harmonious bouquet with dried honey, white flowers and a touch of gripe water (a children's medicine for those in the United States. I have been informed there is no equivalent on the other side of the Atlantic). The palate is well balanced with a viscous opening, well-judged acidity, plenty of botrytized fruit with a long, lightly spiced finish that feels so fresh and vital. This is a superb Suduiraut from Pierre Montegut and his team.		
JM 92-95	Unctuous, offering melon, apricot and fig notes melded together, laced with bitter orange and maple accents, with a spicy, broad finish.		
JS			
Doisy Daene		\$49	
Neal Martin 93-95	The 2017 Doisy-Daëne is a little richer on the nose compared to recent vintages, quite pure with acacia honey, melted wax and touches of almond filtering through with aeration. The palate is well balanced with a viscous opening, finely judged acidity, borrowing some of the weight usually expressed by Doisy-Védrines to create a very satisfying and opulent finish. It does not give the live-wire tension that is common in this Barsac, but it does give plenty of depth and length.		
JM 92-95	A bold, ripe, unctuous style in the making, with lots of spicy orange, tangerine and peach notes that roll through an exotic, hazelnut-filled finish.		
JS			

Rieussec		\$75	
Neal Martin 92-94	The 2017 Rieussec was affected by the frost, losing around 15% of the production although, it was more located in parcels that are designated for the dry white R de Rieussec. Eric Kohler told me that it was a relatively rapid picking. It has around 125gm/L residual sugar. It has a clean but slightly distant bouquet, does not really exude the richness that you expect from Sauternes. The palate is medium-bodied and more promising than the nose: a viscous opening, quite spicy and slightly Auslese in style. The acidity is well balanced and it becomes increasingly lively towards the lychee and fennel-tinged finish, as if compensating for the nose.		
JM			
JS			
Raymond Lafon			
Neal Martin 91-93	The 2017 Raymond-Lafon has to shake off a bit of SO2 however, underneath lies plenty of ripe botrytized fruit with grapefruit and melon aromas. The palate is well balanced with fine definition on the entry although, it just lacks some tension towards the finish to counterbalance the richness and residual sugar. This wine often improves during its <i>élevage</i> and this is factored into my score.		
JM 91-94	Bright, featuring a flash of honeysuckle and orange blossom notes leading off, followed by a core of almond and ginger cream flavors, with a rounded, polished finish.		
JS			
Carmes De Rieussec		\$27	
Neal Martin 89-91	The 2017 Carmes de Rieussec, which has 100gm/L residual sugar, has a charming, lightly honeyed bouquet that is very pure. The palate is not as viscous as recent vintages that I have tasted, but well balanced with a keen thread of acidity that keeps the finish on its toes. This is a lighter Carmes de Rieussec than recent vintages and should be consumed within five or six years after bottling.		
JM			
JS			
La Tour Blanche		\$53	
Neal Martin 93-95	The 2017 La Tour Blanche has a very elegant and controlled bouquet, perhaps atypically for an estate that usually produces one of the more decadent Sauternes aromatics (not that I am complaining, for the record). The palate is very intense with layers of pure botrytized fruit, clear honey laced with orange zest and mandarin that segue into a dense, rich but fresh finish that is pure botrytized joy. Excellent.		
JM 90-93	Enticing tropical melon, guava and mango notes roll through, laced with light almond and hazelnut hints. Offers a plump finish, in the hedonistic style.		
JS			

LaFaurie Peyraguey		\$65	
Neal Martin 92-94	The 2017 Lafaurie-Peyraguey feels quite reduced on the nose and does not quite provide the expression of its peers. The palate is fresh and energetic on the entry with plenty of botrytized fruit interlaced with orange rind and mandarin. I admire the linearity and focus of this Sauternes although it is clear that consumers will have to wait a little while for the aromatics to open.		
JM			
JS			

TERMS & CONDITIONS

- * Prices are Ex-Bordeaux
- * Payment is immediate upon confirmation of orders by cheque or cash. Prices quoted above are valid for one week only from date of Tax invoice.
- * Prices are subject to change without prior notice if payment is not received within one week from date of Tax Invoice and we reserve the right to cancel unpaid orders.
- * Additional charges apply where shipment arrangement into Singapore is applicable, approximate charges about S\$20.00 (freight & duties) per 750ml bottle is payable upon collection of wines. Orders confirmed and paid are non-refundable and or non-exchangeable.
- * Items are subject to the prevailing rate of GST, payable by customer upon collection of wines. Above wines in 750ml per bottles unless otherwise stated.
- * Delivery in June - July 2020 Minimum order of 6 Bottles.
- * Orders are subject to reconfirmation.