

WINE CULTURE

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BORDEAUX EN PRIMEUR 2020

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

VINTAGE 2020 REPORT

In general, the 2020 Bordeaux reds show plenty of fruit, but not too much, and the tannins are ripe and polished giving excellent length to the wines. I find the wines, so far, to be slightly less flamboyant than the 2018s and more along the lines of the 2019s that had fantastic freshness and linear phenolic character.

It seems to be a merlot vintage to me, if I take into consideration the superb quality of wines made in appellations on the Right Bank such as Pomerol and St.-Emilion as well as more merlot-focused districts such as Margaux in the Medoc. I have done about 20 Tasting Interviews with wine producers and winemakers and I am impressed with how good their merlots are. This can certainly be understood if you look at the weather reports for 2020 – most of the merlot was harvested before intermittent rain fell in Bordeaux from about mid-September and continued until the end of the harvest.

Smaller berry sizes of the cabernet sauvignon apparently helped by reducing the possibility of dilution during the wet weather at the picking. And it gave the wines excellent tannin structure from the thick skins. All the winemakers I spoke to were careful with their extractions during the fermentation and maceration as well as with press wines.

-James Suckling

The Styles

It is nearly impossible to summarize the styles of 2020, because they can vary dramatically depending on commune and grape varieties.

Dry Whites

Some surprisingly good dry whites were made. Flavors tend to be among the ripe pears, stone fruits and even tropical fruits spectrum. Acids are good—early harvesting meant freshness was generally maintained. It's mainly an earlier-drinking vintage for dry whites, with moderate aging potential.

Right Bank Reds

The best examples have beautifully pure and perfumed expressions of “ripeness”—some on the crunchier fruit side and others are juicier. The signature this year seems to be a fantastic mélange of black, blue and red fruits, creating a complex layered effect that is stunning. Most Merlots have produced a good level of ripe tannins that are soft and approachable in youth. However, where vines struggled during the drought on the more free-draining soils, the results can be a little chewy. Alcohols are moderate to high. Most are 14% to 14.5%, while a few top 15%+. Acids are well-balanced to refreshing. Sites on limestone continue to offer strikingly low pHs (higher acidity), e.g., Château Canon at 3.53 pH for an alcohol of 14.5%.

Pessac-Léognan Reds

If the Right Bank shouts fruit purity, Pessac-Léognan remains staunchly earthy/savory, pushing the fruit into the background and waving the crushed rocks, minerals and spice-box flags. The palates are mainly generous and fleshy. Alcohols are generally 14% to 15%—slightly lower than the Right Bank, but higher than the Médoc. The tannins are mostly a little firmer than the Right Bank, lending a solid backbone to the wines. Acids are a little higher than the Right Bank, with many pHs of 3.7-3.8, which is about normal for this area.

Médoc

The best wines of the Médoc are a paradox—lighter bodied, elegant, perfumed head-turners! They would fool you into thinking that they come from a far cooler vintage. At best, these wines have a sustained, well drawn-out intensity in the mid-palate with good length. At worst, some wines are dilute, with a hollow mid-palate that doesn't match the firm tannins, and they have an abrupt finish. Tannins have the potential to be very high. The Cabernet berries were notoriously small this year, needing careful management in the winery so as not to be over-extracted, especially given the delicacy of the wines. The best wines have very well-crafted, balanced backbones of high quality, grainy tannins. But there are a lot of “rustic,” hard, chewy textures out there too. Bodies are generally light to medium in weight, and the alcohols are on the low side, generally 13% to 14%. The acidities can run anywhere from soft and well-balanced to flat and flabby. The pHs are running high at 3.8-3.9 or above, in some cases. In the best wines, the elegance of the fruit and lighter weight is in balance with the higher acidity.

Aging Potential

The best 2020 wines undoubtedly have significant aging potential. It is a year when the IPTs (total phenolic index levels) are notably high, and the quality of tannins, in the best wines, is equally high. Some wines produced on the Right Bank and from Pessac-Léognan will be particularly long-lived. This year, I have included projected drinking-window estimates for every single wine reviewed, to help readers with their buying decisions.

-Lisa Perrotti-Brown

Generally, the best wines exhibit pure, mainly black and often blue fruit aromas. A common scent is iris flower, which Edouard Moueix attributes to old Merlot vines.

Slightly firmer tannins (IPT levels are quite high) and fewer creamy textures. This must be taken in context because despite more backbone, tannins are unequivocally much finer than a decade ago. I also feel that unlike the 2019s, the 2020s should be afforded several years in bottle, which is reflected in my drinking windows. Though Bordeaux is far more approachable than even a decade ago, I believe the best 2020s will merit long-term cellaring.

Lower alcohol on the Left Bank than 2018 and 2019, sometimes by more than a degree, at around 13.0°–14.0°, higher on the Right Bank, regularly reaching 15.0° and over. I heard instances of 16.0° but no names were mentioned.

Lower alcohol often reveals more salinity and greater expression of individual terroirs. Whether that is because the fruit was picked earlier or harvests extended into the inclement rainy weather at the end of September, depends on the property.

Due to the cool nights in August and early September, many of these wines have excellent acidity levels that engender fresh wines with ample tension.

The 2020 vintage was one of the lowest-yielding vintages in the last decade alongside 2013 and 2017, due to a triple whammy of mildew, drought and some shriveled berries at harvest. According to Gavin Quinney's annual report, Saint-Julien suffered most, with 82% of the 10-year average, median yields being around 34.3hl/ha. Most Left Bank appellations were around 10% below average, though slightly better in Saint-Émilion, where figures were 94% of the 10-year average. Pomerol bucked the trend with an increase of 5.5% over the 10-year average, though that figure is skewed by drastically low yields in previous years.

It was an inconsistent vintage away from the top of the hierarchy. The last three vintages have benefited the great terroirs, which in 2020 are those with clay or limestone soils and modern wineries equipped with the latest technology and the manpower to be vigilant and reactive in the vineyard during the wet early season. Expand your purview beyond the 200-odd wines offered en primeur to the vast ocean of Cru Bourgeois and Petit Château, and it is clear that the long stretches of rain followed by drought negatively affected lesser terroirs and punished those who cut corners. There were days when I had to taste many frogs to find a princess. A wrong choice and you can be easily disappointed. The good news is that there is still a raft of excellent wines punching above their weight outside the famous appellations, representing outstanding value.

- Neal Martin

ST ESTEPHE	NM	JS	AG	WA	PRICE	QUANTITY REQUIRED
Montrose					\$244	
NM Score:	-Neal Martin					
JS Score:	-James Suckling					
AG Score:	-Antonio Galloni					
WA Score:	-Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

La Dame de Montrose					\$55	
NM Score:	-Neal Martin					
JS Score:	-James Suckling					
AG Score:	-Antonio Galloni					
WA Score:	-Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Calon Segur	92-94	95-96	88-90	95-97+	\$150	
NM Score:92-94	The 2020 Calon Ségur was picked from 24-30 September at 33hl/ha and after a 3-day cold soak at 10°C it underwent a 18-21 cuvaison. Matured entirely in new oak, it is backward on the nose, well defined, but broody and requires coaxing from the glass. It eventually reveals blackberry, cedar, wild mint and pressed iris petal aromas. The palate is medium-bodied with firm tannins, a little angular on the entry, good acidity. The second half, though, feels just a little brutish at the moment, granular and grippy on the saline, briny finish. I appreciate the way in which the DNA of this estate comes through, though the 2019 showed far more finesse and panache. It may end up at the top of my banded score if it can pull together more clarity and complexity. -Neal Martin					
JS Score:95-96	Tobacco and tea aromas with currants and wet earth. Full-bodied and chewy with blackcurrant flavor. Tannins build on the finish with lots of structure and intensity. Quite muscular. -James Suckling					
AG Score:88-90	The 2020 Calon Ségur is deep, dark and massively concentrated. Huge, brawny tannins give the Grand Vin a brooding, rustic feel. Quite frankly, it is hard to see the 2020 being in balance. There is too much of everything - too much ripeness, too much tannin and too much heaviness. Perhaps this sample was not perfect. We will see. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score:95-97+	The 2020 Calon-Ségur is a blend of 78% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Merlot, 9% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot. It is aging in 100% new French oak barrels for an anticipated 18 to 20 months. The alcohol is 13.8%. Displaying a deep purple-black color, it straight away springs up with bright scents of freshly picked black raspberries, kirsch and blackberries, needing considerable swirling to reveal a vast array of nuances—rose oil, cardamom, iron ore, graphite, lavender and aniseed. The medium-bodied palate has a solid structure of firm, ripe, grainy tannins and plenty of freshness supporting the tightly wound red and black fruit layers, accented by lots of mineral and floral sparks, finishing with impressive length and depth. Beautiful, beautiful wine! -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Le Marquis de Calon Segur	86-88	93-94	87-89	89-91	\$36	
NM Score:86-88	The 2020 Le Marquis de Calon-Ségur offers blackberry, briary, brown spices and undergrowth on its backward nose that demanded 30 minutes in the glass to really open. The palate is medium-bodied with a slightly angular opening. There is good acidity here, with a touch of herbaceousness developing on the finish that is a little abrupt. -Neal Martin					
JS Score:93-94	This is spicy and juicy with blackberry, bark and some spices. Full and chewy. Flavorful finish. Some lead pencil and iodine. Second wine of Calon. -James Suckling					
AG Score:87-89	The 2020 Le Marquis de Calon Ségur is a powerhouse. All of the intensity of the hot, dry summer comes through in the wine's flavor profile and imposing tannins. Inky black cherry, smoke, licorice, cloves and incense build in the glass. Today, the tannins are pretty bruising. Let's see what time brings. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score:89-91	The 2020 Le Marquis de Calon-Ségur blend is 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 49% Merlot and 1% Petit Verdot, with an alcohol of 14.6%. It is aging for an anticipated 17 months in French oak barrels, 30% new. Deep purple-black in color, it bursts from the glass with bombastic scents of stewed black plums, crème de cassis and blueberry pie with nuances of violets and licorice, plus a waft of menthol. The medium to full-bodied palate is chock-full of juicy black fruits with plush tannins and just enough freshness, finishing spicy. This is a very different style from the grand vin (Calon-Ségur), but also very delicious. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Cos D'Estournel	95-97	97-98	94-96	96-98	\$284	
NM Score:95-97	The 2020 Cos d'Estournel is a very different proposition to the Les Pagodes, more so than in other years. Much more intense on the nose of intense black fruit, it is beautifully defined, with enticing scents of blackberry, Dorset plum and topnotes of blueberry and briar. After 30 minutes in the glass, it develops more Saint-Estèphe-like traits: freshly tilled soil, cigar box and touches of warm gravel. There is an openness to these inviting aromatics. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannins (so different from the "iron girders" of yore). There is freshness and a sense of light in this Cos d'Estournel, though the backbone remains in situ on the cedar and mint finish (a nod to neighboring Pauillac, perhaps), then a lingering marine/seaweed note on the aftertaste. This is a finely crafted, very succinct Cos d'Estournel that may well be hiding something up its sleeve for after bottling, and I suspect it will gain more spine during its barrel aging. -Neal Martin					
JS Score: 97-98	This is a very refined, polished Cos with superb finesse and length. Medium-to full-bodied, very fine and persistent. Really long with beautiful tannins. Rich, but fresh and linear. Yet, the alcohol is around 13.5%. 62% cabernet and 38% merlot. -James Suckling					
AG Score:94-96	The 2020 is a gorgeous wine from a very unusual year in which the Merlot is a bit more prominent in the blend than usual because of dehydration in the Cabernet. Even so, the 2020 is a wine of mid-weight finesse more than opulence. All the elements are impeccably balanced throughout. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score: 96-98	The 2020 Cos d'Estournel is composed of 62% Cabernet Sauvignon and 38% Merlot. The harvest took place September 10–24 with a yield of 39 hectoliters per hectare. The alcohol weighs in at 13.46% with a pH of 3.9 and an IPT (total phenolic index) of 80. It is being aged in French oak barrels, 55% new. Deep purple-black in color, it pops with explosive scents of ripe red and black currants, black cherry preserves and black raspberries, followed by sparks of violets, wild sage, pencil lead and clove oil, with emerging hints of iron ore and damp soil. The medium-bodied palate has amazing elegance and grace contrasted by jaw-dropping energy, featuring a firm frame of finely grained tannins and just enough freshness, finishing with a whole firework display of mineral nuances. I love the way this Cos d'Estournel shimmies and shines—a unique vintage signature expressed so beautifully at this estate! -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Les Pagodes de Cos	89-91	93-94	90-92	91-93	\$59	
NM Score:89-91	The 2020 Les Pagodes de Cos has a well-defined, almost Graves-like bouquet of a mélange of red and black fruit: punnets of freshly picked strawberries and raspberries, and blackberries following later. The palate is medium-bodied with very supple tannins. This Les Pagodes has a smooth veneer, just a faint wisp of dark chocolate and espresso infusing the predominantly red fruit. A second wine that will probably drink well after one or two years in bottle. -Neal Martin					
JS Score: 93-94	This is a racy Pagodes with beautiful fruit and tannins that leave a nice, persistent finish. Medium to full body. Savory finish. Tight and clean. -James Suckling					
AG Score:90-92	The 2020 Les Pagodes de Cos is very easy to like. Silky tannins and pretty, lifted aromatics play off a core of supple fruit. In most vintages, the Pagodes is perhaps a bit more exuberant. I am curious to see what things look like once the 2020 is in bottle. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score: 91-93	The 2020 Les Pagodes de Cos is composed of 58% Cabernet Sauvignon, 34% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc and 4% Petit Verdot. The harvest took place September 10–24 with a yield of 39 hectoliters per hectare. The alcohol weighs in at 13.28% with a pH of 3.85 and an IPT (total phenolic index) of 68. It is being aged in French oak barrels, 30% new. Medium to deep garnet-purple colored, it sashays out of the glass with pretty, open-knit scents of stewed black plums, boysenberries and warm cassis, plus savory hints of charcuterie, woodsmoke, black truffles and bouquet garni. Medium-bodied, the palate is packed with crunchy black fruit flavors and dried herbs accents, supported by bags of freshness and well-managed, grainy tannins, finishing with great length and a lively skip in its step. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Ormes De Pez	90-92	92-93	88-90	90-92		
NM Score: 90-92	The 2020 Ormes de Pez, which has gradually moved to a more Merlot-dominated blend over the last decade, is aged for 16 months in 45% new oak. It has a nicely detailed bouquet of a mélange of red and black fruit – cranberry, blackberry and a touch of blueberry – accompanied by cedar and subtle wild mint aromas; it is actually quite Pauillac-like in style. The palate is medium-bodied with grippy tannins and chewy in the mouth, quite compact at first. A strong saline, almost briny element comes through toward the finish, which is more quintessential Saint-Estèphe. This is a more backward and less finessed wine compared to the Cazes family's Lynch-Bages or Haut-Bataille, but there is commendable length and character, not to mention a very attractive openness, to this wine. -Neal Martin					
JS Score: 92-93	A firm, lightly chewy red with blackberry, blueberry, spice and some chocolate. Medium body and fine tannins. It grows on the palate. Tannins sneak up at the end. 54% merlot, the highest percentage ever, the rest cabernet sauvignon with a touch of petit verdot. -James Suckling					
AG Score: 88-90	The 2020 Ormes de Pez is a pretty wine, even if it feels a bit light. Dried herbs, tobacco, mint, dried flowers and earthy tones lend aromatic nuance to this attractive, mid-weight Saint-Estèphe. It would be nice to see a bit more depth. Perhaps that will come with élevage. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score: 90-92	Composed of 54% Merlot, 38% Cabernet Sauvignon, 4% Cabernet Franc and 4% Petit Verdot, to be aged for around 16 months in French oak barriques, 45% new, the 2020 Ormes de Pez has an alcohol of 13.17%, a pH of 3.69 and an IPT of 79. Deep garnet-purple colored, it springs from the glass with notes of plum preserves, blueberry compote and Morello cherries, plus hints of graphite, wild mushrooms and sautéed herbs. The medium-bodied palate delivers plenty of herbs-laced black fruits with a pleasant chewiness to the texture and lovely freshness, finishing on a lingering fragrant-earth note. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Lafon Rochet	92-94	93-94	93-95	90-92	\$51	
NM Score: 92-94	The 2020 Lafon-Rochet was picked September 15–20 and marks the first collaboration between consultants Jean-Claude Berrouet and Eric Boissenot, who both worked on the blending. It has a really lovely bouquet of blackberry, briar and faint estuarine scents, hints of crushed iris flower emerging with time. The palate is medium-bodied with grainy tannins and modest depth, and quite fleshy; lip-smacking salinity urges you to take another sip. Intriguingly, it comes across a tad Pomerol-like on the finish, completing a top-notch Lafon-Rochet that may well end up at the top of my banded score. -Neal Martin					
JS Score: 93-94	Blackberry and spice with firm, chewy tannins that show polish and focus. It's medium-to full-bodied with excellent energy. Blackberry and blackcurrant character on the finish with a touch of cedar and spice. -James Suckling					
AG Score: 93-95	The 2020 Lafon-Rochet is fabulous. The aromatics along are dazzling. Gracious and yet effusive, with tons of nuance, the 2020 dazzles from start to finish. Inky dark fruit, new leather, spice, lavender and menthol fill the room with soaring intensity. Silky, elegant and so pure, Lafon-Rochet is shaping up to be one of the real under the radar gems of 2020. It's a terrific effort from Basile Tesseron. Don't miss it. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score: 90-92	Composed of 54% Merlot, 38% Cabernet Sauvignon, 4% Cabernet Franc and 4% Petit Verdot, to be aged for around 16 months in French oak barriques, 45% new, the 2020 Ormes de Pez has an alcohol of 13.17%, a pH of 3.69 and an IPT of 79. Deep garnet-purple colored, it springs from the glass with notes of plum preserves, blueberry compote and Morello cherries, plus hints of graphite, wild mushrooms and sautéed herbs. The medium-bodied palate delivers plenty of herbs-laced black fruits with a pleasant chewiness to the texture and lovely freshness, finishing on a lingering fragrant-earth note. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Phelan Segur	93-95	95-96	91-93	90-92+	\$57	
NM Score: 93-95	The 2020 Phélan Ségur has a very intense and almost Pauillac-like nose of blackberry, pencil box and cedar aromas, complex and mineral-driven. The palate is medium-bodied with firm tannins and plenty of black fruit laced with cedar and tobacco, quite sturdy and conveying more substance than recent vintages. This impressive Saint-Estèphe has great potential and might well represent the appellation's best value for money. <i>-Neal Martin</i>					
JS Score: 95-96	Bright and perfumed with some chocolate, berry, sandalwood and cedar. Very elegant and fine, medium to full-bodied palate with very integrated tannins and refined, polished texture. The tannins melt into the wine. Long finish with serious structure. Vivid and refined. Class here. Very Bordeaux. 54% cabernet sauvignon, 42% merlot, 2% cabernet franc and 2% petit verdot. <i>-James Suckling</i>					
AG Score: 91-93	The 2020 Phélan Ségur is sophisticated, classy and polished. There is perhaps a bit less size than has become the norm of late, but that is not a bad thing at all. Sweet floral, spice, cedar and tobacco lend brightness to this mid-weight, beautifully persistent Saint-Estèphe. I especially admire the wine's aromatic presence and persistence. Tasted two times. <i>-Antonio Galloni</i>					
WA Score: 90-92+	Displaying a medium to deep purple-black color, the 2020 Phélan Ségur offers up intense notions of crushed red and black currants, black raspberries and fresh mulberries, plus suggestions of charcuterie, pencil shavings and cinnamon toast. The medium-bodied palate is elegantly styled and refreshing, delivering a firm, grainy texture to support the crunchy red and black fruits, finishing with a peppery kick. <i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i>					

Lilian Ladouys	90-92	92-93	90-92	91-93	\$22.50	
NM Score: 90-92	The 2020 Lilian Ladouys offers light blackberry, raspberry and sous-bois scents on the nose, although to my recollection, the previous two vintages demonstrated a little more fruit intensity. The medium-bodied palate offers grainy tannins and fine acidity. Quite peppery, especially toward the finish, with bay leaf and tea leaf notes infusing the black fruit. Classic Saint-Estèphe in style. This should drink well for 12–15 years. <i>-Neal Martin</i>					
JS Score: 92-93	A very pretty, medium-bodied wine with fine tannins, lovely fruit and a creamy finish. Nicely integrated for the vintage in this appellation. <i>-James Suckling</i>					
AG Score: 90-92	The 2020 Lilian Ladouys is deep, fleshy and super-expressive. This midweight, gracious Saint-Estèphe has so much to offer. Silky tannins and bright aromatics complement a core of bright red fruit in the 2020, a gorgeous wine that will drink well right out of the gate. As always, this Merlot-driven Saint-Estèphe offers quite a bit of immediacy. This is the first vintage in the conversion to organic farming. Warm temperatures caused concentration on the vine, especially for the Cabernet Sauvignon. Yields at the property were 45 hectoliters per hectare as opposed to the normal 52 or so. <i>-Antonio Galloni</i>					
WA Score: 91-93	Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2020 Lilian Ladouys comes bounding out of the glass with exuberant notes of crushed black cherries, kirsch and warm cassis, plus hints of cinnamon stick, dusty soil and wild sage. The medium-bodied palate delivers mouth-filling black berry and earthy layers, supported by ripe, approachable tannins and a racy backbone, finishing on a lingering mineral note. A property to watch—in 2018, the Lorenzetti family purchased two neighbor estates, Château Clauzet and Château Tour de Pez, adding these to the Lilian Ladouys vineyard to almost double its planted area to 77 hectares. These additional vineyards are composed of gravelly soils of the same level as the best blocks of Lilian Ladouys. Soils are a typical 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 37 years in 2020. <i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i>					

PAUILLAC	NM	JS	AG	WA	PRICE	QUANTITY REQUIRED
Mouton Rothschild	96-98	99-100	96-98	97-99		
NM Score: 96-98	The 2020 Mouton Rothschild is an intriguing proposition, aromatically speaking. Initially, it is less forthcoming than the last three vintages, but it's just toying with you, eventually releasing captivating scents of blackberry, raspberry, crushed stone, touches of India ink and traces of violet petal. The oak is seamlessly integrated and these aromatics grow in stature with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied with very lithe and finely chiseled tannins that frame the pixelated black fruit. Displaying wonderful mineralité and tension, this is a less exuberant and lavish Mouton Rothschild, perhaps, but more cerebral and intellectual than this First Growth during the 1990s. As smooth as Snoopy Dogg's flow, this is a marvelous Mouton. -Neal Martin					
JS Score: 99-100	This is a great and impressive Mouton with plushness and precision. A million layers of tannins. It's full and very friendly, even seductive, in a rich and opulent way, yet it always remains fresh. Balanced and refined. Nothing sticks out here. Every so fine-grained tannins provide flesh. Looking forward to seeing its evolution. 84% cabernet sauvignon, 13% merlot, 2% cabernet franc and 1% petit verdot. -James Suckling					
AG Score: 96-98	The 2020 Mouton Rothschild is sensual, delicate and polished. Bright floral notes lead into a core of sweet red cherry, cedar, mint, anise and blood orange. In 2020, the Mouton is a wine of unreal elegance and finesse. I can't wait to taste it from bottle, as I think there may be much more to it than it's showing today. Technical director Jean-Emmanuel Danjoy noted that the 2020 was slow to extract because of its low alcohol (13.1%) compared with recent vintages. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score: 97-99	The 2020 Mouton Rothschild is composed of 84% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot, with an alcohol of 13.1% and a pH of around 3.78. Deep purple-black colored, it starts off with subtle notions of fresh raspberries and blackberries, needing considerable swirling and patience to unlock its intense core of blackcurrant pastilles, rose oil, licorice and cardamom, plus touches of cedar chest, black truffles and crushed rocks. The medium-bodied palate is like a tightly coiled spring, possessing exhilarating tension and very firm, ripe, multi-grained tannins to frame the layer upon layer of black and red fruits intertwined with earthy and mineral accents, finishing very long and very fragrant. It is certainly the most coy, reticent and elegant grand vin of this trio of vintages (2018, 2019 and 2020), bearing Mouton's signature perfume, opulence and stylishness with great grace and sophistication as opposed to devil-may-care flamboyance. It's this gently teasing, achingly beautiful restraint that collectors are not going to want to miss. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Le Petit Mouton	92-94	97-98	92-94	91-93		
NM Score: 92-94	The 2020 Le Petit Mouton, which contains a relatively higher level of Cabernet Sauvignon this year, represents 36% of the total production. It has a wonderful, entrancing bouquet, a mixture of red and black fruit, freshly tilled soil, cedar and emerging floral scents of iris petal and incense. I love the energy on this not so "petit" Mouton. The palate is medium-bodied with fine-grained tannins and perfectly judged acidity, harmonious and poised with superb mineralité and tension toward the finish. So sophisticated. This is (yet another) great Le Petit Mouton. -Neal Martin					
JS Score: 97-98	This is very, very layered with gorgeous fruit and velvety tannins. Hints of chocolate. Full-bodied and chewy with soft, fine tannins. 72% cabernet sauvignon, 24% merlot and 4% cabernet franc. Gorgeous second wine -James Suckling					
AG Score: 92-94	The 2020 Le Petit-Mouton is a gorgeous wine, but it's quite different in style from many previous editions because of a high proportion (72%) of Cabernet Sauvignon. Silky and aromatic, but also quite reticent, the 2020 is going to need time to give its best. Bright red berry fruit, blood orange and striking lift from the Cabernet Franc offer tons of appeal. I especially like the aromatics here. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score: 91-93	The 2020 Le Petit Mouton is a blend of 72% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot and 4% Cabernet Franc, weighing in with 13.1% alcohol. Deep garnet-purple colored, it comes galloping out of the glass with exuberant notes of ripe blackcurrants, fresh blackberries and kirsch, plus suggestions of Indian spices, clove oil and chocolate box, plus a fragrant suggestion of lilacs. The medium-bodied palate has a rock-solid structure of firm, grainy tannins and bold freshness supporting the tight-knit red and black berry layers, finishing long with a peppery kick. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Lafite Rothschild	96-08	99-100	95-97	96-98	Sold Out	
NM Score: 96-98	The 2020 Lafite-Rothschild is much more intense and complex compared to the Carruades this year. This First Growth bursts from the glass with beautifully defined blackberry and wild strawberry scents laced with sprigs of wild mint and juniper berries. The palate is medium-bodied with pliant tannins that frame the pixelated black fruit. This is quintessential Lafite in that it is not a powerful or immensely structured wine, but rather a First Growth with unerring balance and harmony, one that is unashamedly classic in style. There is just the right amount of dryness on the finish to urge you back for another sip. So Lafite it has its name tattooed onto its DNA. It will begin to soar after 10 years in the cellar. -Neal Martin					
JS Score: 99-100	Rather ethereal and so refined with finesse, focus and brightness that provides incredible energy and pedigree. It's full-bodied with ultra fine tannins that go on and on. Superb presence with tannins that melt into the wine. This is 12.8%. I love the wine. Lots of dark fruit and fresh tobacco. Lead pencil, too. 92% cabernet sauvignon, 7% merlot and 1% petit verdot. -James Suckling					
AG Score: 95-97	The 2020 is a super-classic Lafite-Rothschild of grace and finesse. A reticent introvert, Lafite impresses with its vertical lift and palpable energy. It is a wine of regal bearing that does not feel the need to say much, and yet everything is very clearly there. Bright acids and strong, saline notes come alive in the glass as the long, persistent finish unfolds with remarkable grace. The 2020 is simply exquisite. It's a fabulous showing from the team led by Technical Director Eric Kohler. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score: 96-98	Displaying a deep purple-black color, the 2020 Lafite Rothschild takes a little swirling and coaxing to unlock scents of freshly crushed blackcurrants, boysenberries and spiced plums, followed by emerging nuances of red roses, raspberry preserves, underbrush and unsmoked cigars, with a waft of cedar chest. The medium-bodied palate is an exercise in elegance and finesse, featuring tightly wound layers of red and black berries and loads of mineral sparks, framed by finely grained tannins and well-poised tension, finishing with fantastic length and the most stunning perfume. Magnificent achievement. This 2020 is a blend of 92% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Merlot and 1% Petit Verdot, coming in at 12.8% alcohol and a pH of 3.9. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Carruades Lafite	89-91	96-97	91-93	91-93	Sold Out	
NM Score: 89-91	The 2020 Carruades de Lafite is clean and precise on the nose, the undergrowth/autumn leaf scents permeating the predominantly black fruit, and light peppermint aromas unfurling with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannins and a fine bead of acidity. Quite linear in style, particularly toward the finish, where it seems to not want to put a foot wrong. A Deuxième Vin that just needs to loosen its tie and let it all hang out a bit more. -Neal Martin					
JS Score: 96-97	This is very classically structured with a palate that starts off slowly. Full-bodied and chewy with a soft, creamy texture and a long finish. Savory. A touch austere. 52% cabernet sauvignon, 42% merlot and 3% cabernet franc, the rest petit verdot. -James Suckling					
AG Score: 91-93	The 2020 Carruades de Lafite is so expressive right out of the gate. Sage, mint, dried herbs, tobacco and incense grace the Carruades with gorgeous aromatic presence. A backbone of fine tannins lends energy and direction. Medium in body and impeccably refined, the 2020 Carruades is shaping up to be a gem. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score: 91-93	Deep purple-black in color, the 2020 Carruades de Lafite, like its big sibling, is a little youthfully shy to begin, soon unfurling to offer notes of Morello cherries, raspberry leaves, baked blackberries and spice box, plus suggestions of pencil lead, lavender and Provence herbs. The medium-bodied palate is chock-full of juicy black fruits, framed by velvety tannins and tons of freshness, finishing long and lifted. This 2020 is a blend of 52% Cabernet Sauvignon, 42% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc and 3% Petit Verdot. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Grand Puy Lacoste	95-97	96-97	93-96	91-93	\$96	
NM Score: 95-97	The 2020 Grand-Puy-Lacoste has a very refined, almost understated bouquet at first, but it opens in glorious fashion to offer precise blackberry and wild strawberry fruit, crushed stone and wild mint, gaining intensity at its own pace. The palate is beautifully balanced with fine-grained tannins, a keen thread of acidity, layers of intense black fruit and quite a spicy, vibrant and certainly persistent finish. This is a brilliant GPL from the Borie family. -Neal Martin					
JS Score: 96-97	This full-bodied red builds on the palate in a fantastic way with tight, compact tannins that grow and grow on the finish. Plenty of blackcurrant and graphite character and a flavorful finish. Same level as the excellent 2016. -James Suckling					
AG Score: 93-96	The 2020 Grand-Puy-Lacoste is an explosive, vibrant Pauillac. The bouquet alone is captivating. Lavender, grilled herbs, menthol, chocolate and crème de cassis all race out of the glass. A wine of vertical structure and precision, the 2020 is a total stunner. It simply dazzles from start to finish. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score: 91-93	Medium to deep garnet-purple colored, the 2020 Grand-Puy-Lacoste offers notes of freshly crushed black and red currants, fresh blackberries and mulberries, plus hints of pencil lead, damp soil and black olives. The medium-bodied palate is delicately styled and refreshing, delivering soft, skillfully managed tannins and just enough freshness to frame the juicy black fruits, finishing savory. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Lynch Bages	94-96	98-99	93-95	94-96	\$164	
NM Score: 94-96	The 2020 Lynch-Bages contains proportionately more Merlot in the blend this year (31%) and will be aged for 18 months in 75% new oak. It has an intriguing bouquet, quite complex and classic in style, featuring tightly wound black fruit mixed with cedar, mint and touches of the estuary. One sniff and you know that the vines are in close proximity to the sea. The palate is medium-bodied with impressive weight on the entry, the tannins almost immediately coating the mouth (the IPT is 93, fairly high). But everything remains balanced thanks to the fine acidic thread, and it begins to firm up, becoming quite structured and, dare I say, reminiscent of Latour toward the finish. This is a Lynch-Bages that clearly will deserve long-term aging because there is real substance to this wine, and that will only increase during élevage. This is a great Lynch-Bages. The Cazes family should build a new winery to celebrate. -Neal Martin					
JS Score: 98-99	Blackcurrants, orange peel, flowers and tar with hints of graphite. Full-bodied with a creamy texture of exquisitely polished tannins. It goes on and on. Intense flavors at the end, too, with lead pencil and lots of blackberry. Very classic and precise. -James Suckling					
AG Score: 93-95	The 2020 Lynch-Bages is deep, polished and so sensual. Dark cherry fruit, lavender, spice, leather and pipe tobacco fill out the layers. In 2020, Lynch-Bages is a bit darker and more virile in feel than is typically the case. There is plenty of weight and substance, though. I can't wait to taste it from bottle. My impression is that the 2020 will be a very long-lived wine. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score: 94-96	The 2020 Lynch-Bages is a blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 31% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc and 5% Petit Verdot, aging for around 18 months in French oak barriques, 75% new. It has an alcohol of 13.41%, a pH of 3.73 and an IPT (tannin index) of 93. Opaque purple-black in color, it leaps from the glass with notes of crushed blackberries, cassis and boysenberries, plus touches of garrigue, red roses and cedar chest with hints of graphite and black olives. The medium-bodied palate has a rock-solid frame of ripe, grainy tannins and plenty of freshness supporting the tight-knit black fruit and earthy flavors, finishing long and mineral laced. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Echo de Lynch Bages	90-92		90-92	87-89	\$52	
NM Score: 90-92	The 2020 Echo de Lynch-Bages is gentle and harmonious on the nose, not powerful but quite seductive thanks to its pure red currant and wild strawberry fruit; boysenberry jam emerges with time (meaning a couple of hours). The palate is medium-bodied with grainy tannins, grippier than the nose suggests. An underlying saline element lends freshness on a firm finish that does not outstay its welcome, but encourages another sip. This is a fine Deuxième Vin. -Neal Martin					
JS Score:	-James Suckling					
AG Score: 90-92	The 2020 Echo de Lynch Bages is fabulous. A compelling second wine, Echo offers all the aromatic sensuality, red fruit and silkiness of the Grand Vin, but in an open-knit style that can be enjoyed upon release. All the elements are so impeccably balanced. Everything about the 2020 speaks to class and refinement. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score: 87-89	The 2020 Echo de Lynch-Bages is a blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon and 40% Merlot, aging for around 12 months in one-year-old French oak barriques. It has an alcohol of 13.03%, a pH of 3.78 and an IPT (tannin index) of 80. Deep garnet-purple in color, it rolls out of the glass with expressive, upfront notes of baked black and red cherries, plum preserves and blackcurrant cordial, followed by hints of new leather, tobacco leaf and a medicinal waft. The medium-bodied palate is chock-full of savory flavors, with a chewy texture and just enough freshness, finishing a little rustic. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Pichon Lalande	96-98	96-97	95-97	95-97	\$254	
NM Score: 96-98	The 2020 Pichon-Lalande has a backward nose similar to that of its neighbor Pichon-Baron, and so I decanted the bottle for 45 minutes. It then revealed gorgeous scents of blackberry, wild hedgerow, seaweed (Japanese nori) and wild mint. The palate is medium-bodied with sappy black fruit and gentle but insistent grip. Very intense but not ripe; there is a coolness about this Pauillac that I like, while the finish is very classically styled and leaves behind a persistent, slightly briny aftertaste. This is a magnificent, cerebral Pichon-Lalande that will deserve serious aging and the patience of anyone still waiting for The Cure's new album. Tasted three times, including directly from the château. -Neal Martin					
JS Score: 96-97	This is extremely structured, but with a level of polish and refinement that highlights the excellence of the terroir. Very long and expansive on the palate, showing class and beauty. Powerful. -James Suckling					
AG Score: 95-97	The 2020 Pichon-Longueville Comtesse de Lalande is holding so much in reserve. Tightly wound and not fully expressive, the 2020 is going to need at least a few years to come out of its shell. Bright acids and persistent tannins give the 2020 a super classic, mid-weight feel. I very much like the wine's persistence. Readers will have to be patient with the 2020. The exuberance of some recent vintages is not present today. The blend is 77% Cabernet Sauvignon, 17% Merlot and 6% Cabernet Franc, which means a touch more Cabernet Sauvignon than in recent years, and quite a bit more than in the past. Harvest ran from September 7 to October 1, which is about ten days earlier than normal. In the cellar, Estate Manager Nicolas Glumineau opted for light extractions, with minimal pumpovers of just one volume of wine per day, at no more than 25 degrees Celsius. Time on the skins was 21 days, pretty much the norm these days. Tasted two times. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score: 95-97	Deep purple-black in color, the 2020 Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande begins on a single, well-defined, wonderfully pure note of ripe blackcurrants, opening out to a melody of redcurrant jelly, kirsch, ripe blackberries and tar, with emerging suggestions of dark chocolate, cardamom, ground cloves and violets, with a waft of black truffles. Medium-bodied, tightly wound and with loads of fantastically nuanced black fruit layers, it has a rock-solid frame of finely grained tannins and bags of freshness, finishing long and mineral laced. The blend this year is 77% Cabernet Sauvignon, 17% Merlot and 6% Cabernet Franc. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Pichon Baron	95-97	97-98	96-98	95-97+	\$209	
NM Score: 95-97	The 2020 Pichon Baron underwent an early picking with relatively low yields. A blend of 76% Cabernet Sauvignon and 24% Merlot, it has a very tight nose at first that demands 15–20 minute coaxing in the glass. It eventually reveals enticing blackberries, blueberries and hints of balsamic and undergrowth, all very precise; crushed rock scents surface with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied with sappy black fruit, fine-grained tannins and touches of hoisin toward a dense but structured finish of unerring symmetry. Tasted from test tube sample and regular 75cl bottle. -Neal Martin					
JS Score: 97-98	This young Bordeaux is totally seamless with fine, velvet-like tannins that are integrated and refined. Underlying freshness and verve. It's full-bodied, linear and long with a compact palate -James Suckling					
AG Score: 96-98	The 2020 Pichon Baron is utterly breathtaking, and also one of the very best young vintages I have tasted here. An exotic mélange of red cherry, mint, rose petal and blood orange comes alive in the glass. More than anything, though, the Pichon-Baron possesses remarkable energy and vibrancy that builds to an intense, beautifully focused finish. This is hands down one of the most impressive wines of 2020. Superb. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score: 95-97+	The 2020 Pichon-Longueville Baron is a blend of 76% Cabernet Sauvignon and 24% Merlot aging for an estimated 18 months in French oak barrels, 70% new. The production of the grand vin represents 48% of the harvest this year. Opaque purple-black in color, it comes bounding out of the glass with exuberant notions of blackberry pie, preserved plums and crème de cassis, plus suggestions of Chinese five spice, chocolate mint, graphite and cedar chest with a touch of violets. The medium-bodied palate is built like a brick house, featuring firm, ripe, grainy tannins and bold freshness to support the taut, muscular black fruits, finishing long and spicy. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Clerc Milon	91-93	95-96	90-92	92-94	\$108	
NM Score: 91-93	The 2020 Clerc Milon has a crisp, well-defined bouquet that you might suspect derives from a cooler growing season. Mainly black fruit here, along with cedar and light sea spray/estuarine scents, unfolding nicely in the glass but always keeping something back. The palate is medium-bodied with fine-grained tannins. An elegant rather than powerful Clerc Milon, with a slightly ferrous, well-structured but never grippy finish and a saline aftertaste. Give this 4–5 years in bottle. Classic Pauillac through and through. -Neal Martin					
JS Score: 95-96	Very pure character to this wine with crushed fruit and round tannins. It's really transparent and delicate, yet bold at the same time. Super tannins. Vivid. Very primary and berry-like. May well turn out to be even better than this in bottle. -James Suckling					
AG Score: 90-92	The 2020 Clerc Milon is soft, fruity and supple. Inky red fruit, plum, lavender, rose petal and spice all meld together in the glass. The 2020 is not terribly complex, but it is open-knit, radiant, and incredibly appealing, even in the early going. I suspect it will offer quite a bit of pleasure right out of the gate. The proportion of Merlot is a bit higher in this year's blend, which no doubt contributes to the wine's appeal. Tasted two times. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score: 92-94	The 2020 Clerc Milon - a blend of 53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot with just a splash of Carmenere - has a deep garnet-purple color, opening with notes of tar, unsmoked cigars, bouquet garni and graphite, giving way to a core of ripe black and red currants, boysenberries and tree bark, plus a touch of black olives. The medium-bodied palate delivers fantastic tension and impressively ripe, fine-grained tannins to support the crunchy, energetic black fruit flavors, finishing with a lively herbal lift. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Haut Batailley	92-94	94-95	91-93	92-94		
NM Score: 92-94	The 2020 Haut-Batailley was opened for a good hour before I commenced penning my note. This will be matured for 14 months in 60% new oak. It gently unfolds in the glass to reveal blackberry, faint sea spray scents (a whiff of the old Gironde estuary) and just a touch of crushed stone. This is well defined though not powerful. The palate is medium-bodied with fine-grained tannins on the entry that frame the bright blackberry and raspberry fruit. This Pauillac conveys superb energy, especially toward the Japanese nori-infused finish, awakening and revivifying the senses. It is a classically sculpted and very harmonious Haut-Batailley that will give 25–30 years of drinking pleasure, but should be cellared for 5–6 years. -Neal Martin					
JS Score: 94-95	This is really mineral and stony with lots of chewy tannins. Medium-to full-bodied with a clean, fresh finish. Very classic Pauillac. Salty at the end with bitter citrus. -James Suckling					
AG Score: 91-93	The 2020 Haut-Batailley is a powerful, brooding Pauillac. Black fruit, grilled herbs, menthol, licorice, smoke, dried flowers and leather add to the wine's virile feel. Here, too, the tannins are pretty imposing. It will be interesting to see what time brings. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score: 92-94	A blend of 62% Cabernet Sauvignon and 38% Merlot aging in French oak barriques, 60% new, the 2020 Haut-Batailley weighs in with 13.6% alcohol, a pH of 3.85 and an IPT of 81. Deep purple-black in color, it opens with seducing, beautifully pure notes of blackcurrant jelly, juicy blackberries and warm plums, plus hints of chocolate mint, lilacs and forest floor with a touch of ground cloves. The refreshing, medium-bodied palate gives a great burst of crunchy black berries, framed by finely grained tannins, finishing with a minty lift. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

D'Armailhac	92-94	92-93	89-91	90-92	\$62	
NM Score: 92-94	The 2020 d'Armailhac, raised in 50% new oak with a planned 17-month barrel maturation, is a little deeper in color compared to the Clerc Milon. I find more complexity on the nose of blackberry, briar, cedar and pencil box aromas, less extravagant than previous vintages and more terroir-driven, perhaps. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannins that have a little more edge than the Clerc Milon, plus there is slightly more mineralité and depth. In particular, the finish is very harmonious and fans out wonderfully. This Château d'Armailhac is a splendid wine in the making, and one of the best examples from the estate that I have tasted out of barrel. -Neal Martin					
JS Score: 92-93	Blackberries, blackcurrants and flowers on the nose and palate. Medium body, firm tannins and a long, fresh finish. Linear, refined tannins. Subtle now. -James Suckling					
AG Score: 89-91	The 2020 d'Armailhac is bold, assertive and full of character. Inky red fruit, red plum, iron, gravel and incense all hit the palate. The tannins are a bit severe, but then again, that's Armailhac. The Cabernets seem especially expressive, in both the aromatics and the tannin structure. One of the recent developments here has been a move toward slightly longer élevage to complement fruit that is a bit more structured than in the past because of changes in farming. Tasted two times. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score: 90-92	Medium to deep garnet-purple colored, the 2020 D'Armailhac strides confidently out of the glass with classic scents of cassis, warm plums and cedar chest, plus wafts of pencil lead, bay leaves and kirsch. The medium-bodied palate has a sturdy frame of chewy tannins and plenty of freshness to support the crunchy black and red fruits, finishing savory. The blend this year is 59% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc and 3% Petit Verdot, with an alcohol of 13.3%. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Duhart-Milon	90-92	95-96	90-92	91-93+	\$108	
NM Score: 90-92	The 2020 Duhart-Milon has a delightful, elegant bouquet, an almost equal mixture of red and black fruit laced with sous-bois, cigar box and touches of curry leaf in the background. It is a little timid at first, but it seemed to grow over the 90 minutes I observed this wine. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannins, a slightly fleshier Duhart-Milon compared to the obdurate, tannic wines of yore. It is gentle in some ways, revealing elegant brambly red fruit mixed with cedar and mint on the finish. Fine, although I would have liked just a tad more grip and heft. -Neal Martin					
JS Score: 95-96	A very balanced, refined Duhart with ever so fine tannins and currant, tobacco and cedar aromas and flavors. Medium to fine tannins. It's extremely long and polished. Direct. You already want to drink this. -James Suckling					
AG Score: 90-92	The 2020 Duhart-Milon is soft, pliant and wonderfully seductive. Strong Cabernet aromatics open first, lending quite a bit of savory nuance. Bright red/purplish berry fruit, spice, cedar and earthy notes show the vibrant side of this Pauillac's personality. The 2020 deftly balances ripeness with energy. It's a terrific example of the year. Yields were 36.5 hectoliters per hectare, more or less in line with the recent past. The 2020 is the first vintage made in the new cellar. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score: 91-93+	Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2020 Duhart-Milon comes skipping out of the glass with vibrant notes of crushed black cherries, black raspberries and plum preserves, plus an exotic spice undercurrent of cumin seed, star anise and cardamom, with an earthy touch of black truffles. The medium-bodied palate delivers mouth-coating, juicy black fruits with a plush texture and just enough freshness, finishing long and spicy. The blend this year is 72% Cabernet Sauvignon and 28% Merlot, with the alcohol coming in at 13.1%. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Pibran	89-91	92-93	91-93	90-92	\$43	
NM Score: 89-91	The 2020 Pibran has an attractive, quite earthy, almost peaty nose with lifted blackberry and briar scents. The palate is medium-bodied with a little chewiness on the entry, and quite fleshy on the midpalate. Hints of sour cherry and sea salt line the finish. Tasted from both test tube sample and 75cl bottle, the latter showing a little more delineation and spiciness on the finish. -Neal Martin					
JS Score: 92-93	A big, rich Pibran with plenty of blackberry, tar and some lead pencil. It's full and layered. Extremely well done. 55% merlot and 45% cabernet sauvignon. -James Suckling					
AG Score: 91-93	Once again, the 2020 Pibran is terrific. Inky, creamy, and resonant to the core, the 2020 dazzles dark red fruit, cedar tobacco, licorice and menthol all blast out of the glass in this inky, opulent Pibran. Rich and seductive Pibran is a wine that will be nearly impossible to resist upon release. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score: 90-92	A blend of 55% Merlot and 45% Cabernet Sauvignon, the 2020 Pibran is being aged for an estimated 18 months in French oak, 50% new. Deep garnet-purple colored, it is a little shy to begin, requiring considerable swirling to unlock wonderfully pure scents of crushed blackcurrants, fresh blackberries and wild blueberries, plus hints of lilacs, wild sage, pencil lead and cinnamon stick. The medium to full-bodied palate coats the mouth in expressive, well-defined black fruits, supported by grainy tannins and well-balanced acidity, finishing long and mineral laced. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Grand Puy Ducasse	92-94	94-95	92-94	87-89		
NM Score: 92-94	The 2020 Grand Puy Ducasse is a wonderful effort from this Pauillac that has always threatened to pull its socks up. The nose is crisp and focused, featuring vivacious black fruit, cedar and light minty aromas. The palate is medium-bodied with fine-grained tannins and very well-judged acidity, taut at first but fanning out in a sophisticated fashion that I have not noticed on a Grand Puy Ducasse before. This might well be the dark horse of Pauillac. Chapeau! Tasted three times with consistent notes. -Neal Martin					
JS Score: 94-95	Beautiful richness and depth, offering plums, berries and redcurrants with some walnut and hazelnut undertones. It's full-bodied and layered. Flavorful finish. One of the best ever. -James Suckling					
AG Score: 92-94	The 2020 Grand Puy Ducasse is another fabulous wine from a château that has been on an impressive streak over the last few years. Red fruit, graphite, mint, dried herbs and blood orange. The interplay of richness and energy is compelling. Even as a very young barrel sample, the oak is so well integrated. The 2020 is a striking wine loaded with potential. The long, seamless finish is a thing of beauty. Tasted two times. I very much like the energy here. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score: 87-89	The 2020 Grand-Puy-Ducasse reveals a deep purple-black color and notes of crème de cassis, blackberry pie, espresso and black olives, giving way to nuances of cedar chest, graphite and wild sage, with a suggestion of Sichuan pepper. The palate is medium-bodied with a sturdy frame of chewy tannins and just enough freshness, taking a bit of a flavor-dip in the mid-palate, finishing a little short and firm. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Pontet Canet		98-99	95-97	96-98+	\$142	
NM Score:	-Neal Martin					
JS Score: 98-99	This is integrated, with superb density and beauty, offering blackcurrant, mineral and some bark. Full-bodied, yet so polished and refined. Crushed stone. Lots of expression and texture to this wine. Creamy. Pure and precise. Elegant, yet layered. Slightly plusher than the 2019. Dense, yet agile. Fresh as always. 60% cabernet sauvignon, 32% merlot, 4% cabernet franc and 4% petit verdot. 50% new oak 15% old oak and 35% concrete amphorae. -James Suckling					
AG Score: 95-97	The 2020 Pontet-Canet is a captivating effort from the Tesseron family. The intensely perfumed, savory bouquet is immediately alluring. Deep and substantial, the 2020 is luxuriously rich from start to finish. Swaths of incisive tannin wrap around a core of dark red cherry fruit, gravel, dried herbs and rose petal, and a whole range of floral and savory accents lend aromatic presence. The Pontet-Canet is often a charmer en primeur, but the 2020 comes across as quite serious. I can't wait to see how it develops. As always, one of the signatures of Pontet-Canet is a high proportion of Merlot vis-à-vis its peers among top Left Bank châteaux that lends tremendous midpalate weight. In 2020 production is within historical norms. Mildew pressure was high, but not as severe as in 2018, when two-thirds of the crop was lost in a single day. Harvest took place September 14–30, a bit more of a compact time frame than normal, and a good 7–10 days earlier than is typically the case. Aged in 50% new oak, 35% amphora and 15% once-used barrels. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score: 96-98+	The 2020 Pontet-Canet is a blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc and 4% Petit Verdot, aging in 50% new French oak barriques, 35% concrete amphorae and 15% in one-year-old barrels. Harvest began on the 14th September for the Merlot, and the final lot of Cabernet Sauvignon was harvested on 30th September. Opaque purple-black in color, it needs significant aeration and swirling to coax out evocative notes of black cherry preserves, raspberry pie, blackcurrant pastilles and damp soil, before launching into gorgeous floral and spice notions of red roses, cinnamon stick, star anise and cardamom, with a waft of crushed rocks. The medium to full-bodied palate reveals a lot of depth and polish, delivering mouth-coating red and black fruits with loads of fragrant earth and floral sparks, framed by velvety tannins and seamless freshness, finishing long and mineral tinged. This is a singular, fascinating expression of the vintage and highly recommended! -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Aile D'Argent Blanc	91-93	95-96		93-95+		
NM Score: 91-93	The 2020 Aile d'Argent was picked early, from August 24, to keep the acidity, with no skin contact and no malolactics in the final blend. The winemaking team used all the Sauvignon Gris to obtain richness, and the wine will be bottled in early June. It has an alluring, perfumed bouquet of honeysuckle, orange pith and lime scents, very well defined and the oak skillfully integrated. The palate is smooth in texture, displaying just the right amount of bitterness to lend edge on the entry, and quite tangy compared to recent vintages, featuring lime, melon and gooseberry notes, touches of lemongrass coming through toward the finish. Delicious. -Neal Martin					
JS Score: 95-96	This is full-bodied with layers of fruit. Ripe and flavorful. Lots going on with a fleshy feel. No malolactic this year. Sweet peach, honeysuckle and citrus. Contrastive. 52% sauvignon blanc, 14% sauvignon gris and 34% semillon. -James Suckling					
AG Score:	-Antonio Galloni					
WA Score: 93-95+	Composed of 52% Sauvignon Blanc, 14% Sauvignon Gris and 34% Sémillon, the 2020 Aile d'Argent has no Muscadelle this year, no skin contact and no malolactic. It sails out of the glass with fabulously flamboyant notes of fresh pineapple, nectarines and jasmine, plus suggestions of key lime pie, passion fruit and orange zest. The medium to full-bodied palate delivers opulent tropical and citrus fruit layers, supported by plenty of freshness and a decadent touch of oiliness to the texture, finishing long and impactful. So hard to resist even at this nascent stage, I can't wait to see how this is going to age! -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Haut Bages Liberal		95-96	93-95		\$50	
NM Score:	-Neal Martin					
JS Score: 95-96	Unique character to this with mushroom, wet-earth, spice, and black-tea character on the nose and palate. It's full and layered with chewy tannins that are plush and pure. Rose-bush and bark undertones to the fruit. Old merlot vines showing through! 72% cabernet sauvignon and 28% merlot. From biodynamically grown grapes. Demeter certification. -James Suckling					
AG Score: 93-95	The 2020 Haut-Bages Libéral is a powerhouse in its first impression. Veins of bright mineral notes give the 2020 its textural feel and persistence. Bright red fruit, cedar, dried flowers, mint, spice and sweet tobacco. Time in the glass brings out very pretty floral notes that add finesse and considerable aromatic presence. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score:	-Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Pedesclaux	90-92	95-96	87-89	92-94+	\$50	
NM Score: 90-92	The 2020 Pédesclaux clearly possesses more complexity and terroir expression than the Deuxième Vin, featuring pressed iris and violet intermixed with blackberry and blueberry scents. There is an underlying mineralité/crushed rock note in the background that lends tension. The palate is medium-bodied with fine-grained tannins. Saline and marine influenced, this is more sapid than maybe the previous two vintages, though it would benefit from a little more elegance and precision on the finish. But overall, this is a fine Pauillac. -Neal Martin					
JS Score: 95-96	<i>This is very chewy with dusty tannins and blackberry and blueberry character. Some chocolate, too. Full and layered. Such beautiful violet and black-cherry quality at the end with some raspberries, 56% cabernet sauvignon. 34% merlot, 5% cabernet franc and 5% petit verdot. First year with organic farming. A nice step-up in quality.</i> -James Suckling					
AG Score: 87-89	The 2020 Pédesclaux is a dark, powerful wine. Muscular tannins wrap around a core of inky dark cherry, plum, chocolate, new leather and licorice. This is not an easy wine to taste because of the searing tannins, which I am not sure will ever soften. It will be interesting to see how the Pédesclaux evolves in the coming years. The 2020 has a bit less Cabernet than the recent norm because of lower yields for the Cabernet and a preference for Merlot in this vintage. Pédesclaux remains a decidedly potent Pauillac. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score: 92-94+	Deep purple-black colored, the 2020 Pedesclaux charges out of the gate with energetic notes of crushed blackberries, black raspberries and ripe blackcurrants, followed by suggestions of menthol, aniseed, violets and cedar chest. The medium-bodied palate quivers with vibrant, crunchy black and red berries layers, framed by firm, ripe tannins and fantastic freshness, finishing long and deliciously savory. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

ST JULIEN	NM	JS	AG	WA	PRICE	QUANTITY REQUIRED
Leoville Las Cases	96-98	98-99	95-98	96-98	Sold Out	
NM Score: 96-98	The 2020 Léoville–Las Cases was picked September 12–29 and matured in 80% new oak with 13.68° alcohol. The Cabernet Sauvignon is in the driving seat on the nose, offering almost saturnine black fruit, pencil shavings and cedar, perhaps one of the most Pauillac-like bouquets that I have noticed on this wine out of barrel, which is no surprise considering its vines adjoin that appellation. The palate is medium-bodied, strict and linear at first, that Pauillac tincture the continuing theme thanks to conspicuous graphite/pencil lead notes interwoven into the black fruit. There is plenty of freshness here and impressive weight, yet no sense of heaviness toward the finish. -Neal Martin					
JS Score: 98-99	This is incredibly classic in style with so much currant, lead pencil, crushed stone and sweet tobacco. It's full-bodied with mineral, stoney and powerful tannins. It goes on and on. Real Las Cases here. Solid as a rock. Progresses to violet, graphite and licorice at the end. -James Suckling					
AG Score:95-98	The 2020 Léoville Las Cases comes across as a super-classic Saint-Julien that combines mid-weight structure of previous decades, with the greater textural finesse that has become the norm here in recent years. A shy introvert, the 2020 Las Cases won't impress with size or brawn as is often the case, but with a total sense of finesse. Readers with classically leaning palates will flip out over the 2020. I can't wait to watch it evolve, hopefully for many decades to come. It is certainly one of the standouts of the year at this point. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score: 96-98	The 2020 Léoville Las Cases is a blend of 81% Cabernet Sauvignon, 11% Cabernet Franc and 8% Merlot, aging in 80% new French oak barriques, weighing in with an alcohol of 13.68%, a pH of 3.8 and an IPT (tannins index) of 79. The Cabernet Sauvignon was harvested from the 21st to the 27th of September, the Merlot from the 12th to the 15th of September and the Cabernet Franc on the 18th and 19th of September. With an opaque purple-black color, it slowly unfurls to reveal beguiling notes of fresh blackcurrants, Morello cherries, candied violets and dark chocolate, giving way to an undercurrent of crushed rocks, unsmoked cigars, clove oil and fragrant earth. The medium-bodied palate is a powerhouse of energy, delivering tightly wound red and black fruits, mineral and floral layers, supported by fantastic tension and incredibly ripe, silt-like tannins. The finish has jaw-dropping fragrance and depth. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Leoville Barton	94-96	96-97	95-98	93-95	\$115	
NM Score: 94-96	The 2020 Léoville Barton was picked September 15–16 and matured in 70% new oak. It is one of the best vintages that I have encountered in barrel. Wow! This shoots from the glass with beautifully defined black fruit, mineral-rich aromas, pixelated with laser-like focus. The palate is medium-bodied with chiseled tannins, a perfect line of acidity, layers of vibrant, vivacious black fruit and a very persistent finish that is pure class. If you don't have this in your cellar, then there will be a Léoville Barton–shaped hole to fill. -Neal Martin					
JS Score: 96-97	A full-bodied red that builds on the palate with lots of blackberry and blueberry character, as well as chocolate. Mineral and graphite undertones. Chewy, yet very integrated. Excellent, as expected. -James Suckling					
AG Score:95-98	The 2020 Léoville Las Cases comes across as a super-classic Saint-Julien that combines mid-weight structure of previous decades, with the greater textural finesse that has become the norm here in recent years. A shy introvert, the 2020 Las Cases won't impress with size or -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score:93-95	The 2020 Léoville Barton reveals a deep purple-black color, springing from the glass with vivacious scents of crushed black cherries, cassis and black raspberries, plus hints of cinnamon toast, wild sage, red roses and sassafras. The medium to full-bodied palate is packed with muscular black fruits, framed by grainy tannins and loads of freshness, finishing long and perfumed. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Leoville Poyferre	95-97	96-97	95-97	95-97	\$137	
NM Score: 95-97	The 2020 Léoville Poyferré builds on the success of recent vintages, offering intense yet exquisitely defined black cherries, wild strawberry, cassis and crushed stone aromas. It is high-toned as usual but not quite as hedonistic as the recently tasted 2018. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannins that belie the backbone of this Saint-Julien. Slightly lactic in texture toward the spicy finish; the oak will be assimilated by the time of bottling, leaving a very suave and sophisticated wine that will give 30–40 years of drinking pleasure. Easily one of the classiest offerings from this Saint-Julien in recent years. -Neal Martin					
JS Score: 96-97	Impressive purity of fruit on the nose with crushed raspberries, blackcurrants and blackberries. Some lead pencil, too. It's full-bodied with very polished, intense tannins that go on for minutes. The quality and precision of the tannins are impressive, giving the wine form, energy and equilibrium. -James Suckling					
AG Score:95-97	The 2020 Léoville-Poyferré is a powerful, structured wine. In recent vintages, Léoville-Poyferré has been more opulent, but the 2020 shows off a towering, vertical build framed by a soaring spine of tannin. Dark red cherry, pomegranate, cedar and spicebox emerge with a bit of coaxing. Ultimately, though, Léoville-Poyferré is less showy than most Saint-Julien at this stage. I don't expect that will be much of an issue in time. In a word: magnificent. Tasted three times. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score:95-97	Deep purple-black colored, the 2020 Léoville Poyferré comes bounding out of the glass like an energetic young pup, delivering exuberant scents of crushed black cherries, juicy blackberries and warm cassis, with hints of ground cloves, dark chocolate, lilacs and tilled soil. The medium to full-bodied palate is wonderfully plush, delivering bags of ripe black fruits with a seamless backbone of acidity, finishing long and spicy. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Ducru Beaucaillou		98-99		95-97	\$304	
NM Score:	-Neal Martin					
JS Score: 98-99	Really perfumed and complex with blackberries, blackcurrants and flowers. Gorgeous cabernet sauvignon character. Full-bodied with really fine, polished tannins. Superb length and intensity. Very compact and seamless. Ethereal. Just goes on and on. -James Suckling					
AG Score:	-Antonio Galloni					
WA Score: 95-97	The 2020 Ducru-Beaucaillou is a blend of 81% Cabernet Sauvignon and 19% Merlot, aging for approximately 18 months in 100% new barriques. It has a pH of 3.83, 13.5% alcohol and an IPT (total polyphenol index) of 90. Opaque purple-black colored, the nose slowly unfurls to reveal tantalizing scents of crushed blackcurrants, wild blueberries and boysenberries, leading to suggestions of chocolate mint, star anise, red roses and unsmoked cigars with a waft of cedar chest. The medium-bodied palate delivers impactful, muscular black fruits with a firm frame of ripe, fine-grained tannins and seamless freshness, finishing long and fragrant. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Beychevelle	NA	94-95	94-96	94-96	\$110	
NM Score: NA	This Saint-Julien estate has produced wonderful wines from their new winery in recent years under head winemaker, the congenial Philippe Blanc. But my job is to tell it like it is and the truth is that all three bottles of the 2020 Beychevelle tasted from different sources, including one directly from the château and with different sample dates, left me scratching my head. It was picked from 14 September to 29 September and cropped at 47hl/ha. Initially, it has a backward and herbal nose, attractive black fruit with touches of tobacco and mulch, the latter turning slightly vegetal. The palate is medium-bodied with blackberries tinged with bay leaf and a touch of white pepper. However, the first bottle exhibited some unwanted green/stalky notes that poked out on the finish. It was less evident on the second bottle sent directly from the estate that was given 90 minutes' aeration. Unexpectedly a third bottle arrived, this taken from barrel later on 17 May. I was hoping it would disprove my findings, so I had it served blind. I picked it up again - just like the first. Now, maybe this will be assimilated during its élevage after all, I occasionally notice this trait on Brane-Cantenac and with time it becomes subsumed, even enhancing complexity. But because all three samples left me vexed, I will refrain from scoring this wine and revisit the bottle later on. The only thing I can promise is that I will tell you exactly what I find. -Neal Martin					
JS Score: 94-95	Sweet-berry and tobacco character with blackberries and violets. It's full-bodied with firm, polished tannins and a fresh finish. Very fine at the end. -James Suckling					
AG Score: 94-96	The 2020 Beychevelle opens with the most exotic bouquet imaginable. Wild flowers of all sorts, spice, lavender and inky dark fruit all saturate the palate. As always, Beychevelle is an overt, flamboyant wine, but all of the elements are so well out together. The 2020 is sexy, alluring and impossible to resist. Time in the glass brings out redder tonalities of fruit along with sweet floral notes that add striking inner perfume. Even as a barrel sample, I am so tempted to just drink it. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score: 94-96	Deep purple-black colored, the 2020 Beychevelle offers up vibrant notes of black raspberries, fresh black cherries and cassis, plus hints of wild sage, chocolate mint, rose hip tea and fallen leaves, with an exotic hint of Indian spices. The medium to full-bodied palate offers layers of crunchy black fruits with a firm, grainy texture and just enough freshness, finishing long and perfumed. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Langoa Barton	92-94	93-94	90-92	93-95	\$56	
NM Score: 92-94	The 2020 Langoa Barton has a really gorgeous, very pure bouquet of crushed violets infusing black cherry, blueberry and black plummy scents. The new oak seems a little more pronounced compared to recent vintages and yet it is in sync with the fruit. The palate is medium-bodied with succulent ripe tannins that disguise the structure underneath, the counterbalancing acidity line keeping everything focused -Neal Martin					
JS Score: 93-94	Very pretty blackberry and blueberry character with blackcurrants and mint. It's medium-to full-bodied with linear, tight tannins that are polished and fine. -James Suckling					
AG Score: 90-92	The 2020 Langoa Barton is an absolute delight. It offers the radiance of the year but in the mid-weight, understated style that is such a Langoa signature. Bright red cherry fruit, blood orange, mint, rose petal and cedar give the 2020 a whole range of bright aromas and flavors that bristle with energy. This is such a pretty wine. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score: 93-95	Sporting a deep purple-black color, the 2020 Langoa Barton needs a little swirling to unlock youthfully muted scents of warm cassis, black cherry preserves and boysenberries, plus hints of menthol, graphite, tilled soil and bouquet garni. The medium-bodied palate is delicately played with impressive freshness delivered by the red berry and herbal sparks within a black-fruit core, with grainy tannins to support, finishing long and invigorating. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Clos Du Marquis	92-94	94-95	91-93+	93-95		
NM Score: 92-94	The 2020 Clos du Marquis was picked September 11–29 and matured in 40% new oak with 13.57° alcohol. This Saint-Julien displays copious blackberry and raspberry scents on the nose, intermingling with freshly rolled tobacco and subtle estuarine aromas. There is something almost... gentle about the aromatics. The palate is medium-bodied with satisfying sappiness on the entry that gets the saliva flowing. Quite classic in style, in keeping with the leitmotif of the vintage, this fans out toward the finish while retaining ample structure and a sense of linearity. This excellent Clos du Marquis brims over with breeding and should drink well for 20–30 years. -Neal Martin					
JS Score: 94-95	A tighter, more linear red with blackcurrant, olive and floral character. It's medium-to full-bodied with a firm, racy finish. Tight. Sweet tobacco. 61% cabernet sauvignon, 6% cabernet franc and 33% merlot. -James Suckling					
AG Score:91-93+	The 2020 Clos du Marquis is plush, sensual and inviting, with soft contours that make it a real pleasure to taste today. Inky red/purplish fruit, lavender, spice, rose petal, mint and cedar all take shape as this sexy Saint-Julien shows off its allure. All the elements are so nicely balanced. In 2020, only 25 of the 46 hectares of the property were used for the Grand Vin. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score: 93-95	The 2020 Clos du Marquis is composed of 61% Cabernet Sauvignon, 33% Merlot and 6% Cabernet Franc, weighing in with an alcohol of 13.57%, a pH of 3.76 and an IPT (tannins index) of 84. The Cabernet Sauvignon was harvested from the 26th to 29th of September, the Merlot from the 11th to the 16th of September and the Cabernet Franc from the 18th to the 29th of September. Deep purple-black in color, it bursts from the glass with flamboyant notes of crushed blackberries, ripe, juicy plums and blackcurrant pastilles, with suggestions of licorice, red roses and espresso. The medium-bodied palate is completely coated with perfumed black fruits, framed by firm, grainy tannins and bold freshness, finishing long and fragrant. Simply gorgeous. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Gruaud Larose					\$94	
NM Score:	-Neal Martin					
JS Score:	-James Suckling					
AG Score:	-Antonio Galloni					
WA Score:	-Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Talbot	92-94	94-95	92-95	90-92	\$75	
NM Score: 92-94	The 2020 Talbot has a fragrant nose with black cherries, bilberry, wild mint and chalk, quite harmonious and gaining intensity in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with a sweet, almost candied opening, predominantly red berry fruit laced with mint and orange zest, and a liberal sprinkling of black pepper. I admire the way this Talbot builds so that it finishes with a flourish. This may well land at the top of my banded score. -Neal Martin					
JS Score: 94-95	A tight, focused young red with blackcurrant, lead-pencil and chocolate character. It's full-bodied and tense with a long, flavorful finish. -James Suckling					
AG Score:92-95	The 2020 Talbot is a hugely promising wine. It offers up an exotic mélange of inky dark fruit, chocolate, licorice, gravel, lavender and menthol. Brooding in the glass, with broad shoulders and tons of intensity, the 2020 is a Talbot that marries power, breadth and savory intensity with notable stylishness and tons of personality. Impressive. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score:90-92	Deep purple-black colored, the 2020 Talbot storms out of the glass with powerful blackcurrants, raspberry leaves and baked plums scents, followed by suggestions of dried Mediterranean herbs, tobacco leaf and graphite. The medium-bodied palate delivers lovely freshness and an approachable chewiness, nicely framing the herb-laced black fruits, finishing savory. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Saint Pierre	92-94	95-96	93-95	94-96	\$75	
NM Score: 92-94	The 2020 Saint-Pierre has a distinctly Pauillac-like nose with veins of graphite and mint infusing the black fruit, focused and full of tension. This is very classy. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannins that belie the structure underneath. It has good grip, and comes across quite strict and correct. If I am to quibble, and quibble I will, it maybe doesn't finish with the fireworks that I have noticed on other recent superlative vintages. Perhaps that might develop in barrel. If so, it will warrant a higher score. -Neal Martin					
JS Score: 95-96	A firm, very structured wine from here, with intense tannins that are very polished and long. Pure fruit. One of the best in a long time. -James Suckling					
AG Score: 93-95	The 2020 Saint-Pierre (Saint-Julien) is shaping up to be a jewel of a wine. Inky, rich and explosive, the 2020 possesses magnificent intensity from start to finish. Crème de cassis, lavender, spice, chocolate, licorice, graphite and menthol infuse the 2020 with striking depth. The 2020 is heady and unctuous, but not at all overdone. It is one of my early favorites in this vintage, within its peer group. Tasted two times. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score: 94-96	Deep purple-black in color, the 2020 Saint-Pierre bursts with baked blackberries, stewed plums and cassis, followed by hints of dried mint, chocolate box and tapenade with a waft of pencil lead. The medium-bodied palate is elegantly styled with impressive freshness and ripe, fine-grained tannins supporting the energetic black fruits, finishing on a lingering fragrant earth note. The blend is 79% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot and 6% Cabernet Franc, aging for around 14 months in French oak barrels, 50% new. The alcohol is 13.3%. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Branaire Ducru	92-94	93-94	94-96	91-93+	\$59	
NM Score: 92-94	The 2020 Branaire Ducru has a tightly wound bouquet of blackberry, wild hedgerow, freshly tilled loam and distinct sea spray scents, all well defined, albeit 15–20 minutes after opening my sample bottle. The palate is medium-bodied with grainy tannins, and very cohesive, displaying a keen thread of acidity. Unlike previous vintages, there is impressive density on the midpalate where it once was a little lean, and plenty of energy and tension conveyed by the finish. Excellent. -Neal Martin					
JS Score: 94-94	A polished, creamy red with blue fruit, such as blackcurrants, and pretty, ripe and fine tannins that fill your mouth. -James Suckling					
AG Score: 94-96	The 2020 Branaire-Ducru is utterly magnificent. A wine of extraordinary depth and dimension, the 2020 possesses tremendous intensity right out of the gate. Inky dark fruit, chocolate, new leather, licorice, cloves and lavender build as into the explosive, palate-staining finish. I don't think I have ever tasted a Branaire quite like this. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score: 91-93+	The 2020 Branaire-Ducru displays a deep garnet-purple color and pronounced blackcurrant cordial, plum preserves and boysenberries scents, plus hints of sautéed herbs, unsmoked cigars and graphite. The medium-bodied palate has a lot of verve, delivering appealing tension among the tightly wound black fruits and grainy tannins, finishing with an herbal lift. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Gloria	93-95	94-95	91-93	92-94	\$50	
	The 2020 Gloria has an intense nose of penetrating blackberry, raspberry, crushed violet and crushed stone aromas. After 20 minutes, this just blossoms in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with sappy black fruit, fine acidity and just a touch of espresso and orange peel toward the finish, which remains taught and focused. What a wonderful Gloria! This might actually surpass its sibling, Château St. Pierre, this year. -Neal Martin					
JS Score: 94-95	Very focused and poised with blackberry, blackcurrant and graphite character. It's full-to medium-bodied with racy tannins and a long, dynamic finish. Will be interesting to see if 2020 is better than 2019. -James Suckling					
AG Score: 91-93	The 2020 Gloria is impressive. Bright and punchy, yet quintessentially medium in body, Gloria impresses for its exceptional balance. Sweet red cherry, blood orange, mint, white pepper and rose petal give this bright, chiseled Saint-Julien so much character. Gloria is such a pretty and inviting Saint-Julien. Tasted two times. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score: 92-94	Opaque purple-black colored, the 2020 Gloria comes soaring out of the glass with notes of blackcurrant cordial, preserved plums and blueberry compote, followed by suggestions of powdered cinnamon, cedar chest and menthol, plus a waft of graphite. The medium to full-bodied palate is completely coated with juicy black fruits, framed by grainy tannins and just enough freshness, finishing long and spicy. The blend is 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 34% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc and 11% Petit Verdot, aging for approximately 14 months in French oak barrels, 40% new. The alcohol is 13.3%. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Lagrange	93-95	93-94	91-94	94-96	\$66	
NM Score: 93-95	The 2020 Lagrange has a sensual, beautifully defined bouquet of mineral-infused black fruit, briar, touches of wild mint and crushed stone, conveying wonderful energy and precision. The palate is medium-bodied with fine-grained tannins, tensile and focused, delivering plenty of energy and an almost steely but persistent finish. This is a classy Lagrange from winemaker Matthieu Bordes and his team. I always feel this Saint-Julien is underrated, but it will challenge the best 2020s from the appellation. -Neal Martin					
JS Score: 93-94	Blackberry and currant with light graphite undertones. It's medium-bodied with fine, creamy tannins and a flavorful finish. -James Suckling					
AG Score: 91-94	The 2020 Lagrange (Saint-Julien) is bright, punchy and wonderfully energetic. Red-toned fruit, sweet spice, cedar and pipe tobacco are all beautifully delineated in this mid-weight, vibrant Saint-Julien. I very much like the depth and tension in this barrel sample. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score: 94-96	Deep purple-black in color, the 2020 Lagrange leaps from the glass with vibrant notes of redcurrant jelly, ripe blackcurrants and minted blackberries, followed by nuances of dark chocolate, star anise and mossy tree bark. The medium-bodied palate is both super intense and super elegant, featuring exquisitely ripe, fine-grained tannins and seamless freshness to frame the bright, crunchy black and red fruits, finishing long and mineral laced. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					
Croix Beaucaillou				89-91	\$57	
NM Score:	-Neal Martin					
JS Score:	-James Suckling					
AG Score:	-Antonio Galloni					
WA Score: 89-91	The 2020 La Croix de Beaucaillou is composed of 53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 44% Merlot and 3% Petit Verdot. It has 13.75% alcohol and a pH of 3.78 with an IPT of 91. It is set to age for 12 months in French oak barrels, 60% new. Deep garnet-purple in color, it leaps from the glass with vibrant scents of crushed redcurrants, black raspberries and fresh black berries, plus hints of bay leaves, lavender and damp soil. The medium-bodied palate is full of energetic red and black berry layers with a grainy texture and just enough freshness, finishing with an herbal lift. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

MARGAUX	NM	JS	AG	WA	PRICE	QUANTITY REQUIRED
Chateau Margaux	97-99	99-100	97-99	97-99		
NM Score: 97-99	<p>Much like the Deuxième Vin, the 2020 Château Margaux has a discreet nose; it is not interested in fireworks or in dazzling the taster. At first unassuming, it unfolds with black cherries, blueberry and signature crushed violet aromas, all delivered with the delineation and purity expected from an estate of this standing. Looking deeper, one finds touches of potpourri and India ink. The palate is medium-bodied with fine-grained tannins and crisp acidity, perhaps more noticeable on the 2020 compared to the previous two vintages. This Margaux is surfeit with tension and coiled-up, nascent energy, then it tightens up toward a linear finish that strangely recalls a Pauillac, thanks to a subtle graphite note that lingers on the saline aftertaste. This is a classically styled Château Margaux that will gain weight and depth during its élevage. Cerebral and sophisticated, and one of the wines of the Left Bank in 2020.</p> <p>-Neal Martin</p>					
JS Score: 99-100	<p>So floral and perfumed with blackcurrants, blackberries and some asphalt. Full-bodied with super, fine tannins. Extremely refined with great length and intensity. The wonderful combination of refinement and power is already evident. Superb finish. Another great Margaux</p> <p>-James Suckling</p>					
AG Score: 97-99	<p>A stunning, riveting wine, the 2020 Margaux is classic as classic gets. Racy, elegant and super-refined, the 2020 possesses magnificent balance. Inky red/purplish fruit, lavender, rose petal, spice and bright mineral notes build as this super-expressive Margaux builds over time in the glass. The 2020 is not an obvious wine, but then again Château Margaux rarely is. I love the energy and vibrancy here. Margaux is</p> <p>-Antonio Galloni</p>					
WA Score: 97-99	<p>The 2020 Château Margaux is composed of 89% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Merlot, 1% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot, accounting for 36% of the harvest. The alcohol weighs in at 13.5%, the IPT is 80 and the pH is 3.67.</p> <p>Displaying an opaque purple-black color, it needs a lot of air, time and patience to coax out the youthfully reticent nose of blueberry preserves, blackcurrant pastilles and Black Forest cake, followed by suggestions of lavender, clove oil, iron ore and menthol with wafts of star anise and candied violets. The medium to full-bodied palate is wonderfully opulent, featuring tightly wound yet beautifully pure layers of black fruits and earthy nuances within a solid structure of firm yet velvety tannins and exhilarating freshness, finishing with very long-lingering earth and mineral notes. Another stunning expression of the vintage by Philippe Bascaules and his team—bravo!</p> <p>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</p>					

Pavillon Rouge Du Chateau Margaux	91-93	96-97	92-94	92-94	\$258	
NM Score: 91-93	<p>The 2020 Pavillon Rouge de Château Margaux has an understated nose at first, gradually opening to offer raspberry and wild strawberry and subtle iodine scents in the background, precise but not wishing to create too much of a fuss. The palate is medium-bodied with a pliant opening. There is a discreet lushness conveyed by this Pavillon Rouge. At its core is brambly red fruit laced with white pepper and sour cherry, and just a faint pencil lead and black olive note right on the finish. I suspect that this will be a more approachable Pavillon Rouge compared to the 2018 and 2019, but it will certainly not shortchange anyone in terms of elegance.</p> <p>-Neal Martin</p>					
JS Score: 96-97	<p>Blackberry and graphite with dark fruit and violets on the nose. Very complex. Full-bodied with lovely, fine tannins that are lightly chewy. Extremely long and polished. Really refined. Integrated tannins. Wonderful length.</p> <p>-James Suckling</p>					
AG Score: 92-94	<p>The 2020 Pavillon Rouge shows just how compelling the vintage is. Rich red berry fruit, red plum, cedar, spice and licorice meld together in a sumptuous, racy yet impeccably balanced wine that is flat-out delicious. It displays tremendous reserve, freshness and nuance, and clean veins of salinity that refresh the finish. The blend is 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot and 2% Cabernet Franc. The Pavillon Rouge represents 31% of the harvest.</p> <p>-Antonio Galloni</p>					
WA Score: 92-94	<p>The 2020 Pavillon Rouge is composed of 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc and 5% Petit Verdot. The alcohol weighs in at 13.6%. Deep purple-black in color, the nose slowly unfurls to reveal gorgeous floral notes of lilacs and red roses, leading to a core of blackcurrant cordial, Morello cherries and minted blackberries, plus wafts of crushed rocks, forest floor and tilled loam. The medium to full-bodied palate is a mouthful of pure vinous seduction, slowly releasing layers of perfumed black fruits and mineral accents within a frame of achingly plush tannins and seamless freshness, finishing with epic length and a whole array of fragrant earth sparks.</p> <p>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</p>					

Pavillon Blanc Du Chateau Margaux					\$340	
NM Score:	-Neal Martin					
JS Score:	-James Suckling					
AG Score:	-Antonio Galloni					
WA Score:	-Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Palmer					\$454	
NM Score:	-Neal Martin					
JS Score:	-James Suckling					
AG Score:	-Antonio Galloni					
WA Score:	-Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Malescot St Exupery	94-96	97-98	93-95	95-97	\$73	
NM Score:94-96	The 2020 Malescot St. Exupery was picked at 31hl/ha. It has a bouquet that I would describe as controlled opulence: lavish blueberry, Dorset plums, crushed violet and incense burst from the glass... but in orderly fashion. The palate is medium-bodied with ripe and succulent tannins that lend this Margaux a fleshy texture, yet there is clearly ample structure, as well as marvelous salinity and precision on the finish. This 2020 continues the purple patch for this property and comes highly recommended. -Neal Martin					
JS Score:97-98	Solid red with blackberry, blueberry, chocolate and spice. Lots of hazelnut, too. It's full-bodied with chewy, polished tannins and a long, flavorful finish. Best of the trilogy vintages? -James Suckling					
AG Score:93-95	The 2020 Malescot Saint Exupéry offers up scents of scorched earth, licorice, smoke, gravel and menthol. Powerful, bold and savory, the 2020 possesses remarkable depth and tons of character. Malescot has been one of the under the radar gems in Bordeaux these last few years. The 2020 is another gorgeous wine from the château. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score:95-97	Sporting a deep purple-black color, the 2020 Malescot St. Exupery prances out of the glass with showy scents of ripe black and red currants, black cherries, raspberry leaves and ground cloves, plus wafts of lilacs and tilled soil. Medium to full-bodied, the palate delivers mouth-coating black and red fruit layers with a firm, grainy texture and well-balanced acidity, finishing on a lingering fragrant-earth note. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Cantenac Brown	94-96	96-97	94-97	91-93+	\$65	
NM Score:94-96	The 2020 Cantenac Brown, cropped at 36hl/ha, has quite a precocious bouquet of macerated small black cherries, blueberry, touches of cassis and violet, all very generous and seductive in style. The palate is beautifully balanced and extremely pure, offering succulent ripe tannins, perfectly judged acidity and layers of blueberry, Dorset plum, crushed stone and light graphite notes toward the finish, which has -Neal Martin					
JS Score:96-97	Fantastic depth of fruit with layers of firm, chewy tannins that are medium-grained and long in the mouth. Full and dynamic. One of the best ever. -James Suckling					
AG Score:94-97	The 2020 Cantenac Brown is an outrageously beautiful wine. Ample, vertical and soaring in its intensity, the 2020 is shaping up to be a jewel of a wine. Punchy red berry fruit, lavender, spice, mint and rose petal abound. What I like most about the 2020 is the way it balances fruit intensity with vibrancy and energy. Cantenac Brown is shaping up to be one of the wines of the vintage. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score:91-93+	Deep garnet-purple in color, the 2020 Cantenac Brown slides effortlessly out of the glass with pronounced notes of licorice, tar, tapenade and fertile loam over a core of warm cassis and plum preserves, with a waft of charcuterie. The medium-bodied palate is refreshing, bursting with crunchy black fruit and herbal sparks with a well-managed, grainy texture, finishing long and earthy. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Giscours	93-95	96-97	93-95	92-94+	\$78	
NM Score: 93-95	The 2020 Giscours was picked from September 21 to October 2. The huge difference in quality between the Grand Vin and Deuxième Vin is apparent on the nose of crystal-clear black fruit intermixed with raspberry, crushed stone and light crushed violet aromas. The palate is medium-bodied with fine-grained tannins, taut and crisp, and quite tensile, leading to a classically styled, sapid finish. This is a classy Giscours with plenty of breeding. -Neal Martin					
JS Score: 96-97	Aromas of crushed berries, dried flowers and spices with undertones of ink and iron. Full-bodied with wonderful, fine tannins that are totally embedded in the structure. Endless length and such refinement. Rather ethereal. Another winner from Giscours. -James Suckling					
AG Score:93-95	The 2020 Giscours is surprisingly juicy and forward, with lovely mid-palate richness from the Merlot that comprises 44% of the blend. Inky dark fruit, new leather, spice, menthol and dried herbs all meld together effortlessly. In 2020 Giscours is a real charmer. I imagine it will drink well with minimal cellaring. Harvest started on September 8 for the Merlot and finished with the last of the Cabernets on October 3, which is a good week ahead of schedule. Yields are down about 25% from the 2019, mostly because of heat and dry weather during the summer. New oak is 50%. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score:92-94+	A blend of 50% Cabernet Sauvignon and 50% Merlot, the 2020 Giscours reveals a deep garnet-purple color and compelling notes of crushed redcurrants, plum preserves and Morello cherries, leading to hints of lavender, wild sage, damp soil and black truffles with a touch of licorice. The medium-bodied palate bursts with vibrant red and black fruits and lots of savory accents, supported by soft, very well managed tannins and plenty of freshness, finishing on a lingering fragrant earth note. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Marojallia	91-93	93-94	92-94	89-91+		
NM Score:91-93	The 2020 Marojallia has quite a feisty bouquet of perfumed violets and potpourri scents, and mainly red fruit rather than black. The palate is medium-bodied with fine acidity and an appealing grainy texture. The oak feels just a little heavy toward the finish, though that should be integrated with time. The firm grip suggests that this will require 3–4 years in bottle. Overall, an excellent Margaux 2020. -Neal Martin					
JS Score:93-94	Blackberry, blueberry and dark-chocolate aromas follow through to a full body with a long, chewy finish. Pretty tannin integration. -James Suckling					
AG Score:92-94	The 2020 Marojallia is an exciting wine. Inky, plush and vibrant, the 2020 possesses tremendous depth in every dimension. Mocha, cedar, sweet pipe tobacco, licorice and spice wrap around a core of dark red fruit. I only hope the bottled wine is as alluring as this barrel sample. I can't wait to taste it. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score:89-91+	A blend of 70% Cabernet Sauvignon and 30% Merlot, aging for 14 months in French oak barrels, 100% new, the 2020 Marojallia has an alcohol of 14.5%. Deep purple-black colored, it sashays out of the glass with alluring notes of fresh blueberries, red and black currants and boysenberries, with wafts of violets, cedar chest and wild sage with a hint of crushed rocks. The medium to full-bodied palate has a firm frame of grainy tannins and plenty of freshness to support the earth-laced black and red fruits, finishing a little hard. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Alter Ego De Palmer					\$94	
NM Score:	-Neal Martin					
JS Score:	-James Suckling					
AG Score:	-Antonio Galloni					
WA Score:	-Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Prieure-Lichine	91-93	95-96	91-94	91-93	\$48	
NM Score: 91-93	The 2020 Prieuré-Lichine was picked at 32hl/ha and matured in 40% new oak. It has quite an intense nose of black plum, blueberry and violet scents, though missing some terroir expression and mineralité. It's high-toned at the moment, but it needs more bass notes. The palate is medium-bodied with slightly chalky tannins and a fine bead of acidity. Very fresh, with fine salinity on the finish. It actually meliorates as it goes on, leaving you wanting more. This has very good potential. -Neal Martin					
JS Score: 95-96	This is really something with pure blackberry and blueberry character. Chewy yet ultra fine tannins. It goes on and on. Could challenge the great 2016. -James Suckling					
AG Score:91-94	The 2020 Prieuré-Lichine opens with very pretty floral and spice overtones. Pliant, silky and nuanced, the 2020 is all charm. The purity of the red/purplish berry fruit is compelling. Readers will find an understated, classy Margaux full of character. I can't wait to taste this from bottle. A bit clenched today, but that should not be an issue with time. The Prieuré-Lichine finishes with notable freshness and savory intensity. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score:91-93	Medium to deep garnet-purple in color, the 2020 Prieure-Lichine offers up notes of fresh redcurrants, blackcurrant pastilles, boysenberries and dried Provence herbs, plus wafts of tobacco leaf and pencil shavings. Medium-bodied, the palate delivers a great intensity of pure black and red fruit flavors, framed by grainy tannins and a lively backbone, finishing long with a refreshing herbal lift. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Rauzan Segla	95-97	97-98	95-97	96-98+	\$125	
NM Score:95-97	The 2020 Rauzan-Ségla is set to be matured in 60% new oak barrels for an intended 18 months. I left my sample for 30 minutes because, like the Ségla, it was backward and rather taciturn on the nose. It repaid a little patience with very classic scents of blackberry, crushed stone, wilted iris flowers and a hint of orange blossom. The aromatics are exquisitely delineated yet succinctly controlled. The palate is medium-bodied with fine-boned tannins that support crystalline black fruit interlaced with light graphite and crustacean notes. Brimming with energy and full of tension from start to finish, this is a sophisticated and quite intellectual Margaux. It's also flippin' delicious. -Neal Martin					
JS Score:97-98	Full-bodied and layered with velvety layers of tannins that are beautifully interspersed with ripe fruit and dark-chocolate notes. Silky and lightly chewy texture. Very long, solid finish. -James Suckling					
AG Score:95-97	The 2020 Rauzan-Ségla is all reserve and nowhere near as showy as the last few vintages. Don't be fooled though, this tightly-coiled, brilliant wine has the potential to be magnificent, but it needs time. Sweet floral, spice and cedar nuances open with a bit of coaxing, but the 2020 is in no mood to show all its cards yet. The 2020 is a super-classic Rauzan-Ségla that will delight readers in search of restrained elegance, something that is not so easy to find in Bordeaux these days. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score:96-98+	Composed of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36% Merlot, 3% Petit Verdot and 1% Cabernet Franc, the 2020 Rauzan-Ségla is aging for 18 months in French oak barrels, 60% new. It has an alcohol of 13.5% and a pH of 3.74. Deep purple-black colored, aromas of blackcurrant cordial, stewed red and black plums, chocolate-covered cherries and raspberry coulis erupt from the glass, leading to an undercurrent of tar, licorice, red roses and menthol, plus a hint of unsmoked cigars. The medium-bodied palate is elegant and yet manages seriously impressive intensity, which is well-sustained throughout the mid-palate and finish. Refined and refreshing, delivering beautifully soft, silt-like tannins and bags of bright red and black fruits, it finishes with amazing length and a stunning perfume. Between this and Château Canon, Nicolas Audebert and his team have knocked it out of the park this vintage. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Du Tertre	87-89	94-95	90-92	87-89		
NM Score: 87-89	The 2020 Château du Tertre has a slightly herbaceous nose, a trait that I have noticed on recent vintages; I find it a little jarring. The palate is medium-bodied with firm tannins, but again, I perceive some herbaceousness in this vintage, plus some attenuation toward the gritty finish. I'm not quite sure where this will go once in bottle. -Neal Martin					
JS Score: 94-95	Blackberry, graphite and blueberry character. It's full-bodied, layered and chewy with fine-grained tannins and a punchy finish. -James Suckling					
AG Score:90-92	The 2020 du Tertre is bold and punchy, with an enticing mix of inky dark fruit and more savory, earthy tones. All the elements are so nicely integrated. The tannins are a bit burly, as is often the case, and yet the 2020 appears to have enough fruit to provide at least some balance. Scorched earth, licorice, tobacco and game linger on the potent finish. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score:87-89	Displaying a deep purple-black color, the 2020 du Tertre springs from the glass with pronounced blackcurrant pastilles, black cherry preserves and blueberry pie scents, with an undercurrent of dried Mediterranean herbs, pencil shavings, tar and black olives. The medium-bodied palate offers compelling freshness with a soft, approachable texture and plenty of juicy black fruits, finishing with invigorating herbal notes. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Brane-Cantenac	95-97	96-97	94-96	91-93	\$94	
NM Score: 95-97	The 2020 Brane-Cantenac was picked September 14–28 and includes 13% vin de presse. It has exactly the same blend as last year since Henri Lurton and his team did not limit the Grand Vin to the 30-hectare plateau, a similar approach to Pichon-Baron when they reorganized their own vineyard. I allowed my sample an hour to open (during which I was discussing the wine with Lurton over Zoom). It has a beautifully defined bouquet of blackberry, wild hedgerow, fresh mint and light bay leaf scents. I have sometimes found a little greenness on the nose, but there is none in 2020. The palate is very well balanced with finely chiseled, precise tannins and beautifully judged acidity. Harmonious and poised, this is an absolutely fantastic Brane-Cantenac, in my mind superior to the previous two vintages, exuding wonderful mineralité on the finish. A must-buy. -Neal Martin					
JS Score: 96-97	Extremely floral and beautiful with blackberry and blackcurrant aromas that follow through to a full body with a solid core of fruit and loads of dark fruit, sweet tobacco, bark and earth. Chewy, fine tannins. Perhaps the best of the trilogy years. -James Suckling					
AG Score: 94-96	The 2020 Brane-Cantenac is deep, fleshy and savory. Strong Cabernet accents open first, leading to a core of inky dark fruit, lavender, spice, mint and chocolate. There is some new oak that needs to integrate, but time should take care of that. I especially admire the sense of classicism and energy here. This is a superb showing from Brane-Cantenac and the team led by Henri Lurton. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score: 91-93	The 2020 Brane-Cantenac is composed of 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 26% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc, 1% Carménère and 1% Petit Verdot. It weighs in with 13.7% alcohol and a pH of 3.71. Deep purple-black colored, it has a beautifully expressive nose of fresh redcurrants, blackcurrant jelly, kirsch and rose oil, plus hints of tobacco leaf, wild sage and crushed rocks. The medium-bodied palate is elegantly styled with a plush texture and plenty of freshness supporting the red berry and earthy flavors, finishing fragrant. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Lascombes	88-90	94-95	92-94	92-94	\$93	
NM Score: 88-90	The 2020 Lascombes has a straightforward, delineated bouquet of gentle red berry fruit laced with Earl Grey and very subtle ash scents. The palate is medium-bodied with pliant tannins, fine acidity, cracked black pepper sprinkled over the black fruit and a little bluntness on the finish. I stayed with this sample for an hour to see if it would gain more flesh, but it somehow remains a little austere. -Neal Martin					
JS Score: 94-95	Blackberries and spices, such as cloves and nutmeg, as well as licorice and hints of graphite. It's full-bodied with firm, chewy tannins, yet they are polished and beautiful. Structured. Solid. -James Suckling					
AG Score: 92-94	The 2020 Lascombes is gorgeous. Inky and deep, the 2020 is brimming with character. There is a bit less opulence than in some recent vintages, but that is not a bad thing. And plenty of inky dark fruit, leather and spice flavor. The 2020 is an attractive, mid-weight Lascombes with a good deal of richness and fine balance. Lavender, cloves, spice and new French oak linger on the suave finish. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score: 92-94	Deep garnet-purple in color, the 2020 Lascombes comes skipping out of the glass with bright, cheery scents of raspberry coulis, blackberry preserves and fresh blackcurrants, plus suggestions of pencil shavings, dried roses and charcuterie with a waft of bouquet garni. The medium to full-bodied palate has great tension and energy, delivering crunchy red and black fruit layers and a firm, grainy frame, finishing long with an herbal lift. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

D'Issan		97-98		93-95	\$80	
NM Score:	-Neal Martin					
JS Score: 97-98	Extremely floral and fruity with currants and blackberries. It's full-bodied and very layered with delicious, dense character. Full-bodied with dusty, layered tannins. Rich, but not heavy. Long and chewy on the finish. 55% cabernet sauvignon, 39% merlot, 3% cabernet franc, 2% petit verdot and 1% malbec -James Suckling					
AG Score:	-Antonio Galloni					
WA Score: 93-95	The 2020 D'Issan is a blend of 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 39% Merlot, 2% Petit Verdot, 3% Cabernet Franc and 1% Malbec, aging in French oak barriques, 50% new. It has an alcohol of 13.29%, a pH of 3.71 and an IPT (tannin index) of 73. Displaying an opaque purple-black color, it has vibrant notes of Bing cherries, boysenberries, ripe redcurrants and juicy black plums, plus hints of pencil shavings, wild thyme, lavender and forest floor. The medium-bodied palate has impressive energy with crunchy red and black fruits and compelling tension, framed by fine-grained tannins, finishing long and mineral laced. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Kirwan	91-93	94-95	88-91	91-93+	\$56	
NM Score:91-93	The 2020 Kirwan, cropped at 33hl/ha and tank-fed via gravity, undergoes an 18- to 22-month élevage. It offers ripe black currant and raspberry coulis scents on the nose, violets and citrus peel emerging with time. There is a seductiveness to these aromatics. The palate is medium-bodied with a sweet, ripe entry that disguises the backbone, a very silky texture and traces of tobacco and graphite furnishing the opulent finish. One of the more luxuriant Margaux 2020s. <i>-Neal Martin</i>					
JS Score: 94-95	Extremely exotic on the nose with crushed blackcurrants, raspberries and peaches, following through to a full-bodied palate with wonderful, refined tannins that are creamy and velvety in texture. Very long and persistent with a caressing finish. Best of the trilogy? <i>-James Suckling</i>					
AG Score:88-91	The 2020 Kirwan is a pretty tough, brooding wine. It will be interesting to see if the searing tannins soften during élevage. There is good depth to the fruit, but I am not sure if that will be enough to balance the tannins. Red purplish berries, gravel, smoke and grilled herbs linger. This is an especially potent, brooding style. <i>-Antonio Galloni</i>					
WA Score:91-93+	Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2020 Kirwan prances out of the glass with pretty scents of redcurrant jelly, black raspberries and Morello cherries, followed by hints of lavender, black tea and dried Provence herbs, with a touch of tree bark. The medium-bodied palate has fantastic tension and fine-grained tannins framing the tightly wound red fruit and savory layers, finishing long and refreshing. <i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i>					
Siran	92-94	93-94	91-93	90-92	\$39	
NM Score:92-94	The 2020 Siran was picked from September 16 to October 3 with an average yield of 36hl/ha, and matured in a prudent 35% new oak. It has a superb bouquet of vibrant black cherries, blueberry and violet scents on the nose – one that could only come from this appellation. The palate is medium-bodied with succulent but firm tannins, a crisp line of acidity and beautifully integrated oak. This is very cohesive and offers impressive salinity on the finish. Best Siran to date? I think so. <i>-Neal Martin</i>					
JS Score: 93-94	Lots of purple fruit with asphalt and black-olive character. It's full-bodied with chewy tannins and a long, linear finish. <i>-James Suckling</i>					
AG Score: 91-93	The 2020 Siran is bold, racy and so expressive. Inky dark fruit, lavender, blueberry jam, spice, new leather, sweet oak and licorice. This sumptuous, racy Margaux possesses terrific depth and pliancy, all in a succulent style that likely won't require more than a few years in bottle. There is plenty to look forward to. Tasted two times. <i>-Antonio Galloni</i>					
WA Score: 90-92	Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2020 Siran features notes of blackcurrant jelly, ripe redcurrants and raspberry leaves, plus suggestions of wild sage, tar and underbrush, with a waft of wild mushrooms. The medium-bodied palate is elegantly styled and refreshing, delivering approachable, soft tannins and plenty of red berry layers, finishing earthy. <i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i>					

MEDOC	NM	JS	AG	WA	PRICE	QUANTITY REQUIRED
Sociando Mallet	92-94	93-94			\$43	
NM Score: 92-94	The 2020 Sociando Mallet has a beautifully defined and focused bouquet of intense blackberry, briar and wilted iris petal aromas; hints of boysenberry jam linger offstage. The medium-bodied palate features fine-boned tannins and predominantly black fruit. Very saline and sappy, with a dash of pepper on the aftertaste. This is a typical Sociando Mallet, full of grace and power. -Neal Martin					
JS Score: 93-94	Blackberries, blackcurrants and flowers on the nose and palate. Medium body, firm tannins and a long, fresh finish. Linear, refined tannins. Subtle now. -James Suckling					
AG Score:	-Antonio Galloni					
WA Score:	-Lisa Perrotti-Brown					
Chasse Spleen	89-91	94-95	88-90		\$38	
NM Score: 89-91	The 2020 Chasse-Spleen offers attractive wild strawberry, blackberry and rose petal scents on the nose, which is well defined and very cohesive. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannins, fine acidity, a smooth texture and cedar and leather notes infusing the red fruit. I am just seeking a little more backbone and grip on the finish of this Chasse-Spleen, although it should still give 15–20 years of drinking pleasure. -Neal Martin					
JS Score: 94-95	A beautifully constructed young Bordeaux with blackberry, walnut, nutmeg, dried herb and bark. Full-bodied with round, creamy tannins and a flavorful finish. -James Suckling					
AG Score:88-90	The 2020 Chasse-Spleen is plump, juicy and easy to like. Ripe red cherry, plum, spice and lavender all meld together in this soft, easygoing Moulis. Not hugely complex, but irresistibly delicious. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score:	-Lisa Perrotti-Brown					
Potensac	90-92	93-94	90-92	88-90		
NM Score:90-92	The 2020 Potensac was picked September 14–30 and matured in 20% new oak. It has a clean, pure black currant and blueberry nose, a little more opulent than usual, but well defined and demonstrating a bit more fruité, which it has occasionally lacked in some vintages. The palate is medium-bodied with crisp acidity, and quite saline on the entry, with touches of black olive infusing the black fruit. A midweight with a lively, classically fashioned finish, this is a very commendable Potensac that should give 12–15 years of pleasure, but warrants 3–4 years in a cool, damp cellar. -Neal Martin					
JS Score:93-94	This is very balanced and round with lovely softness. Plenty of fruity. Medium body. Lots of salinity and savoriness. Long and delicious. Friendly already. 44% merlot, 33% cabernet sauvignon, 22% cabernet franc and 1% petit verdot. -James Suckling					
AG Score:90-92	The 2020 Potensac is quite delicate and finessed, with bright acids that lend a real sense of energy. Expressive floral accents from the Cabernet Franc (a bit elevated in 2020) add aromatic presence to balance things out. Sweet red berry fruit, mint, sage and rose petals linger on the delineated, precise finish. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score:88-90	The 2020 Potensac is composed of 44% Merlot, 33% Cabernet Sauvignon, 1% Petit Verdot and 22% Cabernet Franc, weighing in with an alcohol of 14.05%, a pH of 3.63 and an IPT (tannins index) of 76. The Cabernet Sauvignon was harvested on the 29th and 30th of September, the Merlot from the 14th to the 26th of September, the Petit Verdot on the 29th of September and the Cabernet Franc on the 28th of September. With a medium to deep garnet-purple color, it offers up eager-to-please notes of fresh Bing cherries, redcurrants and black raspberries, plus hints of dried Provence herbs, dusty soil, wild mushrooms and tobacco leaf. The medium-bodied palate has a good concentration of red and black fruits with a chewy texture and just enough freshness, finishing earthy. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

La Lagune	91-93	93-94	92-94	92-94	\$50	
NM Score: 91-93	The 2020 La Lagune offers intense Cabernet scents on the nose, the black fruit, tobacco, humidior and light cedar scents bursting from the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with firm tannins that frame the crisp black fruit. This is a classic Médoc with just the right amount of structure and dryness, partnered with assiduous sapidity that gets the saliva flowing. It should gain a little flesh during its élevage. You might call this "proper Claret." <i>-Neal Martin</i>					
JS Score: 93-94	A firm, polished red with tight, focused tannins that flow across the palate. It's medium-to full-bodied with good length and a gorgeous finish. From organically grown grapes. <i>-James Suckling</i>					
AG Score:92-94	The 2020 La Lagune is a real standout. Intense, soaring aromatics give this racy Haut-Médoc tons of allure. Graphite, dried herbs, leather, menthol and licorice explode from the glass. A wine of unreal dimension, pedigree and class, the La Lagune is simply lights out in 2020. Time in the glass brings out gorgeous red/purplish fruit intermingled with sweet floral notes that add striking inner perfume. <i>-Antonio Galloni</i>					
WA Score:92-94	Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2020 La Lagune strides confidently out of the glass with bold, fantastically pure black fruit notes of crushed black plums, ripe blackcurrants and juicy blackberries, plus hints of tar, dried Provence herbs, star anise and smoked meats, with a hint of black truffles. The medium-bodied palate delivers tightly wound, bright, crunchy black fruits with plenty of freshness and an approachable, grainy texture, finishing long with loads of earthy and herbal sparks. <i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i>					

Poujeaux	91-93	94-95	90-92	85-87		
NM Score: 91-93	The 2020 Poujeaux was picked from September 17 to October 2 and matured in one-third new oak. It has a broody nose initially, gradually opening to display blackberry, brine and crushed rock aromas, certainly quite mineral-driven. The palate is medium-bodied with firm tannins and fine grip, though the tannins are not aggressive. There is a hint of dark chocolate toward the finish, but maybe I'm seeking a little more on the aftertaste. This should gain more length during its élevage. Very fine <i>-Neal Martin</i>					
JS Score: 94-95	A dense, layered red with blackberry, tar, asphalt and spice character. Medium-to full-bodied with wonderful, polished and creamy tannins. Chewy and fine. Potentially one of the best in a long time. <i>-James Suckling</i>					
AG Score:90-92	The 2020 Poujeaux is jam-packed with inky dark fruit, graphite, cloves, lavender, licorice and a kiss of new French oak that will almost certainly integrate during élevage. Plush, engaging and flat-out delicious, with silky, perfectly ripe tannins and superb balance, this is looking to be another superb wine from the Cuvelier family. <i>-Antonio Galloni</i>					
WA Score: 85-87	The 2020 Poujeaux is a blend of 54% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot and 6% Petit Verdot, harvested from 17th September to 2nd October and weighing in with an alcohol of 13.5% and a pH of 3.89. It is being aged for 12 months in French oak barrels, 33% new. Deep garnet-purple in color, it sings of crushed red and black currants, black raspberries and bay leaves with touches of tobacco and damp soil. The medium-bodied palate is a little skinny and chewy at this nascent stage, finishing on an herbal note. <i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i>					

HAUT MEDOC	NM	JS	AG	WA	PRICE	QUANTITY REQUIRED
Cantemerle	86-88	93-94	85-87	88-90	\$34	
NM Score: 86-88	The 2020 Cantemerle is tightly wound on the nose, requiring a lot of coaxing to reveal the blackberry, cedar and tobacco scents; a touch of iodine emerges with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied with sappy black and red fruit, a light licorice touch on the back palate and a solid, slightly monochromatic finish. Hopefully this will develop more personality and race by the time of bottling, but given the potential of this fine estate, I was expecting more. -Neal Martin					
JS Score: 93-94	Lots of richness and fruit for this winery, showing blackberry, blackcurrant and dark-chocolate character. It's full and layered. Well done. -James Suckling					
AG Score: 85-87	The 2020 Cantemerle comes across as overripe and lacking in persistence. An initial burst of crème de cassis, blackberry jam and sweet oak fades pretty quickly. I expected more. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score: 88-90	Deep purple-black in color, the 2020 Cantemerle reveals a great intensity and purity of blackcurrant cordial, stewed plums and black raspberry scents, plus hints of dried Provence herbs, Indian spices and woodsmoke. The medium-bodied palate delivers approachable chewy tannins and just enough freshness to support the savory-laced black fruit flavors, finishing with an herbal lift. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

GRAVES & PESSAC LEOGNAN	NM	JS	AG	WA	PRICE	QUANTITY REQUIRED
De Fieuzal	85-87	93-94		92-94	\$48	
NM Score: 85-87	The 2020 Château de Fieuzal is a little muted on the nose. I left my sample aside for 10–15 minutes, but there still is not much to write home about. The palate is medium-bodied with quite firm tannins on the entry, earthy black fruit laced with bell pepper and earthy notes and more tobacco toward the finish. I was hoping to find a de Fieuzal that had regained its mojo, but this does not convince me at the moment. Tasted from two bottles, one ex-château and the other via the UGC, with consistent notes. -Neal Martin					
JS Score: 93-94	A ripe, savory red with blackberry, blueberry, mushroom and walnut aromas and flavors. It's full-bodied and dense with layers of fruit and tannins -James Suckling					
AG Score:	-Antonio Galloni					
WA Score: 92-94	Deep purple-black in color, the 2020 de Fieuzal sashays out of the glass with scents of black cherry compote, blackcurrant pastilles and baked plums, plus hints of violets, dark chocolate, powdered cinnamon and dried mint. The medium to full-bodied palate is chock-full of juicy black fruits, framed by wonderfully velvety tannins and just enough freshness, finishing on an uplifting mineral note. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

La Mission Haut Brion	97-99	97-98	96-98	97-99	Sold Out	
NM Score: 97-99	The 2020 La Mission Haut-Brion was picked September 7–9. It has a very intense and beautifully defined bouquet of blackberry, wild strawberry, wilted violet petals and hints of orange blossom. It unfolded with aeration as I examined it side-by-side against its neighbor over the course of an hour. The exquisitely balanced palate is lightly spiced on the entry and segues into a very structured midpalate that frames the weight of pixelated black fruit. That spicy theme continues and is exaggerated toward a finish that fans out wonderfully. This is a less alcoholic La Mission Haut-Brion compared to recent vintages, a bit "cooler" and streamlined, yet no less intense and satisfying. An enthralling wine in the making from Jean-Philippe Delmas and his team. -Neal Martin					
JS Score: 97-98	This really builds on the palate. Loads of blackberry and iodine with asphalt undertones. It's full-bodied with tannins that steamroll at the end and keep going. Classic blend. -James Suckling					
AG Score: 96-98	The 2020 La Mission Haut-Brion is a gorgeous, elegant wine. Silky and pliant, La Mission is all finesse. Fine tannins lend energy as the 2020 gradually opens with some coaxing. Today, the flavors are remarkably primary, and yet the 2020 is so persistent, so elegant. Hints of cedar, tobacco, gravel and dried herbs add aromatic complexity, but the 2020 is a mere infant. I can't wait to watch it grow up. There is a bit of new oak that needs to integrate, but nothing élevége can't take care of. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score: 97-99	Composed of 48.6% Merlot, 43.2% Cabernet Sauvignon and 8.2% Cabernet Franc, harvested from 7th to 29th September, the 2020 La Mission Haut-Brion has an alcohol of 14.7%. It needs considerable swirling and coaxing to reveal slowly emerging scents of freshly crushed blackcurrants, Morello cherries, wild blueberries and forest floor, leading to suggestions of violets, baker's chocolate and cardamom with wafts of dusty soil and oolong tea. The medium to full-bodied palate bursts with impactful, fresh red, black and blue fruit layers, supported by impressive freshness and fantastically ripe, fine-grained tannins, finishing very long and fragrant. A stunning expression of this vintage! -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

La Mission Haut Brion Blanc	93-95	98-99	94-96	95-97		
NM Score:93-95	The 2020 La Mission Haut-Brion Blanc has an intense nose of white flowers, Conference pear, broom and almost basalt-like aromas. It demands an hour to really show what it can do – nothing new there. The palate is beautifully balanced with fine acidity, delivering grapefruit, passion fruit, touches of sour lemon and an underlying salinity that upholds the requisite tension on the finish. Very assured and classy, though perhaps the growing season denied it a soupçon of mineralité that would have elevated it to a bona fide great La Mission Blanc. As usual, it will require cellaring and ample decanting. <i>-Neal Martin</i>					
JS Score:98-99	A vivid, really bright La Mission, showing strength and finesse at the same time. Honeysuckle, lime, lemon and other citrus fruit with stone and mineral undertones. 55% sauvignon and 45% semillon. <i>-James Suckling</i>					
AG Score:94-96	The 2020 La Mission Haut-Brion Blanc is pure seduction. Creamy and layered in the glass, the 2020 is elegance personified. Hints of spice and white flowers lead into apricot, white peach, mint and sage, all beautifully knit together. The 2020 balances freshness with textural intensity so well. It's an absolutely gorgeous wine. <i>-Antonio Galloni</i>					
WA Score:95-97	The 2020 La Mission Haut-Brion Blanc is a blend of 54.7% Sauvignon Blanc and 45.3% Semillon, harvested 19th to 28th August, with an estimated alcohol of 13.8%. The nose tingles with electric notes of lemon zest, orange blossoms and pink grapefruit, followed by hints of fresh ginger, elderflowers and crushed rocks, plus a waft of lime leaves. The medium-bodied palate quivers with intense, tightly wound citrus fruit layers, backed up by a racy backbone and finishing long and steely. <i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i>					

La Chapelle de la Mission Haut Brion	88-90	93-94	91-93	92-94		
NM Score:88-90	The 2020 La Chapelle de la Mission Haut-Brion has a perfumed, floral bouquet of iris and pitted black olive scents infusing copious black fruit. The palate is medium-bodied with a little more backbone than the Le Clarence Haut-Brion, plus it is a little drier on the finish. It just needs to develop a bit more flesh and sensuality by the time it is bottled. <i>-Neal Martin</i>					
JS Score:93-94	Blackberries, some crushed stones and iodine with a sandalwood undertone. It's full and racy with firm tannins. <i>-James Suckling</i>					
AG Score:91-93	The 2020 La Chapelle de la Mission Haut-Brion is rich, dense and so inviting, right from the very first taste. Ripe red purplish/berry fruit, rose petal, spice and gravel all meld together in the glass, but what impresses most about La Chapelle is its exceptional balance. Aromatics, fruit and structure are all so well-balanced. The 2020 is an especially fine La Chapelle. <i>-Antonio Galloni</i>					
WA Score: 92-94	A blend of 44.7% Merlot and 55.3% Cabernet Sauvignon, the 2020 La Chapelle de la Mission Haut-Brion has an alcohol of 14.3%. It rolls effortlessly out of the glass with seducing notes of warm black plums, black cherry compote and blackberry pie, plus suggestions of lavender, crushed rocks and underbrush with a hint of saffron. The medium-bodied palate is delicately played and refreshing, offering lots of soft-spoken black fruit and earthy layers with a soft texture and seamless acidity, finishing with a spicy kick. <i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i>					

Haut Brion	96-98	99-100	97-99	98-100	\$816	
NM Score: 96-98	The 2020 Haut-Brion was picked September 7–29. It has a more opulent, more precocious bouquet compared directly with its neighbor across the road, resplendent with layers of black cherry, wild strawberry, black olives and a touch of inkwell. Perhaps it displays slightly less mineralité compared to La Mission Haut-Brion? The palate is medium-bodied with pliant tannins and a disarming satiny texture matched by a perfect line of acidity. It builds beautifully in the glass, and yet as I constantly return to the La Mission, it does not possess quite the same thrilling tension and pixelation. This is still a magnif <i>-Neal Martin</i>					
JS Score: 99-100	This is a superb Haut-Brion with incredible tannins that are wonderfully fine-grained. It's really powerful. This is very primary with so much grape-generated tannin structure. Very, very long, going on for minutes. Seductive and friendly at the start and then takes you on at the finish with so much structure. Wine of the vintage? <i>-James Suckling</i>					
AG Score:97-99	The 2020 Haut-Brion is shaping up to be one of the wines of the year. Substance, depth and textural intensity elevate Haut-Brion into the realm of the sublime in 2020. All the elements are so wonderfully balanced. Inky dark fruit, gravel, lavender, violet and dark spice build as the 2020 gradually opens with some aeration. Wow. <i>-Antonio Galloni</i>					
WA Score: 98-100	The 2020 Haut-Brion is a blend of 42.8% Merlot, 39.7% Cabernet Sauvignon and 17.5% Cabernet Franc, harvested from 7th to 29th September, with an estimated alcohol of 15% and a pH of 3.8. Opaque purple-black colored, it leaps from the glass with a first wave of vibrant black raspberries, ripe blackberries and mulberries scents, followed by a powerful core of warm cassis, dark chocolate and violets, before bursting into an array of crushed rocks, iron ore, tree bark and black truffles notes. The concentrated, densely packed, full-bodied palate is not in the least bit heavy, delivering a refreshing backbone of red berry and dried herbs suggestions, framed by seamless acidity and very finely grained tannins, finishing on an epically long, fragrant earth note. Simply stunning. <i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i>					

Haut Brion Blanc	94-96	97-98	94-96	95-97+		
NM Score:94-96	The 2020 Haut-Brion was picked September 7–29. It has a more opulent, more precocious bouquet compared directly with its neighbor across the road, resplendent with layers of black cherry, wild strawberry, black olives and a touch of inkwell. Perhaps it displays slightly less mineralité compared to La Mission Haut-Brion? The palate is medium-bodied with pliant tannins and a disarming satiny texture matched by a perfect line of acidity. It builds beautifully in the glass, and yet as I constantly return to the La Mission, it does not possess quite the same thrilling tension and pixelation. This is still a magnif <i>-Neal Martin</i>					
JS Score:97-98	Very perfumed with floral, citrus and stone aromas, as well as hints of grapefruit. It's full-bodied and seamless in texture. Extremely long and fine-grained. 72% sauvignon and 28% semillon. Normally 50/50. <i>-James Suckling</i>					
AG Score:94-96	The 2020 Haut-Brion Blanc is a wine of extraordinary precision and nuance. White flowers, mint, chalk, white pepper and citrus peel soar out of the glass. Weightless and nuanced, Haut-Brion Blanc is so striking. I especially admire its delineation and cut. <i>-Antonio Galloni</i>					
WA Score:95-97+	A blend of 71.4% Sauvignon Blanc and 28.6% Semillon, harvested 20th to 27th August and with an alcohol of 13.9%, the 2020 Haut-Brion Blanc slowly unfurls to reveal notes of fresh pears, spiced apple slices, orange zest and lemongrass, plus touches of wet pebbles, dillseed and baking bread. The medium-bodied palate wears its lightly spicy apple and pear layers with grace and sophistication, supported by a racy backbone and subtly creamy texture, finishing long and mineral laced. It will need time, but there's no doubting it's a knock-out. <i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i>					

Haut Bailly	95-97	99-100	95-97	96-98+	\$178	
NM Score:95-97	The 2020 Haut-Bailly was picked September 9–25 in what the estate has called the "year of reinvention." Having left my sample to open for 30 minutes and then assessed it over the following three hours, I found that it has a mercurial nose of gorgeous blackberry, briar, white pepper, incense and hints of blood orange. It gains intensity and becomes more floral with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied with supple but firm tannins that provide backbone. There is plenty of black fruit laced with white pepper and clove. Perhaps less rich on the finish compared to the last two vintages – a virtue as far as I am concerned, as it allows more terroir to show through. This is an impressive Haut-Bailly to coincide with their new winery, which I hope to visit very soon. <i>-Neal Martin</i>					
JS Score:99-100	This has incredible power and drive with blackberry, black olive and graphite. It's full-bodied, yet dynamic and agile, with so much polished and muscular tannin. Yet, it remains in harmony and balance. So much character. The head of the chateau calls it diabolical beauty. 25% less production than the 2019. 52% cabernet sauvignon, 42% merlot, 3% cabernet franc and 3% petit verdot. <i>-James Suckling</i>					
AG Score:95-97	Deep, rich and explosive, the 2020 Haut-Bailly is magnificent from the very first taste. Dark fruit, chocolate, licorice and spice give the 2020 a level of unctuousness that is absolutely thrilling. Readers should be patient, as the 2020 is going to need time to come around. Yields are down 25% from 2019, and that richness comes through loud and clear. <i>-Antonio Galloni</i>					
WA Score:96-98+	A blend of 52% Cabernet Sauvignon, 42% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc and 3% Petit Verdot, the 2020 Haut-Bailly was harvested from the 9th to 25th of September. It has an alcohol of 14.3%. Deep purple-black in color, it prances out of the glass with naturally beautiful notions of fresh black cherries, violets, mulberries and boysenberries, giving way to hints of redcurrant jelly, star anise, tilled soil and menthol. The medium to full-bodied palate is delicately crafted with velvety/grainy tannins and fantastic freshness framing the perfumed red and black berry layers, finishing on a lingering fragrant-earth note. <i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i>					

La Clarté de Haut Brion Blanc	89-91	94-95	90-92	90-92		
NM Score:89-91	The 2020 La Clarté de Haut-Brion has a light nose of apple orchard, freshly sliced pear and light crushed rock scents, although I would have liked to see more intensity. The palate is well balanced with a fine bead of acidity, and quite saline, displaying a welcome touch of bitter lemon toward the finish. This should give a decade of drinking pleasure. <i>-Neal Martin</i>					
JS Score:94-95	Very structured second wine with density and freshness. It's full-bodied and creamy with a flavorful, lightly chewy palate. About 75% semillon, the rest sauvignon. <i>-James Suckling</i>					
AG Score:90-92	The 2020 La Clarté de Haut-Brion is airy, bright and gracious, all of which make it an excellent choice for drinking now and over the next handful of years. Citrus peel, white flowers, mint, sage and green apple are all laced together in this breezy, charming white. <i>-Antonio Galloni</i>					
WA Score:90-92	The 2020 La Clarté de Haut-Brion is a blend of 74.8% Sémillon and 25.2% Sauvignon Blanc, harvested from 19th to 28th August, with an estimated alcohol of 13.4%. It opens with intense notes of fresh pineapple, white peaches and lemon curd with suggestions of honeysuckle, paraffin wax and chalk dust. The medium to full-bodied palate delivers bags of juicy peaches and citrus flavors, accented by tropical fruit opulence and supported with refreshing acidity, finishing with a spicy kick. La Clarté de Haut-Brion is the second wine of both Haut-Brion Blanc and La Mission Haut-Brion Blanc, produced from the declassified selections from both estates. <i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i>					

Le Clarence de Haut Brion	91-93	96-97	91-93	91-93+	\$226	
NM Score:91-93	The 2020 Le Clarence de Haut-Brion has a succulent bouquet of dark cherries, boysenberry and crushed violet scents, quite heady and bold for a second wine (even the second wine of a First Growth!). The palate is medium-bodied with succulent, pliant tannins that frame the pure black cherry, wild strawberry and black currant fruit. Veins of licorice appear toward the finish. There is a lot of density in this Le Clarence and a little more structure than usual, and it suits it well. -Neal Martin					
JS Score:96-97	Extremely floral and beautiful with blackberry and blackcurrant aromas that follow through to a full body with a solid core of fruit and loads of dark fruit, sweet tobacco, bark and earth. Chewy, fine tannins. Perhaps the best of the trilogy years. -James Suckling					
AG Score:91-93	The 2020 Le Clarence de Haut-Brion is a jewel of a wine. Deep, powerful and structured, it captures all of the gravitas of the Grand Vin, but in a more accessible style. Gravel, leather, tobacco, cedar and dried herbs lend quite a bit of aromatic nuance to this powerhouse Pessac-Léognan. I very much like the intensity and drive here. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score:91-93+	A blend of 60.1% Merlot, 31.7% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6.7% Cabernet Franc and 1.5% Petit Verdot, harvested from the 7th to the 29th of September, the 2020 Le Clarence de Haut-Brion has an estimated alcohol of 15.2%. Deep purple-black in color, it bursts from the glass with notions of baked black cherries, blackberry pie and plum preserves, leading to hints of ripe redcurrants, spice cake and smoked meats, plus a touch of hoisin. The big, rich, full-bodied palate is a full-on decadent mouthful, featuring lovely freshness to lift all that rich black fruit and a velvety texture, finishing long and spicy. A beautiful behemoth that is going to wow the hedonists! -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Smith Haut Lafitte	95-97	99-100	95-97	98-100	\$182	
NM Score: 95-97	The 2020 Smith Haut Lafitte was picked from September 9, the yields 20% down on average due to the dry summer period, and matured in 60% new oak with no vin de presse. This actually blossomed after an hour's opening, revealing exquisite blackberry, briar, crushed rock and light rose petal scents, very nuanced considering the growing season and the 14.5° alcohol. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannins and a very fine line of acidity that keeps this on its tippy-toes. Disarmingly pure, its silky texture is very appealing, likewise veering toward more red berry fruit lacked with white pepper toward the finish. This may well surpass the previous two vintages. An outstanding effort from winemaker Fabien Teitgen and his team. -Neal Martin					
JS Score: 99-100	So much blackcurrant, graphite and iodine character. Full-bodied. Incredible quality to the tannins. They are polished yet powerful. It's so long and complete with such depth and toned muscles. Vertical. Very fresh and energetic. Will it be better than the famous 2015? Maybe the best ever. From organically grown grapes. 65% cabernet sauvignon, 30% merlot, 4% cabernet franc and 1% petit verdot. -James Suckling					
AG Score:95-97	The 2020 Smith Haut Lafitte is a thrilling wine of grandeur and spellbinding beauty. The aromatics literally soar out of the glass, perhaps driven by a touch more Cabernet Sauvignon in the blend. A vertical, explosive wine, the 2020 possesses tremendous energy. It is a rapturous wine that will delight readers for years to come. A move towards gentler extractions, with less oak impact, allows the purity of the fruit to come through loud and clear. Inky dark cherry, plum, mocha, dried herbs and lavender are all amplified in the 2020, but what I admire most is a total sense of harmony. I can't wait to see how it ages, as evolution has at times been the sole Achilles heel here. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score: 98-100	A blend of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot aging in 60% new barriques, the very deep purple-black colored 2020 Smith Haut Lafitte makes an impactful entrance, opening with flamboyant notes of blackcurrant pastilles, chocolate-covered cherries and molten licorice, leading to nuances of ground cloves, woodsmoke, crushed rocks and dusty soil. The medium to full-bodied palate bursts with opulent black fruit preserves and shimmering mineral sparks, framed by exquisitely ripe and fantastically firm tannins and seamless freshness, finishing with epically long-lasting earthy and savory layers. This is the singular voice of Smith Haut Lafitte at its finest, and wow-oh-wow is it worth a listen. This 2020 has an alcohol of 14.5% with a pH of 3.65. The tannins this year were a little higher than 2018 and 2019. A little less than a third of production went into this grand vin. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Smith Haut Lafitte Blanc	92-94	95-96	93-95	94-96+	\$182	
NM Score:92-94	The 2020 Smith Haut Lafitte Blanc was cropped at 29hl/ha and aged in 60% new oak barrels. It takes its time to unfurl on the nose, toying with the olfactory senses before revealing attractive honeysuckle, yellow flowers, jasmine, melon and very subtle chamomile scents, gaining intensity with aeration. The palate is very well balanced with an intense, concentrated opening, a little more viscous in texture than the Le Petit Haut Lafitte, deeper and a touch spicier. Veins of lemongrass and stem ginger appear toward the finish. This should drink well for 15–20 years. One of the best dry whites of the vintage. -Neal Martin					
JS Score:95-96	A tight, phenolic white with light tannins that give the wine form and balance. It's full-bodied and lightly chewy with dried apple, lemon and peach. Minerally and chewy. Flavorful. From organic grapes. 90 sauvignon blanc, 5% sauvignon gris and 5% semillon. -James Suckling					
AG Score:93-95	The 2020 Smith Haut Lafitte Blanc is compelling. Soft, silky and caressing, the 2020 is all charm and seduction. Ripe pear, apricot, white flowers, mint and a touch of new oak are all deftly woven together. Best of all, the 2020 will drink well pretty much upon release. It's a gorgeous wine in the making. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score:94-96+	The 2020 Smith Haut Lafitte Blanc is 90% Sauvignon Blanc, 5% Sauvignon Gris and 5% Sémillon. It fermented with indigenous yeasts in French oak, 50% new, within which it will age for 12 months on lees with bâtonnage before spending a further two to three months in tank. It prances out of the glass with vivacious notes of lime blossoms, Golden Delicious apples and green mango, plus hints of coriander seed, shaved ginger and wet pebbles. The medium-bodied palate possesses lovely harmony even at this nascent stage, featuring bright apple and citrus flavors with soft acidity and a chalky finish. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Les Carmes Haut Brion	94-96	97-98	95-97+	95-97+	\$214	
NM Score:94-96	The 2020 Les Carmes Haut-Brion was picked at 38hl/ha and matured in 80% new oak, 11% foudres and the remainder in clay amphorae. It has an intense bouquet of blackberry and wild strawberry, plus some light torrefactory scents, undergrowth and black pepper, all delineated and focused. The palate is medium-bodied with beautifully defined black fruit and delicate touches of mint, bell pepper and cracked black pepper. Though it shares the same surname, it is interesting to see how, stylistically, it is cut from a totally different cloth than Haut-Brion and La Mission, which each possess their own distinct attributes. Quite thickly textured and weighty on the finish with a long, spicy aftertaste, this is a serious Les Carmes Haut-Brion with a very long future ahead. -Neal Martin					
JS Score:97-98	Exotic fruit aromas of blackberry, blueberry, peach and orange peel. It's full-bodied with a vertical flow of layered, chewy tannins that are integrated and intense. Extremely polished and focused. Crushed stone to the fruit in the aftertaste. Some bark and forest flowers, too. Great potential. -James Suckling					
AG Score:95-97+	The 2020 Les Carmes Haut-Brion is dazzling, but it is also a wine of reserve and understatement. I image it will be some years, at the very least, before the 2020 is ready to show all it has to offer. Today, it is not particularly expressive. The aromatics, which are usually so penetrating are quite shy, although the significant presence of Cabernet Franc that distinguishes this wine comes through in its energy and sense of drive. I can't wait to taste the 2020 from bottle, and won't be at all surprised if it turns out even better than this note suggests. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score:95-97+	Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2020 Les Carmes Haut-Brion issues forth a beguiling array of savory scents—black olives, charcuterie, bouquet garni and Sichuan pepper—over a core of bright redcurrant jelly, black cherries and cassis scents, plus fragrant hints of rose petals and preserved mandarin peel. The medium-bodied palate is refreshing and elegantly styled yet with a rock-solid backbone of firm, finely grained tannins and bags of freshness, finishing long and perfumed. This is a stunning expression of the vintage that should be long lived and age with fantastic grace. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Pape Clement	95-97	96-97	95-97	96-98	\$118	
NM Score:95-97	The 2020 Pape Clément, which I afforded an hour's aeration, has a very precise bouquet of pure blackberry, cedar, mint and violet aromas, quite discreet but paradoxically intense; these aromas are very seductive. The palate is medium-bodied with ripe, lithe tannins framing wonderfully pure black fruit laced with crushed stone and a judicious touch of white pepper. Seamless in texture, this is a sophisticated Pape Clément in the making, an outstanding wine that should age brilliantly in bottle. -Neal Martin					
JS Score:96-97	Superb aromas of blackberries, crushed stones, iodine and graphite. Full-bodied with ultra fine tannins and a balanced finish. Such length and beauty. Very close to the 2019 in quality. -James Suckling					
AG Score:95-97	The 2020 Pape Clément is so impressive. Red cherry, plum, cedar, mint, tobacco, blood orange and rose petal all build as the 2020 opens in the glass. Vibrant and beautifully delineated, the 2020 has a ton to offer. The 2020 exudes purity, energy and breathtaking balance. It is one of the finest recent vintages I can remember tasting. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score:96-98	Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2020 Pape Clement comes barreling out of the glass with bold notes of cassis, plum preserves and licorice, giving way to scents of cedar chest, crushed rocks, charcoal and pencil lead. The medium to full-bodied palate is tightly coiled with beautiful tension and a firm, finely grained texture locking in the layers of black fruits and minerals, finishing with great length and energy. The blend this year is 50% Cabernet Sauvignon and 50% Merlot, aging mainly in French oak barriques, 66% new, with about 10% aging in large oak foudres. The wine will spend approximately 18 months in barrels. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Pape Clement Blanc	92-94	97-98	90-92	94-96	\$168	
NM Score:92-94	The 2020 Pape Clément Blanc is a clear step up from the Le Prêlat and Clementin, delivering taut, mineral-rich citrus fruit aromas with vibrancy and tension. The palate is well balanced and seems less oaky than previous vintages when tasted from barrel. Ginger and lemongrass enliven the finish on this excellent Pape Clément Blanc. -Neal Martin					
JS Score:97-98	Lots of white peach and red apple with crushed-stone and pine-needle undertones. Full-bodied, yet compact and linear with beautiful toffee, light caramel, praline and nougat character to the fruit. Hints of wood. It shows phenolic tension and form, yet remains agile and energetic. Impressive for the vintage. -James Suckling					
AG Score:90-92	The 2020 Pape Clément Blanc is remarkably understated. Passion fruit, white flowers, lemon confit, ginger and white pepper are all very nicely lifted. In 2020, the Blanc is decidedly airy and less unctuous than it has been in the past. It will be interesting to see where things stand at the end of aging, -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score:94-96	Pape Clement's 2020 Blanc leaps from the glass with gregarious notions of fresh pink grapefruit, Bosc pears and lime blossoms with hints of coriander seed, yuzu zest and white pepper. The medium to full-bodied palate delivers fantastically intense citrus and pear flavors with a racy backbone and silky texture, finishing long and fragrant. The blend this year is 67% Sauvignon Blanc, 30% Sémillon and 3% Sauvignon Gris, with anticipated bottling projected to be taking place on December 14 and 15, 2021. The alcohol is 13.5%. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Domaine De Chevalier	93-95	96-97	95-97	95-97+	\$76	
NM Score: 93-95	The 2020 Domaine de Chevalier, which was cropped at 38hl/ha, is deep purple with glints of blue. The bouquet is very clean, precise and focused, not dissimilar to the impressive Malartic Lagravière that I tasted alongside, touches of wet granite and truffle emerging with time. The palate is medium-bodied with fine-grained tannins. This Domaine de Chevalier has a deeply impressive structure counterbalanced by equally impressive freshness and elegance, fanning out wonderfully on the finish, which is very persistent. Just a shade off the outstanding 2019... perhaps. -Neal Martin					
JS Score: 96-97	Iron, black mushroom and dark berry with some burnt orange peel. Flowers, too. It's full-bodied with round tannins that turn linear and tight at the end. Excellent energy. Brightness and purity. -James Suckling					
AG Score: 95-97	The 2020 Domaine de Chevalier is going to need a number of years to unwind. Rich, heady and super-concentrated, the 2020 is so impressive, right out of the gate. Crushed rocks, rose petal, cedar, pomegranate and mint all build as the 2020 shows off its vibrant, layered personality. Domaine de Chevalier remains one of the most under the radar wines in all of Bordeaux. The 2020 is an absolutely brilliant effort from Olivier Bernard and his team. Tasted two times. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score: 95-97+	Medium to deep garnet-purple in color, the 2020 Domaine de Chevalier comes skipping out of the glass with energetic scents of ripe red and black currants, fresh blackberries and boysenberries, plus nuances of wild sage, cloves and cedar with a waft of lavender. The medium to full-bodied palate surprises and delights with an unexpected richness and depth that remains locked away on the nose, revealing layers of fragrant earth and floral notions framed by fantastic freshness and firm, finely grained tannins, finishing with the most gorgeous, long-lingering perfume. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Domaine De Chevalier Blanc	91-93	96-97	94-96	94-96	\$125	
NM Score: 91-93	The 2020 Domaine de Chevalier Blanc was cropped at 43hl/ha and will spend 18 months in barrel. It has a very composed bouquet of green apple, kiwi fruit, crushed rock and dried white flower aromas. There is nothing extravagant on the nose, but it is beautifully defined. The palate is medium-bodied with a fine bead of acidity, displaying light honeyed notes on the entry mixed with chamomile and almond and hints of marzipan. Very harmonious from start to finish, this is a refined and classy Domaine de Chevalier Blanc. -Neal Martin					
JS Score: 96-97	A dense, creamy DC white with lots of rich cooked-apple, mineral, cream and praline character. It's full and very layered with chewy intensity and a long, bitter-lemon and almost honey finish. Pretty phenolic tension, too -James Suckling					
AG Score: 94-96	The 2020 Domaine de Chevalier Blanc is fabulous. Bright and airy in the glass, the 2020 bristles with energy. Lemon confit, crushed rocks, mint and white pepper all pulse with tons of vibrancy. This finely-cut, chiseled white is going to need a number of years to be at its best, but it is so impressive and so full of potential. Bright saline notes punctuate the dazzling finish. Time in the glass brings out the wine's texture and layers. The Blanc is one of the world's great wines, hands down. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score: 94-96	The 2020 Domaine de Chevalier Blanc bursts with notions of ripe yellow apples, juicy pears and lime blossoms, plus hints of blanched almonds, yuzu zest and wet pebbles. The medium to full-bodied palate delivers impactful apple and citrus flavors with a racy backbone and seductive oiliness to the texture, finishing long and minerally. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Carbonnieux	90-92	93-94	92-94	91-93	\$41	
NM Score: 90-92	This Pessac-Léognan has been a little inconsistent of late. The 2020 Carbonnieux, matured in 35–40% new oak, has a slightly subdued nose despite giving it ample aeration, blackberry, mint and light floral aromas gradually unfurling. The palate is medium-bodied with grainy tannins, fine acidity, crisp blackberry and wild strawberry fruit and a slightly chalky finish. It is traditional in style, but that is not necessarily a bad thing, and I find there is more persistence on the finish compared to the recently tasted 2018 in bottle. This is a return to form. -Neal Martin					
JS Score: 93-94	A velvety-textured red with lots of blackberry, black-olive, mushroom and walnut character. Full and dense, but fresh and vivid on the finish. Pretty layers of fruit and tannins. -James Suckling					
AG Score: 92-94	The 2020 Carbonnieux is dark and juicy to the core. Inky red cherry, cedar, leather, tobacco, smoke and mocha are all kicked up in this deep, flavorful Pessac-Léognan. Bright acids and a firm spine of tannin lend energy while giving the wine its sense of proportion. This is such a gorgeous wine. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score: 91-93	Sporting a deep purple-black color, the 2020 Carbonnieux opens with notes of tar, dark chocolate and licorice, giving way to a core of stewed black plums, cassis and blackberry compote, plus a waft of smoked meats. The medium to full-bodied palate delivers mouth-coating, juicy black fruits, supported by firm, grainy tannins and seamless freshness, finishing savory. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Carbonnieux Blanc	90-92	93-94	90-92	89-91	\$41	
NM Score:90-92	The 2020 Carbonnieux Blanc, cropped at 47hl/ha and aged in 25% new oak, has a fragrant, well-defined bouquet of Braeburn apples, pear and wild mint, nicely focused and full of vigor. The palate is well balanced with a fine thread of acidity. This is a little taciturn compared to others at this stage, but there is fine mineralité here, and it feels tensile, almost steely on the finish. After a perplexing showing of the 2018 in bottle, this is back to the Carbonnieux Blanc that I know best. -Neal Martin					
JS Score:93-94	An excellent white Carbonnieux with sliced-lemon, lime and mineral character, as well as hints of citrus seeds. It's medium-to full-bodied with lots of bright acidity and a flavorful finish. Minerally at the end. -James Suckling					
AG Score:90-92	The 2020 Carbonnieux Blanc is a very pretty wine. Bright Sauvignon Blanc notes give the 2020 its distinctive aromatic signatures, while the Sémillon adds just enough mid-palate creaminess to hold it all together. Lemon confit, white flowers, sage, mint and tomato leaf linger nicely. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score:89-91	The 2020 Carbonnieux Blanc delivers loads of zesty sparks of yuzu and lime peels over a core of green apples, fresh grapefruit and crushed rock with a hint of wild thyme. The medium-bodied palate is crisp and refreshing, offering a great intensity of citrusy flavors with a chalky finish. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Latour Martillac	93-95	93-94	90-92	90-92	\$39	
NM Score:93-95	The 2020 Latour-Martillac offers an enticing bouquet of black fruit infused with black olive, background citric scents lending a bit of zest. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannins, well-integrated oak and impressive depth. This is a very assured and confident Latour-Martillac that continues their strong run of form. Perhaps one of the dark horses of the appellation in 2020, this should be on your primeur shopping list. -Neal Martin					
JS Score:93-94	This really builds on the palate with blackberry, blueberry and stone aromas and flavors. Medium to full body. Creamy finish. -James Suckling					
AG Score:90-92	The 2020 Latour-Martillac is a potent, brooding wine. Graphite, crushed rocks, game, scorched earth, menthol, lavender and chocolate are all kicked up in this searingly intense Pessac-Léognan. It will be interesting to see if the 2020 softens at all. Today, it is pretty tight, and yet there is quite a bit of potential. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score:90-92	Deep purple-black colored, the 2020 Latour Martillac needs a little swirling to release scents of wild blueberries, fresh black-currants and mulberries with hints of chocolate box, aniseed and mossy tree bark with a touch of charcoal. The medium-bodied palate is soft, juicy and refreshing, offering a savory finish. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Latour Martillac Blanc	93-95	92-93	88-90	91-93	\$40	
NM Score:93-95	The 2020 Latour-Martillac Blanc has a more reserved bouquet compared to its peers, but still quite compelling, with crushed rock infusing the dried yellow flowers, white peach and chai tea scents. I could nose this all day. The very well-balanced palate is quite intense, offering a fine bead of acidity and plenty of tension and mineralité toward the saline finish. If I was going to spend my money on one dry white Bordeaux this year, it might well be this. -Neal Martin					
JS Score 92-93	A dense yet fresh white with sliced lemon and cooked apple. Green mango, too. Phenolic tension. Full-bodied and layered. Solid phenolics at the end. -James Suckling					
AG Score:88-90	The 2020 Latour-Martillac Blanc is laced with hints of dried flowers, lemon peel, almond and chamomile. There is a pretty sense of airiness that is quite attractive, but the Blanc comes across as a bit diffuse and not totally put together just yet. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score:91-93	The 2020 Latour Martillac Blanc has a fragrant nose of lemongrass, spiced pears and lime leaves, plus hints of fresh peaches and shaved almonds. The medium-bodied palate has an impressively racy backbone cutting through the intense citrus and stone fruit flavors, finishing long and zesty. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Malartic Lagraviere	94-96	94-95	93-95	92-94	\$54	
NM Score:94-96	The 2020 Malartic Lagravière, whose picking was completed on September 24, before the rains, has a bright, vivid nose of mineral-infused red fruit mixed with hints of blueberry and cassia. Very focused and precise, this is an aromatically sophisticated Pessac-Léognan. The palate is medium-bodied with graphite-tinged black fruit, hints of wild mint coming through, and lively and tensile toward the finish. This is one of the best vintages of Malartic Lagravière that I have encountered out of bottle. Ignore at your peril. <i>-Neal Martin</i>					
JS Score:94-95	Lots of blackberry, cherry and walnut aromas and flavors. Some tar, too. It's full-bodied with chewy tannins that are polished and energetic. It turns linear and long at the end. Juicy too. <i>-James Suckling</i>					
AG Score:93-95	The 2020 Malartic Lagravière is a powerful, tightly wound wine. There is perhaps a bit less opulence than in years past, but that just gives the wine an extra kick of energy and vibrancy that is quite attractive. Inky red cherry fruit, rose petal, spice, cedar and cinnamon all grace this beautifully taut wine from the Bonnie family. Tasted three times. <i>-Antonio Galloni</i>					
WA Score:92-94	The deep purple-black 2020 Malartic Lagraviere leaps from the glass with vibrant notes of Bing cherries, black raspberries, ripe plums and boysenberries, plus suggestions of pencil lead, wild sage and crushed rocks. Medium-bodied, the palate has lovely energy and freshness, offering a solid backbone of grainy tannins to support the lively red and black fruit layers, finishing savory. The tentative blend is 50.4% Cabernet Sauvignon, 47.8% Merlot, and 1.8% Cabernet Franc, with only 38% of production going into the grand vin. The alcohol is 14% this year. <i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i>					

Malartic Lagraviere Blanc	92-94	95-96	92-94	91-93	\$68	
NM Score:92-94	The 2020 Malartic-Lagravière Blanc has a very well-defined bouquet, although unlike its peers, this demands a few minutes to find its voice. But it is worth the patience, delivering almost Burgundy-like citrus fruit mixed with apricot, citrus lemon and crushed stone aromas. The palate is very well balanced with a fine bead of acidity that cuts through the intense notes of citrus peel, lychee and chamomile. Great energy here, and it fans out gloriously toward the finish. Sophisticated and quite delicious. <i>-Neal Martin</i>					
JS Score:95-96	Lots of dried-apple and lime aromas and flavors with some green melon. It's full-bodied and creamy with a nice combination of fruit and intensity. Phenolic and structured. <i>-James Suckling</i>					
AG Score:92-94	The 2020 Malartic-Lagravière Blanc is bright and airy in its aromatics, but then shows its power on the palate, mostly the result of a higher percentage of Sémillon than in the past. White flowers, lemon confit, anise, white pepper and mint give the 2020 a brilliant aromatic upper register. The 2020 is going to be fascinating to follow, as it possesses tremendous depth and textural intensity. There is a lot of wine here. Tasted three times. <i>-Antonio Galloni</i>					
WA Score:91-93	The 2020 Malartic Lagraviere Blanc leaps from the glass with invigorating notes of lime blossoms, lemon meringue pie and green mango, followed by hints of wet slate, green apples and wild sage. The medium-bodied palate has a racy backbone and loads of citrus and mineral layers, finishing with a peppery kick. The tentative blend is 71.8% Sauvignon and 28.2% Sémillon. Only 30% of the total production will be bottled as grand vin, representing just 7,500 bottles. The alcohol is 14% this year. The estate has chosen a new bottle for the grand cru and second vin, highlighted by an engraved ship, the symbol of the estate. The 2020 vintage will be the first one in this brand-new bottle. <i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i>					

SAINT EMILION	NM	JS	AG	WA	PRICE	QUANTITY REQUIRED
Cheval Blanc					\$706	
NM Score:	<i>-Neal Martin</i>					
JS Score:	<i>-James Suckling</i>					
AG Score:	<i>-Antonio Galloni</i>					
WA Score:	<i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i>					

Petit Cheval						
NM Score:	<i>-Neal Martin</i>					
JS Score:	<i>-James Suckling</i>					
AG Score:	<i>-Antonio Galloni</i>					
WA Score:	<i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i>					

Ausone					Sold Out	
NM Score:	<i>-Neal Martin</i>					
JS Score:	<i>-James Suckling</i>					
AG Score:	<i>-Antonio Galloni</i>					
WA Score:	<i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i>					

Chapelle D'Ausone					\$220	
NM Score:	-Neal Martin					
JS Score:	-James Suckling					
AG Score:	-Antonio Galloni					
WA Score:	-Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Belair Monange	95-97	97-98	95-97	95-97	\$222	
NM Score:95-97	The 2020 Bélair-Monange continues its impressive run of form under the JP Moueix family, having rapidly ascended to the highest rank within the Saint-Émilion appellation. This latest release is another stunning articulation of its propitious terroir, which lies adjacent to Ausone. You could lose yourself in the kaleidoscope of aromas: black cherries, Dorset plum, crushed stone, violet and background pencil box, beautifully defined and growing in intensity. The palate is medium-bodied with ripe tannins and quite firm (maybe a tad more than I anticipated), displaying fine grip. This is a strict yet utterly compelling Bélair-Monange with wonderful salinity coming through toward the finish. There is a lot of substance to this wine and it is perhaps less immediate than other recent vintages, indicating that it may require long-term cellaring. Outstanding. -Neal Martin					
JS Score:97-98	It's full-bodied, showing loads of violets, blackberries and blueberries with salt and white-pepper character. Minerally. It's very fine-grained with a fascinating finish. Intense and long. 98% merlot and 2% cabernet franc. -James Suckling					
AG Score:95-97	The 2020 Bélair-Monange is exceptional. A bold, dramatic wine, the 2020 hits all the senses with layers of intense dark fruit, chocolate, cake, spice, leather and espresso. In some vintages, I have felt Bélair-Monange to be perhaps just a bit pushed in terms of ripeness. The 2020 has plenty of richness, but also more than enough energy to provide balance. Clean, mineral underpinnings extend the persistent finish beautifully. I expect the 2020 will reward readers with several decades of thrilling drinking. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score:95-97	The 2020 Belair Monange displays an opaque purple-black color, unfurling slowly to reveal a nose of blueberry preserves, stewed plums and Morello cherries, giving way to a fragrant undercurrent of Chinese five spice, incense and dried rose petals, plus hints of fallen leaves, Sichuan pepper and oolong tea. The medium to full-bodied palate delivers a fantastically plush texture with mouth-coating black and blue fruits and loads of exotic spice sparks, gently lifted by soft acidity, finishing long and fragrant. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Pavie	95-97	99-100	97-99	97-99	\$455	
NM Score:95-97	The 2020 Pavie was picked September 21–30 at 31hl/ha and matured in 75% new oak, the rest one year old. It continues to see greater emphasis on Cabernets – 34% Franc and 16% Sauvignon, the Merlot reduced to half the blend. This gradual rejigging of the blend is borne out on the nose, which features hints of damp loamy soil and bell pepper infusing vivid blackberry and wild strawberry fruit, becoming more and more citrusy with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied with sautéed tannins that gently grip. Powerful, but the 14.82° alcohol is neatly disguised on the finish (at least in tasting measure) with fine delineation. Cohesive and focused. I would like to see a little more personality develop during élevage, but this remains an impressive Saint-Émilion and a Pavie with a long future ahead. -Neal Martin					
JS Score:99-100	The aromas are already exceptional, showing crushed-stone, limestone and salt character to the dark fruit and bark. It's full-bodied, yet agile. Floats on the palate, then kicks in with loads of ultra fine tannins. The intensity and verve of this wine promises true greatness. -James Suckling					
AG Score:97-99	The 2020 Pavie is very clearly one of the wines of the year. Rich, inky and wonderfully vibrant, it pulses with energy from start to finish. All the elements are well balanced. Soaring Cabernet Franc aromatics lead into a core of finely knit yet deep fruit in a wine that feels endless. Harvest for the reds started on September 17, paused briefly during some rain on the 25th and 26th, and then wrapped up by the end of the month. The blend is 50% Merlot, 34% Cabernet Franc and 15% Cabernet Sauvignon, so more Cabernets than in the past, the result of a large replanting program that began in the early 2000s. A real head-turner. Magnificent! -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score:97-99	Composed of 50% Merlot, 34% Cabernet Franc and 16% Cabernet Sauvignon, the 2020 Pavie weighs in with an alcohol of 14.82% and a pH of 3.61. It is aging in French oak barriques, 75% new. Opaque purple-black colored, notes of plum pudding, blueberry pie and dark chocolate-covered cherries charge out of the gate, followed closely by hints of eucalyptus, star anise, unsmoked cigars and fertile loam with a hint of cedar chest. The full-bodied palate is built like a brick house, offering very firm yet wonderfully ripe, velvety tannins and seamless freshness to support the densely laden, muscular black and blue fruits, finishing very long and with loads of mineral-laced layers. As hedonic as it is cerebral this year, it is a beautiful paradox. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

L'Angelus	95-97	98-99	96-98	98-100	\$478	
NM Score:95-97	The 2020 Angéus was given 30–40 minutes to open. It has a very intense nose of multilayered blackberry, blueberry and wild strawberry scents, crushed violet and hints of iodine. It is quintessential Angéus in many ways, sleek and smooth, harmonious and seductive. Those qualities also come through on the palate. This is framed by fine tannins, the Cabernet components coming through strongly on the midpalate. Quite ferrous in some ways, allspice and subtle minty notes lending complexity toward the finish. It is not quite as persistent as the recently tasted 2018 from bottle, but it comes across a little more chiseled and intellectual. -Neal Martin					
JS Score:98-99	This is wonderfully refined and balanced with such pretty depth. Full-bodied and so polished and pure. Subtle at first, then it takes off and keeps coming. Sophisticated. 60% merlot and 40% cabernet franc. -James Suckling					
AG Score:96-98	The 2020 Angéus is shaping up to be tremendous. Bright and punchy, with terrific energy, the 2020 is more linear and focused than any recent vintages I can remember tasting. Crushed red berry fruit, iron, smoke, mint, chalk and dried herbs all build in the glass. In 2020, Angéus is less flashy than it can be. That is a very good thing, for those who can wait. Harvest took place between September 18 to 30. One of the major evolutions here in recent years has been the use of foudres to age the Cabernet Franc. Half of the Franc is now raised in large format oak, and that seems to bringing added freshness to the Grand Vin. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score:98-100	The 2020 Angéus has an opaque purple-black color, pulling you in with a captivating perfume of kirsch, Black Forest cake, ripe plums, violets and molten licorice, followed by wafts of underbrush, raspberry leaves and graphite, plus a hint of clove oil. The medium to full-bodied palate already offers beautiful balance and expression at this nascent stage, featuring bright, crunchy red and black fruits with remarkable energy and tension. Its amazingly plush, silken texture carries all these shimmering flavors to a very long and fragrant finish. This jaw-dropping expression of 2020 is simply stunning. The blend this year is 40% Cabernet Franc and 60% Merlot, due to be aged 18-22 months in French oak barriques, 100% new, and two new foudres. The wine has pH of 3.65 pH and an alcohol of 14.5%. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Beausejour Duffau		97-98	95-98	95-97		
NM Score:	-Neal Martin					
JS Score: 97-98	This is a very cool and refined young Bordeaux with crushed-berry, walnut, mushroom, chocolate and salt character. Some wet earth, too. It's medium-to full-bodied with very integrated tannins that are polished and poised. Energetic, long and precise at the finish. 81.5% merlot and 18.5% cabernet franc. -James Suckling					
AG Score:95-98	The 2020 Beausejour Héritiers Duffau-Lagarrosse is one of the most harmonious young wines I have tasted here in some time, maybe ever. All the elements are so well put together. The tannins that can usually be so fierce when the wine is young are totally covered by layers of inky dark fruit. Graphite, wild herbs, lavender, chocolate and gravel add layers of aromatic nuance. In the glass, the 2020 towers with its imposing, vertical structure and pure pedigree. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score:95-97	Deep purple-black in color, the 2020 Beausejour (Duffau Lagarrosse) charges out of the glass with bold notions of plum preserves, wild blueberries and boysenberries, plus hints of dark chocolate, molten licorice, lavender and fennel seed, with a waft of Sichuan pepper. The medium to full-bodied palate delivers bags of juicy black and blue fruits with a soft texture and seamless freshness, finishing long and with beautiful purity. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Canon	96-98	98-99	95-97	98-100	\$192	
NM Score: 96-98	The 2020 Canon nailed it this year, the best since the benchmark 2015/2016 vintages. It has one of those bouquets that stops the clock thanks to its breathtaking delineation and focus, fragrant black cherries, bilberry, shucked oyster shell and crushed rock aromas. It is cool, calm and collected. The palate possesses exquisite definition, armed with simply crystalline red fruit matched with a perfect silver bead of acidity. There is tangible tension from the start and it fans out gloriously toward the pixelated finish. This brilliant Canon should offer 20–30 years of drinking pleasure, probably more. Chapeau! -Neal Martin					
JS Score:98-99	Wow. This is really exceptional with super density of fruit that remains clear and agile. Blackberries, currants, violets and spice, as well as some chalk and salt. It really goes on for minutes. Best of the trilogy? -James Suckling					
AG Score:95-97	The 2020 Canon is a gorgeous, sophisticated wine. Silky and soaring, Canon is vertical in build, with a real sense of explosive energy that give the wine its shape. Rose petal, lavender, mint, spice and ripe red/purplish berry fruit all meld together effortlessly. The 2020 is an especially airy, understated Canon. I can't wait to see how it ages. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score:98-100	The 2020 Canon is a blend of 68% Merlot and 32% Cabernet Franc, aging for 18 months in French oak, 50% new. It weighs in with 14.5% alcohol and a pH of 3.53. Deep garnet-purple colored, it bursts from the glass with vivacious notes of Morello cherries, redcurrant jelly, wild blueberries and black raspberries, plus hints of powdered cinnamon, clove oil, star anise and dusty red soil. The medium to full-bodied palate is an exercise in grace, delivering exquisitely ripe, finely pixelated tannins and bold freshness to support the tight-knit black, red and blue fruit layers, finishing long with loads of exotic spices and mineral sparks. An exhilarating triumph! -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

La Gaffelière	96-98	96-97	94-96+	96-98	\$93	
NM Score: 96-98	The 2020 La Gaffelière has an intriguing, complex nose, a mélange of red and black fruit, cigar box, undergrowth and mint, quite mercurial in the glass as it opens with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied with lithe tannins, a beautiful seam of acidity and perhaps the most satin-like texture I have encountered on a young La Gaffelière. It sashays to a harmonious and precise finish and lingers with wonderful mineralité. This is a magnificent prospect. -Neal Martin					
JS Score: 96-97	Blackberry and black-olive aromas and flavors. Full-bodied with layers of fine tannins that fill the mouth. Expansive finish. The tannins are very fine, but abundant. Really impressive. -James Suckling					
AG Score: 94-96+	The 2020 Canon La Gaffelière is a strict, severe wine, almost unnaturally so. At this stage, the 2020 is all acid and tannin, and yet behind that lies a vibrant core of fruit. The big Franc aromatics, often such a signature, are nowhere to be found. Inky red berry fruit, blood orange, spice and star anise emerge with a bit of coaxing, all framed by a spine of serious tannins that are at once incisive and well-balanced. Readers should plan on being patient, as the 2020 is going to need years to come around. Despite its reticence, the 2020 appears to have significant potential down the line. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score: 96-98	Deep purple-black colored, the 2020 La Gaffelière gallops out of the glass with exuberant scents of crushed black plums, boysenberries and fresh blackberries, plus hints of eucalyptus, dark chocolate, crushed rocks and iron ore, with a waft of lavender. The medium to full-bodied palate shimmers with compelling energy, delivering layers of black and red berries with fantastic tension and finely grained tannins, finishing very long and wonderfully minerally. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Bellevue	93-95		85-87			
NM Score: 93-95	The 2020 Bellevue is always so seductive out of barrel and this is no different, armed with glorious, extremely pure black cherries, blueberry, crushed violet and iris scents, the oak seamlessly integrated. The palate is medium-bodied with lithe tannins, and quite zesty on the midpalate, revealing veins of blood orange. Cohesive on the finish with a veneer of new oak that will require a few years to be fully assimilated. Lovely. -Neal Martin					
JS Score:	-James Suckling					
AG Score: 85-87	The 2020 Bellevue is a bold, flamboyant Lussac Saint-Émilion. At this stage, the oak is overpowering. That's a shame, as there is good depth to the fruit. Hopefully this will come together a bit more fully with élevage. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score:	-Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Barde Haut	93-95	94-95	93-95	93-95		
NM Score: 93-95	The 2020 Barde-Haut clearly benefited from its limestone soils in this vintage. Picked September 21–30 at 42hl/ha, it does not disguise its opulent nose and displays more blue fruit than some of its peers, gaining purity with aeration and delivering macerated black cherries, loganberry, crushed violet and very subtle hints of fresh fig. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannins that disguise the structure of this Saint-Émilion Grand Cru. It has the same harmony and detail as its stablemate, but there is more depth and length toward the finish, which shows real panache. Gorgeous. -Neal Martin					
JS Score: 94-95	A young red with blackberry, chocolate and walnut character that follows through to a medium to full body with creamy tannins and a flavorful finish. Subtle in the end. -James Suckling					
AG Score: 93-95	The 2020 Barde-Haut is packed with inky dark fruit, blackberry jam, chocolate, licorice, cloves and new French oak. Deep and muscular in the glass, the 2020 possesses off the charts intensity married to equally imposing tannins. The 2020 is a huge, virile wine that is going to need time to fully come together. It sure is impressive today. Harvest took place between September 15 and 29, a compact time frame by historical standards. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score: 93-95	Opaque purple-black in color, the 2020 Barde-Haut opens with a beguiling perfume of wild blueberries, dark chocolate and candied violets before giving way to notes of kirsch, forest floor and spice cake with a waft of dried mint. The medium to full-bodied palate bursts with juicy black and blue fruits, supported by a lovely line of freshness and beautifully soft tannins, finishing with impressive restraint and a long-lingering mineral note. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Carillon Angelus	92-94	94-95	92-94	90-92	\$125	
NM Score: 92-94	The 2020 Le Carillon d'Angélus has a compact, tight bouquet that needs more coaxing than I anticipated, almost reluctantly offering brambly black fruit, blueberry, incense and light potpourri scents. The palate is well balanced with a lovely bead of acidity that slices through the pure blackberry and raspberry fruit. I cannot recall a Carillon as precise as this, particularly on the finish. Just a superb Deuxième Vin. <i>-Neal Martin</i>					
JS Score: 94-95	This is very fine and racy with refined tannins that are long and really precise. It's medium-bodied with a lovely, creamy texture. Really long and bright. <i>-James Suckling</i>					
AG Score: 92-94	The 2020 Le Carillon d'Angélus is another very pretty, expressive wine from the de Bouard family. Bright floral notes open first, showing off the wine's aromatic presence. Surprisingly elegant for the year, the Carillon impresses with its refined personality. Crushed flowers, sweet red berry fruit and cedar linger on the vibrant, persistent finish. Aging is 60% in new oak and 40% in stainless steel. Carillon continues to improve, some of that is likely attributable to a new cellar that was recently completed for this wine and the No. 3. Le Carillon is a blend taken from vineyards in three locations; Saint-Christophe-des-Bardes, the Cheval Blanc/Figeac sector and around the château. The 2020 is aging in 60% new oak and 40% steel. <i>-Antonio Galloni</i>					
WA Score: 90-92	Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2020 Le Carillon d'Angélus (a blend of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc) rocks up with ready-to-go scents of plum preserves, blackberry pie and mulberries, plus hints of spice cake, aniseed and unsmoked cigars. The medium-bodied palate has lovely freshness and an approachable, soft texture framing the crunchy black fruits, finishing long and savory. <i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i>					

Grand Mayne	93-95		92-94	93-95+	\$52	
NM Score: 93-95	The 2020 Grand Mayne is focused and delineated on a nose that offers plenty of finely chiseled scents of black cherry, bilberry, crushed rock and incense, opulent but beautifully controlled. The palate is medium-bodied with succulent ripe black fruit on the entry, and laced with graphite, touches of tobacco and minerals. From beginning to end, this 2020 displays wonderful tension, and there is a sense of refinement on the finish that I think has only manifested in vintages of Grand Mayne over the last 5–6 years. This delivers, or perhaps overdelivers considering the price. <i>-Neal Martin</i>					
JS Score:	<i>-James Suckling</i>					
AG Score: 92-94	The 2020 Grand Mayne is a powerful, tannic wine. It will be interesting to see if the tannins soften. Even in the early going, the 2020 has a lot of promise. Dark red cherry, plum, spice, new leather, cedar, mint, rose petal and mocha come to life with a bit of time. The 2020 is a gorgeous wine. <i>-Antonio Galloni</i>					
WA Score: 93-95+	Opaque purple-black in color, the 2020 Grand Mayne slowly unfurls in the glass to reveal gorgeous notions of ripe black plums, dark chocolate-covered cherries and blackberry pie, plus hints of licorice, cracked black pepper and unsmoked cigars with a touch of tree bark. The medium to full-bodied palate is chock-full of rich black fruits, supported by ripe, rounded tannins and just enough freshness, finishing long and beautifully perfumed. <i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i>					

Berliquet	89-90	95-96	89-91	94-96	\$68	
NM Score: 89-90	The 2020 Berliquet has an open, quite generous bouquet of high-toned, quite floral aromas (iris and violet petals) mixed with Dorset plum, bilberry and wild strawberry. The palate is medium-bodied with a medicinal, menthol-tinged opening, ripe and again, generous. The candied finish just needs to show a little more restraint. Fine, but it will have to manifest more elegance and composure by the time of bottling. Perhaps it was unfair to pour this against the 2020 Canon, also owned by the Wertheimer family, but it highlighted the difference between their respective terroirs. <i>-Neal Martin</i>					
JS Score: 95-96	Very soft and polished with beautiful tannins that are poised and beautiful. It's medium-to full-bodied and gorgeously proportioned. Ready for even more polishing. <i>-James Suckling</i>					
AG Score: 89-91	The 2020 Berliquet is the first wine that shows a real change in direction under its new ownership and the team headed by Nicolas Audebert. Bright and chiseled with energy this mid-weight Saint-Émilion is quite promising. Crushed red flowers, mint, sweet red berry fruit. There is still a bit of grittiness in the tannin, but this is a decidedly more finessed style than the wines of the recent past. <i>-Antonio Galloni</i>					
WA Score: 94-96	The 2020 Berliquet is composed of 69% Merlot and 31% Cabernet Franc, weighing in at 14.5% alcohol. It is aging in French oak barrels, 50% new. Deep purple-black colored, it trots casually out of the glass with effortlessly flamboyant scents of stewed black cherries, warm plums and baked blackberries, plus hints of chocolate mint, violets and licorice with a touch of fertile loam. The medium to full-bodied palate is very tightly wound with layers of ripe black fruits and earthy accents, framed by finely grained tannins and tons of freshness, finishing long and fragrant. <i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i>					

La Dominique	93-95	94-95				
NM Score: 93-95	The 2020 La Dominique presents a nose of red and black fruit, subtle hints of fireside ash, and even a faint hint of Christmas cake in the background, all well defined and focused. The medium-bodied palate offers a sapid entry, crisp acidity and flavors of blackberry plus touches of tobacco and smoke, maintaining fine delineation all the way through to the finish. This is a step up from recent vintages, a testament to the changes that have been implemented at the estate. La Dominique is back! <i>-Neal Martin</i>					
JS Score: 94-95	Very tight and focused red from here with blackberry, iodine and stone aromas and flavors. It's medium-to full-bodied with ripe tannins that are fine-grained and show length. Pretty. <i>-James Suckling</i>					
AG Score:	<i>-Antonio Galloni</i>					
WA Score:	<i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i>					

Saintayme	87-89	94-95	91-93	90-92		
NM Score: 87-89	The 2020 Saintayme is more backward on the nose than expected and demands coaxing from the glass. Eventually it offers tightly wound blackberry, wild hedgerow and black truffle scents, an inviting marine/seaweed scent emerging with time. The palate is medium-bodied with succulent ripe tannins that frame the sweet black cherry, bilberry and licorice notes. Quite linear toward the finish, it does not fan out like the 2018, although it feels long and persistent. Give this Saint-Émilion 3-4 years in bottle if you can. <i>-Neal Martin</i>					
JS Score: 94-95	A gorgeous red with so much black fruit and salty, mineral character. It's medium-to full-bodied with creamy, polished tannins and a long finish. The precision and fine texture is impressive. One of the best I have had for a while. <i>-James Suckling</i>					
AG Score: 91-93	The 2020 Saintayme is bright, punchy and wonderfully vibrant. Sweet perfumed floral notes, red berry fruit, cedar and cinnamon lend terrific aromatic brightness. In 2020, Saintayme is a bit nervy and less fleshy than it can be. This is the first vintage made without microbullage, a technique that was previously used in some of the tanks here. I expect that will serve it well in the years to come, as the 2020 has an extra level of purity that is striking. As always, Saintayme is a selection from a 15-hectare property in Saint-Émilion's Saint Etienne de Lys district, made with a Burgundian approach in which the wine is vinified by the owner and then raised by the Durantou family. <i>-Antonio Galloni</i>					
WA Score: 90-92	The 2020 Saintayme is 100% Merlot, harvested between the 28th and the 30th of September. It has an alcohol of 14.5% and is aging in French oak barrels, 30% new. Deep purple-black colored, it needs a little coaxing to unlock scents of tar, forest floor and aniseed, over a core of baked black plums, blackberry pie and chocolate-covered cherries, plus a touch of dried mint. The full-bodied palate is densely packed with muscular black fruits and loads of earthy accents, framed by firm, rounded tannins and just enough freshness, finishing on a lingering minty note. 63,000 bottles are expected to be made. <i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i>					

Canon La Gaffelière	93-95	95-96	94-96+		\$102	
NM Score: 93-95	The 2020 Canon-la-Gaffelière is beautifully defined on the nose, featuring lavish black cherries, boysenberry, tobacco and cracked black pepper aromas. This is endowed with impressive precision and the oak is very well integrated. The medium-bodied palate delivers sappy black fruit, fine balance and poise and a lightly spiced, edgy, almost citrus-like finish. Packed to the rafters with vim and vigor, this is a superb Saint-Émilion. <i>-Neal Martin</i>					
JS Score: 95-96	Very refined and polished with minerally, almost salty character. Full body and beautiful, compact tannins. Racy finish. Excellent drive to this at the end. <i>-James Suckling</i>					
AG Score: 94-96+	The 2020 Canon La Gaffelière is a strict, severe wine, almost unnaturally so. At this stage, the 2020 is all acid and tannin, and yet behind that lies a vibrant core of fruit. The big Franc aromatics, often such a signature, are nowhere to be found. Inky red berry fruit, blood orange, spice and star anise emerge with a bit of coaxing, all framed by a spine of serious tannins that are at once incisive and well-balanced. Readers should plan on being patient, as the 2020 is going to need years to come around. Despite its reticence, the 2020 appears to have significant potential down the line. <i>-Antonio Galloni</i>					
WA Score:	<i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i>					

Larcis-Ducasse	94-96	97-98	95-97	96-98	\$105	
NM Score: 94-96	The 2020 Larcis Ducasse has a ripe, exotic bouquet lavished with blueberries, cassis, touches of date and crushed violets. The aromatics are rich and powerful. The palate is medium-bodied with rounded tannins and a fine bead of acidity, displaying more puppy fat than its peers. The precocious finish offers crushed strawberry, maraschino and faint dark chocolate scents. This is a typical Larcis Ducasse in many ways, perhaps not one for those seeking a more traditional Saint-Émilion, but very sensual and ravishing. <i>-Neal Martin</i>					
JS Score: 97-98	Blackberry and asphalt with cool minerals and a hint of mint. It's full-bodied and chewy with intense flavors and a long, flavorful finish. Lots of chalk and an almost salty undertone. <i>-James Suckling</i>					
AG Score: 95-97	The 2020 Larcis Ducasse captures all the pedigree of the year in its savory, mineral-driven personality. Graphite, dried herbs, lavender, spice and menthol lend striking aromatic intensity. The 2020 is a rich, deep wine, yet it retains the classic midweight sense of structure that is a signature of the estate. The 2020 is quite simply a dazzling Larcis. <i>-Antonio Galloni</i>					
WA Score: 96-98	The 2020 Larcis Ducasse has a deep purple-black color, leaping from the glass with bold notions of redcurrant jelly, plum preserves, kirsch and red roses, followed by hints of licorice, fragrant earth and spice cake, with a touch of woodsmoke. The medium to full-bodied palate is laden with fragrant red berries and profound black fruit preserves, supported by ripe, rounded tannins and lovely tension, finishing very long and fantastically layered. Absolutely, stunningly singular. <i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i>					

Clos Fourtet	95-97	95-96	96-98	96-98	\$148	
NM Score: 95-97	The 2020 Clos Fourtet was picked September 15–30 at 40hl/ha and matured in 50% new oak. It has an expressive, winsome bouquet of red and blue fruit, crushed rose and iris, touches of blood orange coming through with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied with svelte tannins and wonderful acidity. Harmonious and almost crystalline toward the finish. This is a very impressive Clos Fourtet that brims with freshness and persistence, gaining weight and depth over the course of an hour. It will battle the 2019 for supremacy. <i>-Neal Martin</i>					
JS Score: 95-96	This is really something with so much tension and focus and a persistent, long finish that lasts for minutes. It's full-bodied, yet tight and so long. Such polish and finesse. Elegance with power. <i>-James Suckling</i>					
AG Score: 96-98	A wine of stature and breeding, the 2020 Clos Fourtet is absolutely breathtaking from barrel. A rush of lavender, graphite, spice, licorice and espresso hits the senses. Vibrant and powerful, yet also remarkably light on its feet, the 2020 has so much of offer. All the elements are so crisp, so beautifully defined. The 2020 is all class. It is one of the most promising wines of this young vintage and a fabulous effort from the Cuvelier family. Don't miss it. <i>-Antonio Galloni</i>					
WA Score: 96-98	The 2020 Clos Fourtet is a blend of 90% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Sauvignon and 3% Cabernet Franc, harvested from 15th to 30th September and weighing in with an alcohol of 14.5% and a pH of 3.6. It is being aged for 14-18 months in 50% new oak barrels, 48% second-fill barrels and 2% amphora. Deep garnet-purple in color, it comes bounding out of the glass with ripe, expressive notes of crushed black plums, juicy black berries and black cherry preserves, followed by hints of ground cloves, cinnamon stick, camphor and cedar chest. The medium to full-bodied palate is jam-packed with bright, vivacious black fruits, framed by velvety tannins and bags of freshness, finishing with great length. <i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i>					

Pavie-Macquin	91-93	95-96	95-98	96-98	\$108	
NM Score: 91-93	The 2020 Pavie-Macquin has a boisterous, attention-grabbing bouquet of opulent blueberry and kirsch scents, a touch of orange pith developing with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied with a sweet entry, certainly one of the most exotic wines from the estate in recent years, and a luscious finish, where I would like to feel more of the Cabernet Franc. This needs a very prudent élevage. <i>-Neal Martin</i>					
JS Score: 95-96	Sweet-berry and orange-peel aromas with hints of stone and oak on the nose. Medium-bodied with firm tannins and a fine-grained finish. Restrained plushness to this. Reserved. <i>-James Suckling</i>					
AG Score: 95-98	The 2020 Pavie Macquin is one of the most exotic Saint-Émilions of the year. Inky red fruit, lavender, rose petal, mint, plum and kirsch all open in the glass. Succulent and racy to the core, the 2020 possesses mind-blowing intensity yet remains fresh, vibrant and full of energy. It is one of the most alluring and complete recent vintages I can remember tasting. In a word: dazzling. <i>-Antonio Galloni</i>					
WA Score: 96-98	The 2020 Pavie Macquin has an opaque purple-black color, exploding from the glass with an intoxicating perfume of violets, Ceylon tea, forest floor and eucalyptus over a core of blackberry preserves, Morello cherries and stewed plum, plus wafts of crushed rocks and unsmoked cigars. The medium to full-bodied palate shimmers with energetic red and black fruit layers and loads of floral and earthy sparks, framed by exquisitely ripe, finely grained tannins and amazing tension, finishing with a long-lingering perfume of black fruits. A real head-turner! <i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i>					

Figeac	96-98	97-98	95-97	96-98+	\$288	
NM Score:96-98	The 2020 Figeac was picked from September 4 to October 1 and underwent vinification free of SO2. Deep purple in color, it is initially backward and sultry on the nose, necessitating 60 minutes before it really opens. It then reveals intense scents of cranberry, raspberry and touches of cassis intermingling with white pepper. Given that the Cabernets comprise 63% of the blend, this has a typical Left Bank personality but with Right Bank precocity. The palate conveys a sense of vibrancy and vigor on the entry, a dash of black pepper and allspice mingling with the mélange of red and black fruit. The tannins are satin-like in texture, and there's dark berry fruit and hints of pencil lead and black truffle shavings toward the Pomerol-like finish. This is a magnificent Figeac from head winemaker Frédéric Faye and his team. This sample really came into its own 2–3 hours after opening. -Neal Martin					
JS Score:97-98	This is all in finesse and focus with a compact palate of ultra fine tannins that are like the finest silk. It's full-bodied and grows on the palate with a crescendo of focused fruit and fine, chewy tannins. The tannins grow and persist. -James Suckling					
AG Score:95-97	A super-classic wine, the 2020 Figeac sizzles with vertical energy. The château has made a number of tremendous wines in recent vintages, but I don't remember a Figeac with this much saline-drenched intensity and mineral drive. The 2020 is superb, but it won't be ready to drink anytime soon. The mixture of soil types and varieties, with the high percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon, that is such a signature here, was a huge help in maintaining balance and energy in the wine. Technical Director Frédéric Faye certainly seems to have gotten the most out of the vintage. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score:96-98+	The 2020 Figeac is a blend of 37% Merlot, 32% Cabernet Franc and 31% Cabernet Sauvignon, weighing in with an alcohol of 13.9% and a pH of 3.7. Opaque purple-black colored, it bursts from the glass with a beautifully vibrant initial wave of pure, pristine black fruits: fresh black cherries, juicy black plums and ripe blackcurrants. With swirling, a whole array of floral and spice notes is unleashed: lavender, ground cloves, cumin seed, cardamom and rose oil. The medium-bodied palate is surprisingly graceful for the intensity of aromas, featuring ethereal, perfumed black berry notes, framed by a seamless line of freshness and ripe, grainy tannins, finishing on a lingering fragrant earth note. Far more cerebral and quietly introspective than it is hedonic, this could only be Figeac. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Monbousquet	90-92	93-94	90-92	91-93+	\$62	
NM Score: 90-92	The 2020 Monbousquet was cropped at 30hl/ha and underwent a five-week cuvaision and maturation in 50% new oak. Deep in color, it has an intense nose of multilayered black plum, loganberry, wild hedgerow and crushed violet scents. The new oak imparts a vanilla-y veneer, but that should be assimilated by the time this is bottled. The palate is medium-bodied with gritty tannins, quite a structured Monbousquet, the 15% Cabernet Sauvignon contributing graphite notes toward the fresh, seaweed-tinged, slightly bitter finish, which has a powdery texture. This is an intriguing Monbousquet made in a more classical style compared to recent vintages. -Neal Martin					
JS Score:93-94	This is linear and creamy with lovely, fine tannins and dark-berry, violet, stone and licorice character. Medium-to full-bodied, racy and fresh. Charming. Freshness at the end. -James Suckling					
AG Score:90-92	The 2020 Monbousquet is a heady, exotic wine. Blackberry jam, bittersweet chocolate, spice, new leather and espresso are all kicked up. Explosive and deep, the Monbousquet packs a serious punch. The tannins are pretty imposing today, but élevage should take care of that. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score:91-93+	The 2020 Monbousquet is a blend of 70% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc and 15% Cabernet Sauvignon, coming in with an alcohol of 14.69% and a pH of 3.75. It is aging in French oak barriques, 50% new. With a deep purple-black color, it prances out of the glass with showy scents of crushed black plums, mulberries and Morello cherries, plus touches of dried Provence herbs, charcoal and forest floor. The medium to full-bodied palate delivers expressive black and red berry layers, framed by plush tannins and just enough freshness, finishing on a fragrant earth note. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Pavie Decesse	94-96	96-97	94-96	95-97	\$156	
NM Score: 94-96	The 2020 Pavie Decesse was picked on September 23, the same day as Perse's Bellevue-Mondotte, at just 17hl/ha, and matured in 80% new oak, the final blend to be made at bottling. This is rich and opulent on the nose, which delivers intense black cherries, raspberry coulis, blueberry and blood orange scents; the new oak is quite prominent. The palate is medium-bodied with firm tannins, though I find this more nuanced and delineated compared to the Bellevue-Mondotte. More terroir is articulated toward the persistent finish, which displays subtle black pepper and clove notes. This actually challenges Pavie for my affections. -Neal Martin					
JS Score:96-97	A tight, pinpointed Pavie Decesse with a medium to full body and racy tannins that are vertical and deep. Takes you down the palate. Chewy. Chalky tannins -James Suckling					
AG Score:94-96	The 2020 Pavie-Decesse is compelling. Silky and voluptuous, it opens with a rush of inky red/purplish fruit, rose petal, lavender, spice and mocha. There is terrific brightness and plenty of energy, but the luxuriousness of the fruit wins the day. I imagine the 2020 will drink well with only a few years in bottle. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score:95-97	The 2020 Pavie Decesse is a blend of 88% Merlot and 12% Cabernet Franc, aging in French oak barrels, 80% new. It has an alcohol of 14.81% and a pH of 3.52. Deep purple-black colored, notions of baked blackberries, preserved plums and black cherry compote come barreling out of the glass, followed by suggestions of dark chocolate, licorice and Indian spices, with a fragrant hint of lavender. The medium to full-bodied palate is jam-packed with rich, spicy black fruits, supported by firm yet beautifully plush tannins and a lively backbone, finishing long with lots of emerging earthy nuances. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Troplong Mondot	94-96	98-99	93-95	95-97+	\$136	
NM Score: 94-96	The 2020 Troplong Mondot was tasted from two samples, both directly from the estate, but with two prélèvements because Aymeric de Gironde was not content with the showing of the first. Indeed, the second, which was tasted the following day (yes, bottles arrived quickly) did show slightly better, even if there was not an enormous difference. It has a deep garnet hue, yet the nose is initially backward and demands about an hour to really open and say what it wants to say. The nuanced bouquet features a mixture of red and black fruit, touches of iris flower, sea spray and a touch of Earl Grey. This is typical of the more elegant, terroir-driven style introduced under Aymeric de Gironde. The palate is medium-bodied with crunchy red fruit, cranberry and raspberry mixed with truffle and a pinch of sea salt. The acidity is well judged and it conveys palpable energy on the finish. This is a delicious and characterful Saint-Émilion, fresh and vibrant, that will fill out and gain depth during its barrel maturation. Excellent. -Neal Martin					
JS Score: 98-99	This has superb depth and intensity with very fine tannins that draw you down. So much black fruit, together with black pepper and salt. Extremely well crafted. Vertical and deep. Chalky and salty with black chocolate. -James Suckling					
AG Score: 93-95	The 2020 Troplong Mondot is another strong showing from the estate under the direction of Aymeric de Gironde. Exotic and voluptuous, the 2020 is endowed with terrific depth and plenty of layers that unfold over time. Raspberry jam, cloves, kirsch and lavender all flesh out beautifully in the glass. Troplong Mondot has been exceptionally fine since 2017, when the new team headed by de Gironde took over and began to focus on giving the Grand Vin more energy. In the 2020, though, I see less of the vibrancy and brilliance that has defined the new style at Troplong. Tasted two times. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score: 95-97+	The 2020 Troplong Mondot is composed of 85% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Sauvignon and 2% Cabernet Franc, harvested from 4th September and lasting for about three weeks. The pH is 3.53, the IPT (tannin index) is 75 and the alcohol is 14.5%. Opaque purple-black colored, it opens with a vivacious burst of black fruits—stewed plums, baked blackberries and boysenberries—giving way to a fragrant undercurrent of licorice, ground cloves, cinnamon stick and lilacs, with a touch of bouquet garni. The full-bodied palate is chock-full of plump, juicy black fruits and savory sparks, framed by fantastically ripe, fine-grained tannins and bold freshness, finishing long and opulent. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Beau-Séjour Becot	92-94	96-97		95-97+		
NM Score: 92-94	The 2020 Beau-Séjour Bécot was picked 8 September until 30 September, but mostly between 8-12 September, around 70% of the production. It is one of the highest percentages of Merlot in recent years partly due to restructuring of the vineyard and also higher yields (47-48hl/ha) compared to the Cabernets. With no SO2 used during fermentation and matured in 55% new oak (20hl Stockinger and Taransaud foudres and regular barriques) it is tightly wound on the nose, so I afforded the sample an hour to really open. It offers predominantly red berry fruit, wild mint and traces of dried honey, more floral scents emerging, violet and iris flower blossoming with time in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with pliant tannins, very well judged acidity, a very graceful and unpretentious Saint-Émilion, harmonious with a touch of white pepper enhancing the precise finish. This is a classically styled Beau-Séjour Bécot that conveys a brooding intensity, so I would give it several years in the cellar. -Neal Martin					
JS Score: 96-97	This has a fantastic finish with crushed blackberries and raspberries and salt undertones. It's full-bodied, yet really racy and polished with such fine, intense tannins. Love the length to this. Very distinguished and toned. Excellent energy. 85% merlot, 13% cabernet franc and 2% cabernet sauvignon. -James Suckling					
AG Score:	-Antonio Galloni					
WA Score: 95-97+	Displaying a deep purple-black color, the 2020 Beau-Sejour Becot prances out of the glass with showy scents of preserved plums, chocolate-covered cherries, wild blueberries and raspberry preserves, plus suggestions of rose oil, ground cloves and licorice. The elegantly crafted, medium-bodied palate shimmers with energy, offering a fantastic intensity of crunchy red and black fruits, supported by fine-grained tannins and bold freshness, finishing long and perfumed. Simply stunning. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Bellevue Mondotte	90-92	98-99	95-97	96-98		
NM Score: 90-92	The 2020 Bellevue-Mondotte was picked on September 23 at just 18hl/ha and matured in 90% new oak and 10% one-year-old barrels. It has a very intense nose of Dorset plum, black currant and quite potent marine, almost briny aromas; it kind of bludgeons your olfactory senses. The medium-bodied palate features sappy black fruit laced with crushed stone and cracked black pepper. Very dense and powerful, the finish just a little alcoholic (14.92° under analysis). There is something slightly static about this Saint-Émilion, built to impress rather than seduce. Just not my cup of tea (or wine). -Neal Martin					
JS Score: 98-99	This is a terrific wine that has everything, from seamless texture to great depth of fruit. Full-bodied, yet agile and energetic. Pure merlot. One of the best I have had from here. -James Suckling					
AG Score: 95-97	The 2020 Bellevue Mondotte is a dark, brooding Saint-Émilion, from just two hectares of vineyards. Graphite, gravel, scorched earth, inky dark fruit, chocolate and cloves stain the palate. Deep and explosive, with tremendous energy, the Bellevue Mondotte is magnificent and also one of the most distinctive wines in the appellation. In 2020, it's 100% Merlot, as the small parcels of Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon that once were used here have been budded over to Merlot. What a wine! -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score: 96-98	The 2020 Bellevue Mondotte is made from 100% Merlot, with an alcohol of 14.92% and a pH of 3.54. It is aging in French oak barriques, 90% new. Displaying an opaque purple-black color, it sashays out of the glass with flamboyant notes of plum preserves, blackberry compote and blueberry pie, plus hints of hoisin, Chinese five spice and camphor with a touch of dried rose petals. The concentrated, seductive, full-bodied palate delivers layer upon layer of black and blue fruit preserves, accented by exotic spices and supported with firm, ripe, rounded tannins plus fantastic freshness. The finish is epically long and achingly fragrant. Wow! -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Clos de Sarpe	92-94	95-96	94-96	94-96+	\$75	
NM Score: 92-94	The 2020 Clos de Sarpe, which has undergone a change in tack in recent vintages, has a very intense and floral bouquet of macerated black cherries, blueberry and violet notes, and even a light honeyed scent in the background. The palate is medium-bodied with ripe tannins, fine acidity, a silky-smooth texture and very fine balance. It is not a subtle wine, but it has more delineation and sense of place compared to others cut from a similar cloth. It just needs a prudent élevage, then it should become a fine Saint-Émilion. <i>-Neal Martin</i>					
JS Score: 95-96	Full-bodied and layered with blackberries, black olives, walnuts and bark. Juicy. Superb depth and richness with so many layers of fruit and tannins. From organically grown grapes. Old-vine cabernet franc comes through. <i>-James Suckling</i>					
AG Score: 94-96	The 2020 Clos de Sarpe is one of the most intense, primary wines I tasted for this report. Inky and exotic to the core. Clos de Sarpe possesses tremendous unctuousness from start to finish. Inky red berry fruit, spice, new oak and soaring floral notes all meld together. I imagine it will be many years before the 2020 is ready to drink, but even today, it is quite beautiful and wonderfully expressive. Tasted two times. <i>-Antonio Galloni</i>					
WA Score: 94-96+	Opaque purple-black in color, the 2020 Clos de Sarpe rolls seductively out of the glass with opulent scents of Chinese five spice, rose oil, sandalwood and camphor, leading to a core of plum preserves, blueberry pie and fragrant soil, with a touch of woodsmoke. The rich, full-bodied palate is, as always, not lacking in freshness, delivering layer upon layer of spicy black fruit preserves and a velvety texture, finishing very long and beautifully perfumed. The blend this year is 85% Merlot and 15% Cabernet Franc, aging for an estimated 13 months in French oak barrels, 70% new. The alcohol weighs-in at 15%. <i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i>					

La Serre	90-92	94-95	89-91	89-91	\$70	
NM Score: 90-92	The 2020 La Serre has (yet another) gorgeous, sensual and very pure bouquet of dark cherries, hints of cassis and wilted violet scents, the new oak seamlessly integrated. It reminds me of the 2018. The palate is medium-bodied with succulent black cherries and blueberry and saturated tannins counterpoised by a fine bead of acidity. It turns quite citric toward the end, and although it might not quite deliver the persistence of the 2018, this is another fine La Serre that should give 12–15 years of drinking pleasure. <i>-Neal Martin</i>					
JS Score: 94-95	A medium-bodied red with redcurrant, berry and light chocolate character. It's creamy and chewy. Yet, it shows polish and refinement. <i>-James Suckling</i>					
AG Score: 89-91	The 2020 La Serre offers plenty of immediacy. Blueberry, spice, new leather, tobacco and cedar give the 2020 its effusive personality. Bright acids lend quite a bit of energy. The tannins feel just a bit coarse. That is the only thing holding the 2020 back from a slightly more positive note. <i>-Antonio Galloni</i>					
WA Score: 89-91	Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2020 La Serre is sporting a lot of cedar at this nascent stage, giving way to notes of crushed black plums, fresh blackberries and boysenberries with hints of saffras, clove oil and mocha. The medium-bodied palate has a great intensity of fresh black fruits with ripe, rounded tannins and a lively line, finishing long and spicy. <i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i>					

POMEROL	NM	JS	AG	WA	PRICE	QUANTITY REQUIRED
Feytit Clinet	94-96	95-96	95-97	94-96+	\$88	
NM Score:94-96	The 2020 Feytit-Clinet takes a little while to cohere in the glass, eventually revealing fragrant blackberry, black truffle and pressed violet petal scents that gradually gain intensity but never approach some of the hedonistic levels found elsewhere. The palate is medium-bodied with fine-boned tannins and beautifully judged acidity. Harmonious from the start to the silky-smooth, complex finish. This might well be the finest Feytit-Clinet to date: classy and sophisticated, and delicious too. <i>-Neal Martin</i>					
JS Score:95-96	What a sensational nose at this early stage, offering aromas of blackberries, dried flowers and sandalwood that follow through to a full body that is composed and compact. Creamy texture and intense finish. Finesse. Another winner from here. <i>-James Suckling</i>					
AG Score:95-97	The 2020 Feytit-Clinet is one of the most compelling wines in Pomerol, or all of Bordeaux, for that matter. Blackberry jam, crème de cassis, chocolate, espresso, lavender, licorice and gravel race across the palate. Explosive and powerful to the core, the 2020 is endowed with tons of pedigree. The tannins are incisive, as they so often are, but also impeccably balanced. What a wine! Tasted two times. <i>-Antonio Galloni</i>					
WA Score:94-96+	The 2020 Feytit Clinet is a blend of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc, coming in at 14.8% alcohol and a pH of 3.7. Harvest took place September 11–28 and yields were 42 hectoliters per hectare. The wine is being aged in French oak barrels, 70% new. Deep purple-black colored, it storms out of the glass, shouting bold notes of plum preserves, blueberry pie and stewed cherries, before giving way to quiet whispers of Indian spices, potpourri, licorice and rose oil. The full-bodied palate is packed with muscular black fruits and a firm texture of ripe, rounded tannins, contrasted by lovely freshness and loads of alluring exotic spice layers, lingering long into the layered finish. A beautifully constructed paradox, this is a very smart, stylish Feytit-Clinet! <i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i>					

Latour a Pomerol	91-93	94-95	92-94	92-94	\$98	
NM Score:91-93	The 2020 Latour à Pomerol needs some time in the glass to find its voice, eventually offering black fruit laced with loam, cigar box, truffle and light seaweed scents. The palate is medium-bodied with sappy black fruit, good depth and more red fruit emerging toward the finish. A slightly aloof, quite serious Pomerol that demands attention, but I find myself drawn to it more than recent vintages, not least thanks to its persistent black pepper aftertaste. <i>-Neal Martin</i>					
JS Score:94-95	Lots of floral notes with tobacco, green olives and hints of brown sugar. Black cherries, too. It's full and juicy. Really solid this year. It has a historical sensibility to it. 100% merlot. <i>-James Suckling</i>					
AG Score:92-94	The 2020 Latour à Pomerol is a rich, heady wine that appears to still be coming together. It offers tons of depth, but a bit less in the way of cohesion. Blackberry jam, chocolate, new leather and spice give the 2020 plenty of layers, while a whole range of savory accents add aromatic presence on the virile finish. Time in the glass brings out the wine's creaminess nicely. <i>-Antonio Galloni</i>					
WA Score: 92-94	Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2020 Latour à Pomerol rolls out of the glass with intense notes of fresh blackberries, Morello cherries and boysenberries, followed by suggestions of iron ore, wild sage, unsmoked cigars and pencil shavings. The medium to full-bodied palate delivers a great concentration of taut, muscular red and black fruits with a firm, grainy frame and just enough freshness, finishing on a lingering ferrous note. <i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i>					

Le Gay	95-97	98-99	92-94	94-96+	\$142	
NM Score: 95-97	The 2020 Le Gay needs a little coaxing from the glass, but responds with blackberry, bilberry, pressed iris and subtle brine scents that gain intensity with aeration; the oak is very well integrated. The medium-bodied palate features fine, grainy tannins and beautiful, very pure black fruit tinged with licorice. Superb delineation toward the finish, which fans out with style. This is a wonderful Pomerol, Le Gay fulfilling its potential as one of Pomerol's dark horses. Superb. <i>-Neal Martin</i>					
JS Score: 98-99	This is a young red with great intensity and vision that starts off slowly and builds with energy and verve. It's so minerally with salty, chalky and spice undertones to the cool and vibrant, purple and subtle-fruit flavors. The tannins are wonderfully toned and polished and build on the palate to deliver something very special. <i>-James Suckling</i>					
AG Score: 92-94	The 2020 Le Gay offers up a heady concoction of blackberry jam, chocolate, spice, licorice and new oak. Inky and deep, with tremendous sheer textural opulence, this is one of the most explosive, intense Pomerols readers will come across. A delicious wine, but not subtle in any way. <i>-Antonio Galloni</i>					
WA Score: 94-96+	Deep purple-black colored, the 2020 Le Gay erupts from the glass with scents of molten licorice and dark chocolate, giving way to a tantalizing core of baked black cherries, prunes and blackberry preserves, plus a hint of cardamom. The full-bodied palate is rich and decadent, featuring layers of black fruits and exotic spices with a firm yet velvety texture and seamless freshness, finishing with epic length. A hedonic powerhouse! <i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i>					

Le Pin					Sold Out	
NM Score:	-Neal Martin					
JS Score:	-James Suckling					
AG Score:	-Antonio Galloni					
WA Score:	-Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

La Fleur Petrus	94-96	99-100	94-96	95-97	\$302	
NM Score:94-96	The 2020 La Fleur-Pétras has an engaging, complex nose that you want to just keep... well, nosing. It offers a maze of black cherry, bilberry, crushed rock, freshly rolled tobacco and light marine aromas. The palate is medium-bodied with blackberry, cracked black pepper, sea salt and light briny notes. This is quite a serious La Fleur-Pétras; in fact, it's not a million miles away from the 2020 Trotanoy. It will deserve cellaring for several years but will be worth waiting for. -Neal Martin					
JS Score:99-100	Purple berry and blackberry aromas with cracked black pepper, violets and lavender. It's full-bodied and layered and broadens in the mouth. Gorgeous, ripe tannins. Long and thought-provoking. A milestone for the vineyard. -James Suckling					
AG Score:94-96	The 2020 La Fleur-Pétras is wonderfully elegant and polished. Fine tannins give the 2020 its sophisticated feel. Succulent red cherry, cedar, tobacco, smoke and dried herbs all build. A whole range of floral, savory and mineral notes infuse the finish with tons of character. Medium in body and persistent, with real linear energy, the 2020 is all class. La Fleur-Pétras is, above all else, a wine of understatement and elegance. The 2020 is especially fine. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score:95-97	Very deep purple-black colored, the 2020 la Fleur-Petrus leaps from the glass with bold expressions of baked black plums, molten licorice, Indian spices and blackberry preserves, plus hints of charcuterie, black olives and crushed rocks with a touch of unsmoked cigars. The full-bodied palate delivers compelling tension to the rich, hedonic black fruits, framed by firm, grainy tannins, finishing very long and tantalizingly savory -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

La Violette	91-93	94-95	91-93	94-96		
NM Score:91-93	The 2020 La Violette has a sumptuous rather than decadent bouquet of billowing black cherries, crushed blueberry, kirsch and touches of orange pith, well defined and gaining even more intensity with aeration. The palate is full-bodied with very ripe, plush black fruit laced with marmalade, white pepper and light prune and date notes. I do find this a little too heady and alcoholic toward the finish, unlike some recent vintages that have displayed more precision and restraint. This is a modern Pomerol that oozes hedonism, but this year, I find Le Gay more to my taste. -Neal Martin					
JS Score:94-95	Plenty of blackberry, dark-chocolate and treacle-tart character, yet it remains fresh and vivid. It's full-bodied with vivid fruit and intensity. Creamy tannins and a fruity finish. Fine texture. Framed and formed. -James Suckling					
AG Score:91-93	The 2020 La Violette is bold and luscious in the glass. Inky dark fruit, chocolate, licorice and lavender gain resonance and depth with a bit of coaxing. There is quite a bit of richness, in keeping with the style here. Sadly, this sample was not particularly fresh when it arrived, and that only begs the question: Why even bother sending a sample that was old before it left Bordeaux? -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score:94-96	The 2020 La Violette has a medium to deep garnet-purple color and fragrant notes of chocolate-covered cherries, plum preserves and wild blueberries, followed by nuances of rose oil, sandalwood and ground cloves. The medium to full-bodied palate gives layer upon layer of black and blue fruit preserves, framed by silky tannins and lovely freshness, finishing with fantastic length and incredibly perfumed. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Vieux Château Certan	96-98	98-99	96-98	98-100	\$446	
NM Score:96-98	The 2020 Vieux Château Certan is a blend of 85% Merlot and 15% Cabernet Franc (no Cabernet Sauvignon this year). Drought retarded vigor, particularly with respect to the older vines, and picking was carried out September 14–24 for the Merlot and September 28–29 for the Cabernet Franc. Examined over a couple of hours, it delivers intense and quite opulent black cherries, blueberry and shavings of black truffle and iodine, becoming increasingly floral with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied with impressive structure and bags of freshness. There is plenty of sappy black fruit, lip-smacking underlying salinity and a finish that is a doppelgänger for Lafleur (despite containing less Cabernet Franc). A gorgeous VCC that exudes both density and refinement. -Neal Martin					
JS Score:98-99	Extraordinary clarity and brilliance on the nose with ink and iodine, blackberry and blueberry. Really perfumed already. Full-bodied with fine tannins and superb depth and length. I love the complexity and the great texture. Energetic finish. -James Suckling					
AG Score:96-98	A powerful, vertical wine, the 2020 Vieux Château Certan is endowed with tremendous intensity right out of the gate. Everything about the 2020 is dialed up. The fruit is huge, as are the tannins. Black cherry, licorice, new leather, spice and bittersweet chocolate saturate the palate in a wine that conveys opulence from start to finish. Yields were just 30 hectoliters per hectare, well below the norm of 40-42. The blend is 85% Merlot and 15% Cabernet Franc, in other words a high percentage of Franc. There is no Cabernet Sauvignon in the final blend this year, the result of dehydration on the vine. The 2020 is fabulous. I can't wait to taste it from bottle. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score:98-100	The 2020 Vieux Château Certan is a blend of 85% Merlot and 15% Cabernet Franc, picked on the 14th to the 24th of September for the Merlot, then on the 28th and 29th of September for the Cabernet Franc. The pH is 3.77 and the alcohol is 14.5%. Deep purple-black colored, it needs considerable coaxing, swirling and a lot of patience before it finally lets rip an intoxicating perfume of ripe, juicy black plums, Morello cherries, candied violets, black truffles and crushed rocks, giving way to hints of black tea, molten licorice and Sichuan pepper, plus a waft of dusty red soil. The medium to full-bodied palate delivers achingly ripe, silt-like tannins and shimmering freshness that melds with the black fruits and earthy layers with jaw-dropping seamlessness, finishing with layer upon layer of mineral and savory suggestions and, finally, a gorgeous floral whisper. There are going to be two ways to approach this: 1) Just let the remarkably sensual, inexplicable beauty of it wash over you or 2) Try to unravel all those intricate layers and have it blow your mind. Either way, this is simply an incredible achievement—bravo Alexandre and Guillaume Thienpont! -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

L'Évangile	94-96	98-99	95-97	96-98+	Sold Out	
NM Score:94-96	The 2020 L'Évangile marks the opening of a chapter with a new winemaking team in place. Perhaps now it will begin challenging the Pomerol elite, which it ought to, given its terroir. The nose augurs a different L'Évangile, no question about that. Gone is the wall of new oak that occasionally shrouded the fruit and terroir expression; the oak is still there, but far more assimilated into the attractive brambly red berry fruit, black currant pastilles and light rose petal scents. The palate is smooth on the entry, so much so that it belies the depth of this wine. Complex and quite cerebral, delivering palpable salinity, particularly toward the finish. Veins of black truffle and white pepper come through with aeration over the course of an hour, and with revisits at three-hour intervals. I think there is a little work to do, but what this L'Évangile conveys is newfound personality and soul and a sense of Pomerol typicité. A new chapter opens. -Neal Martin					
JS Score:98-99	This is so floral and pure, showing crushed-grape character with some walnut and crunchy seeds. It's full-bodied, juicy and fresh. Purity of fruit. Juicy and long. 88% merlot and 12% cabernet franc. -James Suckling					
AG Score:95-97	The 2020 L'Évangile is fabulous. Aromatic, deep and fleshy, with magnificent purity of fruit, L'Évangile dazzles right out of the gate. Bright Franc aromatics add striking lift as well as vibrancy that carries through to the long, delineated finish. There is an energy to the 2020 that is palpable. Harvest for the Merlot began on September 3, ahead of a heat wave that was forecast, and wrapped up on the 14th for the Merlot and the 21st for the Franc. That approach worked so well here. In the past, L'Évangile and Lafite-Rothschild were very different stylistically, but that seems to be changing now that Saskia de Rothschild is spending a great deal of her time in Pomerol with the new winemaking team. The estate, certified biodynamic as of 2021, has been pursuing a more refined approach for a few years, but 2020 is the first recent vintage where the personality of the year seems to have aligned especially well with the current thinking here. The 2020 L'Évangile is easily the most Lafite-like L'Évangile I have ever tasted. Don't miss it! -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score:96-98+	Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2020 L'Évangile rolls effortlessly out of the glass with notions of mulberries, black raspberries and stewed red and black plums, plus suggestions of Indian spices, dusty soil and violets with a touch of iron ore. The medium to full-bodied palate possesses compelling freshness and a fine-grained texture to support the muscular black and red fruits, finishing long and earthy. This 2020 blend of 88% Merlot and 12% Cabernet Franc has an alcohol of 14.5% and a pH of 3.8. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Hosanna	95-97	99-100	94-96	96-98	Sold Out	
NM Score:95-97	The 2020 Hosanna has a wonderful, compelling bouquet of deep and alluring scents of blackberry, raspberry, dried iris and incense, plus a subtle mineral element that becomes more prominent with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied with superb grip and density. The wine just fills the mouth (as banal as that sounds), but it has incredible volume and depth. Clockwork precision on the finish, which maintains great freshness, but this is clearly a Hosanna that will benefit from a decade in the cellar. -Neal Martin					
JS Score:99-100	This shows very intense, old-vine character with bark, black mushroom and dark fruit. Full-bodied and creamy with unique flavors of earth and fruit. Layered and soulful. The best Hosanna ever? Merlot and cabernet franc. 45% from old vines, dating from the late 1950s. -James Suckling					
AG Score:94-96	The 2020 Hosanna is packed with blackberry jam, chocolate, new leather, licorice and spices. Unctuous and flamboyant, Hosanna is always incredibly distinctive. In 2020, I find Hosanna a bit monolithic and less complex than its two Pomerol stable mates (La Fleur-Pétrus and Trotanoy) but it certainly offers tons of immediacy. Hosanna is always a soloist, never an orchestra. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score:96-98	Sporting an opaque purple-black color, the 2020 Hosanna gallops out of the glass with bright, vivacious scents of crushed black and red plums, mulberries and redcurrant jelly, leading to underlying scents of powdered cinnamon, lilacs, pencil shavings and damp slate with a hint of wild sage. The medium to full-bodied palate is exquisitely constructed, giving lots of nuanced, tightly wound black fruits and earthy layers with a fine-grained texture and seamless freshness, finishing long and mineral laced -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

L'Eglise Clinet		98-99		97-99		
NM Score:	-Neal Martin					
JS Score:98-99	Wonderfully bright, floral aromas with so much violet character. Such purity and focus. Ethereal on the nose already. Full-bodied, but very polished and deep with finesse and beauty. Incredible structure that fills the mouth. -James Suckling					
AG Score:	-Antonio Galloni					
WA Score:97-99	The 2020 L'Eglise Clinet is a blend of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc. The Merlot was picked between the 11th and the 14th of September, and the Cabernet Franc was picked on the 16th of September. It has an alcohol of 14.4% and is aging in French oak barrels, 80% new. Displaying an opaque purple-black color, it needs a bit of swirling to reveal a fascinating array of earthy notes—black truffles, charcoal, mossy tree bark and fallen leaves—over a profound core of preserved plums, blackberry preserves and violets, with a waft of tapenade. The medium to full-bodied palate has exquisitely ripe tannins and bold freshness supporting the seductively ripe, black fruit layers, finishing on a lingering fragrant earth note. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Clinet	94-96	96-97	93-95	96-98	\$138	
NM Score:94-96	The 2020 Clinet was picked September 14–17 for the Merlot and September 24 for the Cabernet Sauvignon, at 38hl/ha, and matured in 80% new oak. Its 15.0° alcohol is the highest ever. The bravura nose delivers copious black cherries, blueberry and violet aromas that explode from the glass. This is a Pomerol that really wants to make an impression. The palate is medium-bodied with succulent ripe tannins, hints of chocolate chip infusing the mixture of black and blueberry fruit. Lavish and satiny in texture toward the long finish. This is a bold and extravagant Clinet that I hope will just find a little refinement and more terroir expression during its élevage. If it does, it should land at the top of my banded score. -Neal Martin					
JS Score:96-97	This is extremely polished with ultra fine tannins that are so exquisite, giving this a seamless and weightless mouth feel. Medium-bodied, extremely long and harmonious -James Suckling					
AG Score:93-95	The 2020 Clinet is a gorgeous, vivid Pomerol. Today, the Clinet feels a bit closed in on itself, but has terrific energy and plenty of drive. Dark cherry jam, mocha, rose petal, new leather and tobacco start to open with a bit of time in the glass. Readers will have to be patient here. There is plenty to look forward to. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score:96-98	The 2020 Clinet (a blend of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Sauvignon) has an opaque purple-black color, needing a little coaxing to unleash bold, powerful notes of plum preserves, blueberry compote and black raspberries, followed by suggestions of cracked black pepper, menthol, cedar chest and rose oil with a hint of licorice. The big, rich, full-bodied palate is a powerhouse, bursting with impactful black and blue fruit preserves flavors, supported by ripe, rounded tannins and seamless freshness, finishing very long and fantastically perfumed. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Clos L'Eglise		96-97		93-95		
NM Score:	-Neal Martin					
JS Score:96-97	A Pomerol with gorgeous crushed-berry, walnut, hazelnut and chocolate character, as well as a full body with ultra fine tannins that frame the wine beautifully. Extremely long finish. Three super wines in a row since 2018. -James Suckling					
AG Score:	-Antonio Galloni					
WA Score:93-95	Very deep purple-black colored, the 2020 Clos l'Eglise leaps from the glass with vivacious notes of crushed black cherries, redcurrant jelly and ripe, juicy blackberries, leading to an undercurrent of camphor, graphite and cedar chest, plus a touch of crushed rocks. The medium to full-bodied palate is bursting with ripe black fruits, supported by rounded, approachable tannins and seamless freshness, finishing on a persistent mineral note. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Gazin	94	96-97		92-94	\$105	
NM Score:94	The 2020 Gazin, which contains no Cabernet Franc this year, has a wonderful bouquet of blackberry, raspberry, crushed stone and pressed iris petal scents, very focused and precise, that really whisks you down to Pomerol. The medium-bodied palate displays fine-grained tannins and a silver bead of acidity. Very sapid with a little more dryness on the finish than its peers, which gets the saliva flowing. Classic Pomerol through and through. -Neal Martin					
JS Score:96-97	This is really fantastic with so much intensity and focus. Firm, linear tannins frame the wine beautifully. Polished and fine. It's full-bodied, yet tight and posed. Complex flavors of blackberry, black olive, mushroom and bark. Persistent finish. Best of the trilogy? -James Suckling					
AG Score:	-Antonio Galloni					
WA Score:92-94	Deep purple-black colored, the 2020 Gazin rolls effortlessly out of the glass with upfront scents of baked black plums, stewed black cherries and mulberries, plus hints of spice cake, chocolate box and cracked black pepper. The medium to full-bodied palate has a solid backbone of firm, grainy tannins and plenty of freshness supporting the muscular black fruits, finishing savory. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

La Conseillante	96-98	98-99	94-97	97-99	\$288	
NM Score:96-98	The 2020 La Conseillante was picked September 14–17 for the Merlot and September 21–30 for the Cabernet Franc (eight picking days), the yields coming in at 37hl/ha, and matured in 70% new oak. Of the 13 parcels, four underwent vinification intégrale this year. Iridescent purple in color. The nose makes an immediate impression, delivering pure and quite precocious black currants and crushed iris flowers; subtle touches of morello cherries develop with aeration. It is beautifully defined and the oak seamlessly integrated. The palate is medium-bodied with succulent, ripe tannins that disguise the backbone of this exquisitely balanced Pomerol. A discreet crescendo leads to a pixelated finish of awe-inspiring persistency. The old "iron fist in a velvet glove" cliché rings true here. A deeply impressive and quite profound La Conseillante courtesy of Marielle Cazaux and her team. -Neal Martin					
JS Score:98-99	The balance and energy to this is very impressive with blackberry, black-olive, tar and walnut character. It's full, but very compact with superb tannin quality that is intense, yet so fine-grained, building layers on the palate. A subtle and structured young wine. It really goes on and on. -James Suckling					
AG Score:94-97	The 2020 La Conseillante is a supremely elegant, restrained wine that shows the continued move toward finesse here. Silky and gracious, it's wonderfully classy from start to finish. Lavender, mint, spice and mocha complement the purplish berry fruit nicely, all framed by bright saline and mineral notes that lend energy. Today, the 2020 is quite reserved, with less opulence than some previous vintages. It's the sort of wine that is shy in its youth and then explodes with years in bottle. Yields were just under 40 hectoliters per hectare, very much in line with years like 2016, for example. Harvest took place September 4–19 for the Merlot and 21–30 for the Franc, more or less in line with what has become the norm of late. As usual, the malos were done in steel. Aging is 70% new oak, 27% once-used barrels and 3% amphora. It's a brilliant effort from Technical Director Marielle Cazaux and her team. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score:97-99	The 2020 La Conseillante is a blend of 87% Merlot and 13% Cabernet Franc. Seventy percent of the wine is being aged in new French oak barriques, 27% in second-fill barrels and 3% in amphorae. The alcohol came in at 14% and the pH is 3.64. Deep purple-black colored, it sails gracefully out of the glass with vivacious notes of black raspberries, kirsch and redcurrant jelly, leading to suggestions of ripe, juicy blackberries, violets, star anise and iron ore with a faint waft of dried mint. The medium to full-bodied palate is an exercise in elegance, delivering a quiet intensity of pure, energetic red and black berry layers with gorgeous floral and mineral sparks, framed by perfectly ripe, finely pixelated tannins and seamless freshness, finishing with epic length and the most breathtaking perfume. Simply mind-blowing. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Lafleur Gazin	87-89	92-93	90-92		\$46	
NM Score:87-89	The Lafleur-Gazin has recently suggested that it can punch at a higher weight (see my recent note for the 2018 in bottle). However, I don't think the 2020 is in the same class. It presents a slightly herbaceous nose that's a little gawky at the moment, perhaps barrel maturation will knit this together. The palate is medium-bodied with chewy tannins, good acidity and plenty of earthy black fruit laced with subtle ash-like notes toward the finish. Not bad, but it cuts away too quick, as if it has something else on its mind. -Neal Martin					
JS Score:92-93	Such gorgeous aromas of blackberries, blueberries and crushed stones. Fresh flowers, too. Medium-bodied with fine tannins and a clean, round-textured finish. -James Suckling					
AG Score:90-92	The 2020 Lafleur-Gazin is a bruiser. Inky blackberry fruit, charcoal, game, licorice, spice and leather open first, followed by a blast of acid and tannin that states the wine's assertive personality. There is good depth and substance, even if the tannins remain pretty burly. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score:	-Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

La Fleur De Gay	89-91	93-94	87-90	91-93		
NM Score:89-91	The 2020 La Fleur de Gay has a lifted nose of raspberry and wild strawberry fruit, touches of marmalade and orange peel emerging with aeration, though it never quite coheres as much as I would like. The palate is medium-bodied with crunchy black fruit, a slightly chalky texture and a citrus element toward the slightly pinched finish, which at least has commendable delineation. Hopefully it will coalesce during its élevage. -Neal Martin					
JS Score:93-94	A young red with clarity and transparency. Blackberry and black-truffle character,. Some walnut, too. I like the spice character to this with firm tannins and a fresh finish. Shows energy and focus. -James Suckling					
AG Score:87-90	The 2019 La Fleur de Gay is soft and supple. The ripeness of the vintage comes through in the wine's racy, fruity personality. Jammy and dark-fruited, with notes of leather and spice, the 2019 is not especially complex or nuanced, but it offers a good deal of immediacy over the near-to-medium term. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score:91-93	The 2020 La Fleur de Gay sports a deep purple-black color and notes of wild blueberries, chocolate-covered cherries and mulberries, plus fragrant suggestions of candied violets, cinnamon toast and clove oil. The medium to full-bodied palate delivers mouth-coating black and blue fruits with loads of spicy accents and a soft, velvety texture, lifted by just enough freshness, finishing long and fragrant. Impressive! -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Nenin	92-94	97-98	92-94	94-96+	\$94	
NM Score:92-94	The 2020 Nénin now comes exclusively from the Pomerol plateau. It was picked September 8–16 for the Merlot and September 21–23 for the Cabernet Franc, and raised in 40% new oak. Whereas the Fugue de Nénin is open and expressive, clearly the Grand Vin cares little for showing its wares at this early stage, remaining tight-lipped for an hour before almost reluctantly opening with blackberry, thyme and gravelly scents, all well defined and focused. The palate is medium-bodied with sappy black fruit and a fine bead of acidity. The Cabernet Franc imparts welcome pepperiness toward the latter half – not a million miles away from Trotanoy. This trait turns more toward a pencil lead note with continued aeration. A serious Pomerol that deserves 5–7 years in the cellar, but has the substance to give 30 years of drinking pleasure. -Neal Martin					
JS Score:97-98	This is from only the old vines in the clay and gravel soils on the plateau. Really fantastic. It's medium-to full-bodied and the tannins just roll off the palate at the end. Dark fruit and spices. So long. One of the best modern wines from here? 68% merlot and 32% cabernet franc. -James Suckling					
AG Score:92-94	The 2020 Nénin impresses with its density and backbone. At the same time, the 2020 possesses terrific freshness. As always, Nénin has a high percentage of Cabernet Franc (32%). At times, the Merlot and Franc aren't so well put together in the early going, but that is not at all an issue in 2020. I especially admire the wine's focus and overall sense of vibrancy. A host of floral, savory and mineral notes linger on the salivating finish. There's plenty to look forward to here. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score:94-96+	A blend of 68% Merlot (harvested 8th to 16th September) and 32% Cabernet Franc (harvested 21st to 23rd September), the 2020 Nenin is aging in French oak barriques, 40% new. It has an alcohol of 14%, a pH of 3.65 and an IPT (tannin index) of 76. Deep purple-black in color, it glides effortlessly out of the glass with wonderfully pure notes of crushed blueberries, fresh blackberries and ripe red and black plums, plus suggestions of lavender, star anise and Ceylon tea with a waft of cast-iron pan. The medium-bodied palate is fantastically elegant and beautifully poised, featuring exquisitely ripe, fine-grained tannins and bold freshness to support the perfumed red and black fruit layers, finishing long and mineral laced. A real head-turner! -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Le Bon Pasteur	92-94	95-96	92-94	92-94		
NM Score:92-94	The 2020 Le Bon Pasteur, which as always is fermented in new oak barrels, is impressive on the nose, delivering mineral-driven black fruit, clean and precise, the new oak very neatly integrated. The palate is medium-bodied with crisp tannins and saline in the mouth, building nicely toward a finish that demonstrates a sense of symmetry and poise. This is a really fine Le Bon Pasteur that is maybe cut from a less hedonistic cloth than previous vintages. Excellent. -Neal Martin					
JS Score:95-96	Intense aromas and flavors of black and green olives to the purple fruit with some smoky barrel undertones. It's full and flavorful. Juicy finish. Chewy at the end. -James Suckling					
AG Score:92-94	The 2020 Le Bon Pasteur is impressive. In fact, the 2020 is one of the best vintages I have ever tasted. Rich and deep, with terrific verve, the 2020 is magnificent right out of the gate. Dark red/black cherry, mocha, cedar and espresso all meld together in the glass. The heavy, over extracted style of the past seems a distant memory, and that is a good thing, as the purity of the fruit here is positively striking. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score:92-94	Deep purple-black colored, the 2020 Bon Pasteur needs a little swirling to release bright, vibrant notes of crushed black and red plums, boysenberries and black raspberries, plus hints of menthol, cedar chest and fertile loam. Medium to full-bodied, the palate has a solid frame of grainy tannins and well-balanced acidity supporting the earth-laced, muscular black fruits, finishing on a lingering black pepper note. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Petit Village	91-93	97-98	92-94	93-95+	Sold Out
NM Score:91-93	Having been acquired by the Moulin family, the 2020 Petit Village has undergone a makeover with a spanking new label and wax seal. As for the wine itself, the nose is fragrant and pure, featuring dark cherries, boysenberry, hints of marmalade and light estuarine scents. The palate is medium-bodied with a structured opening. This feels quite firm and contains that charcoal trait that I remarked upon apropos of the 2018. Fresh and full of tension, the Cabernet component drives the finish, traces of dark chocolate lingering on the aftertaste. I think the tannins here just need a little more refinement, and maybe that will come during élevage. This shows an improvement over underperforming recent vintages, but give it another 3–4 years to see what this Pomerol is really capable of. -Neal Martin				
JS Score:97-98	Firm and linear tannins frame this young Bordeaux beautifully with blackberry, walnut and hazelnut character. Gorgeous center palate. It's racy and refined. Creamy-textured tannins with length. Really pure and focused. Very transparent. Finesse. Best ever? 60% merlot, 32% cabernet franc and 8% cabernet sauvignon. -James Suckling				
AG Score:92-94	The 2020 Petit-Village is a gorgeous wine. In fact, it is one of the best wines I have tasted here. Inky, aromatically expressive and beautifully layered in the glass, the 2020 is compelling right out of the gate. The 2020 boasts superb energy, tension and class. Could this be a turning point for the estate? We will see. For now, the 2020 is certainly compelling. The 2020 represents about 50% of the estate's production as opposed to two-thirds, which was more the norm when Petit-Village was part of AXA. -Antonio Galloni				
WA Score:93-95+	Composed of 60% Merlot and 40% Cabernet Franc, the opaque purple-black colored 2020 Petit Village storms out of the glass with powerful scents of blackberry preserves, plum pudding and blueberry pie, plus hints of mocha, molten licorice, dried mint, sassafras and violets with a hint of vanilla pod. The medium to full-bodied palate delivers mouth-coating black fruit preserves with loads of spicy and floral accents, supported by plush tannins and just enough freshness, finishing on a lingering minty note. Impressive! -Lisa Perrotti-Brown				

De Sales	84-86	93-94	88-90	\$33
NM Score:84-86	The 2020 Château de Sales has a little greenness on the nose, but it's fresh with attractive black currant fruit. You'd just think it came from a much cooler growing season. The medium-bodied palate offers dry tannins, touches of leathery black fruit and a slightly bitter finish. Hopefully this will gain more cohesion during barrel aging. -Neal Martin			
JS Score:93-94	A lovely, creamy wine with blackberry, cherry and some chocolate. Medium to full body. Ripe tannins. So pretty. One of the best ever? -James Suckling			
AG Score:	-Antonio Galloni			
WA Score:88-90	Medium to deep garnet-purple colored, the 2020 De Sales opens with bright, cheery scents of Morello cherries, black raspberries and redcurrant jelly, plus suggestions of lavender, wild sage and Sichuan pepper. The medium-bodied palate is laden with crunchy red fruit with herbal accents and a lively line of freshness, finishing chewy and herbal laced. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown			

SAUTERNES / BARSAC	NM	JS	AG	WA	PRICE	QUANTITY REQUIRED
Coutet	92-94	91-92	92-94		\$52	
NM Score:92-94	<p>Aline Baly kindly furnished me with background information on the 2020 Coutet. "The first sorting occurred on September 16 and 17 to harvest the botrytis resulting from the thunderstorms of August 15," she told me. "The second and third passage were organized quickly, as the climatic conditions were becoming unfavorable. The teams were ready to harvest within the hour, as soon as a weather window emerged. This second phase of harvest finally took place on September 23 before a thunderstorm that resulted in a cumulative rainfall of 38mm. Then the harvest continued September 29 and 30 before 77mm of precipitation. A new passage was initiated, initially, on October 8 and 9, but 140mm of rain accumulated since the first sort strongly impacted concentration levels, encouraging us to be patient until October 12. We resumed the harvest under normal conditions until October 22 but with a very capricious forecast. A fifth and sixth sort followed one another, and the harvest ended on October 26." Coutet has a very perfumed and more floral bouquet compared to, say, the de Fargues that happens to precede it, aromas of dandelion and apricot mingling with saffron and light chamomile. The palate is well balanced, very pure and lightly spiced, displaying a tang of marmalade and quince toward a finish that is marked by Coutet's trademark acidic bite. Quintessentially Coutet, this should give 25–30 years of drinking pleasure.</p> <p>-Neal Martin</p>					
JS Score: 91-92	<p>Lots of honey, dried apples and lemons with some spices. Medium-to full-bodied, attractive phenolic texture and almond, dried-apple and lemon character at the end.</p> <p>-James Suckling</p>					
AG Score:92-94	<p>The 2020 Coutet is wonderfully dense and creamy from start to finish. Dried pear, marzipan, white flowers, mint and tangerine oil build in this super-expressive, deep Barsac. The 2020 has so much to offer.</p> <p>-Antonio Galloni</p>					
WA Score:	<p>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</p>					

Climens						
NM Score:	-Neal Martin					
JS Score:	-James Suckling					
AG Score:	-Antonio Galloni					
WA Score:	-Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

L'Extravagant Doisy Daene (375ml)	96-98					
NM Score:96-98	<p>The 2020 L'Extravagant de Doisy-Daëne has a very well-defined nose, one that is perhaps more restrained than other vintages at this stage. But it is wondrously pure, offering detailed yellow plum, quince and white flower scents. The palate, however, is where all the action is. It delivers a payload of honeyed fruit mixed with quince, peach and a touch of crème caramel. Displaying fabulous length and precision, this is a stunning Barsac.</p> <p>-Neal Martin</p>					
JS Score:	-James Suckling					
AG Score:	-Antonio Galloni					
WA Score:	-Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Doisy Daene	95-97		94-96		\$46	
NM Score:95-97	The 2020 Doisy-Daëne, pure Sémillon this year picked at 16hl/ha over three to six tries through the vineyard, presents a well-defined nose that, compared side-by-side with Doisy-Védrines, is actually quite similar in terms of the dried honey, honeysuckle, candle wax and quince aromas that unfurl from the glass. The palate is beautifully balanced with a fine bead of acidity, and such purity on the finish that it endows this Barsac with wonderful weightlessness. Magnificent. -Neal Martin					
JS Score:	-James Suckling					
AG Score:94-96	The 2020 Doisy-Daëne is rich, creamy and wonderfully expressive. Lemon confit, marzipan, coconut, dried flowers, apricot and tangerine are some of the notes that build in the glass. All the elements meld together gracefully. Beautifully layered and sensual from start to finish. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score:	-Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Guiraud	91-93	94-95	93-95		\$59	
NM Score:91-93	The 2020 Guiraud, picked at 8.32hl/ha and matured in 90% new oak, has a lifted nose, not as intense as some of the other 2020 Sauternes that I tasted, but well defined, offering scents of honeysuckle, quince and touches of peach. The palate is smooth on the entry and very harmonious. Not a deep or powerful Guiraud but focused and tensile. Élevage will add some needed weight and girth. -Neal Martin					
JS Score:94-95	Spicy and intense with dried-apple, peach and some stone character. It's medium-bodied and sweet, yet fresh and vivid. -James Suckling					
AG Score:93-95	The 2020 Guiraud is fabulous. Usually a more opulent wine, the 2020 impresses with its translucent personality. Orange confit, apricot preserves, chamomile and dried flowers all develop in the glass. I very much like the energy here. A classy, impressive wine. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score:	-Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Suduiraut	94-96	97-98	94-97	93-95		
NM Score:94-96	The 2020 Suduiraut is 100% Sémillon this year, picked at 8.5hl/ha via four tries through the vineyard from September 16 all the way through to November 5. It has a ripe nose of dried honey, orange blossom and mango scents, plus touches of beeswax and almond. The palate is thick and viscous on the entry, then dense and powerful, with light spicy notes toward the finish. A grandiose Sauternes, very persistent, revealing a hint of white pepper on the aftertaste. Tasted from test tube sample and 75cl bottle, the latter far superior and, I would wager, much more representative. -Neal Martin					
JS Score:97-98	A Sauternes with tart tartine, cooked apple and caramel. It's full-bodied, juicy and sweet, yet there's lots of caramel and spice, too, such as cloves. Comes across almost dry. But lots of sweetness. Pure semillon. Unique. Tiny production. -James Suckling					
AG Score:94-97	The 2020 Suduiraut is a powerful, heady wine. Embryonic today, it possesses tremendous depth and intensity from start to finish. Dried pear, chamomile, mint and dried flowers gradually emerge, but the 2020 is going to need quite a bit of time to fully come together. Even so, its potential is evident. A superb Sauternes in the making. -Antonio Galloni					
WA Score:93-95	Made from 100% Semillon, the 2020 Suduiraut is being aged for 16 to 20 months in French oak barrels, 50% new. It has 14% alcohol and 137 grams per liter of residual sugar. Pale to medium lemon-gold in color, aromas of pineapple upside-down cake, green mango and peach preserves tumble effortlessly out of the glass, followed by hints of honeycomb, preserved ginger and allspice. The palate is rich and decadent, delivering a seductively oily texture and just enough freshness to lift the long, spicy finish. -Lisa Perrotti-Brown					

Rieussec				92-94			
NM Score:	-Neal Martin						
JS Score:	-James Suckling						
AG Score:92-94	The 2020 Rieussec emerges from a very challenging year marked by an early harvest and just one small window in September with the requisite amount of botrytis in the field. Lemon confit, marzipan, tangerine oil and white flowers are all beautifully woven together in a mid-weight, gracious Rieussec that is all class. Residual sugar is 120 grams per liter, but is not especially evident. Production will be around 10,000 bottles, in other words, a fraction of what is typical here. -Antonio Galloni						
WA Score:	-Lisa Perrotti-Brown						

Raymond Lafon		91-93		92-94			
NM Score:91-93	The 2020 Raymond Lafon doesn't quite deliver the same cohesion on the nose as its peers, though it meliorates with aeration, delivering dried mango, honeycomb, hints of toffee apple and quince. The palate is more viscous than its peers and equipped with pure honeyed fruit that practically sticks to the inside of your mouth. There is something almost Aszú-like toward the finish. A very well crafted Sauternes that will age with style. -Neal Martin						
JS Score:	-James Suckling						
AG Score:92-94	The 2020 Raymond-Lafon is a very pretty Sauternes laced with apricot, tangerine oil, yellow flowers and passionfruit. The gracious, airy style is quite appealing. Midweight and understated, yet also wonderfully persistent, this is absolutely impeccable and classy to the core. -Antonio Galloni						
WA Score:	-Lisa Perrotti-Brown						

Carmes De Rieussec							
NM Score:	-Neal Martin						
JS Score:	-James Suckling						
AG Score:	-Antonio Galloni						
WA Score:	-Lisa Perrotti-Brown						

La Tour Blanche	92-94	93-94	93-95		
NM Score:92-94	The 2020 La Tour Blanche, which apparently was picked at a whopping 1.80hl/ha (no, that's not missing a zero) has a more backward bouquet than other 2020 Sauternes, atypical of an estate that usually comes out with all guns blazing even at this early stage. The palate is more expressive, featuring lemon sherbet, dried honey and saffron notes, and nicely balanced, with what feels like less residual sugar on the finish compared to recent vintages. Fine. <i>-Neal Martin</i>				
JS Score:	Full-bodied and layered with solid phenolic texture, sweetness and intensity. Dried fruit, such as pineapple. Flavorful finish. <i>-James Suckling</i>				
AG Score:93-95	The 2020 La Tour Blanche is gorgeous. Apricot, dried flowers, mint, chamomile, tangerine and coconut flesh out in the glass. Creamy, resonant and super-expressive, this is an absolute delight in 2020. All the elements are nicely balanced, and pretty floral accents on the finish make it impossible to resist a second taste. <i>-Antonio Galloni</i>				
WA Score:	<i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i>				

Lafaurie Peyraguey	93-95	96-97	94-97		
NM Score: 93-95	The 2020 Lafaurie-Peyraguey, picked at 7hl/ha and matured in one-third new oak, has a very perfumed, quite floral bouquet of yellow flowers fusing with the honey, orange pith and white peach scents. The palate is beautifully balanced with a viscous texture, hints of stem ginger joining the chorus line of tangerine, marmalade and quince notes, and harmonious on the finish. This is lovely Sauternes in the making. Tasted four times. <i>-Neal Martin</i>				
JS Score:96-97	This is a dense, layered Sauternes for the vintage, with lots of dried apple, peach and orange, as well as spicy undertones from the botrytis. It's full-bodied and flavorful. Serious for the vintage. <i>-James Suckling</i>				
AG Score: 94-97	The 2020 Lafaurie-Peyraguey is one of the most exotic, alluring wines of the year. Tropical fruit, crème brûlée, apricot, tangerine preserves and white flowers are all beautifully lifted. Deep and layered, but not at all heavy, the 2020 impresses with its exquisite balance and totally seductive personality. It is the sort of wine that is hard to move on from in a tasting. Memorable. <i>-Antonio Galloni</i>				
WA Score:	<i>-Lisa Perrotti-Brown</i>				

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 2023 Minimum order of 6 bottles.

* Orders are subject to reconfirmation.