

WINE CULTURE

891 Bukit Timah Rd, Singapore 589638
Tel: 6463 3888 Fax: 6464 9080

BORDEAUX EN PRIMEUR 2018

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

ST ESTEPHE		AG	JS	JM	WA	PRICE
Montrose		95-98	98-99		96-98	\$228
AG Score: 95-98	<p>The 2018 Montrose balances finesse and power to a degree I don't think I have seen in a recent young Montrose. The 2018 has plenty of depth, intensity and thrust - all signatures of Montrose - but it also has a striking sense of elegance. Crème de cassis, lavender, spice, menthol and licorice meld together in the glass. Although it is naturally very young, the 2018 Montrose appears to have a tremendous future. The blend is 72% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, 6% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot, which is to say more Cabernet and less Merlot than is the norm. Readers will have to be patient with the 2018, but it is a stellar wine in the making. Montrose presents an en primeur sample aged 100% in new oak (while the final wine is aging in 60% new barrels) to show a wine that is more ready to taste young.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 98-99	<p>This is a big and muscular wine with great structure and depth of fruit. Blackberry and blueberry character. Hints of fresh leaves. Cool earth. Incredible depth, yet so polished. Concentrated.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score:						
WA Score: 96-98	<p>Composed of 72% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, 6% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot, harvested from September 17 to October 5, the 2018 Montrose has a very deep purple-black color and opens with tantalizing notes of crème de cassis, Black Forest cake, hoisin and mocha with nuances of molten licorice, fertile loam, cast iron pan and incense. Big, rich, full and powerful in the mouth, the voluptuous fruit has a rock-solid backbone of very firm, very ripe tannins to match with tons of freshness and an epically long, exotic spice finish. A magnificent monster of a Montrose!</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					

La Dame de Montrose		90-92	95-96		90-92	\$54
AG Score: 90-92	<p>The 2018 La Dame de Montrose is a wine of pure and total sensuality. Deep, textured and beautifully perfumed, La Dame has so much to offer. Dark red fruit, wild flowers, cedar, sweet tobacco and anise give La Dame striking aromatic presence to play off its rich, layered fruit. Powerful and very Saint-Estèphe in bearing, La Dame is gorgeous in 2018. I won't be surprised if the 2018 turns out even better than this note suggests.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 95-96	<p>Very dense center palate to the La Dame this year with purity of fruit and round, velvety tannins. Juicy, too. Sexy. Reminds me of the 1989 Montrose!</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score:						
WA Score: 90-92	<p>Composed of 52% Merlot, 39% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Petit Verdot and 4% Cabernet Franc, harvested from September 17 to October 5, the deep garnet-purple colored 2018 La Dame de Montrose delivers a profound nose of baked plums, blackberry preserves and raisin cake with touches of dark chocolate, licorice, Chinese five spice and sandalwood. Full-bodied, rich and opulent in the mouth, it fills the palate with ripe, generous fruit, backed by firm, rounded tannins and seamless freshness, finishing long and spicy.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					
Calon Segur		96-99	97-98	96-99	96-98	SOLD OUT
AG Score: 96-99	<p>A stratospheric, regal wine, Calon Ségur embodies all the best qualities of the vintage. Rich to the point of being exotically ripe, 2018 reminds me of the 2014 in its composition, but with more of everything. On the palate, the 2018 is towering and statuesque, with soaring structure and tremendous overall intensity. Striking aromatic top notes and bright saline underpinnings give the 2018 its energy, tension and nuance. As in 2014, the entirety of the château's Cabernet Franc went into the Grand Vin. Inky, powerful and explosive, Calon Ségur is a headspinning wine. Don't miss it!</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 97-98	<p>The quality of the tannins is most notable here; they are present, but totally integrated and folded into the wine. Medium-to full-bodied with lovely savory fruit and a persistent and long finish. Very harmonious and fine. Yet, with air, it takes off with tannin power.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score: 96-99	<p>Delivers a laser beam of cassis, bitter plum and cherry reduction notes, with an extremely fine-grained structure carrying this through a long finish. Accents of iron and violet are piercing in their purity and definition. A very complete and precise wine.</p> <p><i>-James Molesworth</i></p>					
WA Score: 96-98	<p>The 2018 Calon-Ségur is blended of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 17% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc and 3% Petit Verdot (14.9% alcohol). It is anticipated to age for 20 months in barriques, 100% new. Deep garnet-purple coloured, it needs just a little coaxing before it reveals seductive notes of baked cherries, warm cassis, licorice and smoked meats with nuances of hoisin, camphor, Chinese five spice and dried roses with a waft of cardamom. Full-bodied and completely packed with concentrated black fruit and spice layers, it has a firm frame of grainy tannins and a wicked backbone of freshness giving an energetic lift to the very long finish.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					

Cos D'Estournel		97-100	97-98		93-95	\$259
AG Score: 97-100	<p>A regal, soaring Saint-Estèphe, the 2018 Cos d'Estournel is also clearly one of the wines of the vintage. On the palate, the 2018 is dark and sumptuous, with striking aromatic presence and silky tannins that wrap around a rich core of exotic fruit. Black cherry, savory herbs, leather, spice and menthol build in the glass in a wine that is both aromatically intense and richly textured. The 2018 has been nothing short of breathtaking on the two occasions I have tasted it so far. Don't miss it.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 97-98	<p>This is very powerful and tangy with driven acidity and freshness. Full-bodied yet layered and bright. Tight center palate. One of my favorite whites of the vintage.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score:						
WA Score: 93-95	<p>The 2018 Cos d'Estournel is composed of 74% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot, 2% Petit Verdot and 1% Cabernet Franc and has 14.59% alcohol. Aging in 50% new barriques, it has a deep purple black colour and drifts effortlessly, gracefully, seductively out of the glass with slowly unfurling notions of blackcurrant cordial, wild blueberries, chocolate-covered cherries and plum pudding with touches of violets, licorice, wild roses and yeast extract plus a waft of loose tobacco. The full-bodied palate is built like a brick house with a solid frame of super firm, super ripe tannins and seamless freshness to back up the vibrant, crunchy, oh-so-muscular fruit, finishing long with loads of mineral layers. Amazing structure will keep this beauty for at least half a century and probably a full one!</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					
Les Pagodes de Cos		91-94	94-95		97-100	\$63
AG Score: 91-94	<p>The 2018 Les Pagodes de Cos is fabulous. Rich, dark and explosive, Pagodes captures all of the natural intensity of the vintage. Black cherry, leather, cedar, scorched earth and grilled herbs all blossom in a dark, somber wine loaded with class. Huge, ripe fruit and equally large-scaled tannins result in a Pagodes that, if anything, may be too serious for a second wine. In 2018, Pagodes is equal to or better than the top wines from many other châteaux. The blend is 54% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Merlot, 6% Petit Verdot and 3% Cabernet Franc.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 94-95	<p>This is so beautiful with very fresh and ripe fruit at the same time. Medium-to full-bodied. Rich and layered. The accessibility and forwardness is so enticing in this second wine. Best Pagodes ever?</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score:						
WA Score: 97-100	<p>The 2018 Les Pagodes de Cos (14.51% alcohol) is a blend of 54% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Merlot, 6% Petit Verdot and 3% Cabernet Franc, aging in 20% new barriques. Deep purple-black in color, it practically explodes from the glass with rambunctious notions of baked black cherries, plum preserves and crème de cassis with hints of cigar box, fungi, tilled soil and woodsmoke plus a touch of crushed rocks. The full-bodied palate delivers mouth-coating black fruit preserves with a beautiful earthy undercurrent and a rock-solid frame of grainy tannins, finishing with fantastic length.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					

Ormes De Pez		89-91	93-94	90-93	90-92	\$37
AG Score: 89-91	<p>The 2018 Ormes de Pez is dark, plush and enveloping. Smoke, cured meats, licorice, violet, crème de cassis and dried flowers give the 2018 striking nuance. Unctuous and intense in its ripeness, Ormes de Pez is decidedly opulent in 2018. The 14.6% alcohol is evident, and yet the wine shows terrific balance, as well as quite a bit of promise. The blend is 50% Merlot, 41% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 93-94	<p>This is very dense and lively with blueberry and blackberry character. Lots of purple fruit at the end. Full body and powerful tannins. Spicy undertones with hints of black tea.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score: 90-93	<p>Fresh and racy, with a stream of violet and cassis flavors that is tightly focused. Pure, offering a minerally echo. Textbook.</p> <p><i>-James Molesworth</i></p>					
WA Score: 90-92	<p>Composed of 50% Merlot, 41% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot and aging in 45% new barriques, the deep purple black coloured 2018 Ormes de Pez leaps from the glass with vibrant blackberries, black cherries and mulberries scents plus touches of garrigue, tree bark and bay leaves. Medium to full-bodied with bags of muscular fruit, it has a firm, grainy texture and great freshness, finishing on an herbal lift.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					
Lafon Rochet		92-95	93-94		90-92	\$57
AG Score: 92-95	<p>A wine of lovely finesse the 2018 Lafon-Rochet offers a striking combination of fruit density and nuance, all in an understated style that is quite appealing. Dark cherry, sweet tobacco, menthol, dried flowers and mint all run through this silky, supple Saint-Estèphe. As always, Lafon-Rochet is one of the more laid back, elegant wines of the appellation. Even so, the 2018 has lovely mid-palate sweetness and silky tannins, both of which add to its considerable appeal. The blend is 64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 26% Merlot, 6% Petit Verdot and 4% Cabernet Franc. Yields were a healthy 50 hectoliters per hectare, higher than the average, which is closer to 42-45. Tasted three times.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 93-94	<p>A firm and silky red with blackberries and hints of chocolate and hazelnut character. Medium to full body. Beautiful, fresh finish.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score:						
WA Score: 90-92	<p>Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2018 Lafon-Rochet is scented of cassis, blackberries, herbs and soil with tar and underbrush. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is firm and grainy with herb sparks and an earthy finish.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					

Phelan Segur		91-94	95-96		93-95	\$62
AG Score: 91-94	<p>The 2018 Phélan Ségur is another in a strong series of wines from this re-born property. Deep and persistent on the palate, the 2018 has a lot to offer. Dark cherry, plum, graphite, menthol, spice and licorice all build in a super-expressive, delineated yet dense Saint-Estèphe loaded with personality. The 2018 finishes with serious intensity and structure. Technical Director Fabrice Bacquey opted for cooler macerations and short cuvaisons, especially for the Merlots, as the fruit was especially rich and the wines extracted easily, while the Cabernets were fermented more or less as usual. Yields were 49 hectoliters per hectare, a bit higher than the 20-year average of 44 and inline with other recent vintages such as 2015, 2016 and 2017. The blend is 57% Cabernet Sauvignon and 43% Merlot. Tasted three times.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 95-96	<p>This is the most powerful Phélan Segur I have ever tasted. A solid core of dense fruit and layered tannins that are so refined and polished. Remains fresh, energetic and bright. Yet, there's plenty of harmony and balance.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score:						
WA Score: 93-95	<p>The 2018 Phélan Ségur is a blend of 57% Cabernet Sauvignon and 43% Merlot, harvested from September 14 to October 4. The wine comes in at 14% alcohol, 3.8 pH and has an IPT (total polyphenol index) of 77. Deep purple black in colour, it springs from the glass with bright, vibrant notes of raspberry preserves, kirsch and ripe blackcurrants with hints of rose petals, tilled black soil, spice cake and warm plums plus a waft of star anise. Medium to full-bodied with a solid backbone of grainy tannins and seamless freshness, the palate sports a taut, muscular fruit profile with loads of bright red fruit sparks and a long, earthy finish.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					
Lilian Ladouys			93-94	90-93	90-92	\$27
AG Score:						
JS Score: 93-94	<p>Very pretty blueberries and light wet earth with minerals and lavender. Medium to full body and firm tannins. Lots of stone character. This has almost 60 per cent cabernet sauvignon in the blend now (50 per cent more), which gives it real line and length. Racy.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score: 90-93	<p>This has a very pretty lilac note out front, followed by fresh plum and black cherry fruit flavors. Juicy in feel, with the minerality buried at the very end.</p> <p><i>-James Molesworth</i></p>					
WA Score: 90-92	<p>Soils are a typically Saint-Estèphe mix of sandy-gravel and clay with some limestone deposits. It is planted at 8,500-10,000 vines per hectare, with an average vine age of 35 years in 2018. The wine will see 12 months aging in 35% new and 65% two-year-old barriques. The blend is 59% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Merlot and 4% Petit Verdot, and it has 14.41% alcohol. From the lieu-dit Blanquet and with a deep purple black colour, the 2018 Lilian Ladouys gives up wonderfully spicy black fruit preserves notions: plum preserves, crème de cassis and blueberry with hints of exotic spices, menthol and violets. Medium to full-bodied, firm and fine-grained in the mouth, it has layer upon layer of rich, spicy black fruits with a lift to the finish.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					

PAUILLAC		AG	JS	JM	WA	PRICE
Mouton Rothschild		94-97	100		97-99	SOLD OUT
AG Score: 94-97	<p>The 2018 Mouton Rothschild is dense and unctuous in the glass, with striking textural depth and plenty of overall intensity. Super-ripe dark cherry, plum, spice, leather and sweet spice infuse a Mouton that stands out for its unctuousness and fruit intensity. There is plenty of tannin, but it is nearly buried by the sheer voluptuousness of the fruit. In 2018, Mouton is radiant, sensual and impeccable in its balance, even if it doesn't possess the sheer visceral thrill, energy or pedigree of truly great vintages. The blend is 86% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Merlot and 2% Cabernet Franc.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 100	<p>I am a little bit speechless about this one. I have not seen such earthy and totally deep character of the soil in a young Mouton in my career. Of course, I didn't taste 1945 or 1959 when they were young, but I have been lucky enough to have a few bottles in my life. There is really terroir-driven character to this. Layered and so intense with polished and incredible tannins.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score:						
WA Score: 97-99	<p>The 2018 Mouton Rothschild is composed of 86% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Merlot and 2% Cabernet Franc—there is also a splash of all the Petit Verdot they had, but it doesn't even register in the percentage. Grapes were harvested September 10 to October 3, and the wine was blended at the beginning of December; it has 13.8% alcohol, and the tannins were slightly higher this year. Deep purple-black in color, it is a little closed to begin compared to some 2018s, slowly unfurling to reveal a profound nose of warm black plums, blackcurrant cordial, star anise, blueberry pie and mocha with suggestions of candied violets, oolong tea, camphor and unsmoked cigars plus a touch of crushed rocks. Medium to full-bodied, the palate delivers waves of opulent, spiced black and blue fruits with seamless acid lifting this gorgeous mouthfeel that is at once plush from the ripe fruit and firm and grainy from the super ripe tannins, finishing very long and wonderfully creamy.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					

Le Petit Mouton		90-93	97-98	91-94	92-94	SOLD OUT
AG Score: 90-93	<p>The 2018 Le Petit-Mouton is unusual in that it contains a high (40%) amount of Merlot. Pliant, racy and supple, the Petit-Mouton should drink well with minimal cellaring. In many vintages, Petit-Mouton is a smaller-scaled version of the Grand Vin, but in 2018, the elevated presence of Merlot yields a wine that is quite different in style, with softer contours and a much gentler overall feel than is often the case. The blend is 56% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot and 4% Cabernet Franc. Yields were about 28 hectoliters per hectare as opposed to 34-37.</p> <p>-Antonio Galloni</p>					
JS Score: 97-98	<p>This is phenomenal with such dense and layered tannins that go on for minutes. It's full-bodied with blackberries, blueberries and chocolate. Sexy and so beautiful. Not sure what to say here. Maybe it should have gone into the first wine?</p> <p>-James Suckling</p>					
JM Score: 91-94	<p>Fresh and pure, with a mouth-watering edge to the cassis and bitter plum flavors that form the core. A bright iron streak defines the finish. Very focused.</p> <p>-James Molesworth</p>					
WA Score: 92-94	<p>The 2018 Le Petit Mouton is blended of 56% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot and 4% Cabernet Franc, harvested September 10 to October 3. It represents about 26% of the total crop and has 14% alcohol—the alcohol has never been this high! Deep garnet-purple, it comes bounding out of the glass with sit-up-and-beg notes of crème de cassis, plum preserves and mulberries plus nuances of chocolate box, Chinese five spice, licorice and candied violets. Full-bodied, rich and oh-so-hedonic, the palate is packed with juicy black fruit layers wrapped in a firm, velvety structure, with loads of fragrant spice layers on the very long finish.</p> <p>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</p>					
Lafite Rothschild		93-96	99-100		98-100	SOLD OUT
AG Score: 93-96	<p>The 2018 Lafite-Rothschild is creamy, sensual and inviting, with lovely purity of fruit and impeccable balance. Dark cherry, plum, licorice and spice are some of the many nuances that develop. Time in the glass brings out striking aromatic depth and overall persistence. Although an undeniably attractive wine, the 2018 does not appear to have the sheer pedigree of the very best wines in this vintage. None of the three samples I tasted were as impressive as I had hoped for. Perhaps I had bad luck. Time will tell. The blend is 91% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8.5% Merlot and 0.5% Petit Verdot.</p> <p>-Antonio Galloni</p>					
JS Score: 99-100	<p>A very compact and linear Lafite with a fantastic mouthfeel of intense but ever so refined tannins that draw a straight line through the middle of the wine. It's full-bodied yet compact with complex character of plums, blackcurrants, cigar tobacco, cedar and hints of hazelnuts and coffee. Salty. Orange zest at the end. Delicacy with power. Richness with softness. Glamorous. Lasts for minutes at the finish.</p> <p>-James Suckling</p>					
JM Score:						
WA Score: 98-100	<p>Blended of 91% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8.5% Merlot and 0.5% Petit Verdot and has 13.3% alcohol. It comes sashaying out of the glass with bags of grace and perfume, revealing notions of lilacs, red roses, fragrant soil, cinnamon stick and Morello cherries with a core of blackcurrant cordial, fresh black plums, redcurrant jelly and tapenade plus a waft of iron ore. Medium-bodied, the palate has wonderful, tightly wound layers of black, red and blue fruits intermingled with floral, earth and mineral notions and a rock-solid frame of the most finely pixelated tannins you can possibly imagine.</p> <p>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</p>					

Carruades Lafite		89-91	95-96		92-94	SOLD OUT
AG Score: 89-91	<p>The 2018 Carruades de Lafite is silky, polished and very pretty. Silky tannins and bright, red-toned fruit give the Carruades a feel of total sophistication and polish. This is a very pretty second wine from Lafite-Rothschild. Even so, the four day-old sample almost certainly does not show the 2018 at its best. The blend is 56.5% Cabernet Sauvion, 38% Merlot and 5.5% Cabernet Franc.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 95-96	<p>This is an extremely fine-grained Carraudes with a complex character of chocolate, walnut, cedar and a hint of graphite. Medium-to full-bodied, tight and chewy but, at the same time, agile and light. Savory finish. Special.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score:						
WA Score: 92-94	<p>The 2018 Carruades de Lafite is composed of 56.5% Cabernet Sauvignon, 38% Merlot and 5.5% Cabernet Franc. The Merlot was harvested September 17-24, the Cabernet Sauvignon was harvested September 25 to October 5, and the Cabernet Franc was harvested September 24. Deep garnet-purple colored, it reveals a very serious nose of pencil shavings, black tea, violets and dark chocolate with earthy wafts of underbrush and mossy bark over a core of warm cassis, blackberry preserves and black raspberries. Medium to full-bodied, the densely packed, black-fruited palate is laced with loads of compelling mineral sparks with a firm, grainy frame and beautiful freshness to lift the long, earthy finish.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					
Grand Puy Lacoste		93-96	94-95	95-98	92-94	\$98
AG Score: 93-96	<p>A wine of precision, energy and nuance, the 2018 Grand-Puy-Lacoste is fabulous. Freshly cut flowers, mint and sweet red berry fruit grace this exquisite, nuanced Pauillac. Medium in body, understated and classy, Grand-Puy-Lacoste is one of the highlights of the year. In a word: impeccable. The 2018 is 78% Cabernet Sauvignon and 22% Merlot from yields of 40 hectoliters per hectare.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 94-95	<p>This is a deep and beautiful 2018 with blackcurrant, wet-earth and fresh-tobacco undertones. Full-bodied, tight and polished. Gorgeous finish. The tannins kick in at the end. Fine texture.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score: 95-98	<p>This captures the style of the vintage to a T, with vividly ripe cassis and plum fruit, carried by solidly built but fine-grained structure. Lots of graphite and tobacco accents hang in the background for now. A firmly grounded wine.</p> <p><i>-James Molesworth</i></p>					
WA Score: 92-94	<p>Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2018 Grand-Puy-Lacoste is scented of warm blackcurrants, black cherries, spice box, florals and chocolate box with a menthol hint. Full-bodied, the palate is rich, plush and generous, finishing long and perfumed.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					

Lynch Bages		93-96	97-98	96-99	96-98	\$156
AG Score: 93-96	<p>The 2018 Lynch-Bages is a potent, racy wine endowed with real textural depth and intensity. Even so, it retains terrific nuance and vibrancy. All the classic Lynch-Bages signatures are present, but amped up, with huge tannins and equally huge fruit. The 2018 is going to need at least a few years to shed some of its baby fat. Today, it is decidedly rich and unctuous in style. Rose petal, lavender, mint and sweet spice add striking layers of aromatic nuance. The blend is 72% Cabernet Sauvignon, 19% Merlot, 6% Cabernet Franc and 3% Petit Verdot.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 97-98	<p>This is incredibly powerful and structured with so much tannin backbone and length, yet it's cool and fresh with a compact palate and great length. Muscular.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score: 96-99	<p>Dark cassis, plum and cherry fruit flavors stream through in this red, harnessed well by bolts of iron along the way. Sweet tobacco detail echoes through the finish, which is seriously long. An extremely rock-solid wine in the making here.</p> <p><i>-James Molesworth</i></p>					
WA Score: 96-98	<p>The 2018 Lynch Bages is made up of 72% Cabernet Sauvignon, 19% Merlot, 6% Cabernet Franc and 3% Petit Verdot aging in 75% new barriques. Very deep purple black in colour, the nose is quite coy and restrained to begin, fanning out to offer pure, ripe blackcurrants, black cherries and preserved plums with wafts of red roses, cigar box, incense, cardamom and fenugreek with savory touches of black olives, Marmite toast and smoked meats. Full-bodied, the palate is built like a brick house, with a solid foundation of very firm, very ripe, grainy tannins and superb freshness supporting the generous black fruit layers, finishing long with provocative ferrous suggestions.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					
Pichon Lalande		95-98	98-99		97-99	\$242
AG Score: 95-98	<p>Powerful, dense and explosive, with a real sense of vertical lift that conveys energy. Grilled herbs, lavender, inky blue/purplish fruit and spice notes develop in the glass, but it is the wine's balance, purity of tannin and finish that stand out most. In 2018, so many wines lean towards extreme versions of themselves, but Pichon-Longueville Comtesse de Lalande remains very much within its classic parameters. The 2018 doesn't quite offer the visceral thrill of the very best recent vintages, but it comes very close. At its purest essence, the 2018 is very Pichon-Longueville Comtesse de Lalande. The en primeur sample is shown from 100% new oak, although the wine will have about 60% new wood. Tasted four times.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 98-99	<p>A deep and intense young red with blackberries and blueberries, as well as green olives and hints of fresh tobacco. But really black fruit. Full-bodied, tight and integrated with a refreshing and harmonious finish. Just floating on the palate. Great tannin backbone to this. A classic. Another flying carpet.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score:						
WA Score: 97-99	<p>Very deep purple black coloured, revealing notes of crushed black cherries, warm blackberries, ripe blackcurrants and chocolate cake with nuances of violets, rose hip tea, charcuterie, tapenade and incense with wafts of new leather and iron ore. Full-bodied, concentrated with tightly wound black fruit and savory layers, the palate gives a rock-solid backbone of firm, super ripe, super fine-grained tannins and soft background freshness, finishing very long with a veritable display of mineral fireworks.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					

Pichon Baron		94-97	97-98	95-98	97-99	\$205
AG Score: 94-97	<p>Pichon Baron is exceptional in 2018. Pliant, silky and super-finesse, the 2018 has a level of textural finesse that really elevates the wine into Pauillac's upper echelon. Ripe fruit and silky tannins give the 2018 much of its inimitable finesse. At the same time, the 2018 is bright, punchy and surprisingly fresh, not to mention absolutely impeccable in its balance. The blend is 78% Cabernet Sauvignon and 22% Merlot, while new oak is 80%.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 97-98	<p>Deep and dark young wine that takes you down, deep down to its center palate of blackberries and blueberries, firm and very silky tannins and a vivid finish. Wonderful palate and depth in this with such class and finesse. So many layers of polished, fine tannins. Great wine.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score: 95-98	<p>Warm, dense and fleshy in feel, featuring cassis, plum and cherry compote flavors infused with tobacco and worn cedar details. Seriously long, with a well-buried iron note, though the purity of the fruit is the dominating feature overall. This cuts a pretty broad swath as it moves along. A big wine.</p> <p><i>-James Molesworth</i></p>					
WA Score: 97-99	<p>The 2018 Pichon-Longueville Baron is made up of 78% Cabernet Sauvignon and 22% Merlot. The Merlot was harvested September 24-25, and the Cabernet Sauvignon was harvested October 3-10. The wine is to be aged 18 months in barriques, 80% new and 20% one year old, and production represents 50% of the harvest this year. Very deep purple-black colored, it begins a little coy, rolling slowly and languidly out of the glass with notions of baked raspberries, blueberry coulis, crème de cassis and incense plus nuances of lilacs, truffles, damp soil and garrigue with wafts of lavender and wild sage. Full-bodied, voluptuous and oh-so-seductive, the palate reveals layer upon layer of savory, earthy and black fruit preserves, framed by wonderfully ripe, velvety tannins and lovely freshness, finishing very long and perfumed. Beautiful.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					
Clerc Milon		91-93	95-96	93-96	93-95	\$110
AG Score: 91-93	<p>The 2018 Clerc Milon is laced with generous dark fruit, chocolate, licorice and gravel, all of which give the wine its distinct aromatic inflections. Powerful and tannic, the 2018 is going to need at least a few years to come into its own, but it is quite promising. The Cabernet Sauvignon is particularly expressive at this stage. Clerc Milon is 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot, 9% Cabernet Franc, 3% Petit Verdot and 1% Carmenère.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 95-96	<p>Very generous and dense with layers of gorgeous blackberries and blueberries. Full-bodied and so layered with fantastic tannin backbone at the same time.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score: 93-96	<p>This is well-built, with a sleek and persistent structure carrying energetic cassis, damson plum, violet and iron notes. Offers a long, pure, almost chiseled finish. A strong showing.</p> <p><i>-James Molesworth</i></p>					
WA Score: 93-95	<p>The 2018 Clerc Milon is composed of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot, 9% Cabernet Franc, 3% Petit Verdot and 1% Carménère. Grapes were harvested a bit later here than at Mouton, from September 17 to October 10. Deep garnet-purple coloured, it leaps from the glass with bold scents of warm cassis, blackberry compote and dark chocolate with hints of Morello cherries, baking spices and dried roses plus a waft of underbrush. It has a wonderfully rich, confidently sensuous palate with plenty of spicy layers and a velvety texture, finishing long and perfumed. This should age incredibly.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					

Haut-Batailley		92-95	94-95	92-95	92-94	\$76
AG Score: 92-95	<p>The 2018 Batailley is powerful and resonant in the glass, with terrific textural richness and plenty of underlying structure as well. Lavender, rose petal, mint and spice infuse a rich, sumptuous Pauillac loaded with personality. Tasted two times.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 94-95	<p>I can't remember a Haut-Batailley this tannic, yet the tannins are savory and very ripe with beauty and purity. Full-bodied, chewy tannins and a long and intense finish.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score: 92-95	<p>Fresh and driven, opening with a piercing iron note that is quickly met by a core of racy cassis and damson plum flavors. Everything extends nicely through the pure finish.</p> <p><i>-James Molesworth</i></p>					
WA Score: 92-94	<p>Blended of 59% Cabernet Sauvignon and 41% Merlot aging in 60% new barriques, the 2018 Haut Batailley is very deep purple-black in color and takes some coaxing to reveal profound notes of dark chocolate, crème de cassis, blueberry pie and anise with waves of raspberry pie, lavender and Indian spices. Full, very tightly would and jam-packed with layers of crunchy black and blue fruits, it has a firm line of ripe, grainy tannins and compelling freshness, finishing long with a mineral hint coming through.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					
D'Armailhac		90-92	93-94	91-94	91-93	\$63
AG Score: 90-92	<p>The 2018 d'Armailhac is lifted, floral and nicely focused, although a touch closed today. Bright red cherry and floral notes add nuance throughout. Medium in body and fresh, the 2018 has quite a bit of aromatic depth from the Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot, which helps hide the 14.5% alcohol nicely. Yields were just 32 hectoliters per hectare as opposed to 42-46, which is the norm. The blend is 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc and 5% Petit Verdot. Tasted two times.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 93-94	<p>A soft and generous red with plum, tobacco and currant character and a delicious, full body and brightness. Juicy. Attractive, earthy aftertaste. Layered and dense.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score: 91-94	<p>Lively cassis and blackberry notes are liberally laced with briar, tobacco and smoky details. Reveals a serious chalky underpinning on the finish. A bit backward, but all the elements are here.</p> <p><i>-James Molesworth</i></p>					
WA Score: 91-93	<p>The 2018 D'Armailhac (14.5% alcohol) is composed of 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc and 5% Petit Verdot, harvested September 12 to October 3. Deep garnet-purple coloured, it reveals a very fruity nose of crushed blackberries, warm black cherries and mulberries plus hints of potpourri, spice cake and pencil shavings. Full-bodied, the decadent palate delivers loads of black berry layers and a firm, grainy frame with underlying freshness and an earthy finish. Wonderfully opulent D'Armailhac!</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					

Duhart Milon		88-90	95-96	90-93	93-95	\$97
AG Score: 88-90	<p>The 2018 Duhart-Milon is a dense, powerful wine. Black cherry, licorice, dark spice, coffee, gravel and grilled herbs add to an impression of gravitas and brooding power. In 2018, Duhart-Milon is a wine of vertical build and intensity. The elevated ripeness of the vintage is very much in evidence in the wine's flavor profile and richness. It will be interesting to see how the 2018 develops during élevage. The blend is 65% Cabernet Sauvignon and 35% Merlot.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 95-96	<p>This is a very powerful Duhart with blackcurrant and blackberry character. Lots of graphite and black tea. Full-bodied and muscular with lots of formed muscles and great length. Could be best ever?</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score: 90-93	<p>Generous in feel, with a light herb note darting amid the rich plum and cassis fruit flavors. Displays the weighty fruit of the vintage, with a background of warm earth and tar details on the finish.</p> <p><i>-James Molesworth</i></p>					
WA Score: 93-95	<p>The 2018 Duhart-Milon is composed of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon and 35% Merlot, with the Cabernet Sauvignon harvested September 25 to October 4 and the Merlot harvested September 17-25, and it has 14% alcohol. Deep garnet-purple colored, it leaps from the glass with exuberant notes of Black Forest cake, plum preserves and crème de cassis with hints of spice cake, woodsmoke, potpourri and eucalyptus. Full-bodied, rich and laden with layers of black fruit preserves and spices, it has a velvety texture and just enough freshness, finishing long. Very impressive—the densest, most opulent Duhart I have tasted!</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					
Pibran		90-93	93-94	92-95	89-91	\$44
AG Score: 90-93	<p>The 2018 Pibran is bold, punchy and absolutely irresistible, with a bit more kick than usual. Sweet floral, spice and blood orange notes add brightness to a core of radiant red-toned fruit in this supple, inviting Pauillac. Best of all, the 2018 will drink well right out of the gate. This cool site performed especially well in 2018, with the microclimate that clearly helped preserve a measure of freshness. The blend is 54% Cabernet Sauvignon and 46% Merlot. Élevage should be around 18 months, in 50% new oak and 50% ones used barrels.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 93-94	<p>This is a cool and dense Pibran with blueberries and blackcurrants and freshness at the same time. Full body, dusty tannins and a flavorful finish. Solid.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score: 92-95	<p>Very solid from the start, with dark currant and blackberry compote notes, a graphite grip and a long tobacco- and iron-fueled finish. Very well-defined.</p> <p><i>-James Molesworth</i></p>					
WA Score: 89-91	<p>The 2018 Pibran is a blend of 54% Cabernet Sauvignon and 46% Merlot, to be aged 18 months in barriques, 50% new and 50% one year old. Very deep purple-black in color, it opens with notes of wild blueberries, fresh black cherries and blackcurrants plus touches of fallen leaves, chargrill and hoisin with a waft of Indian spices. Full-bodied with a solid backing of grainy tannins, it has a voluptuous mid-palate and long, spicy finish.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					

Grand Puy Ducasse		93-94	92-95	91-93	\$48
AG Score: 92-95	<p>The 2018 Grand Puy Ducasse is gorgeous. In fact, the 2018 is one of the most polished and refined recent vintages I can remember tasting for a wine that up until recently was much darker and more extracted in style. The purity of the fruit is simply striking, while the explosive energy in the glass is a thing of beauty. It will be fascinating to see where the 2018 goes, but there is little question that this style towards more elegance driven by Technical Director Anne Le Naour and consulting oenologist Hubert de Bouärd is hugely appealing. The 2018 is 52% Cabernet Sauvignon and 48% Merlot. Tasted two times.</p> <p>-Antonio Galloni</p>				
JS Score: 93-94	<p>This is really solid with a dense and deep palate of ripe fruit and chewy tannins. Muscular for this cru. Full-bodied yet energetic and intense.</p> <p>-James Suckling</p>				
JM Score: 92-95	<p>Lovely, featuring a beautiful beam of pure cassis, lined with iron, savory and tobacco notes. The long finish really glistens.</p> <p>-James Molesworth</p>				
WA Score: 91-93	<p>The 2018 Grand-Puy-Ducasse is deep garnet-purple in color and has quite a lot of cedar/oak on the nose to begin, opening out to a core of warm black and red currants, stewed plums and mulberries with touches of pencil shavings, fried herbs, lavender and tapenade. Medium to full-bodied, the palate gives a firm, grainy frame with some chew from the oak and fresh, crunchy red and black fruit, finishing savory.</p> <p>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</p>				
Pontet Canet		96-99	97-98	97-99	\$150
AG Score: 96-99	<p>Dark, rich and explosive, the 2018 possesses off the charts richness and concentration, much of it coming from tiny yields of just ten hectoliters per hectare, or one third of a normal crop. The 2018 soars out of the glass with stunning aromatic intensity and depth. Black cherry, gravel, grilled herbs, leather, lavender and menthol stain the palate. Dense and hedonistically ripe, the 2018 is a stunningly beautiful wine. The grapes were crushed by hand. Because of the tiny yields, the entire production was vinified in Pontet-Canet's new smaller concrete vats. All winemaking was done manually, without the aid of external temperature control or electricity. The 2018 is aging in a combination of 55% new oak and 45% terra cotta amphora. Quite simply, I have never tasted anything like it.</p> <p>-Antonio Galloni</p>				
JS Score: 97-98	<p>A bright and open young wine with polished and soft tannins that spread out and fold into the wine, becoming barely discernible, yet the feel and beauty of them frames the wine in a beautiful way. Love the fruit and purity.</p> <p>-James Suckling</p>				
JM Score:					
WA Score: 97-99	<p>The 2018 Pontet-Canet is made up of 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc and 3% Petit Verdot. Very deep purple black in colour, it comes rolling sensuously out of the glass with all the opulence and seduction of Cleopatra on a carpet. It emerges with flamboyant scents of crème de cassis, preserved plums and blueberry compote, and after a few moments, it bursts with nuances of molten licorice, sandalwood, Chinese five spice, candied violets, dark chocolate and dried roses, followed by underlying earthy suggestions of fallen leaves, black truffles, underbrush and wild sage. Full-bodied, wonderfully dense, rich, impossibly layered and very, very decadent, the palate delivers all it promises on the nose, with a firm, wonderfully velvety frame and finishing with epic length, a scintillating wave of freshness and a beguiling perfume.</p> <p>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</p>				

Aile D'Argent Blanc		93-94	93-95	\$100
AG Score:				
JS Score: 93-94	<p>A big white with very dense dried apples and peaches. Dried pineapple, too. Full-bodied, rich and flavourful. 45 per cent semillon, the rest sauvignon blanc.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>			
JM Score:				
WA Score: 93-95	<p>There was no malolactic fermentation and no Muscadelle this year—both unusual for Aile d'Argent. Composed of 55% Sauvignon Blanc and 45% Sémillon (harvested August 30 to September 5), the 2018 Aile d'Argent has 13% alcohol and is a little reticent to begin, offering fragrant notions of lemongrass, freshly chopped ginger and lemon tart with a core of fresh pineapples, white peaches and aniseed. The palate is rich, sultry and exotic with loads of spices and tropical fruit and an electric backbone of acid, finishing very long.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>			

ST JULIEN		AG	JS	JM	WA	PRICE
Leoville Las Cases		95-98	99-100	97-100	98-100	SOLD OUT
AG Score: 95-98	<p>The 2018 Léoville Las Cases is a rich, sumptuous, exotic wine in 2018. Plush fruit and suave, silky tannins give the 2018 a level of textural richness that is unusual for a young Léoville Las Cases. Crème de cassis, lavender, mint and sweet spice all build in this extraordinarily beautiful wine. I can't recall tasting a young Las Cases with this much immediacy and sheer allure. The 2018 Las Cases has a very bright future. It is also one of the unquestioned stars of the vintage. In 2018, the blend is 80% Cabernet Sauvignon, 11% Cabernet Franc and 9% Merlot.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 99-100	<p>OMG. This shows amazing depth of fruit and density. Full-bodied and so layered with incredible fruit and power. Blackberries. Blueberries. Violets. Hints of dried flowers. Fantastic fruit and tannins, yet agile and energetic. The château says 2016 plus, plus.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score: 97-100	<p>This is backward and dense, with thickly layered plum, blackberry, fig and blueberry reduction flavors wrapped liberally in warm ganache and melted licorice notes. A long echo of smoldering charcoal emerges at the very end. There's a lot to resolve here as the rich and austere sides are still melding, but the extra amplitude doesn't distort anything; it just all goes to 11.</p> <p><i>-James Molesworth</i></p>					
WA Score: 98-100	<p>Composed of 80% Cabernet Sauvignon, 11% Cabernet Franc and 9% Merlot, harvested September 15 to October 4 with yields of 35.5 hectolitres per hectare, it has 14.49% alcohol and will be aged in barriques, 90% new. Very deep purple black in colour, it is a little closed to begin, slowly emerging from the glass to reveal subtle woodsmoke, violets, tilled soil and underbrush scents over a core of warm cassis, wild blueberries and redcurrant jelly plus hints of rare beef and iron ore. Full-bodied, rich, super concentrated and bursting with latent energy, this is an atomic bomb waiting to go off in your mouth. It has a rock-solid foundation of firm, very ripe, very finely grained tannins and bold freshness supporting the muscular fruit through the epically long, amazingly nuanced finish.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					
Leoville Barton		93-96	95-96	96-99	94-96	\$110
AG Score: 93-96	<p>The 2018 Léoville-Barton is fabulous. Graphite, gravel, crème de cassis, mint, violet, spice and exotic spices are some of the many notes that infuse this stunningly beautiful unctuous Saint-Julien. In 2018 Léoville-Barton has an extra dimension of volume and resonance, yet it never loses its super-classic mid-weight structure and regal bearing. The blend is 82% Cabernet Sauvignon and 18% Merlot.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 95-96	<p>This is very structured and powerful with lots of blueberry and blackcurrant character. Full-bodied and muscular with so much intensity and density. Extremely muscular. Yet, it's agile.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score: 96-99	<p>A stunner, showing a great degree of purity, with long flavors of cassis, plum and blackberry preserves, seamlessly integrated with the graphite structure. A very vivid, defined, precise wine.</p> <p><i>-James Molesworth</i></p>					
WA Score: 94-96	<p>Deep garnet-purple in colour, the 2018 Léoville Barton simply sings of crushed black cherries, blackcurrant cordial and wild blueberries with touches of violets, dark chocolate, allspice and cardamom with a waft of stewed tea. Full-bodied, rich and decadently fruited in the mouth, the generous fruit has a solid structure of firm, ripe, grainy tannins and oodles of freshness, finishing long and layered.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					

Leoville Poyferre		94-97	97-98	95-98	94-96	\$119
AG Score: 94-97	<p>The 2018 Léoville-Poyferré is a stunning wine that shows a very distinct shift in style under the leadership of Sara Lecompte Cuvelier towards greater energy and vibrancy. The 2018 soars out of the glass with stunning aromatic presence. In its latest incarnation, Léoville-Poyferré is marked by a distinct emphasis on freshness and less extraction than in the past, with sweeter, riper tannins than is the norm. It will be interesting to see if that is an expression of the vintage, or a move toward a gentler approach to winemaking, but I suspect much of it is the latter. Dark red cherry, menthol, pine and wild flowers abound in a stunning, vibrant Saint-Julien that will leave readers weak at the knees. Tasted three times.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 97-98	<p>This is so powerful and dense with amazing tannin quality that reminds me of dense clouds, because they are agile and light. Multilayered. Extremely long, too. Punchy! One of the best wines I have ever had from here.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score: 95-98	<p>This is brimming with plum, blackberry and blueberry reduction flavors, backed by grippy, energetic bramble, licorice and apple wood notes. Chockablock with stuff but defined and balanced. A no-brainer for the cellar.</p> <p><i>-James Molesworth</i></p>					
WA Score: 94-96	<p>Deep garnet-purple coloured, the 2018 Léoville Poyferré begins sporting a veil of cedar, opening out to reveal profound notions of crème de cassis, warm kirsch, Black Forest cake and Indian spices plus hints of chargrilled meats and Sichuan pepper. Full-bodied and built like a brick house, the taut, muscular black fruit has a solid frame of firm, ripe tannins and seamless freshness, finishing long with loads of savory nuances. Aging is anticipated to be for 18 months in barriques, 80% new. The current blend is 64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 3% Petit Verdot and 3% Cabernet Franc.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					

Ducru Beaucaillou		95-98	98-99	96-99	97-99	\$252
AG Score: 95-98	<p>The 2018 Ducru-Beaucaillou is a wine of pure and total sensual beauty. Layers of intense fruit nearly cover the massive tannins that lurk beneath. Sweet floral notes, spice, mint, lavender and rose petals all grace a sublime Ducru that is long on class and character. In most recent vintages, Ducru has been a tannic behemoth, but the 2018 is remarkably silky, sumptuous and nuanced. In 2018, Ducru is not an obvious wine, but it is exceptionally beautiful. The 2018 is 85% Cabernet Sauvignon and 15% Merlot. New oak is 100%. Tasted two times.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 98-99	<p>This is so layered and beautiful with incredible tannin quality. Full-bodied with a caressing texture that reminds me of the finest cashmere. So layered. You want to swallow this. Brings a smile to the face. Wow. So well crafted.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score: 96-99	<p>Another rock 'em sock 'em St.-Julien here, brimming with nearly exotic blackberry, plum, blueberry and açai berry reduction notes, bristling with brambly energy and racing through a graphite-edged finish. Shows gorgeous perfume throughout, despite the fairly obvious level of concentration.</p> <p><i>-James Molesworth</i></p>					
WA Score: 97-99	<p>The 2018 Ducru-Beaucaillou is composed of 85% Cabernet Sauvignon and 15% Merlot, to be aged 18 months in 100% new barriques. It has a pH of 3.7, 14.5% alcohol and an IPT (total polyphenol index) of 95. Very deep purple black in colour, it prances out of the glass with flamboyant, showy scents of cinnamon stick, wilted roses, star anise, fallen leaves and Ceylon tea with a core of blackcurrant cordial, black cherry compote, violets, chocolate mint and espresso plus a waft of crushed rocks. Full-bodied, opulent and decadently fruited with layer upon layer of black/blue fruit and floral nuances, it has an exquisitely ripe, fine-grained frame and fantastic freshness supporting the multifaceted, beguiling fruit, finishing with tons of fragrant flowers and mineral sparks. At once beautifully elegant and wonderfully bold. About 7,000 cases of the grand vin will be produced, really focusing on the area around the estate.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					
Beychevelle		93-96	93-94	94-97	94-96	\$107
AG Score: 93-96	<p>The 2018 Beychevelle is an exceptional, utterly vivid wine. Deep and beautifully layered in the glass, the 2018 has so much to offer. Super-ripe black cherry, crème de cassis, licorice, new oak and chocolate infuse this unctuous, spectacularly ripe Saint-Julien. Beychevelle is exotic, flamboyant and full-throttle, not to mention absolutely stunning. The high presence of Merlot in the blend gives Beychevelle much of its sensuality. What a wine! The 2018 is 50% Merlot, 41% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Petit Verdot and 3% Cabernet Franc. Tasted three times.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 93-94	<p>This is concentrated with a solid core of fruit, yet it's energetic and driven with plenty of pretty and forceful tannins. Dusty texture. Persistent finish.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score: 94-97	<p>Ripe and concentrated, but very sleek, with a remarkably pure beam of cassis and plum reduction flavors. Sweet spice, violet and apple wood notes are thoroughly embedded throughout. Polished and very long.</p> <p><i>-James Molesworth</i></p>					
WA Score: 94-96	<p>The deep garnet-purple coloured 2018 Beychevelle wafts sensuously from the glass with fragrant Black Forest cake, potpourri, star anise and black tea scents over a core of black raspberries, warm blackcurrants and kirsch with touches of fallen leaves and lavender. Full-bodied and packed with fragrant red and black fruit layers, it has a firm, velvety texture and fantastic freshness lifting the very long, perfumed finish. Beautiful! Anticipated time in barrel is 18 months, 60% new and 40% second fill. The tentative blend is 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 41% Merlot, 6% Petit Verdot and 3% Cabernet Franc.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					

Langoa Barton		90-93	93-94	93-96	92-94	\$62.50
AG Score: 90-93	<p>I was really impressed with the 2018 Langoa Barton. Fresh, floral and silky, with tremendous fruit purity, the 2018 is delicate and understated to the core. Langoa is always one of the most gracious wines of Saint-Julien. The 2018 has an extra kick of textural resonance that makes it incredibly appealing and delicious. The 2018 is an especially fine Langoa Barton. Tasted two times.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 93-94	<p>There's real freshness to the crushed-raspberry and blueberry character of this young red. Medium-to full-bodied and zingy with energetic tannins. Crisp finish. Lovely purity of fruit to this.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score: 93-96	<p>This has the ripe, intense, racy feel of the vintage, with cassis, plum and blueberry compote flavors, carried by a long graphite spine. A textbook 2018 and a textbook St.-Julien.</p> <p><i>-James Molesworth</i></p>					
WA Score: 92-94	<p>The deep garnet-purple colored 2018 Langoa Barton is slightly shy at this nascent stage, revealing wonderfully pure, warm red and black currant scents with nuances of blueberry preserves, chocolate mint, smoked meat and a waft of bouquet garni. Full-bodied, rich and sporting a lot of vibrant, juicy fruit in the mouth, it has firm, rounded tannins and a lively backbone lifting the fruit to a good, long finish.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					
Clos Du Marquis		90-93	94-95	92-95	92-94	\$68.50
AG Score: 90-93	<p>The 2018 Clos du Marquis is a powerful, heady Saint-Julien. Smoke, cedar, tobacco, menthol, licorice, iron, scorched earth and gravel all run through this potent, virile Saint-Julien. In 2018, Clos du Marquis is especially tannic. There is so much to like about Clos de Marquis in 2018, but it will need time in bottle. Best of all, it should be a solid value. The blend is 64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and 6% Cabernet Franc. Tasted two times.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 94-95	<p>The purple-fruit and black-olive character with violet undertones is wonderful here. Full-bodied, yet reserved and intense. Finesse. Graphite and minerality. Layered.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score: 92-95	<p>Warm and fleshy in feel, with steeped plum and boysenberry flavors. Light ganache and licorice notes underscore the finish. Slightly brooding in feel today but retains a healthy core of fruit.</p> <p><i>-James Molesworth</i></p>					
WA Score: 92-94	<p>The 2018 Clos du Marquis is composed of 64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and 6% Cabernet Franc, with 13% press wine added back to the blend. Grapes were harvested September 18 to October 10, with yields of 35.5 hectolitres per hectare, and the wine has 14.5% alcohol. It will be aged in barriques, 55% new. The finished blend was put into barrels last December. Deep purple black in colour, it displays flamboyant scents of kirsch, crushed black cherries and warm cassis with hints of cinnamon stick, underbrush and chocolate box plus a waft of sandalwood. Full-bodied and built like a brick house with firm, grainy tannins and bold freshness supporting the muscular fruit, it finishes long and spicy.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					

Gruaud Larose		89-92	95-96		95-97	\$99
AG Score: 89-92	<p>The 2018 Gruaud Larose is inky, jammy and full-bodied. Crème de cassis, blackberry jam, spice, lavender and mint give the 2018 much of its extroverted personality. Gruaud Larose is one of the most extroverted wines on the Left Bank. The richness and elevated ripeness is evident in the 2018. It will be interesting to see what élevage brings. For my taste, Gruaud is on the edge of being too much. The blend is 67% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot and 9% Cabernet Franc.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 95-96	<p>This is really generous and rolls off the tongue with ripe and velvety tannins and a fresh undertone. Full-bodied, firm and silky. Extremely long and flavorful. Very complex already.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score:						
WA Score: 95-97	<p>The 2018 Gruaud Larose is blended of 67% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot and 9% Cabernet Franc, with a pH of 3.88 and 14.2% alcohol. Deep garnet-purple in colour, it leaps from the glass with bold black cherries, mulberries, plum preserves and blackcurrant cordial scents with hints of menthol, lilacs, licorice and cloves plus wafts of fallen leaves and tilled soil. Medium to full-bodied with a taut core of ripe, densely packed, muscular fruit, it has a firm line of ripe, grainy tannins and just enough freshness, finishing long and spicy. Very exotic Gruaud!</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					
Talbot		91-94	94-95	93-96	91-93	\$75
AG Score: 91-94	<p>The 2018 Talbot is super-refined and nuanced from start to finish. Powerful yet also impeccably refined. Talbot is a wine of real character and glass. Savory Cabernet Sauvignon inflections of grilled herbs, cedar, tobacco, menthol, licorice and coffee all add shades of nuance. At times, Talbot can be a bit light. Not in 2018. Simply put, the 2018 Talbot is stellar. Tasted two times.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 94-95	<p>Very attractive core of pretty fruit and polished yet chewy tannins. Medium to full body, integrated tannins and a driven finish. One of the best Talbots in a long time.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score: 93-96	<p>Shows range, with cassis, blueberry and plum fruit and a nice snap of licorice throughout. Fleshy, but with latent drive on the finish. A concentrated, solid wine.</p> <p><i>-James Molesworth</i></p>					
WA Score: 91-93	<p>Deep garnet-purple in color, the 2018 Talbot is just a little reduced to begin, opening out to reveal notions of warm red and black currants, baked plums and mulberries with touches of sautéed herbs, tilled soil, fallen leaves and unsmoked cigars. Medium to full-bodied, it has commendably ripe, fine-grained tannins and restrained, earthy layers on offer in the mouth with an herbal lift on the finish.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					

Saint Pierre		92-95		92-95	94-96	\$75
AG Score: 92-95	<p>A powerful, virile wine, the 2018 Saint-Pierre is also one of the highlights of the vintage. Black cherry, graphite, smoke, leather, menthol, violet and spice meld together in a brooding, tannic Saint-Julien that is going to need a bit of time to truly come into its own. Saint-Pierre is muscular, massively tannic and forbidding, and yet there is a ton of fruit behind all of that structure. Cabernet Sauvignon features heavily in the blend, and that comes through in the wine's flavor profile and overall feel. Readers will have to be patient. I can't wait to taste it from bottle. The 2018 is 77% Cabernet Sauvignon and 23% Merlot. Tasted four times.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score:						
JM Score: 92-95	<p>Very fresh and pure, with plum and cassis notes that are vivid and focused. Light graphite and anise accents line the finish. Solid.</p> <p><i>-James Molesworth</i></p>					
WA Score: 94-96	<p>The deep garnet-purple colored 2018 Saint-Pierre displays shy scents of rose hip tea, dried mint, crushed rocks and lavender to begin, opening out to a growing core of warm blackcurrants, baked blackberries and Morello cherries plus wafts of garrigue and wild sage. Full-bodied and absolutely laden with black fruits and provocative mineral sparks, it has a firm texture of grainy tannins and plenty of freshness, finishing long and savory. Aging is anticipated to be for 14 months in 50% new and 50% second-fill barrels. The blend is currently 77% Cabernet Sauvignon and 23% Merlot.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					
Branaire Ducru		93-96	95-96	94-97	92-94	\$67.50
AG Score: 93-96	<p>The 2018 Branaire-Ducru is fabulous. Bright, lifted and impeccably precise, the 2018 is one of the best recent Branaires I can remember tasting. The 2018 is distinguished by its vertical lift, striking aromatic intensity and exceptional balance. Lavender, rose petal, gravel, mint and sweet red/purplish berry fruit are all given an extra kick of textural richness. More than anything else, I was blown away by the wine's density and precision. The 2018 is dazzling. There's not much else to say. Well, except the obvious question, which is why is Branaire not at this level every year? The 2018 is 58% Cabernet Sauvignon, 33% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot and 4% Cabernet Franc. Tasted three times.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 95-96	<p>This is a fantastic Branaire with deep and dark fruit, such as blackberries and blackcurrants. Lots of raspberries, too. Full-bodied with firm and creamy tannins and a super long finish. We will see if it's better than 2016, but on its way.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score: 94-97	<p>This is well-packed, with blueberry, açai and blackberry fruit flavors and licorice snap and fruitcake notes. Long and refined despite the copious fruit, showing polish and poise through the finish.</p> <p><i>-James Molesworth</i></p>					
WA Score: 92-94	<p>The deep garnet-purple colored 2018 Branaire-Ducru begins just a tad reduced with broody tar, rubber and fried herbs scents giving way to a fragrant core of warm cassis, blackberry pie and blueberry coulis with touches of smoked meats and tobacco. Full-bodied, firm and rugged in the mouth with brawny, muscular fruit and a sturdy frame of grainy tannins, it finishes long and savory.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					

Gloria		91-94	93-94	93-96	92-94	\$51
AG Score: 91-94	Gloria is once again fabulous. Brisk and vibrant, the 2018 has so much to offer. The 2018 is a bit more linear than other recent vintages (such as the 2016) but it nevertheless has a lot to offer. Bright red cherry, cedar, tobacco, spice and floral notes pulse with tremendous energy. The tannins need a few years in bottle to unwind, but there is so much to look forward to. The blend is 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot and 3% Cabernet Franc. Tasted four times. <i>-Antonio Galloni</i>					
JS Score: 93-94	This is a tight and linear red, showing dark berries and blueberries with cedar with flowers. Full-bodied and foursquare. Framed and focused. <i>-James Suckling</i>					
JM Score: 93-96	There's lots here, with raspberry, blackberry, currant and blueberry fruit all playing a role, along with lively briar and licorice snap notes. An apple wood frame keeps the elements in line. <i>-James Molesworth</i>					
WA Score: 92-94	The 2018 Gloria is deep garnet-purple colored and gives up expressive notions of warm red and black currants, black cherries and boysenberries with hints of spice cake, cedar chest, pencil lead and menthol. Full-bodied with a firm texture of ripe, grainy tannins, it has a lively line cutting through the dense, savory layers, finishing on a lingering spicy note. The blend is currently 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot and 3% Cabernet Franc. Anticipated aging is for 14 months in oak barriques, 40% new. <i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i>					
Lagrange		92-95	93-94	93-96	93-95	\$61
AG Score: 92-95	The 2018 Lagrange is off the charts. Bold, plush and beautifully resonant in the glass, the 2018 possesses tremendous richness and textural intensity. Super-ripe dark cherry, plum, espresso, mint and licorice build in a racy, sumptuous Lagrange loaded with personality. The 2018 is one of the best recent vintages I have tasted. Tasted two times. <i>-Antonio Galloni</i>					
JS Score: 93-94	This is a very velvety-textured Lagrange with blackberry and purple-fruit character. Lavender and black-tea undertones. Full body. Long and caressing. <i>-James Suckling</i>					
JM Score: 93-96	The intense cassis and blackberry fruit is studded with graphite and licorice snap notes. Vivid from start to finish. Grippy but energetic. <i>-James Molesworth</i>					
WA Score: 93-95	Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2018 Lagrange opens a little closed and broody, slowly revealing cedar chest, tar, pencil shavings, camphor and fragrant earth scents with a baked plums and warm cassis core plus a hint of yeast extract. Full-bodied and jam-packed with black fruits and earthy accents, it has a solid frame of firm, chunky tannins and just enough freshness, finishing on a persistent mineral note. <i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i>					

MARGAUX		AG	JS	JM	WA	PRICE
Chateau Margaux		95-98	99-100		97-100	SOLD OUT
AG Score: 95-98	<p>Château Margaux's 2018 Grand Vin boasts off the charts textural richness and intensity from the very first taste. A huge core of dark fruit, potent, muscular tannins are two of the signatures. Dense and explosive in the glass, with breathtaking concentration, the 2018 is one of the finest Margauxs in recent memory. Lavender, rose petal and spice add striking perfume in this compelling, memorable Grand Vin. In 2018, the Grand Vin represents 36% of the crop and is 90% Cabernet Sauvignon, 4% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 99-100	<p>Wow. This takes off on the palate the moment you taste it. Aromas and flavors of redcurrants, flowers, cherries and hints of hazelnuts. Full-bodied, tight and compact, but the linear tannins, running down the center of the wine, draw the wine through the finish. Superb.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score:						
WA Score: 97-100	<p>Deep purple-black in color, it comes prancing out of the glass with energetic Morello cherries, black raspberries and blackberry pie scents plus nuances of fragrant soil, candied violets, lavender, sandalwood, unsmoked cigars and black olives with a gentle wave of cassis and licorice emerging with coaxing. Full-bodied, the palate is charged with the most amazing energy, delivering layer after layer of red and black fruits with tons of earthy nuances, framed by the most exquisitely ripe, fine-grained tannins, finishing with amazing freshness and an extraordinarily long-lingering perfume. Magnificent.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					
Pavillon Rouge Du Chateau Margaux		91-94	95-96		93-95	\$260
AG Score: 91-94	<p>The 2018 Pavillon Rouge is absolutely gorgeous. Pliant, rich and enveloping, Pavillon Rouge is unusually deep in this vintage. Dark red cherry, plum, spice, tobacco, licorice and rose petal are all given an extra kick of textural resonance in the 2018. Dehydration at the end of the growing season concentrated the fruit, a phenomenon that was mostly felt in younger vines and parcels on gravel soils rather than clay. Even with all of its obvious richness, the 2018 has striking aromatic intensity and brilliance to round things out. Pavillon Rouge accounts for 30% of the harvest and is a blend of 69% Cabernet Sauvignon, 19% Merlot, 9% Petit Verdot and 3% Cabernet Franc.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 95-96	<p>Fantastic depth of ripe fruit with currant and dark-berry aromas. Hints of citrus and dry earth. Full body and round, velvety tannins that are melted into the wine. Very intense and fruity.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score:						
WA Score: 93-95	<p>It is composed of 69% Cabernet Sauvignon, 19% Merlot, 9% Petit Verdot and 3% Cabernet Franc, with 14.5% alcohol. Deep garnet-purple in colour, it sings of crushed black and red currants, warm black berries and plum pudding with touches of fungi, cedar chest, truffles and smoked meats plus a fragrant undercurrent of fallen leaves and potpourri. The palate is medium to full-bodied with a solid backbone of fine-grained tannins and loads of freshness supporting the vibrant red and black fruits, finishing long.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					

Pavillon Blanc Du Chateau Margaux		91-94	97-98		93-95	\$280
AG Score: 91-94	<p>The 2018 Pavillon Blanc is rich and beautifully layered, with a striking interplay of aromas, flavors and textures. Citrus peel, white flowers and orchard fruit give the 2018 lovely resonance from start to finish. Harvest was about a week earlier than normal, which is to say between August 27-31, before dehydration in the field became an issue. The 2018 captures the natural radiance of the year while retaining terrific freshness as well. In a word: sublime.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 97-98	<p>A very powerful and dense white with loads of dried lemons and cooked peaches. Full-bodied with chewy phenolic tension and texture. Extremely long. Lasts for minutes. Layered!</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score:						
WA Score: 93-95	<p>The 2018 Pavillon Blanc is made of 100% Sauvignon Blanc that was picked in August—there was no water stress on the vines at this stage. The wine has a pH of 3.1 and 13.5% alcohol. It leaps from the glass with exuberant green guava, fresh pineapple and apricot scents with hints of mandarin peel, honeysuckle and fresh ginger. The palate is medium-bodied, elegant and very fresh with wonderful, intense tropical layers, finishing very exotic.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					
Palmer		95-98	94-95	97-100	97-99	\$428
AG Score: 95-98	<p>Rich, unctuous and flamboyant in its ripeness, the 2018 possesses off the charts intensity from start to finish. Blackberry jam, espresso, crème de cassis, licorice, menthol, lavender and cloves develop in a palate-staining, hedonistic Palmer that oozes with personality. This extravagantly ripe Margaux won't be for everyone, but it is a stunning, head-spinning wine that may, in time, very well join the ranks of the truly epic Palmers. A wine of pure and total pleasure, the 2018 is nearly impossible to resist. The blend is 53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot and 7% Petit Verdot.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 94-95	<p>It is the essence of cabernet fruit with density that is so thick that it has the texture of grape puree. Full body and melted tannins that give the wine a sense of velvet. Very soft and juicy. With air, it goes to bright, crushed black currants. Tar. Fresh tannins give it energy. I have never tasted anything like this in all my 38 years as a wine critic in Bordeaux. From tiny berries of cabernet sauvignon (53 per cent), 40 per cent merlot and seven per cent petit verdot.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score: 97-100	<p>The level of glycerine sets this apart, giving the cascade of plum, currant, blackberry and black cherry fruit extra oomph, while seeming to heighten the purity at the same time. Beautiful violet, incense and juniper notes flash in the background. This is packed with iron-laced grip but remains seamless and extremely long. I suspect this will be one of the most talked-about wines of the vintage</p> <p><i>-James Molesworth</i></p>					
WA Score: 97-99	<p>Very deep purple-black in colour, the nose is a little reticent to begin, but with coaxing, it slowly emerges to show fragrant violets, underbrush, mossy bark and iron ore with exponentially growing notions of crème de cassis, Black Forest cake, plum preserves, hoisin, Christmas cake and red roses with wafts of dusty earth, Indian spices and cracked black pepper. Full-bodied, concentrated and downright powerful in the mouth, it has a solid structure of firm, wonderfully plush tannins and masses of fragrant accents, finishing very long and very spicy.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					

Malescot St Exupery		93-96	97-98	93-96	94-96	\$73
AG Score: 93-96	The 2018 Malescot Saint Exupéry is fabulous. Powerful and explosive in the glass, and yet remarkably polished, the 2018 is impressive. Graphite, smoke, gravel, spice and leather infuse a potent, full-bodied Margaux built on structure. Even so, in this vintage, Malescot shows unusually supple tannins and a softer feel than is usually the case. The blend is 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc and 5% Petit Verdot. Tasted three times. <i>-Antonio Galloni</i>					
JS Score: 97-98	A structured and muscular Malescot with blackberry and blackcurrant aromas and flavors. Full-bodied, chewy tannins and a flavorful finish. Big wine for this producer. <i>-James Suckling</i>					
JM Score: 93-96	Fresh and silky in feel, with light herb and sanguine notes amid the cassis and cherry puree flavors. Graceful and very pure. <i>-James Molesworth</i>					
WA Score: 94-96	The deep garnet-purple colored 2018 Malescot St. Exupery comes prancing out of the glass with flamboyant raspberry coulis, kirsch and redcurrant jelly scents over a fresh blackcurrant and boysenberry core with wafts of red roses, cinnamon stick and forest floor. Full-bodied, rich and opulent in the mouth, the palate delivers stacks of red fruit, cassis and floral layers with a firm, finely grained frame and plenty of freshness, finishing long and fragrant. Just lovely. <i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i>					
Cantenac Brown		93-96	93-94	94-97	91-93	\$69
AG Score: 93-96	The 2018 Cantenac Brown is powerful, deep and super expressive, with striking persistence and terrific overall balance. The interplay of fruit intensity, aromatic depth and structure is compelling. In the 2018, the Grand Vin has a bit more Cabernet Sauvignon than in the past, plus drops of Franc, that give an added touch of energy. There is plenty of density and richness, but my impression is that the wine is also a bit less extracted than it has been in the recent past. The blend is 69% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Merlot and 3% Cabernet Franc. Tasted three times. <i>-Antonio Galloni</i>					
JS Score: 93-94	This CB has an extremely energetic palate with beautiful elegance and power. Pure and bright. Really lively. Firm and chewy tannins. <i>-James Suckling</i>					
JM Score: 94-96	Winey and dark in profile, with steeped currant, plum and blackberry fruit, buttressed by ganache, smoldering tobacco and warm earth notes. Accents of bay leaf, alder and mineral are in reserve. Delivers a beguiling feel despite the concentration. A very strong showing. <i>-James Molesworth</i>					
WA Score: 91-93	The 2018 Cantenac Brown is deep garnet-purple in color and a little coy to begin and then, with coaxing, opens out to lovely red roses, black tea, violets and underbrush scents with a core of warm red and black currants and chocolate-covered cherries. Full-bodied and laden with perfumed red and black fruit layers, it has a firm frame of fine-grained tannins and a long, fragrant finish. <i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i>					

Giscours		93-96	96-97	93-96	90-92	\$79
AG Score: 93-96	<p>The 2018 Giscours is another in a series of brilliant wines from the estate. Bold and explosive in the glass, with tremendous fruit richness, the 2018 has so much to offer. In 2018, Giscours is radiant, exotically ripe and incredibly inviting, with a relatively high percentage of Merlot that adds juiciness. All the elements are in gorgeous harmony. The 2018 is an especially fine Giscours. It is certainly the best recent vintage I have tasted. The blend is 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 39% Merlot and 6% Petit Verdot. Tasted two times.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 96-97	<p>The black colour indicates a solid and structured red with loads of blackberry and blueberry character. Full-bodied and very tight and tensioned. Savory tannins that are powerful and intense at the finish. Classically structured. Finely toned and formed young red.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score: 93-96	<p>A very solid wine, with a dense core of steeped plum and blackberry puree flavors, liberally infused with black tea, alder and sanguine accents. The long finish unfurls nicely, revealing depth and a caressing feel</p> <p><i>-James Molesworth</i></p>					
WA Score: 90-92	<p>Deep garnet-purple coloured, the 2018 Giscours delivers expressive notions of baked raspberries, Black Forest cake and sautéed herbs with a core of crème de cassis, pencil lead, fertile loam and fallen leaves. Full-bodied, taut and muscular in the mouth with earth-laced baked black fruits, it has a firm, chewy texture and refreshing herbal sparks on the finish.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					
Marojallia		90-93	92-93		92-94	\$53
AG Score: 90-93	<p>The 2018 Marojallia is gorgeous. Dark cherry, mocha, espresso, licorice, menthol and sweet spice all flesh out in this succulent, lush Margaux. All the elements meld together effortlessly. Sweet spice and floral notes reappear on the finish, adding lift and further nuance. This is an especially creamy, racy style. The blend is 70% Cabernet Sauvignon and 30% Merlot.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 92-93	<p>This is really dense and rich with a very bright and vivid palate. Medium to full body. Muscular. Tannic.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score:						
WA Score: 92-94	<p>This vineyard is situated between Le Tertre and Monbrison in the parish of Arzac on deep, gravelly soils. It is planted at a high density of 6,500-10,000 vines per hectare. The average age of the vines for this section was 60 years old in 2018. It is aging in one-third new French oak barrels, one-third in second year barrels and the rest in vats. The blend is 70% Cabernet Sauvignon and 30% Merlot, and it has 14.5% alcohol. Deep purple black in colour, the 2018 Marojallia is a little reticent to begin and then, with coaxing, reveals fragrant rose hip tea, cedar chest, fallen leaves and cinnamon stick scents over a core of black cherry compote, warm cassis and plum pudding. Full-bodied and decadently fruited, the palate has a plush frame and just enough freshness supporting the generous fruit, finishing long and spicy.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					

Alter Ego De Palmer					
AG Score:					
JS Score:					
JM Score:					
WA Score:					
Prieure-Lichine	92-95	93-94	89-92	91-93	\$52
AG Score: 92-95	<p>The 2018 Prieuré-Lichine is gorgeous. Bright and racy in the glass, the 2018 impresses with its magnificent purity of fruit. In 2018, Prieuré-Lichine has terrific energy and cut. It is perhaps a bit less creamy than the 2016, but also impeccable in its balance. Part of that is driven by the higher percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon in the blend in 2018. Rose petal, lavender, mint and spice add nuance to a core of red/purplish fruit. Tasted two times.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>				
JS Score: 93-94	<p>This is a very fresh and bright red with lots of blue fruit and linear and fine tannins that have drive down the center palate. 65 per cent cabernet sauvignon, 30 per cent merlot and 5 per cent petit verdot.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>				
JM Score: 89-92	<p>Solid, with warm dark plum, currant and bitter cherry flavors, wrapped in singed cedar, vanilla and coffee notes. The toast is a bit overt on the finish.</p> <p><i>-James Molesworth</i></p>				
WA Score: 91-93	<p>The deep garnet-purple colored 2018 Prieure-Lichine slips sensuously out of the glass with gorgeous raspberry coulis, chocolate-covered cherries and warm cassis scents with hints of candied violets, licorice, camphor and wilted roses. The full-bodied, richly fruited palate is beautifully perfumed with loads of floral accents and has a firm frame of ripe, grainy tannins, finishing long with some mineral notions coming through. Very pretty.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>				

Rauzan Ségla		97-100	99-100	96-99	97-99	SOLD OUT
AG Score: 97-100	<p>The 2018 Rauzan-Ségla is fabulous. Regal and soaring in the glass, Rauzan-Ségla is simply unforgettable. Stunning aromatics and layers of flavors develop in the glass in a drop-dead gorgeous Rauzan that will leave readers weak at the knees. Inky and explosive, the 2018 possesses off the charts intensity and richness. Leather, licorice, spice and grilled herbs add nuance as the 2018 builds to a huge crescendo of aromas, flavors and textures on the finish. I won't be surprised if one day the 2018 is considered among the greatest Rauzan-Séglas of all time. It is a tremendous achievement by the property and the team lead by Technical Director Nicolas Audebert. Don't miss it! Tasted four times.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 99-100	<p>This is one of the most structured and deep Razans I have tasted with a full body, layers of fruit and a firm and polished tannin backbone. Compact and composed. Such depth and power. 60 per cent cabernet sauvignon and 40 per cent merlot.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score: 96-99	<p>Very concentrated, atypically so for Margaux, with sappy kirsch and plum reduction notes that are well-defined and luxurious in feel, draping beautifully over a graphite underpinning on the finish. Very long.</p> <p><i>-James Molesworth</i></p>					
WA Score: 97-99	<p>The 2018 Rauzan-Ségla is blended of 56% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot. Cabernet Sauvignon was harvested from September 27 to October 11; Merlot from September 13-27; Cabernet Franc on September 28; and Petit Verdot from September 28-29. The wine has 14% alcohol and aging is anticipated to be 18 months in barriques, 65% new. Deep purple-black in colour, it comes bounding out of the glass with exuberant notes of warm plums, crème de cassis, Black Forest cake and candied violets with hints of mocha, Indian spices and fragrant earth plus a waft of crushed rocks. Full-bodied, multilayered and sporting a lot of freshness and tension in the mouth in spite of all its decadent perfumed black fruits, it has a firm, finely grained frame and seamless freshness, finishing long and fragrant. Seduction in a glass.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					
Du Tertre		89-92	94-95	91-94	89-91	\$52
AG Score: 89-92	<p>The 2018 du Tertre is dense and powerful. Scorched earth, game, tobacco, licorice and incense give the 2018 its decidedly feral, pungent character. The 2018 seems quite marked by the radiant intensity of Merlot in its fruit and Petit Verdot in its savory overtones. The blend is 40% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 16% Cabernet Franc and 14% Petit Verdot.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 94-95	<p>A tight and precise du Tertre with deep and dark fruit, as well as fresh flowers. Medium to full body, firm tannins and a clean and beautiful finish. The tannins are folding into the wine here.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score: 91-94	<p>A bright sanguine thread runs from start to finish here, lacing up the damson plum, savory, bitter cherry and black tea notes.</p> <p><i>-James Molesworth</i></p>					
WA Score: 89-91	<p>Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2018 du Tertre is a little reduced to begin, opening out to notions of baked plums, warm cassis and dried mulberries with hints of tar, chargrill and black pepper plus a waft of bouquet garni. Full-bodied with a firm, chewy frame, it has a good amount of baked berries and herbal flavors with a sage-laced finish.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					

Brane-Cantenac		92-95	95-96		92-94	\$91
AG Score: 92-95	<p>The 2018 Brane-Cantenac captures all of the natural richness of the year. Ample, creamy and resonant, the 2018 offers quite a bit of intensity while retaining its mid-weight sense of structure. Dark red cherry, mint, spice, and dried rose petals are some of the signatures. Even with its obvious volume the 2018 retains lovely aromatic freshness and nuance. The 2018 is an especially juicy, open-knit Brane-Cantenac. Grilled herbs, menthol, spice and anise add an attractive upper-register to the perfumed finish. The blend is 74% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot. Tasted three times.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 95-96	<p>What strikes me about this Brane-Cantenac is the gorgeous center palate of ripe fruit, which gives an impression of generosity, yet it's tight and reserved at the same time. Fine and polished tannins follow on and drive this gorgeous fruit.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score:						
WA Score: 92-94	<p>The 2018 Brane-Cantenac is deep garnet-purple in color and delivers expressive black cherry compote, blueberry coulis and crème de cassis scents with suggestions of cigar box, Provence herbs and lavender. Full-bodied with mouth-filling, rich black fruit preserves, it has a velvety texture and a long, perfumed finish.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					
Lascombes		90-93	94-95	93-96	92-94	\$97
AG Score: 90-93	<p>The 2018 Lascombes is quite attractive in this vintage. Black cherry, plum, cloves, leather, tobacco and licorice all run through a succulent, supple Margaux that will drink well with minimal cellaring. This is an especially modern, fruit-forward style. Tasted two times.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 94-95	<p>This is a dense and very structured young red with currant and citrus character, such as burnt orange. Full-bodied with chewy yet polished tannins and a long and flavorful finish.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score: 93-96	<p>Dark and winey, with steeped currant and plum fruit forming the core, inlaid with a licorice root note and backed by a suave mesquite hint on the finish. Fine-grained. A serious wine.</p> <p><i>-James Molesworth</i></p>					
WA Score: 92-94	<p>The 2018 Lascombes is deep garnet-purple in colour and a little reduced to begin, offering tar and scorched earth notions over an emerging core of baked blackcurrants, plum preserves and charcuterie plus hints of bay leaves and underbrush. Full, richly fruited and laden with ripe black fruits and earthy suggestions, it has a solid foundation of firm, grainy tannins and finishes long and savory.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					

D'Issan		92-95	95-96		94-96	\$82
AG Score: 92-95	<p>An explosive, dense wine, the 2018 d'Issan possesses off the charts richness and fabulous intensity. A rush of blue/black fruit, chocolate, smoke, spice, leather and tobacco builds in a potent Margaux endowed with tremendous concentration and pure, unbridled power. The 2018 is an unusually brooding, somber d'Issan that is likely to require a number of years to be at its best. Today, it is compelling, even in the early going. Tasted four times.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 95-96	<p>The cashmere texture of the tannins is wonderful in this. They are ripe and precise. Dense at the same time, giving a slow drive and a long finish. Full-bodied with dark and pretty fruit. Persistent finish.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score:						
WA Score: 94-96	<p>The 2018 D'Issan is composed of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon and 40% Merlot, aging in 50% new and 50% second year barrels for an estimated 18 months. With 13.97% alcohol and a deep garnet-purple color, it features baked berries, warm cherries and cassis with spice box and fragrant earth plus tea hints. Medium to full-bodied, it has a great core of muscular fruit with firm, fine-grained tannins, with nice freshness, finishing layered with mineral notions.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					
Château Kirwan		89-92	92-93		91-93	\$59
AG Score: 89-92	<p>The 2018 Kirwan is bold and potent in its first impression. A rush of dark red/purplish fruit makes a strong opening statement. Today, the 2018 is a bit chunky and rough around the edges. Hopefully élevage will take care of some of that. This is an especially rich, bombastic style. There is no lack of fruit or intensity, that much is obvious.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 92-93	<p>Tight and very focused this year with blackberries and olive and bark undertones. Full body, chewy tannins and a savory and juicy finish. Solid.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score:						
WA Score: 91-93	<p>The 2018 Kirwan is deep garnet-purple in color and gives intense, lifted scents of kirsch, black raspberries and warm cassis with nuances of rose hip tea, tar, fragrant earth and wild sage. The full-bodied palate delivers a great intensity of vibrant fruit with loads of earthy nuances and a firm, fine-grained frame, finishing long and perfumed.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					

MEDOC		AG	JS	JM	WA	PRICE
Sociando Mallet		90-93	94-95	90-93	85-87	\$43
AG Score: 90-93	<p>The 2018 Sociando Mallet is magnificent. Deep, powerful and resonant, the 2018 has so much to offer. Black cherry, plum, leather, licorice, gravel, cloves, licorice menthol and chocolate meld together in a wine of real distinction. There is a real sense of density and textural resonance that makes the 2018 compelling. Stated simply, the 2018 Sociando is magnificent. Don't miss it. Tasted three times.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 94-95	<p>There is fantastic purity of black fruit with blackberries and ripe raspberries. Floral and bright. Full-bodied, compact palate with super polished tannins. Really fantastic.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score: 90-93	<p>Offers a good dose of currant and blackberry paste flavors, coated with tobacco and tar details. Shows more guts than polish, but solid, nonetheless.</p> <p><i>-James Molesworth</i></p>					
WA Score: 85-87	<p>The deep garnet-purple coloured 2018 Sociando-Mallet has a nose of baked fruits, stewed plums, earth and herbs with a waft of menthol. The palate is full-bodied, firm, hard and chewy with an herbal, hot finish.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					
Chasse Spleen		89-91				\$42
AG Score: 89-91	<p>The 2018 Chasse-Spleen is especially dense and fruity in this vintage. Dense red cherry fruit, espresso, mint, dried flower and licorice are all generously rendered in this gorgeous, incredibly delicious Moulis. More than anything else, Casse-Spleen has a gorgeous sense of immediacy and pure pleasure.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score:						
JM Score:						
WA Score:						

Potensac		90-92	93-94	89-92	90-92	\$33
AG Score: 90-92	<p>The 2018 Potensac is bold, dense and powerful. Grilled herb, smoke, leather, cedar and tobacco give the inky blue/purplish fruit a decidedly savory character. Although a bit rough around the edges, the 2018 has plenty of nuance as well as personality. It will be interesting to see if the 2018 develops a bit more finesse in élevage. The blend is 45% Merlot, 36% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot. Tasted two times.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 93-94	<p>The excellence of this lies in the quality of the tannins, which are so polished and refined. Compact and tight. Medium-bodied. Very, very long. Beauty already.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score: 89-92	<p>The dark cherry and plum fruit is fresh and direct, with light tobacco and toast accents hanging on the finish.</p> <p><i>-James Molesworth</i></p>					
WA Score: 90-92	<p>The 2018 Potensac is blended of 45% Merlot, 36% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot, all harvested between September 21 and October 13, with yields of 49 hectoliters per hectare. The wine has 14.42% alcohol and is to be aged in barriques, 35% new; the finished blend was put into barrels last December. Medium to deep garnet-purple colored, it rolls effortlessly out of the glass with bright, fresh red and black plums, crushed blackcurrants and bay leaves with hints of cracked pepper and damp soil. Full-bodied, rich and laden with red and black fruit layers, it has a plush frame of rounded tannins and fantastic freshness, finishing long.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					
La Lagune						
AG Score:						
JS Score:						
JM Score:						
WA Score:						

Poujeaux		90-93	92-93	89-92	86-88	\$36
AG Score: 90-93	One of the stars of the vintage, the 2018 Poujeaux is rich, luscious and bold, with a level of fruit density I don't recall seeing in the past. Dark cherry, plum, mocha, licorice and spice are all pushed forward in this racy, succulent Moulis. This is an especially fine Poujeaux. Don't miss it. <i>-Antonio Galloni</i>					
JS Score: 92-93	Solid core of fruit and polished tannins give this a tight and composed palate. Fresh and bright. <i>-James Suckling</i>					
JM Score: 89-92	Flavors of plum and cherry preserves are melded nicely with cocoa and tobacco notes. Soft and rounded, yet persistent on the finish. <i>-James Molesworth</i>					
WA Score: 86-88	Deep garnet-purple coloured, the nose of the 2018 Poujeaux is a little reticent to begin, offering glimpses at smoked meats and tar over a core of warm red and black currants plus a waft of Marmite toast. Medium to full-bodied, the palate delivers plenty of earth-laced black fruit and a firm, chewy texture, finishing with an herbal lift. <i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i>					

HAUT MEDOC		AG	JS	JM	WA	PRICE
Cantemerle		86-88	94-95	87-90	86-88	\$36
AG Score: 86-88	The 2018 Cantemerle is a soft, easygoing wine with only limited depth. The challenges of the growing season are impossible to escape in this fleeting, light-weight effort. The 2018 offers good immediacy, but is also a bit lacking in depth and persistence. Graphite, dark spice and blackberry open up nicely. Severe hail took with it 50% of the crop. <i>-Antonio Galloni</i>					
JS Score: 94-95	A rich and layered young Bordeaux with a solid center palate of ripe fruit and coated with ripe and polished tannins. Tightly wound ball now. Pretty texture and length to this. <i>-James Suckling</i>					
JM Score: 87-90	Direct, with a stony accent to the red currant and damson plum flavors. A bit austere on the finish. <i>-James Molesworth</i>					
WA Score: 86-88	Deep garnet-purple coloured, the 2018 Cantemerle delivers notions of crème de cassis, raisin cake and prunes with hints of Chinese five spice and dusty soil. Full-bodied and boldly fruited with dried berries and fruit preserves, it has a firm, chewy texture and just enough freshness, finishing spicy. <i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i>					

GRAVES & PESSAC LEOGNAN		AG	JS	JM	WA	PRICE
De Fieuzal			92-93		91-93	\$53
AG Score:						
JS Score: 92-93	<p>Very attractive center palate with dark-berry, walnut and cedar character. Just a hint of bark. Medium-bodied. Juicy finish.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score:						
WA Score: 91-93	<p>Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2018 de Fieuzal rocks up with gregarious scents of baked plums, stewed cherries and dried mulberries plus suggestions of Chinese five spice, unsmoked cigars and sautéed herbs. The rich, full-bodied palate has loads of exotic spice and raisin cake layers with a firm, chewy frame, finishing just a little hard.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					
La Mission Haut Brion		90-93	97-98		98-100	\$438
AG Score: 90-93	<p>The 2018 La Mission Haut-Brion is bright and punchy, with lovely radiant fruit and a good deal of immediacy. Sweet red and purplish berry fruit, mint, tobacco, blood orange and wild flowers all grace this expressive, open-knit La Mission. It will be interesting to see what develops with élevage. Today, La Mission is decidedly expressive, and yet its typical layers of nuance are not yet especially in evidence. In 2018, La Mission is 53.5% Merlot, 42.9% Cabernet Sauvignon and 3.6% Cabernet Franc.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 97-98	<p>A tight and linear red with fantastic oyster-shell, iodine and crushed-stone character, complementing the currants and blackberries. Extremely long and fresh.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score:						
WA Score: 98-100	<p>The 2018 La Mission Haut-Brion is composed of 53.5% Merlot, 42.9% Cabernet Sauvignon and 3.6% Cabernet Franc, harvested September 10 to October 2. Deep purple-black in color, it slowly unfurls to reveal a beguiling nose of earth and soft-spoken fruit, opening with wild blueberries, wet slate, pencil lead and fresh black cherries giving way to a serious core of blackcurrant cordial, baked plums and wild sage, and then exposing delicate wafts of rose hip tea and candied violets. Full-bodied, the palate is very tightly wound and super intense with amazing restraint and energy focused around very firm, exquisitely fine-grained tannins and seamless freshness, finishing incredibly long and fantastically multilayered. Extraordinary wine.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					

La Mission Haut Brion Blanc		90-92	97-98		92-94	\$840
AG Score: 90-92	<p>The 2018 La Mission Haut-Brion Blanc is rich, ample and expressive, with tons of Sauvignon Blanc character and the added textural richness of the vintage. Orchard fruit, white flowers, mint and white peach all meld together in a pretty, understated wine. The 2018 offers lovely aromatic brightness as well as a sense of translucence that is quite appealing. The Blanc is 57.4% Sauvignon and 42.6% Sémillon.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 97-98	<p>This is a dense and lively La Mission white with lemon, lime and cream character and a light mineral and salty undertone. White pepper and salt at the finish.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score:						
WA Score: 92-94	<p>The La Mission Haut-Brion 2018 Blanc is made of 57.4% Sauvignon Blanc and 42.6% Sémillon, harvested August 27 to September 5. It reveals intense lemon curd, lime leaves, yuzu and green mango scents with hints of chalk dust, orange blossoms, pie crust and coriander seed. Medium to full-bodied, the palate explodes with vibrant citrus and tropical fruit layers, with a satiny texture and just enough freshness, finishing long and layered.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					
La Chapelle de la Mission Haut Brion			93-94		91-93	\$105
AG Score:						
JS Score: 93-94	<p>A solid second wine from La Mission with currants, blackberries and hints of fresh tobacco. Oyster shell as well. Full-bodied with firm and chewy yet fine-grained tannins. Driven and long.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score:						
WA Score: 91-93	<p>The 2018 La Chapelle de la Mission Haut-Brion is composed of 40.8% Merlot, 51.6% Cabernet Sauvignon and 7.6% Cabernet Franc, harvested September 10 to October 2. Deep garnet-purple colored, it rocks up with ready-for-business scents of baked blueberries, raspberry compote and warm blackcurrants with touches of fungi, yeast extract, menthol and espresso plus a fragrant waft of red roses. Full-bodied, the palate has wonderful freshness lifting the black and red fruit preserves, framed by beautifully rounded tannins and finishing on a savory note.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					

Haut Brion		93-96	98-99		97-99	SOLD OUT
AG Score: 93-96	<p>The 2018 Haut-Brion is a regal wine. Creamy, soft and inviting, the 2018 is one of the more open-knit young Haut-Brions I can remember tasting. Cedar, tobacco, smoke, licorice, grilled herbs, leather and menthol are nicely layered in the glass. In 2018, Haut-Brion is almost shockingly elegant at this very early stage. There is plenty of tannin, but it is totally woven into the wine's fabric. In 2018, the blend is 49.4% Merlot, 38.7% Cabernet Sauvignon and 11.9% Cabernet Franc.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 98-99	<p>The length and texture to this wine is so very impressive. It's not so much the sheer power that is impressive here, rather the form, tension and exquisite form that the abundant, fine-grained tannins provide. It lasts for minutes on the palate. A classic beauty in the making.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score:						
WA Score: 97-99	<p>The 2018 Haut-Brion is a blend of 49.4% Merlot, 38.7% Cabernet Sauvignon and 11.9% Cabernet Franc, harvested September 6 to October 2. Deep purple-black in color, it is much more closed than the La Mission. It holds back for the first few minutes, reticent to reveal what slowly uncoils to give wave after wave of exotic spices—cardamom, cassis, star anise and fenugreek—over an opulent core of red roses, Black Forest cake, warm cassis and black raspberries with nuances of cigar box, crushed rocks, truffles, tilled black soil, iron ore and smoked meats. The full-bodied palate is truly profound, with restrained black fruit and spice layers slowly offering mineral sparks and savory suggestions within a rock-solid frame of firm, super fine-grained tannins and beautiful freshness, finishing with epic length and depth. This will take longer to come around than the La Mission, but it will be well worth the wait.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					
Haut Brion Blanc		91-94	95-96		94-96	\$1068
AG Score: 91-94	<p>The 2018 Haut-Brion Blanc is built on a vertical expression of structure and texture that makes it resemble of a red wine in its feel. Bright Sauvignon Blanc lend energy to the citrus peel, floral and mineral note. Haut-Brion Blanc has quite a bit to offer, but it is very embryonic at this stage. The 2018 is 80.6% Sauvignon and 19.4% Sémillon.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 95-96	<p>A dense and ripe white with sliced apples and pineapple and hints of cooked lemons. Round and velvety texture. Flavorful finish. Shows intensity and richness.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score:						
WA Score: 94-96	<p>The Haut-Brion 2018 Blanc is composed of 80.6% Sauvignon Blanc and 19.4% Sémillon, harvested August 27 to September 5—this is the highest level of Sauvignon Blanc in the blend ever. It comes sashaying out of the glass with flamboyant notions of warm pineapple, passion fruit, lime cordial and lemongrass and hints of dried mandarin peel, peach blossoms, wild thyme and wet pebbles plus a waft of dill seed. Full-bodied and profoundly fruited in the mouth, the silky, vivacious frame has a lot of intense tropical notions and yet is jam-packed with delicate nuances, finishing with great length and a lot of emerging mineral and citrus layers. Big and beautiful.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					

Haut Bailly		94-97	97-98		96-98	\$152
AG Score: 94-97	<p>The 2018 Haut-Bailly speaks with real authority and class. Deeply spiced notes lead into a core of red/purplish berry fruit, lavender, licorice, new leather, menthol and tobacco. Vivid and dramatic in bearing, the 2018 possesses striking resonance from start to finish. There is plenty of tannin as well, but it is pretty much buried by the sheer luxuriousness of the fruit, while the mid-palate and saline-infused finish show terrific freshness as well as purity. The blend is 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc and 5% Petit Verdot.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 97-98	<p>Incredible depth of fruit to this with a center palate that shows superb character and texture. I love the hazelnut and coffee-bean undertones to the beautiful fruit, which shows great finesse. Full-bodied yet compact and tight, giving a sense of agility and flight to the wine. Extremely tight and polished tannins.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score:						
WA Score: 96-98	<p>The 2018 Haut-Bailly is blended of 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot and 5% Cabernet Franc. Grapes were harvested September 17 to October 9, and the wine has 14.4% alcohol. Deep purple-black in color, it opens slowly with profound notions of Black Forest cake, crème de cassis, roasted nuts and black olives, unfurling to reveal notions of menthol, crushed rocks, molten licorice and chargrilled meat plus a hint of lilacs. Full-bodied, rich and densely laden with layer upon layer of vibrant black fruits and mineral nuances, it has a solid backbone of firm, velvety tannins and seamless freshness, finishing very long with compelling restraint and exciting energy.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					
La Clarté de Haut Brion Blanc			94-95			\$105
AG Score:						
JS Score: 94-95	<p>A lovely, dense white with pretty phenolic tension and dried-apple and peach character. Medium to full body. Phenolics give this tension.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score:						
WA Score:						

La Clarence de Haut Brion										\$184
AG Score:										
JS Score:										
JM Score:										
WA Score:										
Smith Haut Lafitte					90-93	98-99	91-94	97-99		\$143
AG Score: 90-93	<p>The 2018 Smith Haut Lafitte is powerful, dense and also tightly wound. There is good depth to the red cherry and plum fruit, but the 2018 comes across as not fully put together. It will be interesting to see what élevage does, but today, the Grand Vin, while good, is not especially thrilling. The tannins need time to soften, and the wine just needs time to find its center. I found the 2018 very challenging to taste on two separate occasions.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>									
JS Score: 98-99	<p>This is incredibly complex with hazelnut, currant, berry and dried-flower character. The impression of a vat of fermenting cabernet. Full body, round and juicy tannins and a long, soft and silky finish. Shows the essence of the fruit here. Fascinating. Layered and complex.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>									
JM Score: 91-94	<p>Ripe and full in feel, with a rounded core of warm plum paste and cherry preserve flavors. Shows good tension on the finish, with tobacco and tarry hints playing a supporting role.</p> <p><i>-James Molesworth</i></p>									
WA Score: 97-99	<p>Composed of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 34% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot aging in 60% new barriques, the very deep purple-black colored 2018 Smith Haut Lafitte is a little shy to begin. With coaxing, it very slowly unfurls to reveal a heart-stopping perfume of violets, red roses, kirsch, black cherries and redcurrant jelly, before giving way to a profound core of warm blackcurrants, blackberry preserves, molten licorice and cinnamon stick with nuances of dried mint, orange blossoms (yes!) and cloves. Full-bodied, the fruit does veritable pirouettes on your palate, both elegant and powerful in its expression, coating the mouth with densely packed red and black fruits while revealing tons of mineral, floral and savory sparks, framed by exquisitely fine-grained tannins and bold freshness, finishing very long.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>									

Smith Haut Lafitte Blanc		91-94	97-98	95-98	94-96	\$148
AG Score: 91-94	<p>The 2018 Smith Haut Lafitte Blanc is gorgeous. One of the more pure, crystalline wines of the year, the Blanc is airy, lifted and very pretty. Time in the glass brings out attractive textural richness and creaminess in the lemon peel, floral and mint notes, with light tropical overtones that develop on the finish. In 2018, the Blanc is a wine of real brilliance and class. Tasted two times.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 97-98	<p>This is very dense and deep with glorious fruit and a creamy textured, very long finish. A superb young white. Energetic yet textured. Lots of sliced-lemon, lime and apple character with some cream. Top.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score: 95-98	<p>Ripe and lush, with delicious waves of plum, blackberry and black currant preserve flavors laced with subtle charcoal, tobacco and licorice notes. There's a long flow through the finish. Beautifully rendered, capturing the ripeness of the vintage in spades without being heady at all.</p> <p><i>-James Molesworth</i></p>					
WA Score: 94-96	<p>The Smith Haut Lafitte 2018 Blanc is composed of 90% Sauvignon Blanc, 5% Sémillon and 5% Sauvignon Gris, aging in 50% new oak barriques. It features intense scents of lime leaves, pink grapefruit, white peaches and green mango with hints of yuzu, lemon meringue pie, crushed rocks and coriander seed. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is laden with energetic citrus and stone fruit layers, with a satiny texture and bold freshness, finishing long and mineral laced.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					
Carmes Haut Brion			97-98	95-98	94-96	\$120
AG Score:						
JS Score: 97-98	<p>This is really exotic with peaches, oranges and blackberries. Full body, lovely purity of fruit and soft and integrated tannins that are barely detectable. Extremely long and persistent. Savory. White pepper and bark with black-tea and charcoal undertones. Superb complexity. 53 per cent whole-cluster fermentation.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score: 95-98	<p>This throws off a stream of cassis, cherry preserves and raspberry fruit that is pure and bright, laced with a racy mineral edge through the finish. Stands apart from the pack for its purity and finesse. Really beautiful.</p> <p><i>-James Molesworth</i></p>					
WA Score: 94-96	<p>The 2018 Les Carmes Haut-Brion is composed of 37% Cabernet Franc, 34% Cabernet Sauvignon and 29% Merlot. It was made using 52% whole cluster and has 13.75% alcohol. It is anticipated to age 18-24 months in 75% new oak barriques, 16% foudres and 9% amphorae. Deep garnet-purple colored, it is slightly broody and reduced to begin, slowly growing to reveal notions of charcoal, smoked meats, truffles and tilled soil over a core of black raspberries, warm black cherries, blackberry coulis and redcurrant jelly plus wafts of Provence herbs and iron ore. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is taut and muscular, tense with latent energy, offering a rock-solid backbone of firm, grainy tannins and bold freshness to support the bright, vibrant fruit, finishing long and mineral laced.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					

Pape Clement		93-96	97-98	95-98	96-98	\$118
AG Score: 93-96	<p>The 2018 Pape Clément is dense, powerful, and brooding. In most vintages, Pape Clément is much more showy and inviting, but the 2018 is in no mood to show all of its cards. Instead, we find a Pape Clément that explodes with vertical intensity and lift. Captivating scents of gravel, smoke, leather, tobacco, chocolate and incense add layers of complexity. I can't wait to see how the 2018 ages. Today, it is super expressive. The blend is 66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and 4% Cabernet Franc. New oak is 45%. Tasted four times.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 97-98	<p>This is a very driven Pape Clément with fantastic density and finesse at the same time. Linear and driven, the finish goes on for minutes with incredible tension and focus. More cabernet. Refinement with power.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score: 95-98	<p>This is really well put together, with waves of steeped plum, currant and raspberry fruit, bolts of licorice and tar and a long apple wood accent on the sappy finish.</p> <p><i>-James Molesworth</i></p>					
WA Score: 96-98	<p>This wine is a blend of 66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and 4% Cabernet Franc to be aged for approximately 18 months in oak barriques, 60% new. Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2018 Pape Clement is a little closed, slowly unfurling to reveal fragrant earth, crushed rocks, iron ore and tobacco notions over a core of crushed red and black currants plus kirsch, red roses and Ceylon tea. Full-bodied and wonderfully vivacious, it offers a solid line of firm and fine-grained tannins and amazing freshness, finishing very long and mineral laced.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					
Pape Clement Blanc		90-93	98-99		94-96	\$172
AG Score: 90-93	<p>The 2018 Pape Clément Blanc is laced with white flowers, mint, passion fruit, apricot and chamomile. Here, too, the more restrained style that is typical at the estate these days is very much in evidence. The blend is 57% Sauvignon Blanc, 39% Sémillon and 4% Muscadelle, all fermented in oak, including larger 500-liter and 10HL foudres. Larger format oak adds an element of tension and brightness that is super intriguing.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 98-99	<p>This is a cylinder of dense fruit and phenolic intensity, yet it remains agile and vivid with cooked-apple, honey and cream character, compounding the fantastic texture and structure. A great white with the same gravitas as a red.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score:						
WA Score: 94-96	<p>The Pape Clement 2018 Blanc slips languidly from the glass with tropical notes of warm pineapples, fresh mango and green guava plus hints of nutmeg, orange blossoms, lanolin and crushed rocks. Full-bodied, rich and seductive, it is absolutely laden with tropical fruit and spice layers, with a racy line to support and long, opulent finish. The blend is 57% Sauvignon Blanc, 39% Sémillon and 4% Muscadelle. Anticipated aging regimen is 14 months in 55% new and 45% second-fill French oak barrels.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					

Domaine De Chevalier		94-97	99-100	94-97	94-96	\$95
AG Score: 94-97	<p>The 2018 Domaine de Chevalier is magnificent. Bright, lifted and wonderfully nuanced, the 2018 has so much to offer. Olivier Bernard turned out a dazzling Domaine de Chevalier in 2018 that speaks to precision and nuance above all else. Rose petal, mint, savory herbs and crushed rocks add striking aromatic top notes to this stunning, breathtakingly beautiful wine. The tannins need time to soften, but I doubt readers will be in a rush. The 2018 is simply majestic - that's all there is to it. The blend is 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and 2% Petit Verdot. Tasted three times.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 99-100	<p>Wow. I can't get over the pureness of fruit in this wine with so much currant, tar and wet-earth character. Flowers, too. So aromatic. Full body, yet pureness and brightness of fruit. Layered. Incredible depth and beauty. 65 per cent cabernet sauvignon, 30 per cent merlot and 5 per cent petit verdot. Greatest ever?</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score: 94-97	<p>This is flashy, with mesquite, licorice, black tea and fruitcake aromatics leading the way to a frankly ripe core of steeped raspberry and plum flavors. Seems pretty liberal with the toast, but this has what it needs to come together in the end.</p> <p><i>-James Molesworth</i></p>					
WA Score: 94-96	<p>This wine is a blend of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, and 5% Petit Verdot to be aged for approximately 18 months in oak barriques, 35% new. Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2018 Domaine de Chevalier starts a little closed before bounding out of the glass with bold expressions of fresh blackcurrants, kirsch, black raspberries and fragrant earth plus nuances of lilacs, Sichuan pepper and menthol. Medium to full-bodied, the palate maintains elegance and sophistication, with a lovely ripe, finely grained frame and plenty of freshness to back up the floral and black fruit layers, finishing long and perfumed.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					
Domaine De Chevalier Blanc		90-93	97-98		93-95	\$125
AG Score: 90-93	<p>Domaine de Chevalier's Blanc is surprisingly unctuous in this vintage. Lemon confit, dried flowers and chamomile are some of the many notes that develop in the glass. The Blanc is, of course, famous for its ageworthiness, but I don't see the complexity, energy or structure of the very best years. I would prefer to drink it on the younger side. In 2018, the red is vastly more interesting than the Blanc. The blend is 75% Sauvignon Blanc and 25% Sémillon. Tasted three times.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 97-98	<p>This is dense and very structured with phenolic tension and depth. Full-bodied, lightly phenolic with sliced apples, cooked pears and lemons. Lively and intense. Solid as a rock. This is one to watch.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score:						
WA Score: 93-95	<p>The Domaine de Chevalier 2018 Blanc, a blend of 75% Sauvignon Blanc and 30% Semillon, slowly reveals beguiling scents of lemongrass, lime leaves, fresh grapefruit, allspice and ginger with a core of fresh lemon and grapefruit. Medium to full-bodied, the palate delivers bold citrus and spice layers with fantastic tension and a chalky finish. Aging on lees in barriques, 35% new, is anticipated to go for 16 months.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					

Carbonnieux		89-92	92-93	93-96	91-93	\$50
AG Score: 89-92	<p>The 2018 Carbonnieux is a deep, powerful wine. Black cherry, scorched earth, licorice, tobacco and menthol add to an impression of gravitas in this brooding, potent Pessac Léognan red. The 2018 is rustic and a bit rough around the edges, but certainly not lacking in character.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 92-93	<p>A pretty wine this year with a savory and earthy undertone to the ripe and juicy fruit. Medium body, round tannins and a juicy finish.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score: 93-96	<p>A dense, dark red, with fig, blackberry and black currant reduction notes forming the core, layered liberally with tar, espresso and loam accents through the muscular finish.</p> <p><i>-James Molesworth</i></p>					
WA Score: 91-93	<p>Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2018 Carbonnieux leaps from the glass with vibrant notes of baked blackberries, warm cassis, preserved plum and lavender with touches of Indian spices, forest floor and dried sage. Full-bodied, firm and grainy, the generous fruit has loads of bright, vibrant sparks plus a great line of freshness, finishing mineral tinged.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					
Carbonnieux Blanc			91-92		91-93	\$38.50
AG Score:						
JS Score: 91-92	<p>Really delicious and intense Carbonnieux already with lemon-rind, green-apple and lime character. Medium body. Energetic finish.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score:						
WA Score: 91-93	<p>The Carbonnieux 2018 Blanc features intense lime juice, yuzu and green mango scents with touches of lemon curd and white pepper. Medium-bodied, very tightly wound and zesty in the mouth, it has a racy backbone and a mineral-laced finish.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					

Latour Martillac		91-94	93-94	92-95	93-95	\$45
AG Score: 91-94	The 2018 Latour-Martillac is powerful, dense and explosive, with tremendous richness and energy that drive through to the palate staining finish. Abnormally low yields produced an unusually sumptuous, rich Latour-Martillac. Black cherry, chocolate, spice, gravel and incense build as this arrestingly beautiful wine shows off its racy, curvy personality. The blend is 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot and 8% Petit Verdot. Tasted three times. <i>-Antonio Galloni</i>					
JS Score: 93-94	The blackberry and wet-earth character with some bark undertones, comes through clearly here. Medium-to full-bodied. Savory finish. <i>-James Suckling</i>					
JM Score: 92-95	Dark plum and boysenberry compote notes are fleshy in feel, infused with dark tea, ganache and licorice accents. There's a smoldering hint through the finish. Intriguing. <i>-James Molesworth</i>					
WA Score: 93-95	Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2018 Latour Martillac bursts from the glass with bold cassis, chocolate-covered cherries and plum preserves scents followed up by smoked meats, violets and aniseed hints plus a waft of Provence herbs. Full-bodied, firm and fine-grained in the mouth, the palate is laden with juicy fruit and savory layers, finishing long and fragrant. <i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i>					
Latour Martillac Blanc		88-91	93-94		91-93	\$40
AG Score: 88-91	A powerful, structured white, the 2018 Latour-Martillac Blanc has a real feeling of density to it. Citrus, white flowers and mint all take shape in the glass, but it is the wine's textural resonance that stands out most. Some rough edges remain, but hopefully élevage will take care of them. More than anything else, it appears these old vines on clay handled the rigors of the growing season pretty well. The blend is 54% Sauvignon Blanc and 46% Sémillon. <i>-Antonio Galloni</i>					
JS Score: 93-94	This is an intense, mineral and acidity-driven white, showing dried fruit, such as lemon and pineapple. Medium to full body. Bright finish. <i>-James Suckling</i>					
JM Score:						
WA Score: 91-93	The Latour Martillac 2018 Blanc has an expressive nose of fresh grapefruit, white peaches and lemon juice with hints of lime leaves and chalk dust. Medium-bodied, the palate delivers great intensity with loads of minerally sparks and a long, zesty finish. <i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i>					

Malartic Lagraviere		92-95	93-94	92-95	92-94	\$61.50
AG Score: 92-95	The 2018 Malartic Lagravière is powerful, rich and explosive, all while retaining a mid-weight sense of structure. Black cherry, plum, gravel, chocolate, leather, lavender spice and licorice all run through this driving, juicy Pessac Léognan. I very much admire the weight and substance here. The blend is 57% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36% Merlot, 4% Petit Verdot and 3% Cabernet Franc, with the Cabernet very much front and center. Tasted three times. <i>-Antonio Galloni</i>					
JS Score: 93-94	Freshness and depth to this wine with blackberry, blueberry and crushed-stone character on the nose and palate. Full and flavorful, yet with underlying reserve. <i>-James Suckling</i>					
JM Score: 92-95	This has a big ball of warm plum and boysenberry compote notes at the core, framed with a liberal dose of singed cedar and apple wood. Hasn't integrated fully yet, but there's good length and energy here, with a positive vibe. <i>-James Molesworth</i>					
WA Score: 92-94	This is a blend of 57% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36% Merlot, 4% Petit Verdot and 3% Cabernet Franc, to be aged for 18-22 months in oak barriques, 70% new. Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2018 Malartic Lagraviere gives scents of baked red and black cherries, warm blackcurrants and balsamic with touches of underbrush, moss-covered bark and tobacco. Full-bodied, firm and chewy in the mouth, it packs in the berry preserves with some pepper and spice sparks coming through on the long finish. <i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i>					
Malartic Lagraviere Blanc		91-93	95-96		91-93	\$66.50
AG Score: 91-93	One of the few compelling whites of the vintage, the 2018 Malartic-Lagravière Blanc offers an intriguing combination of energy and textural depth. Green apple, pear, crushed rocks, citrus and floral notes build in an expressive white that has so much to offer. In 2018, the Blanc is 90% Sauvignon Blanc and 10% Sémillon. <i>-Antonio Galloni</i>					
JS Score: 95-96	A very dense and powerful young white with sliced-apple, pear and aniseed character and an undertone of fennel. Full-bodied. Salty and tangy. Great wine. <i>-James Suckling</i>					
JM Score:						
WA Score: 91-93	Fermented in 55% new barrels and blended of 90% Sauvignon Blanc and 10% Sémillon, the 2018 Malartic Lagraviere 2018 Blanc is a little closed to start, soon opening on the nose to reveal ripe apples, Bosc pears and warm peach scents with hints of wet pebbles and freshly baked bread. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is packed with apple and pear flavors with just enough freshness and an oily texture, finishing long and spicy. <i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i>					

SAINT EMILION		AG	JS	JM	WA	PRICE
Cheval Blanc		97-100	98-99		97-99	\$960
AG Score: 97-100	<p>The 2018 Cheval Blanc is dazzling. Creamy, supple and inviting, the 2018 is endowed with phenomenal balance. The tannins and overall structure are imposing, and yet the richness of the fruit and perfect ripeness of the tannin really stand out. In 2018, Cheval is a bit richer than is often the case, but that is not at all a bad thing. I am struck by how much freshness and energy the 2018 has. Hints of lavender, spice and licorice add shades of nuance, but it is the wine's overall sense of harmony that leaves the strongest impression. A precise counterpoint of fruit richness and finesse makes for a truly unforgettable Cheval Blanc.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 98-99	<p>What strikes you is how aromatic this already is at this stage. Complex and decadent, showing lots of dark berries, smoked meat, wet earth, and dried leaves. Decadent. Full-bodied with very ripe and polished, velvety tannins. Great finish.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score:						
WA Score: 97-99	<p>The 2018 Cheval Blanc is a blend of 54% Merlot, 40% Cabernet Franc and 6% Cabernet Sauvignon, with a 3.75 pH and 14.5% alcohol. Deep purple black in colour, the nose is more open at the core of the wine than the Le Petit Cheval, strutting out of the glass with bold, ripe black cherries, cassis, warm plums and raspberry preserves notes. With coaxing, a whole array of fragrant spice, floral and earth notes emerge, followed by candied violets, star anise, powdered cinnamon, iron ore, tapenade and truffles plus wafts of camphor and mocha. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is firm yet possesses a beautifully plush structure of velvety tannins wrapping round the densely packed, complex, fragrant fruit, with seamless freshness and a very long, layered finish.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					

Petit Cheval		90-93	98-99		93-95	\$256
AG Score: 97-100	<p>The 2018 Petit Cheval represents 10% of the estate's production and is taken from a collection of five parcels that span all of the three main soil types of the property: sand, gravel and clay, all of which were, incidentally, in the Grand Vin in 2016. A wine of remarkable harmony and class, the 2018 Petit Cheval possesses striking textural depth and nuance. Succulent black cherry, mocha, grilled herb, licorice and menthol build in a voluptuous, racy Petit Cheval that will drink well right out of the gate. The blend is 70% Merlot and 30% Cabernet Franc.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 98-99	<p>This shows beautiful density of fruit, but the tannins arrive at the end and show impressive length and density. Full body. Wild fruit. Excellent second wine from Cheval.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score:						
WA Score: 97-99	<p>Composed of 70% Merlot and 30% Cabernet Franc, the medium to deep garnet-purple colored 2018 Le Petit Cheval needs a lot of coaxing to encourage subtle nuances of crushed rocks, fallen leaves, potpourri and fertile loam to emerge before giving way to fragrant notes of warm blueberries, black raspberries, kirsch and unsmoked cigars with a touch of Marmite toast. Medium to full-bodied, the palate delivers layers of fresh, crunchy black fruits and loads of earthy sparks, framed by soft, velvety tannins and just enough freshness, finishing long.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					
Ausone		97-100	99-100		98-100	\$1020
AG Score: 97-100	<p>The 2018 Ausone is off the charts. Deep, sensual and mysterious, the 2018 is going to need many years to show the full breadth of its potential. And yet, there is so much there. Rich and concentrated on the palate, with phenomenal persistence, the 2018 is loaded with energy, tension and precision, offering a compelling interplay of opulence, saline intensity and structure. It is without question one of the wines of the vintage.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 99-100	<p>This is really exotic with wild-fruit character that I have seldom encountered in Ausone. Full-bodied yet reserved and very tight. Amazing depth and purity of fruit. Incredible beauty. Sexy.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score:						
WA Score: 98-100	<p>The 2018 Ausone is composed of 60% Cabernet Franc and 40% Merlot. The Merlot was harvested September 25 and 27, and the Cabernet Franc was harvested October 3, 8 and 9. Deep purple-black in color, it is an impenetrable wall to begin, unrelenting without persistent coaxing, at last uncoiling to offer glimpses at preserved plums, blueberry coulis, molten licorice and underbrush with emerging scents of lavender, iron ore, crushed stones, charcoal and Indian spices plus a waft of red roses. Full-bodied, rich, decadent and tightly knit, it offers layer upon layer of fruit, spice and mineral nuances with a firm frame of exquisitely fine tannins and bold freshness, finishing with epic length and heart-stopping beauty.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					

Chapelle D'Ausone		91-94			93-95	\$255
AG Score: 91-94	<p>The 2018 Chapelle d'Ausone is a drop-dead gorgeous second wine. Wonderfully finessed in every way, the 2018 conveys intensity allied to a sense of weightless elegance. Freshly cut flowers, spice and blood orange add freshness, but more than anything else, the Chapelle is a Saint-Émilion that speaks to regal elegance. It is also one of the best wines in its peer group.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score:						
JM Score:						
WA Score: 93-95	<p>The 2018 Chapelle d'Ausone is made of 50% Merlot, 40% Cabernet Franc and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon. The Merlot was harvested on September 25 and 27, the Cabernet Franc on October 3, 8 and 9, and the Cabernet Sauvignon was harvested on October 9. Deep purple-black in color, it is a little reticent to begin, unfurling slowly to reveal notes of Black Forest cake, mincemeat pie, candied violets and Chinese five spice plus waves of charcuterie, black olives, mossy bark and cast iron pan. Full-bodied with a fantastic line of freshness lifting the dense layers, it has a very plush, silt-like texture and a very long, mineral-laced finish.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					
Belair Monange		93-96	98-99	96-99	97-99	\$200
AG Score: 93-96	<p>The 2018 Bélair-Monange is a bold, racy and exuberant wine endowed with tremendous textural richness and overall intensity. Sweet spice and floral notes wrap around a core of super-ripe stone fruit in this decidedly flamboyant, racy Saint-Émilion. In 2018, Bélair-Monange is not exactly subtle, but it is quite delicious and full of allure. Even so, Bélair-Monange will be enjoyed most by readers who like overt wines.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 98-99	<p>This is very linear and structured in a classical way for Bordeaux with a very focused and tight core of beautiful fruit that gives an agile and vivid palate of pretty fruit and bright acidity, not to mention the ultra fine tannins, which deliver a seamless and limitless finish.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score: 96-99	<p>Ripe and dense in feel, with layers of plum, fig and boysenberry fruit. The structure is decidedly stony, revealing a long echo of tobacco. Among the more backward wines at this early stage, but seriously long and well-built.</p> <p><i>-James Molesworth</i></p>					
WA Score: 97-99	<p>A blend of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc, the medium to deep garnet-purple colored 2018 Belair Monange comes bounding out of the glass with all the energy and vigor of a pedigree puppy, offering notes of warm plums, wild blueberries, black raspberries and Morello cherries with touches of chocolate box, lilacs, underbrush, menthol and damp soil plus a waft of incense. Full-bodied, rich and decadently layered in the mouth, the densely packed layers are charged with energy, supported by firm, velvety tannins and a racy line of freshness, finishing very long and very spicy.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					

Pavie		94-97	98-99	96-99	97-100	\$510
AG Score: 94-97	<p>The 2018 Pavie is a powerful, racy wine. Deep, unctuous and impeccably polished, the 2018 Pavie has so much to offer. A rush of red/purplish berry fruit, floral notes, leather, lavender and mocha all race across the palate. Even with all of its obvious tannin and structure, the 2018 Pavie is incredibly appealing and sensual from the very first taste. I can't wait to see it in bottle.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 98-99	<p>This is a very pretty and structured Pavie with a beautiful elegance and depth. Full body and a great core of elegant fruit, surrounded by very fine tannins. Very polished. Extremely long. Finesse with power.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score: 96-99	<p>Gorgeous from start to finish, offering lush layers of raspberry, cassis and plum sauce flavors entwined with licorice, apple wood and rooibos tea notes. There's a serious grip through the finish but this is focused and pure in feel. The encore of fruit detail at the very end is impressive.</p> <p><i>-James Molesworth</i></p>					
WA Score: 97-100	<p>The 2018 Pavie is composed of 60% Merlot, 22% Cabernet Franc and 18% Cabernet Sauvignon. Deep purple-black in color, the nose starts off quiet and stern, swiftly growing exponentially in the glass to reveal powerful plum preserves, fruitcake, coffee beans, smoked meats and black olives scents with emerging nuances of roses, hoisin, molten chocolate and licorice plus a waft of candied violets. The palate explodes with waves of black fruit preserves, exotic spices and savory chocolate, framed by very firm, super ripe, velvety tannins and an electric backbone of freshness, finishing with epic length and energy.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					
L'Angelus		95-98	99-100	95-98	97-100	\$452
AG Score: 95-98	<p>The 2018 possesses stunning depth and remarkable finesse. I don't think I have tasted a young Angélu with this much finesse. In this vintage, Angélu is 65% Merlot and 35% Cabernet Franc, which is to say more Merlot and less Franc than in the past, which may or may not represent more of a longer term shift. To be sure, the 2018 is glorious, with generous, pliant fruit and silky tannins that add to its considerable allure. Crème de cassis, new leather, spice and licorice build into the striking finish. What a wine.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 99-100	<p>This shows beautiful sensibility of generous fruit and soft and velvety tannins with an undertone of chocolate and cedar. Full-bodied, pure and supple with a direct delivery of vibrant fruit and real terroir expression. Savory at the end with hazelnut and crunchy-seed flavors. Reality check here. Incredible fruit quality.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score: 95-98	<p>Very gutsy in feel, with lots of tobacco leaf, loam and espresso notes swirling around a core of steeped black currant and warm fig fruit flavors. The muscular finish is a jumble right now, but there's ample acidity coiled within. A wine that clearly wants to stand out from the pack.</p> <p><i>-James Molesworth</i></p>					
WA Score: 97-100	<p>The 2018 Angélu is blended of 65% Merlot and 35% Cabernet Franc, to be aged 18-22 months in barriques, 100% new, plus two new foudres. Deep garnet-purple in colour, it slips slowly, sensuously out of the glass with beautiful black raspberries, kirsch, warm plums and red roses scents, building in intensity to reveal chocolate-covered cherries, raspberry coulis, black tea, woodsmoke and powdered cinnamon notions with a waft of black olives and charcuterie. Medium to full-bodied, the palate delivers a wonderfully profound, multi-layered, seamless experience of red and black fruits intertwined with earth, spice and floral notions and framed by exquisitely ripe, satiny tannins, finishing with amazing freshness and length. Incredibly, finely, expertly, seamlessly knit. Stunning.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					

Beausejour Duffau		94-97	99-100	95-98	95-97	\$160
AG Score: 94-97	<p>In 2018, the Beauséjour is distinctly perfumed and floral, with a dense core of red fruit and a brighter profile than the darker personality that is usually such a signature of this cru. Although quite dense on the palate, the 2018 also has so much richness in its fruit that the typically austere tannins are pretty much buried. Rose petal, mint, blood orange and spice add nuance in a crescendo of aromas, flavors and textures that is dazzling. It is an especially refined Beauséjour. This is a tremendous showing from estate manger Nicolas Thienpont, consulting winemaker Stéphane Derenoncourt and their team. Tasted three times.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 99-100	<p>A muscular and powerful young wine with incredible depth and power. Full-bodied, layered and dense. Flexes its muscle with every sip, yet there's agility and precision to it at the same time. Blueberries, salt, white pepper and stone. Purple fruit. Amazing depth.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score: 95-98	<p>Showy, with boysenberry and plum flavors liberally laced with red licorice notes. The fruit is flamboyant, but this reveals honest grip and solid energy through the finish.</p> <p><i>-James Molesworth</i></p>					
WA Score: 95-97	<p>Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2018 Beausejour Heritiers Duffau-Lagarrosse is just a little reduced at this nascent juncture, opening to reveal decadent black plum preserves, blueberry compote and spice cake scents with hints of mincemeat pie, dried roses, star anise and cardamom plus a waft of charcuterie. Full-bodied, rich and densely laden with layers of black fruit and savory nuances, it has a rock-solid structure of firm, rounded tannins and seamless freshness, finishing with mineral sparks.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					
Canon		94-97	98-99	96-99	97-99	\$152
AG Score: 94-97	<p>Dark, powerful and full of personality, Canon is magnificent in 2018. Time in the glass brings out a range of dark fruit, mineral, floral and saline notes, but readers will have to be patient in order to enjoy the 2018 at its fullest splendor. The 2018 Canon is magnificent. That's pretty much all there is to it. The blend is 72% Merlot and 28% Cabernet Sauvignon. Technical Director Nicolas Audebert added that he and his team left more leaf cover to protect the fruit from the extreme heat and dryness of the summer.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 98-99	<p>This is a dense and focused Canon with beautiful blackberry, almond and hazelnut character. Vivid and lifted. It's compact and complete with tannins that melt into the center palate and then build at the end. Full-bodied yet reserved and driven. A superb and focused wine. Classy all the way. New 1955?</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score: 96-99	<p>Features a gorgeous core of plum and black currant fruit, deeply inlaid with tobacco notes and chalky minerality. Everything melds wonderfully through the finish, which is refined in feel.</p> <p><i>-James Molesworth</i></p>					
WA Score: 97-99	<p>The 2018 Canon is blended of 72% Merlot and 28% Cabernet Franc. Deep purple-black in color, it comes sashaying out of the glass with glamorous notes of cinnamon stick, baked blackberries, black cherry compote and licorice plus an undercurrent of plum preserves and smoked meats and, with coaxing, reveals a lovely floral signature of candied violets and red roses. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is wonderfully soft-spoken, whispering of fragrant floral and earthy scents beneath a core of profound, mouth-coating black and blue fruits, draped in a high level of super ripe, plush tannins, finishing with amazing freshness and perfume with loads of mineral sparks emerging.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					

La Gaffelière		94-97	95-96	94-97	94-96	\$90
AG Score: 94-97	<p>The 2018 La Gaffelière is once again one of the finest and most pedigreed wines in Saint-Émilion and all of Bordeaux for that matter. The high percentage of Cabernet Franc (37%) gives the wine striking aromatic nuance and complexity, as well as fabulous drive. Rose petal, sage, mint and blood orange all soar out of the glass in a stunning Saint-Émilion loaded with class and personality. Consulting winemaker Stéphane Derenoncourt has turned out another gem at this revitalized property. The blend is 63% Merlot and 37% Cabernet Franc.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 95-96	<p>The blue-fruit and sea-salt character is fascinating in this. Full-bodied yet tight and very focused. It really lasts for minutes on the palate. Forceful but full of finesse as well.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score: 94-97	<p>Features a beautiful beam of cassis, bitter cherry and raspberry fruit streaming through, laced with chalky minerality and backed by floral and spice accents, all allied to a polished, luxurious feel that doesn't sacrifice definition or drive.</p> <p><i>-James Molesworth</i></p>					
WA Score: 94-96	<p>Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2018 La Gaffeliere reveals classically sophisticated scents of ripe black plums, warm blackberries and cigar box with touches of star anise, dried Provence herbs, chocolate mint and truffles. Full-bodied, it has a solid backbone of ripe, rounded tannins and lovely freshness lifting the densely layered fruit to a long finish.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					
Bellevue		90-93	94-95	93-96	92-94	
AG Score: 90-93	<p>The 2018 Bellevue is bold, punchy and super-expressive. In many years, Bellevue can be a bit austere, especially in its tannins, but the 2018 has an extra layer of richness that adds texture and sensuality. Dark plum, blood orange, mint and wild flowers build as this racy, polished Saint-Émilion shows off its considerable sexiness. Tasted two times.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 94-95	<p>This is firm and very tight with a ripe and compact tannin backbone to the blue fruit and hot-stone undertones. Medium to full body. Soft and lightly velvety tannins.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score: 93-96	<p>Vibrant blackberry and plum fruit flavors are pure, engaging and fresh in this red. Light-handed toast detail lets this play out nicely. Seems to be a tasty fruit bomb in the making.</p> <p><i>-James Molesworth</i></p>					
WA Score: 92-94	<p>Made of 100% Merlot, the 2018 Bellevue is deep garnet-purple colored and gives up wonderfully expressive scents of baked black cherries, plum preserves and blueberry coulis with hints of mocha, licorice, dried spearmint and chargrill plus a waft of cardamom and Indian spices. Medium to full-bodied with bags of rich, seductive fruit, it is laden with bright earthy sparks and has a soft, plush texture, finishing with fantastic freshness and energy.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					

Barde Haut		92-95	95-96	91-94	92-94	\$46
AG Score: 92-95	<p>The 2018 Barde-Haut is a rich, heady wine. Crème de cassis, blackberry jam, chocolate, leather and spice race out of the glass in this flamboyant, exotically ripe Saint-Émilion. There is no shortage of stuffing, but the wine needs time to come together. Specifically, the new oak needs to integrate more fully, but this is a barrel sample, and it is not uncommon to see wines at this stage showing this way. The more exotic side of the vintage is very much on display. The harvest ranged from September 29 to October 12, which is relatively drawn out by the estate's standards.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 95-96	<p>Gorgeous purity of fruit in this wine with depth and beauty. Full-bodied. It really grows on the palate with a hyper fine tannin texture.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score: 91-94	<p>Very juicy, with lots of blackberry and black currant compote flavors. The ample toast has yet to be fully soaked up, with notes of licorice root and singed apple wood jutting out. A bit chewy on the finish. Slightly unbridled today, but if this rounds into form it will be a real winner.</p> <p><i>-James Molesworth</i></p>					
WA Score: 92-94	<p>The 2018 Barde-Haut is a final blend composed of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc. Deep garnet-purple in color, it sashays sensuously out of the glass with effortless baked blackberries, preserved plums and blueberry pie notes plus hints of incense, powdered cinnamon, cigar box and star anise. Full-bodied and packed with spicy black and blue fruits, it is beautifully textured with firm, velvety tannins and just enough background freshness, finishing very long and seductive.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					
Carillon Angelus		91-94	94-95	90-93	92-94	\$139
AG Score: 91-94	<p>The 2018 Le Carillon d'Angélus is laced with striking floral/savory aromatics and brisk saline notes that complement a core of bright red-toned fruit. Pliant and supple, with notable purity and class, the 2018 is gorgeous today and benefits from an extra touch of Franc that did not go into the Grand Vin. Carillon is a blend of fruit from three sources: 7 hectares around the château, 5 hectares closer to Cheval Blanc and 3 hectares in the Saint Christophe des Bardes sector. It is especially fine in 2018 and could very well turn out to be an overachiever.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 94-95	<p>This is a really together second wine of Angélus with a tight and focused center palate of blackberries and hints of chocolate and hazelnuts. Firm and very fine tannins and a long and persistent finish.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score: 90-93	<p>Bright tobacco and herb notes sparkle out front until the black currant and blackberry compote flavors catch up. The solidly grippy finish shows a dark, slightly brooding profile. Distinctive.</p> <p><i>-James Molesworth</i></p>					
WA Score: 92-94	<p>A blend of 85% Merlot and 15% Cabernet Franc, the deep garnet-purple colored 2018 Le Carillon d'Angélus comes bounding out of the glass with bold notes of crushed blackberries, black raspberries and wild blueberries plus hints of spice box, damp soil, smoked meats and fallen leaves plus a waft of menthol. Medium to full-bodied, the palate delivers mouth-coating black and blue fruits with firm, rounded tannins and lovely freshness, finishing long and earthy.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					

Grand Mayne		89-92			91-93	\$52
AG Score: 89-92	<p>The 2018 Grand Mayne is creamy, resonant and beautifully layered. Black cherry, chocolate, sweet spice, licorice and new leather build in a deep, sumptuous Saint-Émilion loaded with character. This is very nicely done.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score:						
JM Score:						
WA Score: 91-93	<p>The 2018 Grand Mayne is deep garnet-purple colored and gives up a nose of baked blackberries, prunes and raisin cake with touches of dusty soil, sautéed herbs and fungi. Full and concentrated, with a firm, chewy texture, it delivers a spicy finish.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					
Berliquet		90-93	94-95	91-94	93-95	\$58
AG Score: 90-93	<p>The 2018 Berliquet represents a major stylistic shift under the guidance of Nicolas Audebert and the technical team at Canon. Plump and juicy, the 2018 offers an explosion of fruit that gives it a distinctly exuberant personality. A joyous, radiant wine, Berliquet expresses the natural radiance of the vintage in a forward, juicy style that offers tons of near and medium-term appeal. The wine's fruit and overall density are both impressive, to say the least. This is the first vintage made by the Nicolas Audebert and the technical team at Canon following Chanel's acquisition of the estate in 2017. The blend is 78% Merlot and 22% Cabernet Franc. Tasted four times.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 94-95	<p>A fine and fruity red with blueberries and blackberries and hints of walnuts. Medium to full body and ultra fine tannins that melt into the body of the wine. It's muscular in some ways. Lots of potential. Punchy.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score: 91-94	<p>A focused, restrained style, with cherry, plum and red currant notes that are carried by persistent chalky minerality. Shows a light tobacco shading throughout.</p> <p><i>-James Molesworth</i></p>					
WA Score: 93-95	<p>This was really Nicolas Audebert's first vintage at Berliquet, since the property was acquired by Chanel in the autumn of 2017. The most significant, immediate change from 2018 came from noticing that blocks of the vineyard had Merlot and Cabernet Franc interplanted. These used to be harvested together. This year the different cultivars were flagged and harvested separately so as to achieve optimal ripeness for both varieties. The 2018 Berliquet is blended of 78% Merlot and 22% Cabernet Franc and has 14.5% alcohol. Deep purple-black in color, it leaps from the glass with bold kirsch, blueberry compote and Black Forest cake with touches of cloves, lavender, menthol and lilacs. Medium to full-bodied and elegant, with lovely freshness lifting the densely packed blue and black fruit flavors, it has a velvety texture and long, earthy finish.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					

La Dominique		91-94	95-96	91-94	90-92	\$70
AG Score: 91-94	<p>The 2018 La Dominique is a racy, pliant wine. Sweet spice, mocha, dried flowers and menthol infuse this succulent, expressive Saint-Émilion. Even with all of its obvious concentration, the 2018 retains terrific freshness and poise, not to mention tons of character. Tasted two times.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 95-96	<p>This is incredibly well integrated with ripe fruit and super fine tannins that melt into the wine. Precise and beautifully ripe fruit.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score: 91-94	<p>Very juicy and fruit-driven, with mouthfilling currant paste, boysenberry compote and loganberry notes bouncing through. The bramble-edged finish needs a bit of taming, but the purity and length are appealing.</p> <p><i>-James Molesworth</i></p>					
WA Score: 90-92	<p>Deep purple-black in color, the 2018 La Dominique is quite cedary to begin, with truffles and fungi wafts over a core of baked plums, Morello cherries and boysenberries plus tree bark scents. Full, concentrated and packed with black fruit, it has rounded tannins and just enough freshness to lift the finish.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					
Saintayme		89-92	92-93	89-92	89-91	\$20
AG Score: 89-92	<p>Denis Durantou's 2018 Saintayme is especially fine in 2018. Bright, floral and energetic, Saintayme really shines. In fact, I can't remember a recent vintage with this much finesse. The tannins need time to soften, but there is plenty of radiant fruit waiting to emerge. I won't be surprised if the finished wine is even better than this note suggests. Tasted two times.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 92-93	<p>This is very perfumed with a firm and solid, stony tannin structure. Lovely, linear line through this. Full and tight at the same time.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score: 89-92	<p>Lively, featuring raspberry and red currant notes stretching out, with light floral and singed apple wood accents.</p> <p><i>-James Molesworth</i></p>					
WA Score: 89-91	<p>Produced by Denis Durantou of Château L'Eglise Clinet, the 2018 Saintayme is made of 100% Merlot with 30% new oak and 14.5% alcohol. Deep garnet-purple colored, it bursts from the glass with plum preserves, crushed blackberries and chocolate-covered cherries with hints of lavender, unsmoked cigar and fragrant earth. Medium to full-bodied, the palate reveals beautiful freshness and elegance with soft tannins and loads of mineral sparks on the finish.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					

Canon La Gaffelière		95-98	94-95	95-98	94-96	\$112
AG Score: 95-98	<p>The 2018 Canon La Gaffelière is extraordinary. Fresh, vibrant and bursting at the seams with energy, the 2018 takes full advantage of all the work Stephan von Neipperg and his team have implemented at their properties. Expressive floral and savory notes add myriad shades of nuance to a dark, sumptuous Saint-Émilion that melds together aromatic intensity and fruit richness. Even with all of its intensity, the 2018 retains an element of translucence that is beguiling. The blend is 50% Merlot, 35% Cabernet Franc and 15% Cabernet Sauvignon, which is to say a bit more Cabernet than in the past. Tasted two times.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 94-95	<p>A lovely, fruity and juicy red with mineral and dried-tea character. Full and tightly structured with a long and flavorful finish. Tight at the moment, but shows momentum and depth.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score: 95-98	<p>A bright, mineral-driven style in the making, with the chalky aspect leading the way, quickly followed by a racy stream of red currant, raspberry and cherry coulis flavors. Has the grip of the vintage, but this is piercingly focused in feel.</p> <p><i>-James Molesworth</i></p>					
WA Score: 94-96	<p>Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2018 Canon la Gaffeliere has a fantastically exuberant nose of preserved plums, blueberry compote and black cherry pie with hints of menthol, mocha, Sichuan pepper and garrigue plus wafts of lavender and tilled soil. Full-bodied, concentrated and wonderfully decadent, it has a firm yet plush texture and just enough freshness in the background, finishing long with a menthol lift.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					
Larcis-Ducasse		94-97	97-98	94-97	96-98	\$88
AG Score: 94-97	<p>A wine of total sophistication and class, Larcis Ducasse is fabulous in 2018. Freshly cut flowers, bright red fruit, espresso, licorice and wild flowers are all vibrant in the glass. The 2018 marries fruit intensity, energy and structure like few wines in this vintage. The 2018 is deceptive in its mid-weight structure, but it packs a real punch. There is an element of precision in Larcis that is truly remarkable. Even with all of its intensity, Larcis retains its characteristic linear feel and drive. I loved it. Tasted three times.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 97-98	<p>This is very structured and powerful with bright and electric acidity and fine-grained yet muscular tannins. Full-bodied yet compact and focused. Greatly formed. Flexing. Thoughtful.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score: 94-97	<p>A solid wine, with raspberry and red currant fruit adhering to chalk and iron notes, while ample grip drives underneath. Reveals a mouthwatering tobacco accent at the end.</p> <p><i>-James Molesworth</i></p>					
WA Score: 96-98	<p>Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2018 Larcis Ducasse features wonderfully expressive scents of baked black and red plums, kirsch, rose hip tea and cigar box with hints of pencil shavings, baked redcurrants and truffles plus a waft of licorice. Full-bodied and beautifully nuanced on the palate, it has layer upon layer of red and black fruit preserves with beautiful, velvety tannins and loads of freshness, finishing long and perfumed.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					

Clos Fourtet		94-97	96-97	96-99	95-97	\$147
AG Score: 94-97	One of the wines of the vintage, the 2018 Clos Fourtet is positively stunning. In the glass, the 2018 sizzles with tension and energy. A whole range of floral, mineral and red berry notes develop, but it is the wine's exceptional sense of harmony that leaves the deepest impression. Consulting winemakers Stéphane Derenoncourt and Jean-Claude Berrouet turned out a glorious Clos Fourtet in 2018. Don't miss it. The blend is 90% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Sauvignon and 3% Cabernet Franc. Tasted three times. <i>-Antonio Galloni</i>					
JS Score: 97-97	This is one of the best wines I have had from here. Full-bodied yet focused and super dynamic. Tight and linear with fantastic length and energy at the end. Exciting. <i>-James Suckling</i>					
JM Score: 96-99	Dark plum and boysenberry fruit is laced with tobacco and chalk notes, while the fleshy grip slowly builds through the finish. This is seriously long, and though the fruit is gorgeous, the minerality steals the show in the end. <i>-James Molesworth</i>					
WA Score: 95-97	Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2018 Clos Fourtet is a little youthfully mute to begin. With coaxing, it opens out to notes of crushed blackberries, warm black plums and wild blueberries plus suggestions of forest floor, lavender, baking spices and potpourri. Full-bodied, the palate has an amazing texture of soft, plush tannins and oodles of freshness supporting the layer upon layer of berries and spices, finishing long and fragrant. Total time in barrel should run 16 months in 60% new and 40% one-year old barriques. The blend is 90% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc and 3% Cabernet Franc. <i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i>					
Pavie Macquin		92-95	97-98	95-98	95-97	\$92
AG Score: 92-95	The 2018 Pavie Macquin is terrific. Ample, creamy and flamboyant, Pavie Macquin possesses extraordinary richness and intensity. Super-ripe dark cherry, raspberry, chocolate, spice, new leather, lavender and violets build in a wine of real pedigree. To be sure, Pavie Macquin is a big wine that is going to need a number of years in bottle to be at its best. The flamboyant style may not appeal to every palate. Today, the new oak is a bit imposing, but élevage should take care of that. Tasted three times. <i>-Antonio Galloni</i>					
JS Score: 97-98	This is a decadent and beautiful young wine with wild aromas and flavors of meat, wet earth and plums. Very complex. Full-bodied yet soft and very velvety. The tannins melt into the wine, as if they aren't there. Extremely long finish. 78 per cent merlot, 20 per cent cabernet franc and two per cent cabernet sauvignon. <i>-James Suckling</i>					
JM Score: 95-98	Packed with very expressive boysenberry and red currant paste aromas and flavors, this is dense and fleshy in feel, but has the energy to easily carry it off. Lots of chalky cut on the long finish. Rock-solid. <i>-James Molesworth</i>					
WA Score: 95-97	The 2018 Pavie Macquin is deep garnet-purple colored and a little closed to begin, slowly revealing subtle notions of dark chocolate, candied violets and rose hip tea over a core of plum preserves, blueberry compote and cherry coulis plus wafts of woodsmoke and crushed stones. Full-bodied, the palate has a seriously impressive structure of ripe, firm, velvety tannins and bold freshness carrying off all that rich black fruit, finishing very long and mineral laced. <i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i>					

Figeac	96-99	98-99	97-100	97-99	\$316
<p>AG Score: 96-99</p>	<p>The 2018 Figeac is simply magnificent. A regal, soaring wine with tremendous vertical lift and nuance, the 2018 is marvelously complete from the very first taste. All the elements fall into place effortlessly. Medium in body and refined, the 2018 is vibrant, with fine tannins and, frankly, quite a bit more freshness than I expected to see given the very dry, sunny summer. Rose petal, mint, lavender and spice add nuance to a core of red/purplish fruit. Harvest started on September 17 and finished on October 12. Yields were 39 hectoliters per hectare, just shy of the historical average of 42/32. While mildew pressure was an issue, it was the dry October winds and their dehydrating effect on the last Cabernets that impacted yields most. Like so many of his colleagues, Technical Director Frederic Faye and his team opted for gentler vinifications with no SO2 at crush, lower temperatures in fermentation and smaller pumpovers. The 2018 Figeac is brilliant. That's all there is to it. The blend is 38% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36% Merlot and 26% Cabernet Franc. Tasted three times.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>				
<p>JS Score: 98-99</p>	<p>This shows wonderful precision and focus with dark-berry, tobacco, and blueberry character. Full-bodied, tight and vivid. Solid and structured. Really powerful for Figeac. The real new style here of Figeac that harkens back to the great wines of the 1950s and 1940s. This year, equal parts of merlot, cabernet sauvignon and cabernet franc.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>				
<p>JM Score: 97-100</p>	<p>This is pretty gorgeous, with velvety texture that lets nearly exotic cassis, plum and blackberry fruit reduction flavors roll through. Has a beautiful bass line of warm earth and smoldering tobacco notes all while keeping its sensational mouthfeel. The encore on the finish makes you realize this is the serious gourmet stuff. One of the highlights of the vintage.</p> <p><i>-James Molesworth</i></p>				
<p>WA Score: 97-99</p>	<p>The 2018 Figeac is composed of 37% Merlot, 33% Cabernet Sauvignon and 30% Cabernet Franc, harvested September 17 to October 12 with a 3.7 pH and 14% alcohol. Deep purple-black in color, it charges out of the gate with vivacious black and red cherries, cassis, warm plums and wild blueberries scents plus fragrant hints of violets, star anise, tilled soil and forest floor with wafts of Ceylon tea and chocolate box. Full-bodied and jam-packed with energetic, crunchy black and blue fruits, it has a rock-solid, firm, grainy frame and loads of bright, refreshing sparks lifting the dense layers on the very long, savory finish. Wow—the Cabernet really makes itself known this vintage, and it is good. The signature of this wine is so clear, so defined, that this is a Bordeaux wine without peers. In my view, this is the finest Figeac ever produced.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>				

Monbousquet		90-93	94-95	94-97	93-95	\$66
AG Score: 90-93	<p>The 2018 Blanc d'Exception is gorgeous, and also one of the best editions of this wine I have tasted. In the past, the Blanc has been a rich white, but a move towards picking earlier yielded a white that offers terrific freshness and nuance, with more of a citrus and floral profile and fewer of the tropical notes that were once so typical. I especially admire the wine's freshness and nuance.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 94-95	<p>Very refined and savory with a lovely core of dark fruit and round tannins. Silky and oozing with finesse and class.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score: 94-97	<p>Lushly fruited, with creamy boysenberry and plum preserve flavors gliding through, this is going to be for the hedonist crowd. Extra anise and spice notes fill in, revealing steady grip through the finish.</p> <p><i>-James Molesworth</i></p>					
WA Score: 93-95	<p>The 2018 Monbousquet is composed of 60% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Franc and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, harvested September 27 to October 9 with yields of 39 hectoliters per hectare. The wine has a pH of 3.78 and 14.38% alcohol. Deep purple-black in color, it sashays out of the glass with beautiful, flamboyant red roses, chocolate box and molten licorice scents over a core of crème de cassis, plum preserves and Morello cherries plus fragrant wafts of underbrush, lavender and cloves. Full-bodied, rich and wonderfully elegant, the palate delivers layers of black fruits and spices, wrapped in a cashmere shawl of tannins, finishing very long and incredibly perfumed.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					
Pavie Decesse		92-95	97-98	95-98	96-98	\$159
AG Score: 92-95	<p>The 2018 Pavie-Decesse is laced with the essence of blackberry jam, grilled herbs, spice, leather and tobacco, all of which add to an impression of brooding power. This massively tannic, backward Saint-Émilion is going to require patience, but there is certainly plenty to look forward to. In 2018, Pavie-Decesse impresses with its vertical intensity and pure power.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 97-98	<p>Powerful young red with blackberry and blueberry aromas and flavors. Full-bodied, very strong and concentrated with great length and minerality at the end. Finesse with power.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score: 95-98	<p>Well-endowed, with creamed boysenberry, fig and loganberry flavors, this is a step ahead of the pack. As lush as the fruit is, this shows admirable grip and some flashy spice and toast notes filling in throughout. A head-turner in the making.</p> <p><i>-James Molesworth</i></p>					
WA Score: 96-98	<p>Grapes for this wine come from the plateau and were harvested October 3 with yields of 32 hectoliters per hectare. Composed of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc with a pH of 3.57 and 14.52% alcohol, the 2018 Pavie Decesse is deep purple-black in color and strides confidently out of the glass with a very serious nose of crushed blackberries, warm black plums, mulberries and cassis plus touches of camphor, lavender, black olives and crushed rocks with a waft of woodsmoke. Full-bodied and laden with taut, muscular black fruit and loads of mineral accents, it has a firm structure of super ripe, finely grained tannins and amazing freshness, finishing very long and very layered.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					

Troplong Mondot		94-97	97-98	95-98	93-95	\$133
AG Score: 94-97	<p>The 2018 Troplong Mondot is a remarkable wine. All the elements fall into place in a stunning, aromatically intense Troplong Mondot that is full of character. There is a level of precision and vibrancy in the 2018 that is simply breathtaking. Black cherry, raspberry, mocha, flowers, mint and spice all meld together in this captivating, arrestingly beautiful Saint-Émilion. New oak is 60%, with lower toast levels than what was common just a few years ago. The blend is 85% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Sauvignon and 2% Cabernet Franc.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 97-98	<p>The focus to this wine sets a new standard for Troplong Mondot with density and minerality that I have not encountered for decades. Lots of slate and white-pepper character. Tight and very dense. Full body. Balanced. Wild mineral character and freshness here. Precise.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score: 95-98	<p>This offers a lovely display of boysenberry, cherry and plum fruit, yet stays refined and focused, relying on purity as this glides through. Has weight but feels silky, with a flinty mineral hint adding cut on the finish.</p> <p><i>-James Molesworth</i></p>					
WA Score: 93-95	<p>The 2018 Troplong Mondot is blended of 85% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Sauvignon and 2% Cabernet Franc, with 14.5% alcohol and a pH of 3.56. Deep garnet-purple in color, it begins slowly with bold, bright black raspberries, ripe black plums, fresh blackberries and Morello cherries notes, giving way to underlying scents of tobacco, wild sage, Sichuan pepper, black olives, truffles and Marmite toast with hints of crushed stones and iron ore. Medium to full-bodied, the palate offers wonderfully fresh, energetic black fruit with a downright racy line of freshness (uncommon for this vintage) and firm, rounded tannins, finishing long with lots of mineral, earth and dried herbs layers giving beautiful electric sparks.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					
Beau-Séjour Bécot		94-97	95-96		95-97	\$79
AG Score: 94-97	<p>The 2018 Beau-Séjour Bécot is fabulous. Dense, rich and explosive, the 2018 has it all. Soaring aromatics and a huge spine of tannin give the 2018 its regal contours. The 2018 was barreled down late, and it is still coming together, especially in its aromatics, but its potential is evident. A wine of tremendous character and personality Beau-Séjour Bécot dazzles in 2018. It is an utterly captivating Saint-Émilion from Juliette Bécot and Julien Barthe, along with their consulting winemaker Thomas Duclos.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 95-96	<p>A very fresh and beautiful wine with extremely fine tannins that melt nicely into the pure fruit. Medium to full body. Crisp and very fruity. Wonderful finish that lasts for minutes. It grows in stature at the end.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score:						
WA Score: 95-97	<p>The 2018 Beau-Sejour Bécot is composed of 80% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon. Sixty-five percent of the wine will be matured in new barriques, while 35% will be aged in vats, amphorae and large oak casks of 20-hectoliter capacity. Deep garnet-purple colored, it leaps from the glass with bold, expressive notions of stewed plums, blackberry pie and Black Forest cake with nuances of menthol, mocha, molten licorice and wild sage plus a waft of lavender. Full-bodied, the palate is laden with latent energy, offering slow-releasing glimpses at dark, seductive berry preserves layers and vibrant earthy accents, framed by firm, grainy tannins and seamless freshness, finishing long and mineral laced.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					

Bellevue Mondotte		93-96	96-97	93-96	95-97	\$179
AG Score: 93-96	<p>The 2018 Bellevue Mondotte is a hugely promising wine that deftly balances fruit intensity and structure. Often a tannic, forbidding Saint-Émilion in the early going, Bellevue Mondotte is dark, sensual and incredibly inviting. The tannins are there, but they are pretty much buried by the opulence of the fruit. Dark red plum, rose petal, leather and spice all pulse with tremendous energy. The 2018 is an unusually racy, sensual Bellevue Mondotte. I loved it.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 96-97	<p>This has a real mineral undertone this year with lots of dark-berry, cherry and blueberry character. Full-bodied, chewy and powerful. Excellent. Limestone coming through.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score: 93-96	<p>Vibrant blackberry and plum fruit flavors are pure, engaging and fresh in this red. Light-handed toast detail lets this play out nicely. Seems to be a tasty fruit bomb in the making.</p> <p><i>-James Molesworth</i></p>					
WA Score: 95-97	<p>Grapes for this wine come from the plateau and were harvested October 3, with yields of 30 hectoliters per hectare. Composed of 90% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon with a 3.5 pH and 14.56% alcohol, the deep purple-black colored 2018 Bellevue Mondotte opens with alluring scents of Christmas cake, blueberry pie, chocolate-covered cherries and hoisin with nuances of Chinese five spice, iron ore, rose hip tea and cracked black pepper. Full-bodied, rich, opulent and totally decadent in the mouth, the palate has a plush texture and maintains that incredible freshness that defines these beautiful wines on the terrace—finishing with tons of spicy fireworks.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					
Clos des Sarpe					94-96	\$83
AG Score:						
JS Score:						
JM Score:						
WA Score: 94-96	<p>Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2018 Clos de Sarpe comes strutting out of the glass with flamboyant Black Forest cake, blackberry pie and warm plums notes with touches of Chinese five spice, dried roses and licorice plus a hint of crushed rocks. Full-bodied, super rich and decadently fruited in the mouth, the structure of super ripe, plush tannins and bold freshness skillfully supports the voluptuous fruit, and it finishes with epic length. With alcohol running at around 15%, this is one for the hedonists! The tentative blend is 85% Merlot and 15% Cabernet Franc with aging anticipated to be for 12 months in oak barriques, 70% new.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					

POMEROL		AG	JS	JM	WA	PRICE
Feytit Clinet		92-95	95-96		93-95	\$86
AG Score: 92-95	<p>Proprietor Jérémy Chasseuil turned out another gorgeous wine at Feytit-Clinet. Although the 2018 does not have the explosive energy of some past vintages, in exchange it will drink well with minimal cellaring. Cedar, tobacco, gravel, dried flowers, mint, spice and incense build as this richly textured, layered Pomerol shows off its class. As always, Feytit-Clinet is one of the most virile, potent wines of Pomerol and all of Bordeaux, for that matter. The blend is 92% Merlot and 8% Cabernet Franc. Tasted three times.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 95-96	<p>This is tight and chewy with a lightly angular and citrusy undertone to the firm tannins and dark fruit. Walnut and almond undertones with some coffee.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score:						
WA Score: 93-95	<p>This 6.68-hectare vineyard is situated between Trotanoy and Latour à Pomerol on gravel and sand-based soils. Average vine age is 34 years, and yields were 45 hectoliters per hectare. It is aging in 70% new and 30% second year barrels, where it will stay for an estimated 16 months. The wine has 14.9% alcohol and is blended of 92% Merlot and 8% Cabernet Franc. Deep purple-black colored, the 2018 Feytit Clinet is a little shy to begin, unfurling to reveal wild blueberries, warm plums and black cherries with hints of violets, iron ore, pencil shavings and damp soil. Full-bodied, rich and concentrated, it has a firm, velvety texture and bags of opulent fruit, finishing earthy. About 18,000 bottles will be made.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					
Latour a Pomerol		92-95	94-95		93-95	\$108
AG Score: 92-95	<p>Pomerol</p> <p>The 2018 Latour à Pomerol is fabulous. Rich, dense and explosive, the 2018 possesses off the charts richness to match its decidedly exotic, opulent personality. Ripeness is pushed to the edge, and yet the 2018 retains striking balance. Inky red fruit, cherry jam and sweet spice notes add to the wine's decidedly flamboyant personality. In a word: Superb.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 94-95	<p>This is a big wine with a deep and dark center palate of ripe fruit, juicy and polished tannins and a long and flavorful finish, where the fruit and hot-stone character come through so clearly. Solid, traditional young Pomerol.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score:						
WA Score: 93-95	<p>The 2018 Latour à Pomerol (100% Merlot) is deep garnet-purple colored and offers up beautiful floral notions of lavender and rose hips with a core of black cherries, warm plums and mulberries plus wafts of underbrush, bay leaves and mossy bark. The palate is medium to full-bodied with a muscular core of densely packed black fruits with bright, herbal sparks and framed by firm, grainy tannins, finishing earthy.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					

Le Gay		94-97	97-98	93-96	89-91	\$152
AG Score: 94-97	One of the highlights of the vintage, the 2018 Le Gay is fabulous. Crème de cassis, new leather, tobacco, minty and dried flowers all race out of the glass, but what impresses most is the wine's combination of fruit richness and vertical explosiveness. Black cherry, coffee, dried flowers, mint and lavender all soar. Le Gay is rich and concentrated in feel, and yet all the elements are wonderfully fused together. Tasted two times. <i>-Antonio Galloni</i>					
JS Score: 97-98	A tight and dense red with depth of fruit and polished tannins that really impress at this stage. It's naturally refined and complex with so much dark-berry, chocolate, cedar and hazelnut character. Great wine. <i>-James Suckling</i>					
JM Score: 93-96	Plum, boysenberry and açai berry flavors give this a slightly exotic character, with a polished texture and lingering anise notes. Shows latent grip on the finish. <i>-James Molesworth</i>					
WA Score: 89-91	Deep purple-black colored, the 2018 Le Gay delivers bold notions of baked plums, mulberries and blackberry preserves with touches of tar, bay leaves and truffles. Full-bodied and rich, with a plush texture, it has soft acid and a spicy finish. <i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i>					
Le Pin		94-97	98-99		97-99	
AG Score: 94-97	The 2018 Le Pin is dense, rich and seductive, with all of the textural richness that is such a signature. Le Pin is, of course, 100% Merlot fermented entirely in new oak. There is a touch of new wood in the en primeur sample that needs time to fully assimilate, which I expect will not be a problem over time. More than anything else, I am impressed with the wine's freshness and overall energy. The 2018 comes in 14.5% alcohol, the highest ever here, and yet that is not especially evident. A closing burst of floral overtones and red/purplish berry fruit leaves a lasting impression. <i>-Antonio Galloni</i>					
JS Score: 98-99	The density and texture to this Le Pin is very surprising. It's tannic and intense with an angular and stony-mineral undertone. Full-bodied yet energetic and edgy. Great structure. Reminds me of the great 1986. <i>-James Suckling</i>					
JM Score:						
WA Score: 97-99	The 2018 Le Pin is made of 100% Merlot, picked the last week of September with yields of 30 hectoliters per hectare. The wine has a pH of 3.7, an IPT (total polyphenol index) of 70 and 14.5% alcohol. Deep purple-black in color, it is a little reserved to begin, offering glimpses of tar, fertile loam and truffles with slowly emerging notes of baked black cherries, stewed plums, mulberries and underbrush plus hints of black pepper, hoisin and chargrill with a waft of garrigue. Full-bodied, the palate is loaded with taut, muscular fruit and heaps of earthy accents, with a firm frame of ripe, rounded tannins and just enough seamless freshness, finishing very long and wonderfully savory. <i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i>					

La Fleur Petrus		97-100	97-98	96-99	94-96	\$260
AG Score: 97-100	<p>The 2018 Petrus is a magnificent wine. There is not much else to say. From the very first taste, the 2018 Petrus is simply magical. Dark, sumptuous and beautifully resonant on the palate, the 2018 offers superb richness, aromatic depth and intensity. Blueberry, spice, black pepper, licorice and earthy notes open up in the glass, but it is the wine's vivid beauty and extraordinary harmony that stand out most. I don't think I have ever tasted a young Petrus with such silky, suave tannins.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 97-98	<p>This is a tannic and structured red with loads of walnut, hazelnut, dark-berry and wet-earth character. Full-bodied yet tight and reserved. Muscular and beautifully formed.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score: 96-99	<p>A brick house, featuring steeped currant and plum fruit, scored by tobacco, bay leaf and charcoal notes. A great tug of earth lurks underneath, but there's plenty of fruit to handle it. This is a big one.</p> <p><i>-James Molesworth</i></p>					
WA Score: 94-96	<p>Composed of 91% Merlot, 6% Cabernet Franc and 3% Cabernet Sauvignon, the 2018 la Fleur-Petrus has a medium garnet-purple color and opens softly and quietly with perfumed nuances of violets, potpourri, underbrush and garrigue with a core of warm plums, blueberry compote and raspberry pie plus touches of smoked meats and crushed rocks. Medium-bodied, the palate is charged with wonderfully energetic red and black fruits, framed by fine-grained tannins and oodles of freshness, finishing beautifully fragrant.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					
La Violette		94-97	95-96	92-95	93-95	
AG Score: 94-97	<p>The 2018 La Violette is a heady Pomerol. Crème de cassis, blueberry jam, licorice, lavender and menthol capture a striking interplay of unctuous richness and freshness. Soft curves and silky tannins add to the wine's pure appeal. Although not at all subtle, the 2018 is stunningly beautiful in a modern, sumptuous style that offers tons of immediacy. Hopefully the strong new oak signatures will integrate more fully during élevage.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 95-96	<p>This depth of fruit here is fantastic with so much berry, fig and wet-earth character, not to mention the mushrooms. Full body and polished, chewy tannins. Long and flavorful finish.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score: 92-95	<p>Lush in feel, with alluring crushed raspberry and plum fruit flavors, inlaid with a black tea hint. The fruit is quite showy, but this remains a bit shy on drive.</p> <p><i>-James Molesworth</i></p>					
WA Score: 93-95	<p>Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2018 La Violette reveals delicate notes of rose hip tea, underbrush and wild sage to begin, opening out to Black Forest cake, plum preserves and blackberry pie scents plus wafts of cedar and cinnamon toast. Big, full and voluptuously fruited, it has a firm structure of plush tannins and background freshness, finishing opulent.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					

Vieux Chateau Certan		94-97	99-100		97-100	SOLD OUT
AG Score: 94-97	<p>The 2018 Vieux Château Certan is a very pretty wine built more on elegance, finesse and aromatic nuance. Relative to the recent past, the 2018 shows a much more mid-weight structure and less of the creaminess of either 2015 or 2016. Much of that is attributable to a blend that includes 30% Cabernet Franc. Lavender, rose petal, mint and blueberry fruit all grace the 2018. Far from an obvious wine, the 2018 is going to need a number of years to be at its best, as it is a wine of total understatement and class. Fine beads of tannin support the understated finish. In 2018, VCC is a wine of refinement and subtlety more than anything else. I don't see the same visceral thrill as in a number of vintages of the recent past. Perhaps that will come in bottle.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 99-100	<p>This is a significant VCC with masses of fruit and juicy tannins. It's fresh, but impresses you with the rich and powerful fruit. A tower of a wine. Incredible depth and density. Thick and muscular. It is 30 per cent cabernet franc, the rest merlot.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score:						
WA Score: 97-100	<p>The 2018 Vieux Château Certan is a blend of 70% Merlot and 30% Cabernet Franc. Yields were 40 hectoliters per hectare. The wine has a pH of 3.78, 14.4% alcohol and an IPT (total polyphenol index) of 77. Medium to deep garnet-purple—it has a very vibrant color—it drifts effortlessly out of the glass with wonderfully intense, beautifully delineated scents of red roses, black raspberries, kirsch and Darjeeling tea before the powerful, profound black fruits kick in: baked plums, wild blueberries, molten licorice and mulberries with touches of cigar box, cinnamon stick, tapenade and truffles. Full-bodied, rich, densely packed and revealing layer upon layer of red and black fruits with an incredible array of floral and spicy sparks, it has a high level of super ripe, incredibly fine, velvety soft tannins and fantastic freshness (not just from acid but from bright, crunchy fruit). It finishes very long, marvelously layered and with such jaw-dropping brightness from the fruit, the end is almost electric. Incredible.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					

L'Évangile		94-97	98-99		97-99	\$328
AG Score: 94-97	<p>The 2018 L'Évangile is shaping up to be exceptional. Rich and sumptuous in the glass, the 2018 exudes richness in all of its dimensions. Opulent and dense in the glass, with soft curves and silky, polished tannins, the 2018 is hugely promising. All the elements just fall into place. Dark raspberry jam, cloves, menthol and new leather are some of the many notes that build in a sumptuous, racy Évangile loaded with class and personality. I can't wait to taste it from bottle.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 98-99	<p>A very plush and exciting L'Évangile with polished, velvety tannins that set this up to be a classic. It's full-bodied with glorious fruit and a great center palate that has fantastic depth. It's so caressing and beautiful. So much here.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score:						
WA Score: 97-99	<p>The 2018 L'Évangile is composed of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc. The Merlot was harvested September 19 to October 2, and the Cabernet Franc was harvested September 25 to October 1. This is the optimal blend—with more Cabernet Franc coming through this year, since it was amazing. Deep garnet-purple colored, it slips seductively out of the glass with glamorous notes of baked black cherries, warm blueberries and raspberry tart plus wafts of kirsch, red roses, rose hip tea, espresso, licorice and sandalwood. Full-bodied, rich, concentrated and delivering opulent black fruit layers, the palate has a firm frame of lovely, ripe, rounded tannins and seamless freshness, finishing long and fragrant. Beautiful.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					
Hosanna		93-96	95-96	95-98	95-97	\$164.50
AG Score: 93-96	<p>I expected the 2018 Hosanna to be super-rich and flamboyant, but instead I am quite struck by how finessed it is. There is plenty of depth and intensity in the glass, but at the same time, Hosanna retains a level of both translucence and structure that make it wonderfully complete. My impression is that the 2018 is still holding quite a bit back in reserve, and that is a very good thing.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 95-96	<p>This tension and focus to this is very impressive with a freshness and linear drive that really perk you up. Medium to full body, chewy yet polished tannins and a crisp finish.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score: 95-98	<p>This has a strong tobacco and loam aspect, with lots of black currant, fig and bitter cherry fruit. Shows heft and muscle throughout. Dense and built for the cellar.</p> <p><i>-James Molesworth</i></p>					
WA Score: 95-97	<p>The 2018 Hosanna is a blend of 70% Merlot and 30% Cabernet Franc. Medium to deep garnet-purple colored, it is a little closed to begin, giving way to black and red plum preserves, wild blueberries and boysenberries with suggestions of forest floor, bouquet garni and Marmite toast. The medium to full-bodied palate delivers profound, mouth-coating black fruits with firm, velvety tannins and just enough freshness, finishing with a lingering herbal lift.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					

L'Eglise Clinet		95-98	99-100	95-98	96-98	\$374
AG Score: 95-98	<p>The 2018 L'Eglise-Clinet is a powerful, tightly wound wine. In fact, it is one of the most reticent Pomerols I tasted, which makes it hard to evaluate today but probably bodes extremely well for the future. Dark and brooding in the glass, the 2018 has too much to offer. A wine of real gravitas and power, the 2018 is likely to need the better part of the next decade to open up, and even that probably won't be enough. Spice, leather, lavender, rose petal and tobacco gradually develop in the glass, but what really comes through is the sheer depth and inteconnisity of the year.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 99-100	<p>This is incredibly powerful with fantastic depth and length. It goes on for minutes. Full-bodied yet so tight and intense. Blackberries and hints of spice. It has such energy and persistence. It is a wine that makes you really reflect. Bravo. Tiny production.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score: 95-98	<p>Lush in feel, with boysenberry reduction and crushed plum flavors, carried by a polished, solid structure. A mineral hint filters through on the finish, adding length and cut.</p> <p><i>-James Molesworth</i></p>					
WA Score: 96-98	<p>Maintaining freshness in the wine was a priority for Denis Durantou at L'Eglise Clinet. "The pH developed quite quickly," he said. "We had to test it every day; we had made a conscious decision to pick before it got too high. At a maximum of 3.7 pH, we pick. As soon as we have an evolution—a flavor change—we decide to pick." Merlot was picked September 18-26 and Cabernet Franc on September 28. The resulting wine has a 3.63 pH and 14.5% alcohol and will be aged in 70% new barriques. A blend of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc, the 2018 L'Eglise Clinet is deep purple-black in color and opens with beguiling truffles, forest floor, mossy bark and black tea scents, slowly unfurling to reveal a core of Black Forest cake, plum preserves, licorice and candied violets plus wafts of tar and cast iron pan. Full-bodied, concentrated and jam-packed with muscular fruit, the velvety-textured palate delivers layer upon layer of savory and earthy accents, finishing with a lingering mineral lift.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					
Clinet		91-94	95-96		94-96	\$113
AG Score: 91-94	<p>The 2018 Clinet is a powerful, explosive wine. Clinet is unusual for Pomerol in that the wine includes a good bit of Cabernet Sauvignon (15% in 2018). Gravel, smoke, licorice, grilled herbs, leather and menthol wrap around a core of plush, dark fruit. The Cabernet is very much felt in the wine's flavor profile and textural weight. Dense, rich and inviting, Clinet is a winner from proprietor Ronan Laborde. Tasted three times.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 95-96	<p>This is a young red that really grows on the palate with so much dark fruit and firm yet luscious tannins. Full-bodied, it grows and grows on the palate. Extremely long and vivid. Solid as a rock. 15 per cent cabernet sauvignon, the rest merlot.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score:						
WA Score: 94-96	<p>Deep garnet-purple in color, the 2018 Clinet begins a little coy and then, with coaxing, opens out to vibrant black cherries, kirsch, baked plums and cinnamon stick scents with hints of cloves and anise plus earthy truffles and fungi wafts. Full-bodied and chock-full of bright, energetic fruit, it has a firm, finely grained structure and long, fragrant finish. The blend is 85% Merlot and 15% Cabernet Sauvignon. Aging is anticipated to last for 16 months in French oak barriques, 75% new.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					

Clos L'Eglise		92-95	96-97	92-95	94-96	\$114
AG Score: 92-95	The 2018 Clos L'Eglise is a powerful, brooding wine with a huge core of super-ripe, dense fruit and equally imposing tannins. In 2018, heat and mildew impacted yields and resulted in a big, rich wine. Dark cherry, graphite, plum, mineral, spice and licorice add to an impression of brooding power. It will be interesting to see what élevage does here. Today, Clos L'Eglise is a real powerhouse. The blend is 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc. <i>-Antonio Galloni</i>					
JS Score:	Fantastic depth of fruit to this young wine with crushed-berry, tile and stone character. Full-bodied with superb structure. Polished yet intense tannins. Powerful finish. Best ever? <i>-James Suckling</i>					
JM Score: 92-95	Rich, with plum, cassis and blackberry reduction notes that are tongue-coating in feel, though the anise and spice accents and brambly energy keep this from becoming top-heavy. The long finish features a nicely inlaid structure. <i>-James Molesworth</i>					
WA Score: 94-96	The 2018 Clos L'Eglise is a final blend composed of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc; the Merlot was harvested September 19-20, and the Cabernet Franc was harvested on October 10. Deep garnet-purple colored, it explodes on the nose with bold, expressive plum preserves, blueberry compote, mincemeat pie and sandalwood with nuances of lilacs, woodsmoke, Indian spices and dusty soil. Full-bodied, rich, velvety and decadently fruited in the mouth, it offers layer upon layer of voluptuous fruit, finishing long and spicy. <i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i>					
Gazin		91-94	94-95	93-96	91-93	\$111
AG Score: 91-94	The 2018 Gazin was impressive all three times I tasted it. Powerful and vibrant, with terrific persistence, the 2018 has more than enough supporting structure to balance the natural richness of the year. Grilled herbs, scorched earth, iron, licorice, mint and dried flowers give the red/purplish toned fruit a decidedly savory dimension that is hugely attractive. Some samples showed quite a bit of tannin, but the wine has more than enough breadth to develop beautifully during élevage and beyond. Tasted three times. <i>-Antonio Galloni</i>					
JS Score: 94-95	This is very tight and polished with a compact and beautiful palate of blackberries, currants and black olives. Full-bodied yet structurally solid with a very long finish. <i>-James Suckling</i>					
JM Score: 93-96	Dark plum and blackberry reduction flavors pick up light ganache and licorice snap notes along the way. Has the vintage's grip on the back end, giving this a serious feel. <i>-James Molesworth</i>					
WA Score: 91-93	Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2018 Gazin (composed of 93% Merlot and 7% Cabernet Franc) has quite an earthy/broody nose to begin, with subtle black soil, tar and chargrill notes giving way to a core of prunes, baked blueberries and sautéed herbs. Full, muscular and chewy in the mouth, it has loads of earthy layers and a dried herbs lift on the finish. <i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i>					

La Conseillante		95-98	97-98		96-98	\$294
AG Score: 95-98	<p>The 2018 La Conseillante is magnificent. A wine of real vertical lift and explosiveness, the 2018 is distinguished by its spine of energy, freshness and purity of fruit. Inky blue/purplish berry fruit, mocha, lavender spice and mint develop in the glass, but it is the wine's overall sense of harmony that truly stands out. The 2018 showed tremendous vibrancy and vitality, with superb mid-palate richness and phenomenal balance all three times I tasted it. It is without question one of the wines of the vintage. The blend is 83% Merlot and 17% Cabernet Franc. This is the first vintage that includes a touch of wine aged in amphora, just 3%. Don't miss it!</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 97-98	<p>This is a forceful red, showing blueberry and blackberry character with violets and light wet earth. Clarity and beauty with so much transparency and focus. Full-bodied, firm and silky with lots of white-pepper and salt undertones.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score:						
WA Score: 96-98	<p>The 2018 La Conseillante is a blend of 83% Merlot and 17% Cabernet Franc, with a 3.65 pH and 14% alcohol. Yields were 32 hectoliters per hectare; Merlot was harvested September 19 to October 1, and Cabernet Franc was harvested on October 4. Very deep purple-black colored, it comes charging out of the gate with energetic notes of wild blueberries, chocolate-covered cherries and warm black plums plus hints of lilacs, damp soil, cardamom and cloves with gentle wafts of cast iron pan and fragrant earth. Medium to full-bodied, it fills the mouth with elegant black fruit and earthy layers, framed by soft, velvety tannins and just enough freshness, finishing long and mineral laced.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					
Lafleur		97-100	100		97-100	
AG Score: 97-100	<p>The 2018 Lafleur is a stratospherically beautiful, deeply moving wine. A Pomerol of stunning aromatic intensity and depth, Lafleur simply has everything. All the elements come together in a wine that is both rich and yet also remarkably light on its feet. An exotic mélange of blood orange, sage, mint, sweet rose petal and inky red/purplish fruit add explosive energy, leading to a finish of substantial depth and resonance. Stated simply, Lafleur is one of the wines of the vintage. Don't miss it!</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 100	<p>The sweetness of fruit in the center palate is incredible with a ripe-plum and currant undertone. Very aromatic already. Full-bodied, tight and compressed with a tannin quality that folds beautifully into the wine. Incredible finish. Such, such power with finesse. Tight but glorious at this stage.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score:						
WA Score: 97-100	<p>The 2018 Lafleur is a blend of 54% Cabernet Franc harvested on October 1 and 4, with 46% Merlot harvested September 12 and 15. Deep garnet-purple colored, it rocks up charged with energetic iron ore, crushed rocks and scorched earth notes over a core of blueberry compote, Morello cherries, black raspberries and stewed plums plus suggestions of violets, menthol and cardamom. Full-bodied, powerful, opulent and incredibly seductive, the palate is mind blowing with its through-the-roof velvety tannins and bright freshness supporting layer upon drop-dead gorgeous layer of fragrant black fruits, mineral notions and earth, finishing epically long and perfumed.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					

Pensées de Lafleur		90-93	95-96		91-93	
AG Score: 90-93	<p>The 2018 Pensées de Lafleur emerges from a strip of soil measuring 2/3rds of a hectare than runs through Lafleur. The blend is 54% Bouschet (Cabernet Franc) and 46% Merlot, but is the Merlot that really seems to inform the wine, especially in a textural profile that is all about suppleness. Plump, juicy and inviting, the Pensées offers tremendous immediacy and overall appeal. The 2018 is an especially suave Pensées, but there is plenty of structure underneath.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 95-96	<p>This shows such beautiful ripeness and freshness with dark berries, blueberries and hints of dark chocolate. Full-bodied yet balanced and refined with linear drive and brightness.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score:						
WA Score: 91-93	<p>Composed of 46% Merlot harvested September 21 and 54% Cabernet Franc harvested October 4, the medium to deep garnet-purple colored 2018 Pensées de Lafleur comes bounding out of the glass with exuberant notes of warm blueberries, crushed red and black cherries and plum preserves with hints of licorice, charcuterie, wild sage, underbrush and truffles. Medium to full-bodied, the palate reveals exquisitely ripe, rounded tannins and tons of freshness supporting the multilayered, vivacious fruit, finishing long with an herbal lift.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					
Lafleur Gazin		90-93	94-95	91-94	91-93	\$50
AG Score: 90-93	<p>The 2018 Lafleur-Gazin is a wine of tremendous immediacy and appeal. Nothing really stands out, rather it is the wine's exceptional balance and overall harmony that leave a deep impression. Silky tannins wrap around a core of bright red cherry, raspberry, rose petal, mint and cinnamon in a gracious, mid-weight Pomerol that is all seduction.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 94-95	<p>Another tight and solidly structured Pomerol with dark-berry, chocolate and hazelnut character. Full-bodied yet reserved and polished. Serious is all I can say.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score: 91-94	<p>The dark plum and cherry preserve flavors are fleshy in feel, with singed cedar and tobacco notes filling in through the finish. A touch woody in the end, but there's enough fruit to soak that up.</p> <p><i>-James Molesworth</i></p>					
WA Score: 91-93	<p>Medium to deep garnet-purple colored, the 2018 Lafleur-Gazin (100% Merlot) delivers compelling scents of violets and lavender interspersed with warm plums, baked cherries and blueberry compote with suggestions of tar, sandalwood and tobacco. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is reserved with lovely savory layers and a firm, grainy frame, finishing with great freshness.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					

La Fleur De Gay		86-88	94-95	92-95	89-91	\$133
AG Score: 86-88	<p>The 2018 La Fleur de Gay is a fruity, supple Pomerol that will drink well with minimal cellaring. Dark cherry, mocha, cedar, tobacco, licorice and menthol add lovely aromatic nuance as this pretty, silky Pomerol develops in the glass.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 94-95	<p>The gorgeous balance on the center palate makes this one of the best wines from here in years. Medium to full body, firm and silky tannins and a flavorful yet subtle finish. Fine.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score: 92-95	<p>Intense, with a focused beam of boysenberry and cassis flavors, laced with anise and black tea notes. Very supple through the vintage, but lacks the vintage's typically overt grip.</p> <p><i>-James Molesworth</i></p>					
WA Score: 89-91	<p>Deep purple-black colored, the 2018 La Fleur de Gay delivers bold notions of baked plums, mulberries and blackberry preserves with touches of tar, bay leaves and truffles. Full-bodied and rich, with a plush texture, it has soft acid and a spicy finish.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					
Nenin		87-89	96-97	93-96	93-95	\$86
AG Score: 87-89	<p>The 2018 Nénin offers a good bit of red/purplish berry fruit at the outset. Sweet floral and spice notes give the 2018 a good bit of aromatic brightness and lift. On the palate, the wine is a bit constricted, especially on the mid-palate. Nénin has been an inconsistent performer en primeur. It will be interesting what élevage brings. The blend is 63% Merlot and 37% Cabernet Franc. Tasted four times.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 96-97	<p>This is a special wine with unique black-cherry character and hints of hazelnuts. Full bodied, tight and totally melted together with the firm and ultra-fine tannins Extremely long.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score: 93-96	<p>Açaí and blackberry fruit flavors are melded with licorice snap and Black Forest cake notes in this exotic offering. There's enough energy to keep this honest on the finish too.</p> <p><i>-James Molesworth</i></p>					
WA Score: 93-95	<p>The 2018 Nenin is made up of 63% Merlot and 37% Cabernet Franc and has 14.6% alcohol. Yields were 33.8 hectoliters per hectare, and grapes were harvested between September 13 and October 12. The wine is to be aged in barriques, 45% new, and the finished blend was put into barrels last December. Deep purple-black in color, it sings of Morello cherries, Black Forest cake, licorice and lavender with a core of plum preserves, unsmoked tobacco and warm blackberries plus a waft of Provence herbs. Full-bodied and concentrated yet bursting with energy, it has a solid backbone of firm, rounded tannins and bags of freshness, finishing long.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					

Le Bon Pasteur		88-90	96-97	93-96		\$96
AG Score: 88-90	<p>The 2018 Le Bon Pasteur is a dark, potent Pomerol. Blackberry jam, chocolate, licorice, spice and tobacco add to an impression of virile power. This is an especially extracted, oaky style with a lot of impact, but less in the way of nuance or finesse. My impression is that Bon Pasteur needs an updating. There is just not much pleasure to be had here. Tasted two times.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 96-97	<p>This is a wonderful Le Bon Pasteur with incredibly silky tannins that fill the mouth. It's full-bodied yet ever so agile and bright. The tannins build at the end, as is the case in other top wines of the vintage.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score: 93-96	<p>Intense, with kirsch, açai berry and boysenberry fruit flavors rolling over one another, backed by bramble and anise notes on the grippy finish. Very solid.</p> <p><i>-James Molesworth</i></p>					
WA Score:						
Petit Village		90-93	96-97	93-96	90-92	\$92
AG Score: 90-93	<p>The 2018 Petit-Village offers striking depth and textural richness, all in a mid-weight style that is undeniably appealing. Dark red cherry, tobacco and cedar add nuance, with an added touch of savory complexity from the Cabernet Sauvignon in the blend. The finish is a bit tight at present. Hopefully élevage will take care of that. Half of the estate is farmed biodynamically. Yields are 23 hectoliters per hectare, which is about a third less than normal. Mildew was an issue, but according to Technical Director Diana Berrout-Garcia the drying northerly winds were an even more determining factor in reducing the crop. The blend is 72% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc and 8% Cabernet Sauvignon.</p> <p><i>-Antonio Galloni</i></p>					
JS Score: 96-97	<p>The beautiful depth of fruit is very impressive with a fantastic center palate of full fruit, yet so agile and floating on the palate. The fine-grained tannins kick in at the end. Very fresh and racy.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score: 93-96	<p>Very solid, featuring a core of plum and raspberry fruit flavors carried by iron-tinted structure, ending with a grippy edge that will need a little taming through the élevage. Well-built though.</p> <p><i>-James Molesworth</i></p>					
WA Score: 90-92	<p>Yields are down this year at Petit Village. They had a little coulure and battled a serious attack of mildew. Later, winds from the north dehydrated some fruit. In the end, they came in at 35 hectoliters per hectare. A blend of 72% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc and 8% Cabernet Sauvignon, the deep garnet-purple colored 2018 Petit Village springs from the glass with bold expressions of warm plums, Black Forest cake, black raspberries and kirsch plus hints of rose petals, chocolate box and spearmint. The palate is full and generously fruited with a firm frame of rounded tannins that have just a bit of chew, finishing with soft-spoken freshness and fragrance.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					

SAUTERNES / BARSAC		AG	JS	JM	WA	PRICE
Coutet			91-92		93-95	\$52
AG Score:						
JS Score: 91-92	<p>Pleasant center palate to this young Barsac. Medium-bodied and very sweet but lacks a bit of botrytis for me.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score:						
WA Score: 93-95	<p>Pale to medium lemon-gold colored, the 2018 Coutet has super intense, well-delineated notions of warm pineapple, green guava and baked pineapple with hints of mandarin peel, gingerbread, orange blossoms and lime leaves. The palate is alive with energetic tropical fruit and exotic spice notes with a lovely satiny texture and fantastic freshness, finishing with epic length.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					
Climens						
AG Score:						
JS Score:						
JM Score:						
WA Score:						

L'Extravagant Doisy Daene (375ml)										\$138
AG Score:										
JS Score:										
JM Score:										
WA Score: 95-97	<p>The 2018 L'Extravagant has a pale to medium lemon-gold color. WOW—the nose is super intense, featuring notes of lime cordial, orange peel, pink grapefruit and guava plus touches of chalk dust, lime leaves and acacia honey. Incredibly rich, sweet and hedonic in the mouth, the wonderfully oily palate reveals fantastic freshness and epic length.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>									
Doisy Daene						93-94		92-94		\$43
AG Score:										
JS Score: 93-94	<p>Serious density and spiciness with a full body, lovely sweetness and a flavorful, spicy finish. Lovely botrytis.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>									
JM Score:										
WA Score: 92-94	<p>Pale lemon-gold colored, the 2018 Doisy Daëne bursts from the glass with vibrant mango, green guava and pink grapefruit notes plus hints of honeycomb, peach blossoms and almond croissant. The palate has bags of freshness and energy with a lovely silken texture and long finish.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>									

Guiraud					88-90	
AG Score:						
JS Score:						
JM Score:						
WA Score: 88-90	<p>The 2018 Guiraud gives up scents of poached pears, lemon marmalade and fresh pineapple with touches of lime zest and white pepper. Medium-bodied, the palate has plenty of zip in its step with some herb and chalk layers emerging on the finish.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					
Suduiraut			97-98		93-95	\$69
AG Score:						
JS Score: 97-98	<p>This has lots of concentration and mushroom and spice character. Plenty of botrytis. Dense and flavorful finish. Big wine for the vintage. Five hectoliters a hectare and half went into the second wine.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score:						
WA Score: 93-95	<p>The pale to medium lemon-gold colored 2018 Suduiraut comes bounding out of the glass with exuberant notes of candied peel, warm pineapple, guava and key lime pie with hints of orange marmalade and beeswax. The palate is packed with power and richness, with mouth-coating tropical fruits and a long earth-laced finish.</p> <p><i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i></p>					

Rieussec		93-94	93-95
AG Score:			
JS Score: 93-94	Very clean and fresh with banana, pineapple and papaya character and hints of honey. Medium-to full-bodied, sweet and crisp. Lively finish. Jasmine and acacia with hints of spice. Slightly crisper style. More sauvignon than normal. <i>-James Suckling</i>		
JM Score:			
WA Score: 93-95	"Rieussec was hit by hail on the 15th of July," says Eric Kohler. "For Sauternes, the botrytis began very late. It was very difficult for the botrytis to begin. There was not so much sugar this year and not so much botrytis. This is not as great a year as 2015 or 2017." Harvest at Rieussec began on October 10 and ended on October 31. Blended of 75% Sémillon and 25% Sauvignon Blanc, the pale lemon-gold colored 2018 Rieussec reveals delicate scents of lemon drops, pear tart, marzipan and crushed stones over a core of orange blossoms, white peaches and lime leaves. The palate has a quiet intensity of an array of citrus and savory layers with amazing freshness, finishing with great length and depth. <i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i>		
Raymond Lafon			91-93
AG Score:			
JS Score:			
JM Score:			
WA Score: 91-93	The 2018 Raymond-Lafon opens with intense scents of exotic fruit—pineapple, mango and guava—with a perfumed undercurrent of musk, allspice, orange blossoms and candied ginger. The palate delivers mouth-coating, satin-textured tropical fruits with loads of spicy sparks and lovely freshness, finishing on a compelling savory note. <i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i>		

Carmes De Rieussec		90-91	89-91
AG Score:			
JS Score: 90-91	A pretty second wine of Rieussec with creamy, cooked pear and apple character. Some soufflé character, too. Medium body, medium sweet and a fresh finish. <i>-James Suckling</i>		
JM Score:			
WA Score: 89-91	Pale lemon-gold colored, the 2018 Carmes de Rieussec is a little youthfully mute to begin, offering glimpses at lemon meringue pie, lime cordial and beeswax scents with touches of baking bread and marzipan. The palate is appealingly rich and packed with citrus and spice layers, finishing long and honeyed. <i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i>		
La Tour Blanche		90-91	92-94
AG Score:			\$48
JS Score: 90-91	A Sauternes with pretty richness and a very sweet palate. Some spice at the end. Wait and see. <i>-James Suckling</i>		
JM Score:			
WA Score: 92-94	Pale to medium lemon-gold colored, the 2018 la Tour Blanche is a little reticent to begin, opening out to notes of honeydew melon, nectarines and baked apples with touches of lightly browned toast, allspice and powdered ginger. The palate features loads of zip and zing with bags of freshness to counter the rich fruit, finishing on a lingering gingery note. <i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i>		

La Faurie Peyraguey			96-97			
AG Score:						
JS Score: 96-97	<p>You can really see the wild botrytis character in this wine with lots of spice and dried-mushroom character. Full-bodied and intensely sweet palate, yet there's bright acidity and a spicy finish.</p> <p><i>-James Suckling</i></p>					
JM Score:						
WA Score:						

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 2021 Minimum order of 6 bottles.
- * Orders are subject to reconfirmation