

WINE CULTURE

891 Bukit Timah Rd, Singapore 589638

Tel: 6463 3888 HP: 8126 4933

BORDEAUX EN PRIMEUR 2023

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

VINTAGE 2023 REPORT

Bordeaux's 2023 vintage is a fascinating paradox. While the year was one of the warmest in recorded history, it wasn't very sunny—in contrast with recent warm vintages such as 2022, 2020, 2019 and 2018. Between May and September, the growing season was dry; yet 2023 was also defined agronomically, as it was in the media, by periods of intense rainfall. And if recent warm growing seasons have tended to begin early and finish early, though 2023 may have begun with an early budbreak, the time between flowering and harvest was entirely classic, permitting leisurely hang time.

The young wines, tasted from cask, reflect this paradox, possessing—at their best—the depth, density and ripe tannin of a sunny vintage but also the vibrant, expressive aromas and flavors of a more traditionally “Atlantic” season. The best 2023s are just as exciting as the best 2022s, even if the vintage is more varied in quality and style; yet the final paradox is that, due to a cool global economy and two consecutive lukewarm en primeur campaigns, the 2023s may be released at prices as interesting as any we have seen since 2019.

From August 16, Bordeaux experienced a heat wave that entirely changed the profile of the vintage. In recent years, excess temperatures and intense sunlight have been challenges to be mitigated; but in 2023, for once, they were a boon to be seized, delivering mid-palate plenitude and potential for full phenolic maturity that would otherwise have been unattainable.

William Kelly, Robertparker.com

So far, I have tasted more than 900 barrel samples of 2023 Bordeaux with my team over the last 10 days in the region, and the best reds show balance and freshness with deep center palates of ripe fruit and a complement of polished tannins. In many ways, I like them better than many of the highly touted 2022s because they are so Bordeaux in their nature with their tensioned mouthfeels and energetic finishes. Many 2022s are very powerful and rich, highlighting the extremely hot and dry grape-growing conditions of the vintage. Some are almost international in their essence.

Tasting hundreds of young wines highlights that the vintage was not an across-the-board home run for all appellations or wineries. Smaller wine estates in lesser-known regions seemed to struggle to make really outstanding wines, but they are just a small step down in quality compared with 2022 due to less density of fruit and structure as well as length. Top terroirs and top winemakers delivered terrific-quality wines, but they are different than 2022. I would compare these 2023s to 2019 or 2001 – even 1990 – for their freshness and balance of ripe fruit. Dry whites are excellent quality in 2023 and perhaps better than 2022 in many instances but I have not evaluated some star whites, such as Haut-Brion and La Mission. Sauternes and Barsac appear to have made outstanding sweet wines again.

To my taste, some of the 2023 reds have remarkable structure because of their lower alcohols – up to one degree alcohol less than 2022 – and vibrant acidities. Some of my favorite wines, so far, have pHs of 3.5 or even less, making them some of the brightest and liveliest red Bordeaux I have tasted in years. Names like Canon, Pavie and Pavie-Macquin take structure and intensity to another level thanks to their limestone-rich terroirs. Pavie is clearly making a shift in style.

I think a few vintages of the past and present compare to 2023, such as 2019 or 2016 and something older like 2001 or 1996 or 1995. They all had ripe, balanced fruit and firm tannins with slightly lower alcohol and lower pH (strength of acidity) compared with hotter years. But 2023 is different not only because of its special growing season but also the advancements in viticulture and winemaking over the last decade. The top Bordeaux viticulturalist and winemakers are much more precise and thoughtful than in the past.

James Suckling, Jamessuckling.com

The 2023 vintage swerved from one episode to another as if Mother Nature was making it up as she went along. There was rain, mildew pressure, cool inclement spells and a sudden heatwave that dovetailed into a second summer. The year kicked off in January with wintry spells that extended into the next month. Early bud break was due to a combination of high sunlight hours in February (168 hours compared to a 1981-2010 average of 115) and a particularly warm March that reached over 16°C, a hallmark of several recent vintages. Vines switched on their ignitions early to winemakers' consternation and were left on tenterhooks until midMay, fearing a spring frost.

June is earning a reputation as a 'wet' month. It saw an average of 83mm of rain: a series of thunderstorms barreled their way across the region and created perfect conditions for one of the year's headlines - mildew. Undeniably, there was variation. The intensity of mildew pressure varied according to dryness per micro-climate, amount of rainfall/humidity and soil type (compacted soil potentially leading to more surface water and increased humidity), type of rootstock and vine age.

Compared to 2022's temperatures of 23.4°C and 24.1°C in July and August, as previously mentioned, vines did not have to cope with torrid heat. However, it came after a period of inclement weather. So, unlike in 2022, when vines could acclimatize, in 2023, two heat waves from August 18 to 24 and September 3 to 10 (the dates vary slightly between winemakers!) came as a jolt, especially for younger vines as temperatures soared to 38°C. Consequently, despite average lower temperatures, vines could still shut down, and I feel that it was more prevalent than some winemakers admit. July was dry with 22mm of rain, which is above last year's paltry figure of 3mm, but importantly, it was unseasonably cloudy with fewer sunlight hours (230) than average. August's rainfall was just below the mean.

Average temperatures in September were a balmy 21.3°C, way above the tenyear average of 18.5°C.

It's a healthy crop rather than a bumper. Official figures for AC Bordeaux show that the harvest was 3.84 million liters, which is 13% above 2022, though, within the context of the last decade, it is the third 'small' vintage in a row.

Generally, the 2023s are relatively more tannic than we've become accustomed to, more linear and vertical, though endowed with greater fruit concentration than the 2021s. That appeals to my predilection. The best wines embrace these traits while maintaining sufficient fruit and grip.

- Neal Martin, Vinous.com

ST ESTEPHE	WA	JS	V	WS	PRICE
Montrose	97-100	99-100	96-98		\$206
Wines Advocate	The 2023 Montrose is another brilliant wine from an estate that's now routinely among Bordeaux's very best, year in, year out. A blend of 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 21% Merlot and 4% Cabernet Sauvignon, derived exclusively from the estate's historic core on the fourth terrace situated just in front of the château itself, it unwinds in the glass with aromas of cassis and wild berries mingled with notions of lilac, violet and pencil shavings. Full-bodied, deep and layered, with a textural attack that segues into a dense, multidimensional mid-palate framed by beautifully ripe tannins and lively acids, it concludes with a long, resonant finish. It will be worth a special effort to seek out.				
Score: 97-100					
James Suckling	Wow. This is the essence of Montrose, with blackberry, blackcurrant, crushed stone and earth. I have not tasted a Montrose like this in 42 years of my career. It has a much more vertical nature to it, with layered tannins that go very deep and long, The muscular structure and intensity is something else. This is a new era for Montrose. It is now made from only 45 hectares of vineyards right in front of the chateau, instead of about 60 before. 75% cabernet sauvignon, 21% merlot and 4% cabernet franc.				
Score: 99-100					
Vinous	The 2023 Montrose is focused on the original terroir of the estate, known as Terrace 4, located in front of the river. It comprises 45 hectares, around 12 to 15 hectares less than previous vintages so as to capture the expression of Montrose classified in 1855. Picked from September 5 to 28 and matured in 60% new oak, this has a very intense and focused bouquet: pure black fruit with just a touch of strawberry, hints of violet petals developing in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with fine-boned tannins—very pure, with pitch-perfect acidity. This gains depth toward the finish but maintains a sense of linearity that ensures it is one of the vintage's finest contributions from the Left Bank. Magnificent.				
Score: 96-98					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

La Dame de Montrose	91-93	94-95	92-94		\$42
Wines Advocate	Another strong performance from this bottling, which dependably numbers among Bordeaux's top three or four second wines, the 2023 La Dame de Montrose reveals aromas of cassis, pencil shavings and licorice, followed by a medium to full-bodied, deep and dense palate that's polished, pure and layered, with sweet tannins, lively acids and a saline finish. It's a blend of 61% Merlot, 32% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Petit Verdot and 2% Cabernet Franc.				
Score: 91-93					
James Suckling	The blackberries and blackcurrants show through beautifully, together with very integrated tannins. Dense and textured. Transparent. Graphite coming through. Second wine of Montrose. 61% merlot, 32% cabernet sauvignon, 5% petit verdot and 2% cabernet franc.				
Score: 94-95					
Vinous	The 2023 La Dame de Montrose is a rich, heady wine. Succulent dark cherry, plum, new leather, spice, menthol, licorice and mocha are beautifully amplified. Explosive to the core, the 2023 possesses tons of aromatic intensity and pure volume. This showy, Merlot-based Dame is quite alluring.				
Score: 92-94					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Calon Segur	94-96	96-97	94-96		\$134
Wines Advocate	The 2023 Calon-Ségur is another en primeur success for this resurgent Saint-Estèphe third growth. Wafting from the glass with aromas of cassis, pencil shavings, wild berries and plums, it's medium to full-bodied, cool and layered, with a deep and integrated core, terrific concentration, lively acids and refined structuring tannins, concluding with a long, penetrating finish. It's a blend of 72% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot, 12% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot that checks in at 14% alcohol				
Score: 94-96					
James Suckling	Blackcurrant, blueberry, cedar, pine needle and black truffle here. I don't think much about the nose with barrel samples, but this is splendid. It's medium-bodied with very fresh acidity and fine, linear tannins that are long and lively. Energy here. Refined. Salty character at the last minute. I may like this better than 2022. A blend of 72% cabernet sauvignon, 15% merlot, 12% cabernet franc and 1% petit verdot.				
Score: 96-97					
Vinous	The 2023 Calon Ségur is a wine for readers who can be patient. In many recent years, Calon Ségur has been quite showy, but this is not one of them. Bold acids and huge tannins dominate at this stage. Bright red-toned fruit is a signature, but the 2023 is a powerful, young Calon Ségur that will clearly need time to come together. Bright acids extend the finish beautifully.				
Score: 94-96					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Le Marquis de Calon Segur	91-93	93-94	90-92		\$33
Wines Advocate	The 2023 Le Marquis de Calon-Ségur is a blend of 50% Merlot and 48% Cabernet Sauvignon with the balance Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot, incorporating the estate's finest Merlot plots that generally go into the grand vin but which didn't match with Calon's best Cabernet Sauvignon lots this year. Offering up aromas of cassis, plums, burning embers and spices, framed by a deft touch of new oak, it's medium to full-bodied, deep and structured, with impressive density and muscle, built for the cellar.				
Score: 91-93					
James Suckling	This has a lot of length for a second wine, showing muscular and very fine tannins that are integrated and intense. Medium-bodied, with blackcurrant and crushed-stone aromas. It's so long and focused. 50% merlot, 48% cabernet sauvignon, 1% cabernet franc and 1% petit verdot.				
Score: 93-94					
Vinous	The 2023 Le Marquis de Calon Ségur represents 48% of the château's volume, sourced old Merlot vines that don't enter the Grand Vin, plus young Cabernets. It has a composed bouquet with raspberry, blackberry, cedar and light tertiary scents. I appreciate the Saint-Estèphe DNA in its aromatics. The palate is medium-bodied with pliant tannins and fresh acidity, more complexity than the Capbern that precedes its more substance on the finish. This is a very commendable second wine.				
Score: 90-92					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Cos D'Estournel	95-96	98-99	96-98		\$196
Wines Advocate	A contemporary classic in the making, the 2023 Cos d'Estournel has turned out beautifully, reflecting a lighter touch with extraction that has delivered more sensuality and harmony without the loss of any of the estate's signature power and authority. Wafting from the glass with deep aromas of cassis, wild berries, orange zest and exotic spices, framed by well-integrated new wood, it's medium to full-bodied, deep and layered, with a concentrated core of fruit, beautifully suave tannins and a cool, seamless profile. It's a blend of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 33% Merlot and the balance Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot that attained 12.9% alcohol and is being matured in 50% new oak.				
Score: 95-96					
James Suckling	The finesse is pretty phenomenal here, with such complexity of fruit and vivid, bright flowers. Lavender and rose. Seductive. Ever-so long and precise. Lead pencil and graphite. Reminiscent of old, great Cos, such as 1955 or 1982, but with so much more form and modernity. A renaissance of Cos. 65% cabernet sauvignon, 33% merlot, 1% cabernet franc and 1% petit verdot.				
Score: 98-99					
Vinous	The 2023 Cos d'Estournel is fabulous. Dark, resonant and inviting, the 2023 has so much to offer. All the elements are beautifully woven together. Black cherry, plum, licorice, espresso, mocha and incense fill out the layers. Readers will find a Cos endowed with tremendous substance and intensity. I can't remember a young Cos with this much fruit concentration, yet there is nothing overdone here. I loved it.				
Score: 96-98					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Les Pagodes de Cos	91-93	93-94	92-94		\$54
Wines Advocate	The 2023 Les Pagodes de Cos has turned out beautifully, offering up aromas of cassis, orange zest, vine smoke and incense, followed by a medium to full-bodied, fleshy and polished palate with a deep core of fruit, supple tannins and a lively, mouthwatering finish. It's a blend of 51% Cabernet Sauvignon, 45% Merlot and the balance Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot.				
Score: 91-93					
James Suckling	The polished and creamy texture here is extremely attractive, with blueberry, blackcurrant and crushed-stone aromas and flavors. It's medium-bodied with linear tannins, showing polish and finesse. Creamy mouth-feel. Second wine of Cos. 12.9% alcohol. 51% cabernet sauvignon, 45% merlot, 2% cabernet franc and 2% petit verdot.				
Score: 93-94					
Vinous	The 2023 Les Pagodes de Cos makes a strong statement out of the gate. A blast of intense dark fruit, leather, spice, menthol, game, licorice, dried herbs and chocolate infuses the palate with remarkable textural intensity. Ample and resonant in the glass, with fabulous balance, Les Pagodes is exceptionally fine in 2023. The long, sustained finish is a thing of beauty.				
Score: 92-94					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Ormes De Pez	90-91	93-94	91-93		\$28.50
Wines Advocate	Aromas of dark berries, cassis and creamy new oak introduce the 2023 Ormes de Pez, a medium-bodied, rich and creamy wine with a lively core of fruit and sweet structuring tannins. At 55%, Merlot dominates the blend.				
Score: 90-91					
James Suckling	A spicy and juicy red with a tight center-palate, medium body, creamy tannins and a savory finish. Vivid and focused. Shows finesse.				
Score: 93-94					
Vinous	The 2023 Ormes de Pez was picked from September 19. This was tasted two or three times. I must confess, I was not taken by the bottle poured at Lynch Bages, which felt high-toned and a bit blowsy. However, the last bottle tasted at the UGC was far better: a more classically-hewn nose with tertiary notes of tar and graphite infusing the black fruit. Quintessential Saint-Estèphe. The palate is medium-bodied with grainy tannins and well balanced with gentle grip. The new oak (45%) is well integrated. Suffice it to say, this is much more promising.				
Score: 91-93					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

De Pez	91-93	93-94	90-92		\$40
Wines Advocate	The 2023 de Pez confirms the progress taking place at this address. As readers may remember, this estate has now been fully restructured and serves as something of a research and development laboratory for its sibling, Pichon Lalande, and director Nicolas Glumineau and his team have been working to bring more precision and purity to the wine. Offering up aromas of cassis, violets and pencil shavings, framed by nicely integrated new oak, it's medium to full-bodied, polished and suave, with a layered core of sweet, vibrant fruit framed by ripe, powdery tannins.				
Score: 91-93					
James Suckling	A beautiful Pez with a solid core of fruit and creamy, refined tannins. It's complex with plenty of blackcurrant, graphite, lead-pencil and nutmeg flavors. Linear and polished texture. Very precise and defined. Better than 2022.				
Score: 93-94					
Vinous	The 2023 Château de Pez has a refined bouquet that demands some coaxing from the glass. It shyly reveals black brambly fruit, a hint of melted tar and black tea, very pure in style as it gradually finds its voice. The palate is medium-bodied with quite firm tannins and good backbone. Fresh, with admirable salinity, it just needs a little more cohesion on the finish (though a second bottle at Pichon Lalande showed exactly that). This is a very fine Saint Estèphe.				
Score: 90-92					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Lafon Rochet	91-93	93-94	93-95		\$47
Wines Advocate	Generous and layered, the 2023 Lafon-Rochet offers up aromas of blackberries, cassis, incense and burning embers, followed by a medium to full-bodied, rich and enveloping palate that's gourmand and charming, concluding with a gently minty finish. Like the 2023, this represents a richer, more demonstrative style for this Saint-Estèphe property, where Christophe Congé and his team are rehabilitating the vineyards.				
Score: 91-93					
James Suckling	This is very St.-Estèphe, with blackcurrant, lead pencil, graphite and crushed stone. Medium-bodied, linear and structured. Excellent finish. 64% cabernet sauvignon, 29% merlot, 4% petit verdot and 3% cabernet franc. 13.35% alcohol. 3.75 pH.				
Score: 93-94					
Vinous	The 2023 Lafon-Rochet is a promising wine. Today, it shows terrific depth, driven by an elevated presence of Cabernet Sauvignon and a healthy dollop of Petit Verdot. Dark blue-toned fruit, lavender, licorice and dried herbs show tons of character. There's plenty of Lafon-Rochet finesse, but with an added kick of textural richness not found in the wines made during the Tesseron era. This comes together beautifully with a bit of time in the glass.				
Score: 93-95					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Phelan Segur	91-93	96-97	92-94		\$54
Wines Advocate	A blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 38% Merlot and 2% Petit Verdot, the 2023 Phélan Ségur offers up aromas of cassis, dark berries, licorice and toasty new oak, followed by a medium to full-bodied, deep and nicely concentrated palate with plenty of powdery structuring tannin and good length on the finish. It's a strong effort.				
Score: 91-93					
James Suckling	The polish and intensity of this wine is beautiful for the vintage, with blackcurrant, lead pencil and light chocolate character. It's medium- to full-bodied with well-integrated fruit and tannins, and a long finish. Velvet texture. Excellent potential. Fermented from selected yeast from the various parcels. 58% cabernet sauvignon, 39% merlot, 1.5% petit verdot, and 1.5% cabernet franc. Let's see which is better in the end, 2022 or 2023.				
Score: 96-97					
Vinous	The 2023 Phélan Ségur is a powerful, brooding wine. Black cherry, plum, gravel, incense, licorice, dried herbs, lavender and mocha infuse the 2023 with striking complexity. Persistent saline notes lend energy, dimension and shape. The Cabernet Sauvignon really screams with intensity here. Tasted two times.				
Score: 92-94					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Lilian Ladouys	91-93	92-93	91-93		
Wines Advocate	After four Merlot-dominant vintages, the 2023 Lilian Ladouys, with 57% Cabernet Sauvignon, reflects what will be the new norm for this estate as restructured parcels return to production. Offering up aromas of dark berries, lilac and licorice, it's medium-bodied, fleshy and suave, with a charming, supple profile and attractive purity and precision. Some 20% of the blend is maturing in larger 400-liter barrels.				
Score: 91-93					
James Suckling	A crunchy wine with blackcurrant, blueberry and crushed-stone aromas and flavors. Medium-bodied, creamy and polished. 57% cabernet sauvignon, 37% merlot, 5% petit verdot and 1% cabernet franc.				
Score: 92-93					
Vinous	The 2023 Lilian Ladouys is gorgeous. Bright, fruity and vibrant, the 2023 impresses with the purity of its fruit. A burst of dark red/purplish berry fruit, lavender, spice, mint and rose petal gives the 2023 a wonderful sense of sheer appeal. Over the last few years, Lilian Ladouys has been on the rise. Aging 20% of the wine in 400-liter barrels is an approach that works so well here.				
Score: 91-93					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Capbern	91-93	93-94	89-91		\$28
Wines Advocate	A serious, brooding wine, the 2023 Capbern offers up aromas of cassis and dark berries mingled with licorice and spices. Medium to full-bodied, fleshy and layered, with good depth and concentration, it's built around lively acids and powdery tannins. It's a blend of 69% Cabernet Sauvignon (an unusually high proportion for Capbern) and 29% Merlot with the balance Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot.				
Score: 91-93					
James Suckling	There is clarity and freshness to this, with crunchy dark fruit, cedar and blackberry. It's medium-bodied, racy and fine. Lead pencil at the end. More precise than 2022. 69% cabernet sauvignon, 29% merlot, 1% cabernet franc and 1% petit verdot.				
Score: 93-94					
Vinous	The 2023 Capbern was picked from September 6 to 20 at 45hL/ha, matured in 60% new oak. Alcohol is stated at 14.6%. It has a ripe, plush bouquet with brambly red fruit, raspberry cont and just a hint of orange rind coming through with aeration. The palate is well-balanced and cohesive, with slightly powdery tannins, gentle grip and a touch of warmth on the spice box-tinged finish. The acidity (pH is 3.7) keeps this on an even keel, but I would be inclined to drink it after two or three years.				
Score: 89-91					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

PAUILLAC	WA	JS	V	WS	PRICE
Mouton Rothschild	94-96	98-99	96-99		\$584
Wines Advocate	Aromas of crème de cassis and dark berries mingled with pencil shaving, espresso roast and violets introduce the 2023 Mouton Rothschild, a medium to full-bodied, layered and fleshy wine with a creamy core of ripe but lively fruit, sweet tannins and an expansive finish. In terms of parcels, the 2023 is quite different in origins from the 2022, favoring plots that are better-drained rather than those resistant to drought. It's a blend of 93% Cabernet Sauvignon and 7% Merlot, without either Cabernet Franc or Petit Verdot featuring in the blend, and it attained 13.3% alcohol.				
Score: 94-96					
James Suckling	This is the most structured Mouton since the great 2016, with tannins that start slowly and then take off. It's muscular and toned. It's full-bodied but doesn't come across too heavy. It builds up in intensity and goes on and on and on. It just keeps expanding. I took a double take here. 93% cabernet sauvignon and 7% merlot.				
Score: 98-99					
Vinous	The 2023 Mouton Rothschild is shaping up to be one of the best wines of the vintage on the Left Bank. Its balance of intense, super-concentrated fruit and equally imposing structure is spellbinding. Dark red-toned fruit, blood orange, spice, pencil shavings and dried herbs gain intensity in the glass. I especially admire its vertical build and overall energy. This is an exciting young Mouton endowed with palpable dynamic energy. It's a superb effort from the team led by Technical Director Jean-Emmanuel Danjoy.				
Score: 96-99					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Le Petit Mouton	91-93	95-96	93-95		\$236
Wines Advocate	Aromas of dark berries, cassis and cigar wrapper introduce the 2023 Le Petit Mouton, a medium-bodied, fleshy wine with good depth and density, its lively core of fruit framed by sweet, powdery tannins, concluding with a penetrating finish. It's a blend of 79% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot.				
Score: 91-93					
James Suckling	This is a tighter and more compact Petit Mouton with a full-bodied, compact palate that is framed nicely by the tannins. Savory and juicy. Structured. Contained. 79% cabernet sauvignon, 12% merlot, 7% cabernet franc and 2% petit verdot. Better than 2022?				
Score: 95-96					
Vinous	The 2023 Le Petit-Mouton is fabulous. It could easy be a Grand Vin at another address. Rich, ample and beautifully resonant in the glass, the 2023 impresses with its notable palate presence. Dark red cherry, pomegranate, cinnamon, rose petal and new leather are some of the many notes that build. The 2023 is seriously impressive. Wow!				
Score: 93-95					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Lafite Rothschild	97-99	97-98	95-98		\$706
Wines Advocate	The finest of the first growths this year appears to be the 2023 Lafite Rothschild, a terrific effort that unwinds in the glass with deep and incipiently complex aromas of cassis, pencil shavings, lilac and violets mingled with hints of cigar wrapper and mint. Medium to full-bodied, layered and concentrated, it's vibrant and refined, with a deep core of fruit, plenty of sweet structuring tannin and a compelling marriage between energy and plenitude. It's a blend of 93% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Merlot and 1% Petit Verdot that reminds me of 2019's tannins combined with 2016's unimpeachable classicism.				
Score: 97-99					
James Suckling	The purity of cabernet sauvignon is so evident here. It mesmerizes you with aromas of black and red currants, cedar, tobacco and bark. It's full-bodied yet there's very impressive weightlessness and agility, as well as subtlety and focus. Some iron and terra-cotta. Cedar and sandalwood undertones. Juicy and plummy at the end. 12.9% alcohol. 3.75 pH. A blend of 60% cabernet sauvignon and 40% merlot.				
Score: 97-98					
Vinous	The 2023 Lafite-Rothschild races out of the glass with notable textural intensity. Explosive and deep, with striking balance, Lafite dazzles in this vintage. The 2023 is a somber, virile Lafite endowed with remarkable depth and tons of sheer character. Plum, blackberry, gravel, pencil shavings, graphite, mocha and lavender build into the intense, palate-staining finish. The blend is 93% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Merlot and 1% Petit Verdot.				
Score: 95-98					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Carruades Lafite	91-93	95-96	92-94		\$266
Wines Advocate	A blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon and 40% Merlot, the 2023 Carruades de Lafite is lovely, bursting with aromas of minty blackberries, cassis and cigar box, followed by a medium to full-bodied, fleshy and layered palate that's creamy and textural, its generous core of fruit largely concealing its powdery structuring tannins, concluding with a long, resonant finish.				
Score: 91-93					
James Suckling	A savory and juicy Carruades with softness and notes of ripe berry, cedar and dried tobacco. Like Lafite from the 1980s but more precise. Round and pretty. It really grows on the finish with such sweetness of fruit and length. Pointed, fine tannins at the end. Very long. A blend of 60% cabernet sauvignon and 40% merlot.				
Score: 95-96					
Vinous	The 2023 Carruades de Lafite is a very pretty, sensual wine that very much captures the personality of the Grand Vin, naturally in a more approachable style. The blend is 60% Cabernet Sauvignon and 40% Merlot, with no Franc or Petit Verdot. I have to say, there is something very direct about the 2023— something frank that is really evident. I admire its purity. Succulent red plum, spice, cedar, tobacco and a lifting touch of white pepper open first, while beautifully persistent saline undertones extend the finish.				
Score: 92-94					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Grand Puy Lacoste	93-95	95-96	93-95		\$78
Wines Advocate	Aromas of cassis, cigar wrapper, pencil shavings and violets introduce the 2023 Grand-Puy-Lacoste, a medium to full-bodied, fleshy and supple wine that's seamless and sensual, with good depth at the core, beautifully integrated tannins and a lively, charming profile. It's a blend of 77% Cabernet Sauvignon and 23% Merlot that was picked between September 11-28.				
Score: 93-95					
James Suckling	Beautiful purity and freshness to the blackcurrants and blackberries with subtle notes of cedar and graphite. Medium- to full-bodied. So polished and silky, almost weightless. It's very long. 77% cabernet sauvignon and 23% merlot.				
Score: 95-96					
Vinous	The 2023 Grand Puy Lacoste was picked September 11 to 28 at 48hL/ha and matured in 75% new oak. It has a classic "GPL" bouquet with blackberry, pencil box and light marine scents, obviously not as powerful as the previous vintage, yet in typical style, beautifully defined and focused. Just a touch of cracked black pepper surfaces with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied with gentle but insistent grip, just a light bitter edge lending tension and nerve. I perceive good depth here, but this is not a powerhouse of a Pauillac (is GPL ever?). It fans out toward the finish whilst maintaining control. There's an impressive linearity to this wine, and thus I suspect it will require less bottle-age compared to recent vintages.				
Score: 93-95					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Lynch Bages	93-95	97-98	94-97		\$119
Wines Advocate	As usual one of the chunkier, broader-shouldered wines of the Médoc, the 2023 Lynch-Bages exhibits aromas of dark berries and cassis mingled with pencil shavings, licorice and pipe tobacco, framed by creamy new oak. Medium to full-bodied, rich and layered, it's deep, concentrated and generously extracted, with plenty of youthfully chewy tannin to carry it along in the cellar. The 2023 is a blend of 71% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot.				
Score: 93-95					
James Suckling	Blackberry, black cherry, crushed stone and graphite. Lead pencil, too. It's full-bodied with juicy, chewy tannins. Vertical and layered with lovely length. Quite plush. Chewy tannins at the end. Cabernet sauvignon driven. Showing excellent potential.				
Score: 97-98					
Vinous	The 2023 Lynch-Bages is a dark, brooding wine. In so many vintages, Lynch-Bages is a wine of sensuality, but in 2023, it is quite the powerhouse. Formidable tannins wrap around a core of black fruit, spice, menthol, licorice and gravel. This is a somber, introspective Lynch-Bages with a ton of Cabernet Sauvignon character. I can't wait to taste this from bottle.				
Score: 94-97					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Echo de Lynch Bages	89-90	92-93	90-92		\$42
Wines Advocate	Aromas of cassis, dark berries and creamy new oak introduce the 2023 Echo de Lynch-Bages, a medium to full-bodied, fleshy and layered wine with a succulent core of fruit framed by youthfully chewy tannins.				
Score: 89-90					
James Suckling	A balance of blackberry, chocolate and stone with a medium body, creamy texture and a soft finish. The length and depth are very pretty, while the juicy, velvety tannins are so attractive.				
Score: 92-93					
Vinous	The 2023 Echo de Lynch-Bages is a potent second wine. It's really the Cabernets that drive the wine's flavor profile and overall feel. The Echo is not as juicy or succulent as it can be, rather it is a wine that will need a year or two post-release to show at its best.				
Score: 90-92					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Pichon Lalande	97-99	98-99	96-98		\$192
Wines Advocate	The 2023 Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande is a brilliant wine that will be worth a special effort to track down. Unwinding in the glass with aromas of wild berries and cassis mingled with licorice, lilac, iris root, violet, burning embers and pencil shavings, it's medium to full-bodied, seamless and complete, with a deep, layered core of cool fruit that largely conceals it's ultra-refined structuring tannins. At a very measured 13% alcohol and 3.67 pH, it unites all Pichon Comtesse's sensuality with unimpeachable Pauillac classicism. The 2023 is a blend of 80% Cabernet Sauvignon, 17% Merlot and 3% Cabernet Franc.				
Score: 97-99					
James Suckling	Wow. This is really excellent, with superb finesse and focus. It has tight density that is almost diamond-like in its brilliance. Medium to full body, with a quality of tannin that is incredibly seamless. Like silk in texture. A top Pichon Lalande. From organic and biodynamically grown grapes. 80% cabernet sauvignon, 17% merlot and 3% cabernet franc. May be better than 2022.				
Score: 98-99					
Vinous	The 2023 Pichon-Longueville Comtesse de Lalande was picked from September 6 until 29, with some rain on September 20 in the middle of Cabernet picking. But, Nicolas Glumineau remarked that the vineyard/fruit was in good condition; one day of rain did not affect the quality. The 2023 has a quintessential Comtesse bouquet, displaying pure and expressive black fruit laced with violet and graphite, delivered with impressive delineation. The palate is very refined on the entry. This is armed with beguiling symmetry — poised yet intense on the finish. It doesn't exert huge grip because it knows it doesn't need to, and it fans out gloriously. Outstanding.				
Score: 96-98					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Pichon Comtesse Reserve	91-93	94-95	90-92		\$57
Wines Advocate	A terrific second wine, the 2023 Réserve de la Comtesse wafts from the glass with a pure bouquet of blackcurrants, dark berries, lilac and pencil shavings. Medium to full-bodied, layered and velvety, it's sensual and vibrant, with melting tannins and a deep core of cool fruit framed by polished but present tannins. This blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot and 5% Cabernet Franc marks the 50th anniversary of this second wine's production.				
Score: 91-93					
James Suckling	I like the freshness and linear character to this second wine of Pichon Lalande. It's medium-bodied with creamy and polished tannins that are fine at the end. It is linked from start to finish. 60% cabernet sauvignon, 30% merlot, 5% cabernet franc and 5% petit verdot.				
Score: 94-95					
Vinous	The 2023 Réserve de la Comtesse has a lovely bouquet, discrete initially, then opening with cassis and light violet fruit. It never shouts too loudly at this early stage. The palate is medium-bodied with crisp tannins on the entry. There's also a stronger graphite element than I have noticed in recent vintages, due to the higher percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon (60%). This is a classically styled Réserve.				
Score: 90-92					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Pichon Baron	95-97	96-97	95-97		\$177
Wines Advocate	A blend of 80% Cabernet Sauvignon and 20% Merlot, the 2023 Pichon-Longueville Baron is a terrific effort from this estate, unwinding in the glass with aromas of crème de cassis, dark berries, pencil shavings, cigar wrapper, violets and burning embers. Medium to full-bodied, layered and textural, it's deep and concentrated, with sweet structuring tannins and a long, resonant finish. The charm and vibrancy of the vintage lends this considerable appeal, without effacing Pichon Baron's more serious, Cabernet-driven personality.				
Score: 95-97					
James Suckling	The freshness and brightness of the blackcurrant and orange-peel fruit give a real al-dente feel. Some stone and spice underneath. Medium-bodied with very fine tannins and a refined finish. A PB with tight, linear tannins. 80% cabernet sauvignon and 20% merlot.				
Score: 96-97					
Vinous	The 2023 Pichon Baron is stellar. It is another wine in this lineup that impresses with its finesse and nobility. Dark and enveloping, with terrific freshness, this Grand Vin is so expressive. The 2023 is an understated, wonderfully refined Pichon Baron. Dark fruit, violet and mocha build into the resonant finish.				
Score: 95-97					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Clerc Milon	92-94	95-96	92-94		\$91
Wines Advocate	Revealing aromas of red berries, cherries and blackcurrants mingled with hints of pencil shavings and new oak, the 2023 Clerc Milon is medium to full-bodied, deep and fleshy, with a layered core of fruit, sweet velvety tannins and a seamless, succulent profile. It's a blend of 72% Cabernet Sauvignon, 19% Merlot, 6.5% Cabernet Franc and the balance Carmenère and Petit Verdot.				
Score: 92-94					
James Suckling	This has a great finish, with blackcurrant, chocolate, hazelnut and salt undertones that run the length of the wine. Full-bodied and dense, and then it lifts off at the end. Chalky undertone, coming from the limestone terroir here. 72% cabernet sauvignon, 19% merlot, 6.5% cabernet franc, 1.5% carmenere and 1% petit verdot.				
Score: 95-96					
Vinous	The 2023 Clerc Milon was picked from September 7 to 29 and is matured in 55% new oak. It has much more fruit concentration on the nose than the Pastorelle—quite precocious, with blackberry and cassis fruit. It's floral and more flamboyant than the d'Armailhac. The palate is very well balanced with a slightly creamy texture and a lovely mouthfeel. Its concentration is neatly counterbalanced by the acidity, and it feels very harmonious and long on the finish. Superb. If Mouton-Rothschild is beyond your budget— yes, I am familiar with that feeling—then this is where you should look.				
Score: 92-94					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Haut Batailley	91-93	94-95	93-96		\$62
Wines Advocate	The 2023 Haut-Batailley is a blend of 71% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot and 4% Petit Verdot that increasingly resembles its stablemate Lynch Bages in style. Offering up aromas of dark berries, plums, pencil shavings and creamy new oak, it's medium to full-bodied, deep and layered, with plenty of generously extracted, youthfully chewy tannin and a long, lusty finish.				
Score: 91-93					
James Suckling	This shows structure and focus, with creamy, powdery tannins and a very pretty, silky texture. Medium to full body with a solid line of tannins running through the wine. Blackberries and currants with a hint of crushed stone. Better than 2022?				
Score: 94-95					
Vinous	The 2023 Haut-Batailley is another impressive wine from this Chateau. There's plenty of the typical dark fruit and overall breadth that is such a signature, but the tannins show greater finesse than in some prior years—a very positive evolution that continues here. Black cherry, plum, lavender, cloves, leather and licorice are all beautifully amplified. The 2023 marks another major step forward for Haut-Batailley.				
Score: 93-96					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

D'Armailhac	92-93	93-94	91-93		\$56
Wines Advocate	The 2023 d'Armailhac is an attractive effort, bursting with aromas of cherries, raspberries, licorice and cigar wrapper. Medium to full-bodied, fleshy and succulent, with a pretty core of fruit, sweet powdery tannins and lively acids, it's a blend of 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot—which is a rather high percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon for this address.				
Score: 92-93					
James Suckling	There's a powdery and open texture to this red. Full-bodied and layered with a pretty and weightless texture. Blackcurrants and blueberries and an orange-peel undertone. Velvety texture at the end. 70% cabernet sauvignon, 15% merlot, 13% cabernet franc and 2% petit verdot.				
Score: 93-94					
Vinous	The 2023 d'Armailhac was picked from September 7 to 30 and aged in 50% new oak. It contains the highest percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon to date. Its tightly wound bouquet demands encouragement from the glass, perhaps just missing the panache that elevated the previous vintage. You could argue that this seems more "serious." The palate is medium-bodied with grainy tannins and a firm backbone. It's a little pepperier than previous vintages, closing with a streamlined finish. Give this two or three years in bottle.				
Score: 91-93					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Duhart-Milon	92-94	94-95	93-95		\$96
Wines Advocate	A blend of 80% Cabernet Sauvignon (picked late, between September 25 and October 3) and 20% Merlot, the 2023 Duhart-Milon has turned out beautifully, unfurling in the glass with aromas of cassis, cherries and dark berries mingled with hints of mint, cedar and spice box. Medium to full-bodied, fleshy and layered, it's deep and concentrated, with an ample core of cool but ripe fruit, sweet tannins and a long, penetrating finish.				
Score: 92-94					
James Suckling	So much pure graphite and lead pencil here, together with blackcurrant and iodine aromas and flavors. Medium-bodied with creamy and velvety tannins that are very polished. Cedar and some tobacco box. Deep and layered. Al-dente tannins. Precise.				
Score: 94-95					
Vinous	The 2023 Duhart-Milon was picked September 7 to October 3 and contains 15% pressed wine, matured in 50% new oak. It has a much more backward bouquet than the Moulin, displaying well-defined yet tightly coiled graphite-infused black fruit. The palate is medium-bodied with saturated tannins that belie the backbone of this Pauillac. That graphite element is accentuated in the mouth and controls the classic finish that could only come from this appellation. This is excellent, but patience is required.				
Score: 93-95					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Pibran	89-91	93-94	90-92		
Wines Advocate	The 2023 Pibran includes fully 54% Cabernet Sauvignon, as restructured parcels start to come into production and contribute to the blend. Offering up aromas of plums, red berries and pencil shavings, it's medium-bodied, fleshy and supple, with a pretty core of fruit framed by powdery tannins.				
Score: 89-91					
James Suckling	Beautiful Pibran with very creamy tannins that are polished and integrated. Medium body. Refined and polished texture. Made mostly from vineyards in limestone soils. 54% cabernet sauvignon and 46% merlot. Better than 2022.				
Score: 93-94					
Vinous	The 2023 Pibran, raised in 60% new oak, has a ravishing bouquet in the context of the growing season, reflective of the summer warmth, yet managing to retain freshness and delineation. Touches of blood orange inflect the red berry fruit profile. The palate is medium-bodied with marmalade-tinged red fruit. It's more open than recent vintages, with a dash cracked black pepper defining the finish. Quite a "playful" Pibran, this should drink well over the next 12 to 15 years.				
Score: 90-92					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Grand Puy Ducasse	86-88	93-94	92-94		\$40
Wines Advocate	Exhibiting aromas of dark berries, cedary pencil shavings and oak vanillin, the 2023 Grand-Puy-Ducasse is medium-bodied, firm and chewy, with a somewhat herbal finish.				
Score: 86-88					
James Suckling	Creamy and round tannins that are tight and polished, with a juicy character. Blackcurrant, chocolate and spice. Medium body. Chewy and polished.				
Score: 93-94					
Vinous	The 2023 Grand Puy Ducasse has one of the most impressive bouquets encountered from this estate in a number of years: blackberry, cedar and light floral notes, with a hint of pencil shavings in the background. This is Pauillac through and through, with newfound conviction. The palate is medium-bodied with crunchy black fruit, and a touch of dark chocolate and black pepper. There's much more body and grip compared to previous vintages. Excellent. This may surpass their 2022.				
Score: 92-94					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Pontet Canet	96-98	97-98	94-97		\$111
Wines Advocate	With the 2023 vintage, this estate has crafted a wine of unprecedented aromatic intensity and precision that marks a significant evolution. Revealing an elegant, fresh bouquet of mulberries and cassis mingled with notions of violets, gentian and menthol, the 2023 Pontet-Canet is medium to full-bodied, seamless and multidimensional, with a pure and precise core of fruit that's framed by ultra-refined tannins and a powerful but controlled profile, concluding with long, mineral, licorice-inflected finish. It's the result of more daring harvest decisions than in previous years: By picking the Merlot earlier to highlight fresh, fruity notes rather than baked, sun-kissed flavors and simultaneously delaying the Cabernet Sauvignon harvest until after September 28 to refine tannins, the 2023 Pontet-Canet marks a significant evolution at this renowned estate. At this early stage, its élevage appears to be more discreet, too. This wine, which I'd be delighted to own, is a blend of 52% Cabernet Sauvignon, 39% Merlot, 6% Cabernet Franc and 3% Petit Verdot, matured in 50% new oak barrels, 35% amphorae and 15% once-used barrels.				
Score: 96-98					
James Suckling	A very structured Pontet-Canet that expands in the mouth with a gorgeous combination of beautifully ripe fruit and intense tannins. Very structured for the vintage. Full-bodied with excellent presence and length. So much raw pencil shavings to the blackcurrants. Graphite and tar. Fresh and vivid. They picked cabernet at the right time at the end of September. 52% cabernet sauvignon, 39% merlot, 6% cabernet franc and 3% petit verdot.				
Score: 97-98					
Vinous	The 2023 Pontet-Canet is a powerful, impressively constituted wine. Dark, vibrant and sensual in the glass, the 2023 is somber and mysterious in bearing. Black plum, gravel, lavender, graphite and licorice all meld together in the glass. More than anything else, the 2023 is incredibly well put together. In this vintage, the wine was blended at the beginning of élevage rather than at the end, as was the custom in the past. This is a gorgeous and hugely promising Pontet-Canet. I especially admire its finely cut precision and soaring aromatics.				
Score: 94-97					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Aile D'Argent Blanc	90-92	94-95	91-93		
Wines Advocate	Evoking aromas of white flowers, lemon oil, lime tree leaves and spring flowers, the 2023 Aile d'Argent is medium to full-bodied, charming and enveloping with a fleshy core of fruit and a mouthwatering, long finish. While not as dense or fleshy as previous iterations, this vintage is a notable success within its context. It is a blend of 50% Sauvignon Blanc, 44.5% Sauvignon Gris and 0.5% Muscadelle.				
Score: 90-92					
James Suckling	The density and beauty to this is so attractive, with a lush and flavorful character, yet it's neatly framed by acidity and minerally undertones. Lively and salty. Part of the vineyard is on limestone, which gives that sea-salt undertone. Savory. Fresh at the end. 50% sauvignon blanc, 44.5% semillon, 5% sauvignon gris and 0.5% muscadelle.				
Score: 94-95					
Vinous	The 2023 Aile d'Argent contains a little more Sémillon than usual (44.5%) to add texture to the blend. It has a lovely bouquet with grapefruit, hints of lime cordial, chamomile and lanolin. The palate is very well balanced with a fine bead of acidity, fresh and focused, with just a slight bitter lemon note imparting tension. A hint of ginger rises on the aftertaste. Superb.				
Score: 91-93					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Haut Bages Liberal	93-95	95-96	94-96		
Wines Advocate	The 2023 Haut-Bages-Libéral is very promising, bursting with aromas of dark berries, cassis, pencil shavings and violets, followed by a medium to full-bodied, fleshy and suave palate with an enveloping core of fruit, lively acids typical of this limestone terroir, and sweet, powdery tannins. It's a blend of 86% Cabernet Sauvignon and 14% Merlot with a low pH of 3.48.				
Score: 93-95					
James Suckling	A very pure and beautiful HBL with blackcurrant and mineral notes, like crushed stones, as well as a vivid freshness. Purity and brightness in the center-palate, with essence of cassis and a crunchy minerality from part of the vineyard in limestone. 86% cabernet sauvignon and 14% merlot. From biodynamically grown grapes with Demeter certification.				
Score: 95-96					
Vinous	The 2023 Haut-Bages Libéral is fabulous. Deep, layered and exquisitely beautiful, the 2023 bristles with tension. Dark red cherry, plum, spice, leather, menthol and licorice grace a wine of depth, richness and sensuality. It's a terrific effort from proprietor Claire Villars-Lurton.				
Score: 94-96					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Pedesclaux	90-93	95-96	89-91		
Wines Advocate	The 2023 Pedésclaux is the estate's second organic-certified vintage. A blend of 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc, it offers up attractive aromas of cassis and dark berries mingled with notions of mint and licorice, followed by a medium to full-bodied, fleshy and layered palate with sweet tannins, succulent acids and a rather rich, giving profile.				
Score: 90-93					
James Suckling	There is a really pretty, powdery-tannin texture to this, with dark-berry and currant character. Some orange peel, too. It's full and layered with a sense of precision and focus. Framed and open-grained in the texture. Velvety. Real Pauillac personality here. 70% cabernet sauvignon, 20% merlot and 10% cabernet franc. May be better than 2022.				
Score: 95-96					
Vinous	The 2023 Pédesclaux was picked from September 13 to October 4 and includes the old Cabernet vines. Matured in 65% new oak, it has a comparatively opulent bouquet with perfumed black cherries, violet petals and a hint of licorice. I would like a little more Pauillac DNA to be articulated on the nose. The palate is medium-bodied with pliant tannins, quite peppery on the entry, with modest depth. Salted licorice and graphite notes emerge toward what feels like a more structured finish. This will require four to five years in bottle. It just needs to develop more personality.				
Score: 89-91					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

ST JULIEN	WA	JS	V	WS	PRICE
Leoville Las Cases	94-96	97-98	95-97		\$236
Wines Advocate	A blend of 86% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Cabernet Franc and only 4% Merlot, the 2023 Léoville Las Cases is one of the more serious, structured wines of the vintage, reminiscent of a modern-day version of the estate's excellent 2001. Unwinding in the glass with aromas of cherries, cassis and plums mingled with hints of licorice, mint and creamy new oak, it's medium to full-bodied, deep and concentrated, with a taut core of fruit, lively acids and plenty of fine, youthfully firm tannins. It will require and reward patience.				
Score: 94-96					
James Suckling	Exceptional quality of cabernet comes through here, with a lot of graphite, lead pencil, crushed stone, walnut and currant fruit. It grows and expands on the palate, remaining in focus at the same time. Refined and seamless with beautiful tannins that show power and intensity. It rolls across the palate with verve. 86% cabernet sauvignon, 10% cabernet franc and 4% merlot.				
Score: 97-98					
Vinous	The 2023 Léoville Las-Cases was picked from September 9 to October 2 at 43hL/ha and matured in 80% new oak barrels. This has a very precise bouquet, and, like the Clos du Marquis, it is imbued with an attractive estuarine element—aromatics that transport the imbiber to the banks of the Gironde. The oak is neatly integrated; 80% is much more optimal than 100% would have been. The palate is lightly spiced on the entry, moderately deep and quite lively on the mid-palate. This is a more linear Las-Cases than recent vintages, conveying a sense of "seriousness" toward the almost saturnine finish. Impressive in terms of persistence, this is a worthy follow-up to the magnificent 2022, but it will demand patience.				
Score: 95-97					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Leoville Barton	94-96	96-97	93-95		\$96
Wines Advocate	The 2023 Léoville Barton is a lovely classic in the making, unfurling in the glass with aromas of cassis and blackberries mingled with notions of pencil shavings, licorice and violets. Medium to full-bodied, ample and fleshy, it's layered, concentrated and suave, with beautifully refined tannins, vibrant acids and a long, penetrating finish. Benefiting from the Barton family's new highly functional winery, as well as experimentation with more discreet cooperage choices, it's somewhat reminiscent of the estate's terrific 2016. The 2023 blend is 87% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Merlot and 3% Cabernet Franc.				
Score: 94-96					
James Suckling	The tannins here are cashmere-like. You can touch it, but at the same time it is weightless and beautiful. Medium- to full-bodied and textural. Soars at the end. This is really seamless and dialed in. Third year using the cellar. 87% cabernet sauvignon, 10% merlot and 3% cabernet franc.				
Score: 96-97					
Vinous	The 2023 Léoville-Barton marries the classicism the château is so well-known for with an extra kick of textural intensity from the heat of the year. It's powerful, dark and serious, with compelling notes of black cherry, lavender, spice and blackberry. This is an especially dense, somber Léoville-Barton endowed with tremendous presence. The blend is 87% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Merlot and 3% Cabernet Franc, the first time Franc has appeared in the blend. This will need time to soften, as the tannins are imposing. Tasted two times.				
Score: 93-95					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Leoville Poyferre	93-95	95-96	95-97		\$96
Wines Advocate	Aromas of cassis, plums, pencil shavings and toasty new oak introduce the 2023 Léoville Poyferré, a medium to full-bodied, rich and chunky wine with a deep core of succulent fruit framed by sweet, generously extracted tannins. It's a blend of 62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot that saw some saignée and osmosis for additional concentration. As usual, it's the creamiest, most "modern"-styled of the three Léovilles. Harvest began on September 14 and concluded on October 5, with fermentations a little cooler than usual, perhaps an intimation of a stylistic evolution in progress.				
Score: 93-95					
James Suckling	This is already very pretty and polished with plenty of currant and plum character. Medium- to full-bodied with creamy, round tannins and a juicy finish. Caressing. Very refined.				
Score: 95-96					
Vinous	The 2023 Léoville-Poyferré is positively stellar. Medium in body, vibrant and beautifully persistent, the 2023 is all class. It also signals a shift away from the richer (but equally successful) style favored here in the recent past, now moving toward an approach that favors more vibrancy. Dark red-toned fruit, blood orange, spice, mocha and cedar infuse the 2023 with notable freshness and verve. The new Léoville-Poyferré is quite the stunner. Tasted two times.				
Score: 95-97					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Ducru Beaucaillou		96-97	95-97		\$210
Wines Advocate					
Score:					
James Suckling	This has aromas of blackberries and blackcurrant, as well as graphite and flint. Some gunpowder. It's full-bodied with extremely refined tannins, a creamy character and al-dente fruit at the finish. Crunchy, succulent and linear. Mineral edge to it, like licking a stone. Energetic. 83% cabernet sauvignon and 17% merlot.				
Score: 96-97					
Vinous	The 2023 Ducru-Beaucaillou is a heady, sumptuous Saint-Julien. The aromatics alone are captivating. Truffle, rose petal, blood orange, pomegranate, spice and menthol build in a creamy, lavish Ducru. The 2023 is a classic Bruno Borie wine that emphasizes textural opulence. Time in the glass brings out gorgeous floral and spice-driven top notes. The balance of opulence and vibrancy is compelling.				
Score: 95-97					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Beychevelle	93-94	94-95	94-96		\$103
Wines Advocate	The 2023 Beychevelle has turned out especially well this year, exhibiting a more integrated, seductive style than recent vintages that were constructed in a punchier, more extracted register. Offering up aromas of cassis and plums mingled with notions of pen ink, violets and pencil shavings, it's medium to full-bodied, broad and fleshy, with a deep core of fruit and a classy, suave profile that foregrounds the estate's prime vineyard holdings on the plateau around Ducru-Beaucaillou. It's a blend of 54% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot and 6% Petit Verdot that represents 50% of the estate's production.				
Score: 93-94					
James Suckling	Pure fruit to this, with blueberries, hazelnuts, walnut and blackcurrants. Just like eating grapes at this stage. It has a full body, juicy tannins and a savory finish. Remains vivid and energetic.				
Score: 94-95					
Vinous	The 2023 Beychevelle is fabulous. As always, Beychevelle includes quite a bit more Merlot than most wines in the appellation, but the Cabernet is especially high here. Inky dark fruit, crème de cassis, mocha, licorice and lavender build in the glass. This juicy, extroverted Saint-Julien has a ton to offer. The combination of fruit intensity, acid and supporting structure is superb. The 2023 is showy, but not at all overdone. Beychevelle remains one of the most distinctive wines in all of Bordeaux. It is especially classy in this edition. Tasted two times.				
Score: 94-96					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Langoa Barton	93-95	94-95	91-93		\$50
Wines Advocate	The 2023 Langoa Barton is a very accomplished wine, the family's new winery having permitted more precise, parcel-by-parcel winemaking as well as gentler handling of the fruit to deliver a wine with all this estate's customary intensity of flavor but more polish and refinement. Unwinding in the glass with aromas of dark berries, cassis and plums mingled with hints of pencil shavings and dried rose petals, it's medium to full-bodied, with an inky core of fruit, vibrant acids and plenty of suave structuring tannin. This classic blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Merlot and 3% Cabernet Franc is sure to number among the intelligent purchases of the en primeur campaign.				
Score: 93-95					
James Suckling	There's depth of fruit here with blackberries, blackcurrants and hints of cedar and tobacco. The tannins are very solid and polished with juiciness and depth. Pristine. Bright acidity. 60% cabernet sauvignon, 37% merlot and 3% cabernet franc.				
Score: 94-95					
Vinous	The 2023 Langoa Barton is packed with dark red cherry, plum, spice, cedar and tobacco. Over the last few years, an updated style of vinification in a new cellar has yielded a bit more mid-palate sweetness, pliancy and resonance than in the past. It will be interesting to see where this goes, but clearly, we have entered into an era of Langoa. Tasted two times.				
Score: 91-93					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Clos Du Marquis	91-93	95-96	93-95		\$66
Wines Advocate	The 2023 Clos du Marquis is a rather serious, structured wine, evocative of cherries, dark berries and kirsch, framed by a touch of creamy new oak. Medium to full-bodied and fleshy but structured, it's a taut, concentrated wine that will reward some patience.				
Score: 91-93					
James Suckling	This offers beautiful blackcurrants and blackberries with hints of chocolate and walnuts. Medium-to full-bodied with vivid acidity that adds tension and freshness to the mid-palate. It's full of life and vibrancy, very fine and polished, and with nicely integrated tannins. Long finish. 56% cabernet sauvignon, 35% merlot and 9% cabernet franc. What will be better between 2022 and 2023?				
Score: 95-96					
Vinous	The 2023 Clos du Marquis might very well be the best Clos du Marquis I have ever tasted. A wine of freshness and verve, the 2023 is all nuance. Sweet red plum, blood orange, spice, flowers, mint and white pepper are all finely cut. The 2023 shows more vibrancy, less oak extraction and more refined tannins than in the past. It's a glorious wine in every way. This early tasting is hugely promising. Clos du Marquis could turn out to be one of the real surprises of 2023.				
Score: 93-95					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Gruaud Larose			94-96		
Wines Advocate					
Score:					
James Suckling					
Score:					
Vinous	The 2023 Gruaud Larose is a powerhouse. Rich and ample, with striking depth, the 2023 offers notable resonance from start to finish. Black cherry, blackberry, licorice and spice fill out the layers nicely. The 2023 is a big, potent Gruaud Larose that will need a number of years to be at its best. This is a terrific example of the vintage at its finest.				
Score: 94-96					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Talbot	92-94	94-95	93-95		\$62
Wines Advocate	Offering up aromas of dark berries, baking chocolate, plums, espresso roast and crushed mint, the 2023 Talbot is medium to full-bodied, deep and fleshy, with a rich but lively core of fruit, powdery tannins and a long, penetrating finish. Harvested over the course of fully four weeks, it's a blend of 77% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot and 3% Petit Verdot that attained 13% alcohol.				
Score: 92-94					
James Suckling	A medium- to full-bodied red with very fine tannins. It's firm and structured, showing a bright, dark-fruited character. Focused, with a good center-palate and a lingering finish. Really polished.				
Score: 94-95					
Vinous	The 2023 Talbot is another strong wine for this re-emerging estate. Powerful, deep and impressively resonant, the 2023 is striking. Dark-toned fruit, new leather, lavender and dried herbs build over time. There's terrific depth and intensity here, with fine balance to match. This is a superb showing from Talbot and the team led by Estate Director JeanMichel Laporte.				
Score: 93-95					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Saint Pierre	92-94	94-95	91-93		\$56
Wines Advocate	A strong effort, the 2023 Saint-Pierre unwinds in the glass with aromas of cassis, dark berries and incense, framed by a deft touch of new oak. Medium to full-bodied, rich and layered, with good mid-palate density, powdery tannins and lively acids, it's a classically proportioned Saint-Julien that will age with grace. The blend is 80% Cabernet Sauvignon, 17% Merlot and 3% Petit Verdot.				
Score: 92-94					
James Suckling	Very refined and classy, with ultra-fine tannins and blackcurrant and hazelnut character, suggesting very pure fruit and precise picking times. Medium-bodied and chewy, yet caressing.				
Score: 94-95					
Vinous	The 2023 Saint-Pierre contains no Cabernet Franc and it will not be blended into the Grand Vin henceforth. This has a bit more animation and vigor than the Gloria, precise and fresh with plenty of black fruit and a lovely graphite note underneath. The palate is medium-bodied with pliant tannins but there is clearly more concentration compared to the Gloria (this was actually done partly in the winery). A touch of soy towards the finish completes an attractive Saint-Pierre.				
Score: 91-93					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Branaire Ducru	93-94	95-96	92-94		\$56
Wines Advocate	The 2023 Branaire-Ducru has turned out beautifully, wafting from the glass with classy aromas of dark berries, plums, pencil shavings and licorice, followed by a medium to full-bodied, cool and layered palate that's seamless, complete and enveloping, with terrific depth and vibrancy of fruit, refined tannins and a long, suave finish. At 61% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 5.5% Cabernet Franc and 3.5% Petit Verdot, it's almost the same blend as the 2022, though at 13.1% alcohol and a pH of 3.63, it's more classically proportioned. Harvest began on September 12 and dragged on through October 4, parcel by parcel, with the vintage's healthy yields meaning the team could use their new winery, equipped with 63 smaller tanks, to keep all those components separate.				
Score: 93-94					
James Suckling	This has so much lead pencil, stone and blackcurrant character, as well as blackberry. It's medium-bodied with a solid core of fruit and a polished finish. Very classy and structured.				
Score: 95-96					
Vinous	The 2023 Branaire Ducru was picked from September 12, on the same day as last year, albeit with a longer harvest, as they finished on October 4. Yields were 53hL/ha, and the blend is almost the same as the 2022. This is the second vintage made in the new winery. My sample came from a new-oak barrel, but the final blend will include 60%. Lucid purple in color, it has a charming, very pure bouquet, perhaps less opulent than some of its Saint-Julien peers, yet precise. Delicate floral scents permeate the predominant red fruit, never bursting from the glass but unfurling with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied with slightly edgy tannins that impart tension, veering slightly more to black fruit on the mid-palate. This is certainly one of the most elegant Branaire-Ducru vintages to date, but it has more weight on the finish (something that has been addressed in recent years.) Understated and sapid, it should be open for business a little earlier than others, but it will age well over 20 to 25 years.				
Score: 92-94					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Gloria	90-92	93-94	90-92		\$39
Wines Advocate	An attractive effort, the 2023 Gloria offers up aromas of dark berries and plums mingled with subtle hints of violets and licorice. It's medium to full-bodied, taut and lively, with good depth and persistence. This blend of 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, 10% Petit Verdot and 5% Cabernet France is the third and final vintage of organic conversion at Gloria.				
Score: 90-92					
James Suckling	Blackberries and blueberries with stone and sandalwood undertones. It's medium- to full-bodied with integrated tannins that are polished and refined. Long finish. Solid and rather muscular. Could move up a notch.				
Score: 93-94					
Vinous	The 2023 Gloria presents a deep purple hue. It has a succinct bouquet with black cherries, red plum and pronounced floral aromas that emanate from the Petit Verdot. The palate is medium-bodied with bright blackberry and raspberry fruit, quite a minerally Gloria with a more linear, stricter finish than the 2022, as you would expect. There's also fine salinity here. This is a classy Gloria that just misses the panache of recent vintages (and of the 2023 Saint-Pierre).				
Score: 90-92					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Lagrange	93-95	94-95	92-95		\$54
Wines Advocate	A blend of 84% Cabernet Sauvignon and 16% Merlot, the 2023 Lagrange offers up aromas of dark berries, plums and cherries mingled with hints of pencil shavings and violets. Medium to full-bodied, layered and fleshy, with good depth, supple tannins and a suave, vibrant profile, it's attractively seamless and complete.				
Score: 93-95					
James Suckling	This is tight but has creamy, round tannins and a juicy character. Blackberries, chocolate and spices on the medium-bodied palate. Chewy and polished.				
Score: 94-95					
Vinous	The 2023 Lagrange is bright, punchy and full of character. Red-toned fruit, blood orange, spice, menthol, licorice and rose petal lend exuberance and freshness to this mid-weight Saint-Julien. Readers will find a wine of total class and sophistication. In a word: terrific. Tasted two times.				
Score: 92-95					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

La Croix Ducru-Beaucaillou		94-95	91-93		\$52
Wines Advocate					
Score:					
James Suckling	The purity of fruit is so beautiful here with blackcurrants and violets, as well as freshly shaved lead pencil. It's medium-bodied with refined tannins that are wonderfully polished and give plenty of texture. Goes on for minutes. Second wine of Ducru. 58% merlot, 40% cabernet sauvignon and 2% petit verdot.				
Score: 94-95					
Vinous	The 2023 La Croix Ducru-Beaucaillou has a very perfumed and floral bouquet: plush red berry fruit, vanilla, cedar and blood orange, well-defined with deftly integrated new oak (60%). The palate is medium-bodied with firm tannins that lend this La Croix a bit more backbone than recent vintages. It's very fresh; white pepper and thyme complement the bright red fruit, leading to an overtly peppery finish, with a touch of graphite on the aftertaste.				
Score: 91-93					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

MARGAUX	WA	JS	V	WS	PRICE
Chateau Margaux	95-97	99-100	97-100		\$618
Wines Advocate	The 2023 Château Margaux shows considerable promise, unfurling in the glass with aromas of cassis, violets, spring flowers and sweet tobacco, framed by a deft touch of new oak. Medium to full-bodied, deep and layered, it's taut, concentrated and classically structured, with sweet, refined tannins and lively acids, concluding with a long, mouthwatering finish. It's a blend of 89% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot that attained 13% alcohol.				
Score: 95-97					
James Suckling	The aromas in this young Margaux are so primary, reminding me of grape must fermenting in the vat, then turning to perfumes and flowers. Violets and roses. Full-bodied but it comes across as so agile and bright, with vivid acidity that makes the wine crunchy and linear. As Alexis, one of the owners of Margaux said, this really shows the DNA of the estate. Weightless. One of the wines of the vintage. 3.6 pH. Blend of 89% cabernet sauvignon, 5% merlot, 4% cabernet franc and 2% petit verdot.				
Score: 99-100					
Vinous	The 2023 Château Margaux is fabulous. Sensual, silky and exceptionally polished, the 2023 Château Margaux is shaping up to be a classic. Seamless, silky tannins wrap around a core of dark red/purplish fruit. Hints of spice, new leather, menthol, licorice and rose petal fill out the glass. There's a bit of new oak peeking through today, but that won't be an issue in a few years' time. Only Bordeaux can produce wines that offer so much flavor intensity at a low alcohols. Margaux is the least showy of the First Growths, but it is often the most refined. The 2023 is sublime.				
Score: 97-100					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Pavillon Rouge	92-94	96-97	90-93		\$206
Wines Advocate	Somewhat reminiscent of a cooler-fruited version of the lovely 2019, Château Margaux's 2023 Pavillon Rouge wafts from the glass with aromas of cassis, raspberries, licorice and pipe tobacco, deftly framed by creamy new oak. Medium to full-bodied, ample and fleshy, with a sweet core of fruit, ripe tannins and a lively, succulent profile, it's a blend 79% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot and 2% Cabernet Franc that attained 13.3% alcohol.				
Score: 92-94					
James Suckling	Very Chateau Margaux, with perfumed violets, currants and other berries, as well as oranges. Medium body with fine, caressing tannins that are tight and vivid. Racy and refined. Brightness and beauty to this second wine. Succulent. Refined. One of the best Pavillon Rouges in a while. 30% of the production. 79% cabernet sauvignon, 14% merlot, 5% petit verdot and 2% cabernet franc.				
Score: 96-97					
Vinous	The 2023 Pavillon Rouge is a deep, intense wine. Bright acids drive a core of dark redtoned fruit, spice and flowers. There's a bit more Cabernet Sauvignon in the blend, which makes structural elements stand out, but the tannins are on the lower side analytically. I would give this a few years to come together. Pavillon Rouge represents 30% of the château's production.				
Score: 90-93					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Pavillon Blanc	93-95	96-97	92-94		\$412
Wines Advocate	The 2023 Pavillon Blanc from Château Margaux, harvested during the morning hours of the August 23-30 heatwave, possesses a deep, complex bouquet of spring flowers, lemon oil, ripe orchard fruits, lemongrass and sweet gooseberries, followed by a medium to full-bodied, round and concentrated palate that's animated by lively acids, concluding with a long, taut, delicately phenolic finish. This bottling amounts to only 45% of the entire crop, the rest being relegated to a second wine.				
Score: 93-95					
James Suckling	This is quite a big Pavillon Blanc with sliced pineapple, ripe apple, lemon and stone. It's full-bodied, layered and phenolic with a ripe sense to it, but then it's citrusy and salty. Like fresh oysters. Reminds me of vintages from the 1980s, but with more freshness and clarity. 100% sauvignon blanc.				
Score: 96-97					
Vinous	The 2023 Pavillon Blanc is quite powerful in this vintage, marked by a combination of creamy, textured fruit, bright acids and an almost phenolic feel that adds pseudo-tannic structure. I imagine the 2023 will need a few years in bottle. Pavillon Blanc is usually more immediate and racier, but the 2023 looks like more of a long-distance runner. Lemon cont, almond and white flowers unfurl in the glass.				
Score: 92-94					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Palmer	96-97	97-98	98-100		SOLD OUT
Wines Advocate	Director Thomas Duroux and his team elected to harvest late in pursuit of full maturity, beginning with the Merlot on September 11 and finishing the Cabernet Sauvignon on October 5 to produce a beautiful 2023 Palmer, redolent of cherries, wild berries, rose petals and violets. A blend of 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 46% Merlot and 4% Petit Verdot, it's medium to full-bodied, plush and enveloping, with a cool core of fruit, succulent acids, ultra-refined tannins and a seamless, complete profile.				
Score: 96-97					
James Suckling	The vivid density and structure to this is really captivating, with pure blackcurrant character. Full-bodied with very silky, refined and ultra-fine tannins and an exquisite finish. Caresses every inch of the palate. It's seems like it will be large and overpowering, but it's actually ethereal and cloud-like. The tannin quality is so refined and, in a way, weightless. 50% cabernet sauvignon, 46% merlot and 4% petit verdot.				
Score: 97-98					
Vinous	A breathtaking wine, the 2023 Palmer is sensational. Inky, rich and explosive, the 2023 is a real head-turner. Readers will find an extroverted, dense Palmer that is immediately captivating. Here, too, the balance is mind-blowing. Ample and resonant, the 2023 is striking in its beauty. Waves of layered fruit rush out first, building through to the back end with stunning aromatic intensity. There is no other wine like Palmer in Bordeaux. In a lot of ways, it reminds me of a great Pomerol, as heretical as that might sound! If I could pick only one wine to own from the 2023 vintage, Palmer might very well be it.				
Score: 98-100					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Malescot Saint-Exupery	93-95	96-97	92-94		\$56
Wines Advocate	One of the most suave, classy vintages from this estate in some years, the 2023 Malescot St. Exupery is a blend of 58% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Merlot and 5% Petit Verdot. Wafting from the glass with aromas of cherries, berries, licorice and pencil shavings, it's medium to full-bodied, fleshy and succulent, with good depth at the core, supple tannins and a harmonious, integrated profile. Part of the blend is maturing in foudre.				
Score: 93-95					
James Suckling	This has a very deep and beautiful palate with cherries, chocolate, hazelnut and orange peel. Pretty blackcurrants and blue berries, too. Medium body. The finish has gorgeous al-dente fruit at the end and is always subtle. Open tannins. A blend of 58% cabernet sauvignon, 37% merlot, and 5% petit verdot.				
Score: 96-97					
Vinous	The 2023 Malescot Saint Exupéry was cropped at 38hL/ha, picked a day later than the previous year. Lea Zuger told me that they now use six foudres installed in November, meaning there is 60% new oak—less than other vintages. Barrel-maturation will be 14 to 16 months. Whereas in 2022, nearly all the estate's fruit went into the Grand Vin, this year it represents 75% of the volume. Displaying blackberry and briar on the nose, this demands some coaxing from the glass. There's just a light, confit-like aroma in the background. The palate is medium-bodied with a fine structure, slightly powdery tannins, modest weight and noticeably fresh acidity and salinity, the latter especially prominent toward the finish. More classically hewn compared to the 2022, this will require five or six years in bottle. Classy.				
Score: 92-94					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Cantenac Brown	93-95	95-96	93-96		
Wines Advocate	The first vintage produced in the estate's new state-of-the-art winery, the 2023 Cantenac Brown has turned out very well indeed, offering up aromas of dark berries, pencil shavings and violets, followed by a medium to full-bodied, rich and layered palate that's serious and precise, concluding with a long, resonant finish. This blend of 71.5% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot and 1.5% Cabernet Franc represents 52% of the estate's production; and it reflects both the new winery's enhanced capabilities, along with the presence of old-vine Cabernet Sauvignon derived from holdings recently acquired in the heart of the plateau of Margaux.				
Score: 93-95					
James Suckling	Impressive precision to this, offering blackcurrants, blackberries and cherries, as well as hints of cedar and dark fruit. Medium to full body. Creamy and fine tannins. Better than 2022.				
Score: 95-96					
Vinous	The 2023 Cantenac Brown is concentrated, ample and generous right out of the gate. Blackberry, incense, new leather, tobacco, menthol and chocolate are all amplified to the maximum. As is often the case, Cantenac Brown is one of the more extroverted wines in Margaux. It's a style that works so well. Readers will have to be patient, as the 2023 needs time to shed some of its baby fat.				
Score: 93-96					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Giscours	94-96	96-97	96-98		\$70
Wines Advocate	The 2023 Giscours is one of the real successes of the vintage, unwinding in the glass with aromas of dark berries, cherries and red fruits mingled with hints of undergrowth, violets and licorice. Medium to full-bodied, deep and layered, it's seamless and concentrated, with a fleshy core of fruit framed by ripe, powdery tannins and succulent acids, concluding with a long, broad finish. It's a blend of 71% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot and 6% Cabernet Franc.				
Score: 94-96					
James Suckling	This really expands in the mouth, with tight tannins that are polished and velvety. The fruit shows depth and purity. Medium to full body. Juicy center-palate. Like the ripe fruit in the center palate. The quality of the tannins in this rises to a new level. The tannins pull you through the wine. 71% cabernet sauvignon, 7% cabernet franc and the rest merlot.				
Score: 96-97					
Vinous	The 2023 Giscours is the very best wine I have ever tasted here. Giscours has been knocking on the door of Bordeaux's elite for a few years now. Two thousand twenty-three is the year in which Giscours joins the region's big boys and girls. A towering, majestic Margaux, the 2023 dazzles from start to finish. What a wine!				
Score: 96-98					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Marojallia					
Wines Advocate					
Score:					
James Suckling					
Score:					
Vinous					
Score:					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Alter Ego	92-94	95-96	93-95		
Wines Advocate	Wafting from the glass with pure aromas of cherries, berries, plums and potpourri, the 2023 Alter Ego de Palmer is medium to full-bodied, bright and vibrant, with a vigorous core of fruit framed by supple tannins. It's a blend of 53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 43% Merlot and 4% Petit Verdot.				
Score: 92-94					
James Suckling	This is dense and velvety with a creamy texture. Blackberry, blueberry and stone aromas and flavors. Layered. Very primary and focused. 53% cabernet sauvignon, 43% merlot and 4% petit verdot.				
Score: 95-96					
Vinous	The 2023 Alter Ego is plump, juicy and super-expressive. Soft, silky tannins enshroud a core of plum, red cherry, spice, menthol and mocha. All the elements are so nicely balanced. A burst of red-toned fruit and spice lingers on a finish lifted by bright acids. This is such a sensual Alter Ego.				
Score: 93-95					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Prieure-Lichine	91-92	93-94	91-93		\$41
Wines Advocate	Fleshy and demonstrative, the 2023 Prieuré-Lichine offers up aromas of sweet berries, plums and smoke, framed by creamy new oak. Medium to full-bodied, rich and textural, with good depth and persistence, it's a strong effort that will offer a broad drinking window in a more modern style.				
Score: 91-92					
James Suckling	A very fine and polished PL with blackcurrant, fresh-herb, terracotta and crunchy-seed character. Medium body, fine and focused tannins and a flavorful finish. Lots there in a classic way.				
Score: 93-94					
Vinous	The 2023 Prieuré-Lichine has a well-defined and quite detailed bouquet with pretty black cherries, cedar and wilted violet aromas. The palate is medium-bodied, with light tannins matched by a crisp bead of acidity. It doesn't possess a dense or concentrated finish, yet there is balance here, and it will provide very pleasant drinking for 15 to 18 years. This is just a delicious Margaux wine in the making.				
Score: 91-93					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Rauzan Ségla	94-96	97-98	96-98		\$103
Wines Advocate	The 2023 Rauzan-Ségla shows considerable promise, unwinding in the glass with aromas of cherries, dark berries and plums mingled with hints of pencil shavings and violets. Medium to full-bodied, layered and concentrated, it's deep and fleshy, with terrific purity of fruit, supple tannins and a long, resonant finish. This classic in the making is a blend of 85% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13.5% Merlot and 1.5% Petit Verdot.				
Score: 94-96					
James Suckling	A Rauzan-Ségla with solid tannins that are muscular, well toned and beautiful. Black currants, blueberries and flowers. Chewy finish. One for the cellar. Classic. The cabernet went to the gym. 85% cabernet sauvignon, one of highest percentages ever.				
Score: 97-98					
Vinous	The 2023 Rauzan-Ségla is fabulous. Rich, dense and explosive, the 2023 soars out of the glass with captivating aromatics. Readers will find a vertical, deep Margaux endowed with tremendous character and nuance. All the elements are so well-balanced. Crushed rocks, plum, blood orange, spice and leather are some of the notes that explode into the finish. In 2023, the Grand Vin is distinctly red-fruited and vibrant. Rauzan-Ségla is one of the most memorable wines of the vintage. It was nothing short of stellar on the four occasions I tasted it.				
Score: 96-98					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Rauzan Gassies		93-94	91-93		\$65
Wines Advocate					
Score:					
James Suckling	Creamy and tight tannins here, alongside succulent dark-berry, spice and crushed-stone notes. It's medium-bodied, firm and focused with a velvety finish.				
Score: 93-94					
Vinous	The 2023 Rauzan Gassies is deep, pliant and super-expressive, with terrific depth and fine balance. Soft, plush contours wrap around a core of red/purplish fruit, new leather, rose petal and spice. The 2023 is all charm.				
Score: 91-93					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Du Tertre	92-94	95-96	91-93		\$46
Wines Advocate	As this estate's extensive restructuring begins to come to fruition, the 2023 du Tertre contains fully 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, as replanted parcels begin to be included in the grand vin, complemented by 15% Cabernet Franc and the rest Merlot. Offering up aromas of dark berries, licorice, lilac and mint, it's medium to full-bodied, layered and fleshy, with a notably concentrated, serious core by this estate's typically charming standards, revealing sweet structuring tannins and a succulent, seamless profile. In short, du Tertre's renaissance continues.				
Score: 92-94					
James Suckling	The lead pencil, blackberries and blackcurrants are very intense on both the nose and palate. Medium-bodied with a solid core of fruit and tannins and a creamy, refined texture that turns to a medium finish. 70% cabernet sauvignon, 15% merlot, 11% cabernet franc and 4% petit verdot.				
Score: 95-96					
Vinous	The 2023 du Tertre is deep, powerful and resonant right out of the gate. Darktoned fruit, chocolate, lavender, mocha and dried herbs are broadly sketched. This heady, layered Margaux is certainly not shy. All it could use is a bit more polish in its contours.				
Score: 91-93					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Brane-Cantenac	93-95	95-96	94-96		\$76
Wines Advocate	The 2023 Brane-Cantenac is a blend of 77% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot (which saw some saignée), 1% Cabernet Franc, 1% Carmenère and 1% Petit Verdot, and it completed its malolactic fermentation in barrels as has been the rule at this estate since the 1990s. Offering up aromas of dark cherries, cassis and spices framed by creamy new oak, it's medium to full-bodied, rich and fleshy, with a creamy core of fruit and a long, gently lactic finish.				
Score: 93-95					
James Suckling	This shows very pretty fruit and ultra-fine tannins that have an almost al-dente sense to them. It has a medium to full body, fine tannins and a fresh, vivid finish. The tannin quality is exceptional.				
Score: 95-96					
Vinous	The 2023 Brane-Cantenac is a sensual, silky wine. There's plenty of depth and structure behind that, but the first impression is most definitely one of elegance. Crushed flowers, spice and dried herbs meld into a core of super-expressive, dark, red-toned fruit. The 100% new oak is impeccably balanced within the wine's frame. Brane-Cantenac remains one of the best relative values in Bordeaux, or anywhere, for that matter. This is a fine effort from proprietor Henri Lurton and his team. Tasted two times				
Score: 94-96					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Lascombes	92-94	95-96	92-95		
Wines Advocate	A wine that begins a new era for this estate, the 2023 Lascombes (which I examined from separate components before tasting the prospective blend) offers up aromas of dark berries and plums mingled with hints of crushed mint, violets and pencil shavings. Medium to full-bodied, fleshy and velvety, with good depth and purity, it's a blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Merlot and 3% Petit Verdot. This estate, which was formerly one of the Médoc's poster children for over-ripeness and over-extraction, is assuredly coming in from the cold.				
Score: 92-94					
James Suckling	Aromas of stone, black licorice, tar, blackberry and slightly burnt orange. Medium to full body with a solid core of tannins and tight but juicy fruit. More chiseled and tannic than in the past.				
Score: 95-96					
Vinous	The 2023 Lascombes marks a new direction for the Chateau. Dark and virile, with real intensity, the 2023 marries richness and energy. Black cherry, lavender, spice, menthol and licorice emerge from the glass. This fleshes out beautifully on the finish, showing terrific breadth and nuance. The 2023 is, without question, the most elegant, finessed Lascombes made in many years. That won't surprise readers familiar with wines here that were often monolithic and one-dimensional. The 2023 will be a fascinating wine to follow. This is also a new chapter for Estate Director Axel Heinz, formerly at Ornellaia, who strikes me as a liberated winemaker these days—someone freed from the burden of expectations. Tasted three times.				
Score: 92-95					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

D'Issan	93-95	96-97	93-95		\$64
Wines Advocate	The 2023 D'Issan shows excellent potential, unfurling in the glass with aromas of dark berries, cassis, pen ink and white flowers, followed by a medium to full-bodied, velvety and enveloping palate that's rich, fleshy and charming, with lively acids, good depth at the core and a long, sapid finish. It's a blend of 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot and the balance Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot.				
Score: 93-95					
James Suckling	The purity of the fruit is really wonderful here, with blackcurrants, orange peel and raspberries. Aromatic. Full body, chewy tannins and a juicy finish. But it remains linear and vivid. The quality of the tannins and the powdery texture are really alluring. Silky. And so precise. 70% cabernet sauvignon, 25% merlot, 2.5% cabernet franc and 2.5% petit verdot. 13.83% alcohol. 3.66 pH.				
Score: 96-97					
Vinous	The 2023 d'Issan is a powerful, dense wine, especially for a property where the wines tend to be more understated. A rich, muscular Margaux, the 2023 d'Issan exudes intensity in all of its dimensions. Readers will have to be patient, as the 2023 is going to need a number of years to shed some of its considerable baby fat. Dried herbs, tobacco, incense and bold, dark-toned fruit flow into the deep, resonant finish.				
Score: 93-95					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Kirwan		93-94	90-92		\$46
Wines Advocate					
Score:					
James Suckling	This shows notes of ripe dark berries with hints of licorice and orange peel. It's very polished and refined with a solid center-palate. Medium-bodied and creamy on the finish.				
Score: 93-94					
Vinous	The 2023 Kirwan was tasted from two bottles as I was unhappy with the first. The second has a ripe red cherry and crushed strawberry nose that almost feels as if there is a touch of carbonic maceration! The palate is medium-bodied with sappy red fruit, fine structure, lightly spiced with a crisp and focused finish. Quite opulent in style, it is not a cerebral Margaux, though it has plenty of exuberance.				
Score: 90-92					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Siran	89-91	94-95	92-94		\$36
Wines Advocate	Exhibiting aromas of dark berries and sweet new oak, the 2023 Siran is medium to full-bodied, dense and youthfully structured. It's a solid effort.				
Score: 89-91					
James Suckling	Wow. This is really well done with plenty of al-dente fruit character, bright acidity and firm, fine tannins that are already well integrated. Medium-bodied. Crunchy.				
Score: 94-95					
Vinous	The 2023 Siran, picked September 11 to 29, has a well-defined bouquet that is not as complex as the previous vintage. It is focused and delineated, with black fruit mixed with graphite and melted tar, almost Saint-Julien in style. The palate is medium-bodied with pliant tannins, quite minerally and lively without the depth of the 2022, yet rather elegant and refined on the finish. This constitutes a very gracious Margaux and as I tried second and third bottles towards the end of my trip, it just seemed to get better and better.				
Score: 92-94					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

MEDOC	WA	JS	V	WS	PRICE
Sociando Mallet	90-92	94-95	89-91		\$37
Wines Advocate	The 2023 Sociando-Mallet is showing well, exhibiting aromas of cherries and cassis mingled with hints of pencil shavings and toasty new oak. Medium to full-bodied, deep and layered, it's lively and classically structured, with sweet tannins, bright acids and a penetrating finish. The blend is 50% Merlot, 47% Cabernet Sauvignon and 3% Cabernet Franc, which attained 14% alcohol.				
Score: 90-92					
James Suckling	This is very classic Sociando with brightness and linearity to the wine, as well as blackcurrants and a citrus undertone. Medium-bodied with refined tannins. Long, very crisp and fresh. Lower pH here of 3.55.				
Score: 94-95					
Vinous	The 2023 Sociando-Mallet is a deep, powerful wine. Black cherry, incense, blackberry, licorice and cloves add to an impression of somber gravitas. Unctuous and rich, the 2023 shows the natural intensity of the Merlot in this vintage. Sociando is pretty heady in this vintage.				
Score: 89-91					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Chasse Spleen	89-91	92-93	91-93		\$34
Wines Advocate	Offering up aromas of minty cassis, dark berries and pencil shavings, the 2023 Chasse-Spleen is medium to full-bodied, fleshy and youthfully structured, with good depth at the core and a penetrating finish. It's a strong effort.				
Score: 89-91					
James Suckling	This is structured and a little tight, with good concentration and volume. It's medium-bodied with juicy and vibrant fruit coming through. Velvety tannins. Firm and fresh at the end.				
Score: 92-93					
Vinous	The 2023 Chasse-Spleen takes time to open on the nose, gradually revealing raspberry and blackcurrant scents, touches of rose petals and freshly rolled tobacco. The palate is medium-bodied with grippy tannins, adequate freshness and a marine-tinged finish— almost Pauillac-like in style. This is quite a stylish if almost "old-school" Chasse-Spleen that should develop well in bottle.				
Score: 91-93					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Potensac	89-91	93-94	90-92		\$26
Wines Advocate	The 2023 Potensac is a solid effort, offering up aromas of dark berries, cherries, loamy soil and cigar wrapper, followed by a medium-bodied, fleshy palate that's taut and penetrating, with good depth at the core.				
Score: 89-91					
James Suckling	Beautiful dark fruit with purity and freshness. Medium- to full-bodied, seamless and compact. Outstanding quality of tannins, so fine and dense. It's muscular and taut on the mid-palate. Lingering, too. Plenty of energy. Close to 2022.				
Score: 93-94					
Vinous	The 2023 Potensac has a well-defined nose: predominantly black fruit, with touches of seaweed in the background. I warm to it more with acquaintance, and it gradually coheres. The palate is medium-bodied with pliant tannins and a fine line of acidity. Silky smooth in texture, you can tell that there is some quality new oak on the finish, which is simpatico with the fruit. It's a good, solid Potensac that will require three or four years in bottle.				
Score: 90-92					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

La Lagune	90-92	94-95	92-94		\$43
Wines Advocate	The 2023 La Lagune, a blend of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon and 35% Merlot, reveals bright aromas of dark wild berries, flowers, cassis and spices. Medium-bodied, supple and enveloping, with a perfectly balanced mid-palate, it's elegant and charming with an ethereal, fruity finish. This is an excellent rendition of this terroir.				
Score: 90-92					
James Suckling	A subtle yet plush La Lagune with black olives, blackberries and hints of chocolate and hazelnut. Medium body with fine, polished tannins and a savory finish. There's a crunchy feel to it and it's layered and deep at the end. 65% cabernet sauvignon and 35% merlot. No petit verdot.				
Score: 94-95					
Vinous	The 2023 La Lagune is a serious wine, but it is also quite backward. Dark red cherry, plum, spice, leather and dried herbs open with some coaxing. The 2023 is going to need time to come together. Its aromatic intensity and overall persistence suggest it has a bright future. Tasted two times.				
Score: 92-94					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Poujeaux	89-91	92-93	91-93		\$29
Wines Advocate	The 2023 Poujeaux offers up youthfully reserved aromas of licorice, dark wild berries and smoke. Medium-bodied, firm and slightly austere, it's elegant and gently structured with powdery tannins and a long, somber finish. A second encounter revealed greater flesh and plentitude. It's a blend of 55% Cabernet Sauvignon (a higher proportion than usual), 35% Merlot and 10% Petit Verdot.				
Score: 89-91					
James Suckling	The tight tannins and pretty fruit are very attractive now, with medium body and a juicy finish. I like it.				
Score: 92-93					
Vinous	The 2023 Poujeaux was picked from September 18 to October 4 and matured in 30% new oak. The first couple of samples tasted didn't quite engage as much as a third bottle on the penultimate day's tasting, which seems more representative. This Moulis, owned by the Cuvelier family (Clos Fourtet) has a tempting nose with blackberry, wild strawberry, incense and crushed violet scents—well defined and focused, blossoming nicely in the glass. There's good energy and vibrancy. The palate is medium-bodied with crunchy black fruit. Perhaps just a little gritty in terms of texture, there is a bit of rigidity apropos the tannins on the finish. Hopefully, it will gain more elegance once in bottle, but it feels as if it will meld together during élevage.				
Score: 91-93					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

HAUT MEDOC	WA	JS	V	NM	PRICE
Cantemerle	88-89	93-94	87-89		\$29
Wines Advocate	The 2023 Cantemerle offers up aromas of dark berries, cherries, mint and herbs, followed by a medium-bodied, round and fleshy palate that's a touch varietal in profile this year.				
Score: 88-89					
James Suckling	This shows focus and balance with a pretty dark-fruit character, as well as hints of blue flowers and stones. Medium-bodied, juicy and vivid with very polished tannins and fresh acidity. Nice center-palate with cabernet character coming through. Firm at the end.				
Score: 93-94					
Vinous	The 2023 Cantemerle has an attractive nose that offers more fruit concentration than its peers, raspberry and crushed strawberry, light peppery notes. The palate has good body on the entry, but it doesn't quite possess phenolic ripeness right on the finish. Could this be subsumed during the élevage? A third sample verified a nagging, albeit slight vegetal aspect but let's see how it will show once in bottle.				
Score: 87-89					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

GRAVES & PESSAC-LEOGNAN	WA	JS	V	WS	PRICE
De Fieuzal	94-96	93-94			\$34
Wines Advocate	The 2023 Fieuzal reveals a bright, perfumed bouquet of mulberries and cherries mingled with floral accents of violets, lilac and spring flowers. Medium to full-bodied, layered and textural, it's pure and seamless, with a fleshy core of fruit, bright acids and powdery, ultra-refined tannins, concluding with a mineral, penetrating finish. This blend of 50% Merlot, 40% Cabernet Sauvignon and 10% Petit Verdot stands out in this challenging vintage for gravelly, sandy terroirs. Under the adept guidance of Stephen Carrier, the estate—positioned on the border of the Pessac-Léognan appellation—has hit new heights in recent years.				
Score: 94-96					
James Suckling	Very impressive freshness and focus here. Bright and succulent, al-dente fruit right upfront and continuing through the whole length of the wine. Notes of forest floor, sea shell and iodine. Medium body. It has bright acidity that adds tension and a lot of energy. Fine tannins, already beautifully integrated.				
Score: 93-94					
Vinous					
Score:					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

La Mission Haut Brion	94-96	97-98	93-95		\$310
Wines Advocate	The 2023 La Mission Haut-Brion unwinds in the glass to reveal aromas of ripe red fruits, dark wild berries, spring flowers, burning embers and lilac. Medium to full-bodied, rich and concentrated, it's layered and textural with a dense core of fruit underpinned by youthfully firm structuring tannins. This blend of 52.7% Merlot, 29.6% Cabernet Sauvignon and 17.7% Cabernet Franc its likely to become fleshier and more enveloping with barrel maturation.				
Score: 94-96					
James Suckling	The classy mouth-feel and length to this is really gorgeous, and it seduces you with its texture of fine silk and finesse. Lasts for a long, long time. Medium body with medium, creamy and round tannins and a layered, textured finish. Shows blackcurrants, lead pencil and crushed stone at the end. 52.7% merlot, 29.6% cabernet sauvignon and 17.7% cabernet franc.				
Score: 97-98					
Vinous	The 2023 La Mission Haut-Brion was picked between September 5 until October 5, a relatively long picking, at 50hL/ha. It has a wonderful bouquet with brightness and verve: very well-defined red and black fruit, a little floral in style, maybe not as rambunctious as recent vintages. The palate is medium-bodied with lithe tannins. A perfect line of acidity counterbalances the creamy texture, turning quite plush toward the finish, but it is amazingly well-focused. This is a generous La Mission Haut-Brion that will probably drink earlier than say, the 2022, as winemaker Jean-Philippe Delmas agreed. It's very fine and very delicious, but I would not place it within the canon of top vintages.				
Score: 93-95					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

La Mission Haut Brion Blanc	93-95	96-97	93-95		
Wines Advocate	Offering up generous amounts of lemon oil, spices and ripe orchard fruits with a touch of spring flowers, the 2023 La Mission Haut-Brion Blanc is medium to full-bodied, fleshy and broad, with a rich, aromatic palate. It concludes with an ethereal, powerful finish that carries elegant white fruit notes. It's a blend of 65.3% Sauvignon Blanc and 34.7% Sémillon.				
Score: 93-95					
James Suckling	A creamy, round texture with ripe yet fresh aromas and flavors, showing apples, pears and hints of peaches. Medium- to full-bodied, polished and satisfying. 65.3% sauvignon blanc and 34.7% semillon.				
Score: 96-97					
Vinous	The 2023 La Mission Haut-Brion Blanc is driven by the Sauvignon Blanc (65%) on the nose: Granny Smith apples, kiwi fruit, slate and light spicy aromas. There's very fine delineation, but I err toward the more nuanced Haut-Brion Blanc. The palate is lively on the entry with a touch of white pepper, very good tension and ample energy. Conference pear mixes with melon and grassy notes toward the finish. This will provide immediate pleasure over the next 20 years, though Haut-Brion Blanc has the intellectual heft.				
Score: 93-95					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

La Chapelle de la Mission Haut Brion	90-92	95-96	89-91		\$74
Wines Advocate	The 2023 La Chapelle de la Mission Haut-Brion offers up aromas of blueberries, cassis and dark wild berries. Medium-bodied, long and fleshy, it's nicely integrated, with a dense core of fruit, youthfully firm tannins and a persistent finish. Deeper and more structured than usual, it will regard some patience. This is a blend of 48.3% Merlot, 39.4% Cabernet Sauvignon and 12.3% Cabernet Franc.				
Score: 90-92					
James Suckling	The solid center-palate and sure nature says La Mission, as it should, being the second wine of the estate. Medium body with a creamy and refined tannin structure that is long and true. Oyster-shell and blackcurrant character, as well as crushed stones. Direct. 48.3% merlot, 39.4% cabernet sauvignon and 12.3% cabernet franc.				
Score: 95-96					
Vinous	The 2023 La Chapelle de la Mission Haut-Brion, matured in 21% new oak, has a fragrant nose with black plum, cedar and light tobacco scents that gently unfurl. The palate is medium-bodied with a supple opening that suggests you could drink this Deuxième Vin now! Open and expressive with mainly red fruit mixed with subtle white pepper and graphite noted, this is a nicely controlled, quite elegant La Chapelle.				
Score: 89-91					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Haut Brion	95-97	98-99	96-98		SOLD OUT
Wines Advocate	The 2023 Haut-Brion exhibits a more Cabernet-inflected personality than the richer 2022, offering up a deep but youthfully reserved bouquet of dark wild berries, licorice, smoke and pencil lead mingled with notions of cigar wrapper, nicely integrated new oak and spices. Full-bodied, deep and velvety, it's layered and concentrated, with a deep core of fruit structured around abundant but velvety tannins, concluding with a long, controlled finish. Somewhat reminiscent of the estate's successful 2006, it's a blend of 52.3% Merlot, 38.6% Cabernet Sauvignon and 9.1% Cabernet Franc.				
Score: 95-97					
James Suckling	This is tight, yet so upright and proper, with a vertical line of fine tannin that runs true and deep. It's medium- to full-bodied with an exquisite texture and a long, structured finish. 52.3% merlot, 38.6% cabernet sauvignon and 9.1% cabernet franc.				
Score: 98-99					
Vinous	The 2023 Haut-Brion was picked at the same time as the La Mission Haut-Brion, albeit the secateurs sheathed one day later, on October 6. The nose is less immediate than the La Mission and the fruit is a little darker: blackcurrant, juniper, hints of black olive and a light cedar scent. The palate is medium-bodied with fine grip and tension. This has superb energy, presenting a crescendo of flavors toward a complex and persistent finish that lingers in the mouth. There is real pedigree to this First Growth, and it will certainly give 30 to 40 years of drinking pleasure.				
Score: 96-98					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Haut Brion Blanc	93-94	97-98	95-97		
Wines Advocate	A bit shy, the 2023 Haut-Brion Blanc exhibits aromas of lemon, lemon oil, crisp stone fruits and spring flowers, followed by a medium to full-bodied, dense and fleshy palate that's round and layered, with chalky underlying structure and a long, mineral finish. It's a blend of 58% Sauvignon Blanc and 42% Sémillon.				
Score: 93-94					
James Suckling	The Haut Brion is open and very pretty, with sliced lemon, pear and white-peach character, as well as a hint of lemon grass. It's full and layered with structure and focus. Crunchy finish. Fine phenolics and vibrant fruit for the vintage. 58.1% sauvignon blanc and 41.9% semillon.				
Score: 97-98					
Vinous	The 2023 Haut-Brion Blanc was picked from August 21 until September 5. This is very detailed on the nose with orchard fruit, dewy meadow and light Mirabelle scents—very poised and focused. The palate is very well balanced with an irresistible texture, lightly spiced with impressive depth on the finish. It's the umami sensation that really lifts this superb Haut-Brion Blanc.				
Score: 95-97					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Haut Bailly	94-96	97-98	96-98		\$154
Wines Advocate	A blend of 58% Cabernet Sauvignon (harvested from the 20th to the 29th of September), 34% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc and 4% Petit Verdot, the 2023 Haut-Bailly offers up aromas of mulberries, cassis, dark wild berries, pencil lead, licorice and spices, followed by a medium to full-bodied, concentrated and rich palate that is both layered and seamless, its deep mid-palate animated by lively acids, concluding with long, mineral, penetrating finish. Although it displays a darker, more brooding profile character than in previous years, it remains highly representative of its terroir and will benefit from some patience. It's being matured in 50% new oak.				
Score: 94-96					
James Suckling	I am thinking about the purity of fruit here, with blackcurrants, cassis and lead pencil. There's an underlying character of mineral and flint. The palate is dense, focused and precise, with very fine tannins that are ultra-fine and layered and go vertically down the palate. Everything is in the right place. So much polish and a svelte nature. Then hints of hazelnut and walnut to the refined texture. Sophisticated. 58% cabernet sauvignon, 34% merlot, 4% cabernet franc and 4% petit verdot.				
Score: 97-98					
Vinous	The 2023 Haut-Bailly was picked from September 11 to 29 at 40.5hL/ha. It is being raised in 50% new oak for a planned 14 months, plus another three in vats. Véronique Sanders told me that there is 6% vin de presse in the blend this year. This has a beguiling bouquet that instantly switches on a metaphorical neon sign that announces you are in the presence of a very serious wine. Extremely pure and delineated, the nose presents aromas of blackberry mixed with wild strawberry, cedar and light sous-bois. It's much more classical in style compared to the 2022. The palate is medium-bodied with fine-grained tannins that frame the blackberry, raspberry, cedar and graphite-infused fruit. It boasts more grip and persistency on the finish than its peers, with a residual subtle pinch of black pepper. This ranks as one of the standout wines in Pessac-Léognan, perhaps in Bordeaux itself. Outstanding.				
Score: 96-98					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Haut Bailly II	90-92	94-95	90-92		
Wines Advocate	Aromas of cassis, mulberries, violet and dark wild berries characterized this elegant, gourmand and fresh 2023 Haut-Bailly II. This is a blend of 64% Merlot, 34% Cabernet Sauvignon and 2% Cabernet Franc matured 30% in new oak and the rest in one- to two-year-old barrels.				
Score: 90-92					
James Suckling	This is very structured for the second wine, a chewy and layered red with lots of blackberry and blackcurrant character. It's medium- to full-bodied, creamy and layered with a long finish. Muscular and flexing. Serious for a second wine. More tannic than 2022. 64% merlot, 34% cabernet sauvignon and 2% cabernet franc.				
Score: 94-95					
Vinous	The 2023 Haut-Bailly II is a blend of 64% Merlot, 34% Cabernet Sauvignon and 2% Cabernet Franc, picked from September 11 and 29. It has quite a potent bouquet with perfumed black fruit, touches of dark chocolate and mint, welldefined and focused. The palate is framed by powdery tannins and nicely balanced with gentle grip. There's moderate depth and a touch of white pepper toward the finish, actually gaining cohesion in the glass. The 2023 will need two or three years in bottle.				
Score: 90-92					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

La Clarté de Haut Brion Blanc	90-92	93-94	90-92		\$103
Wines Advocate	Aromas of smoke, white fruits and ripe orchard fruits preface the 2023 La Clarté de Haut-Brion blanc, a medium-bodied, round and supple wine that is fruity and elegant on the finish. This is a blend of 56.3% Sauvignon Blanc and 43.7% Sémillon.				
Score: 90-92					
James Suckling	A tight and focused second wine of La Mission and Haut Brion with a classy texture and beautiful length and focus. Medium body, fresh acidity and a crunchy finish. 56.3% sauvignon blanc and 43.7% semillon.				
Score: 93-94					
Vinous	The 2023 La Clarté de Haut-Brion is the second white wine from La Mission and HautBrion. It offers terrific cut and focus. Citrus peel, white flowers, mint, crushed rocks, white pepper and a touch of reduction lend notable energy to this airy, sculpted dry white. Time in the glass reveals its lovely mid-palate texture, rounding things out. The 2023 is a fine Clarté.				
Score: 90-92					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Le Clarence de Haut Brion	91-93	95-96	90-92		\$170
Wines Advocate	With aromas of ripe raspberries, dark wild berries and flowers, the 2023 Le Clarence de Haut-Brion is a moderately weighted, firm and dense wine on the palate with sweet structuring tannins and a long, vibrant finish. This blend of 55.5% Merlot, 40.9% Cabernet Sauvignon and 3.6% Cabernet Franc is a great bottle in the making.				
Score: 91-93					
James Suckling	Intensity and focus to this, with length and raciness for the second wine of Haut-Brion, showing polish and a refined texture. It's medium-bodied with ultra-fine tannins and an exquisite finish. Caressing. 55.5% merlot, 40.9% cabernet sauvignon and 3.6% cabernet franc.				
Score: 95-96					
Vinous	The 2023 Le Clarence de Haut-Brion is well-defined on the nose with blackberry, cedar and a subtle mint aroma, showing a little more fruit concentration than the La Chapelle. The palate is medium-bodied with a gentle grip on the entry and fine backbone. It's a little granular in texture, sorbet-fresh and pliant, with redcurrant and cranberry fruit. This is very enticing, even at this early stage.				
Score: 90-92					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Smith Haut Lafitte	94-96	98-99	94-96		\$156
Wines Advocate	The 2023 Smith Haut Lafitte is a brilliant wine, revealing a complex, elegantly oaky bouquet of dark wild berries, mulberries, blueberries, flowers and spices. Medium to full-bodied, seamless and rich, it has a fleshy core of fruit with good concentration and refined, structured tannins that segues into a long, penetrating and mineral finish. Crafted with an unprecedented majority of Cabernet Sauvignon—due to mildew affecting the Merlot—this Smith Haut Lafitte highlights a distinctly Cabernet-driven texture that authentically reflects its terroir despite a slightly more structured character. This blend of 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot, 6% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot, matured in 60% new oak barrels, represents one-third of the entire crop.				
Score: 94-96					
James Suckling	Probably one of the most structured and stony SHLs I have ever had. Full yet very tight and compact palate with tannins that are like a tightly wound ball of silk. It goes on for a very long time. The cab berries were very small and they delivered a fantastic backbone of tannins, but at the same time intensity of vivid and reserved fruit. This is really long and classic in structure. The elevage in barrel will polish the fantastic, pure tannins. 70% cabernet sauvignon, 23% merlot, 6% cabernet franc and 1% petit verdot. From biodynamically grown grapes.				
Score: 98-99					
Vinous	The 2023 Smith Haut Lafitte comes with a label celebrating the visit of King Charles III that year, though I presume it was not his advice to include more Cabernet Sauvignon (70%). It was cropped at 26hL/ha. Matured in 60% new oak, it has a lovely bouquet with blackberry, wild strawberry, crushed violet and light oyster shell scents. The palate is medium-bodied with sappy black fruit, gentle grip, fine depth and a sapid, classically lined finish. One of the more structured Smith Haut Lafittes in recent years, it deserves four or five years in bottle. Excellent.				
Score: 94-96					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Smith Haut Lafitte Blanc	94-96	97-98	95-97		\$185
Wines Advocate	Aromas of white fruits, crisp orchard fruits, spices, smoke, spring flowers and pear introduce the 2023 Smith Haut Lafitte Blanc, a medium to full-bodied, layered and textured wine with a fleshy core of fruit and racy acids, concluding with a mineral, fresh and long finish highlighted by delicate notes of thyme and garrigue. Comprising 50% Sauvignon Blanc, 5% Sémillon and 5% Sauvignon Gris and matured in 50% new oak, this blend is among the finest white wines produced at this address.				
Score: 94-96					
James Suckling	Another exceptional vintage for Smith-Haut-Lafite Blanc. It's so complex and structured, offering a palate that feels similar to the texture of a red wine with a velvety tannin structure. There's a lot going on here. Spice, crushed seashell and citrus blossom. Salty, too. Weightless and so long. 90% sauvignon blanc, 5% sauvignon gris and 5% semillon.				
Score: 97-98					
Vinous	The 2023 Smith Haut Lafitte Blanc was picked from August 23 to September 9 at 36hL/ha and matured in 50% new oak. It has a reticent bouquet at first, requiring a few swirls of the glass to reveal touches of orange pith, peach skin, wild fennel and light pressed white flower scents. The palate is very well balanced with a lovely creamy texture, counterbalanced by the taut line of acidity. Very poised and focused, it's somehow almost Corton-Charlemagne-inspired on the finish (perhaps due to the umami). This is a seriously fine white Pessac-Léognan				
Score: 95-97					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Les Carmes Haut Brion	97-99	98-99	94-96		\$130
Wines Advocate	Guillaume Pouthier and his team have once again crafted one of Bordeaux's most unique and characterful wines. Revealing aromas of mulberries and raspberries mingled with notions of vine smoke, orange zest, rose petals and spices, the 2023 Les Carmes Haut-Brion is medium to full-bodied, fleshy and concentrated, with a powerful, vibrant and complete mid-palate, concluding with a long, ethereal and mouthwateringly saline finish. Sensual, suave and seamless, its beautifully refined tannins are, analytically, more abundant than even those of the 2022 vintage, yet they are so brilliantly integrated as to be near-imperceptible. This blend of 50% Cabernet Franc, 30% Cabernet Sauvignon and 20% Merlot is crafted for longevity, though its refined structure will make it surprisingly approachable at an early age. It's maturing 70% in new oak barrels, 20% in 18-hectoliter foudres and 10% in amphorae. A creditable yield of 50 hectoliters per hectare represents a decided agronomic success in what was a challenging growing season.				
Score: 97-99					
James Suckling	This is a fantastic wine and very, very exciting, with purity and brightness to the floral, spicy and blackberry notes. It's full and deep with agility and weightless. You feel the greatness in this. The winemaker says this is more concentrated and structured than the 2022. Lightly salty. 60% whole-berry fermentation. 50% cabernet franc, 30% cabernet sauvignon and 20% merlot. From organically grown grapes.				
Score: 98-99					
Vinous	The 2023 Les Carmes Haut-Brion was picked September 11 to 25 with 60% whole bunch and more Cabernet Franc than usual. Aging was 70% in new barrels, 20% in 18-hectoliter foudres and 10% in amphorae. This offers plenty of dark berry fruit mixed with cedar and pinecones on the nose, very well defined and focused. The palate is medium-bodied with pliant tannins, and the acidity is very well-judged. Just a soupçon of white pepper appears toward the finish. This is a much more succinct Les Carmes than the 2022, but it's extremely harmonious and characterful.				
Score: 94-96					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Pape Clement	92-94	97-98	95-97		\$99
Wines Advocate	The 2023 Pape Clément evokes aromas of dark wild berries, spices, licorice and mulberries, followed by a medium to full-bodied, round and ample palate with structuring tannins and a firm, concentrated mid-palate that segues into a long, fruity finish. Less oaky than the previous years, this is a more contemporary expression of this great terroir. It's a blend of 50% Merlot, 45% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot.				
Score: 92-94					
James Suckling	This is really classy with length and polish that shine brightly. Also, you see blackberry, bark, currant and mushroom character. Full-bodied with wonderfully polished tannins and a seamless finish.				
Score: 97-98					
Vinous	The 2023 Pape Clément is one of the most exciting wines I have tasted here in a long time, maybe ever. Intensely aromatic and layered, the 2023 is simply stunning. Dried flowers, mint, licorice, mocha, cedar and tobacco soar out of the glass. The purity of the flavors is simply mind-blowing. Plum, pomegranate, blood orange and spice build in the glass, adding notable textural richness and resonance. This is the first vintage vinified with indigenous yeasts. Aging takes place in a combination of concrete tanks, ceramic eggs, Clayvers, 400-liter barrels and 225-liter barriques. For readers who want to taste the "new" Bordeaux, this is it. What a wine! Tasted four times.				
Score: 95-97					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Pape Clement Blanc	91-93	96-97	93-95		
Wines Advocate	Aromas of white flowers, lemon oil, pomegranate and lemongrass preface the 2023 Pape Clément Blanc, a moderately weighted, sappy, layered and incisive wine with bright acids and a penetrating, mouthwatering finish. In comparison to previous vintages, the use of wood has been scaled back, allowing the wine to express a closer connection to its terroir and achieve greater precision in its aromatic profile.				
Score: 91-93					
James Suckling	Dense and tight with a solid core of sliced Meyer lemon, lime and green apple. It's full and very compact with a phenolic texture that runs the length of the wine. Slightly chewy, yet, it's long and persistent with a mineral and bitter citrus undertone at the end.				
Score: 96-97					
Vinous	The 2023 Pape Clément Blanc is another strong vintage for a wine that has been in transition for a few years now. There's still plenty of textural richness in the Blanc, but less of the tropical character and flamboyance of some past years. Orange peel, mint, dried herbs, chamomile and crushed flowers open gracefully. All the elements are so well balanced. Tasted three times.				
Score: 93-95					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Domaine De Chevalier	94-96	97-98	94-96		\$78
Wines Advocate	The 2023 Domaine de Chevalier reveals a perfumed, incipiently complex bouquet of dark wild berries, cassis, rose petals, spices and licorice. Medium to full-bodied, concentrated and rich, with a fleshy core of fruit framed by powdery tannins and bright acids, it concludes with a long, saline, gently oak-inflected finish. This blend of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot and 5% Cabernet Franc is maturing in 40% new barrels.				
Score: 94-96					
James Suckling	Plenty of blackberry, blackcurrant, chocolate and flint aromas that follow through to a full body, yet it's in check and focused with a beautiful framing of fine tannins. The purity of ripe fruit is impressive with cabernet really showing through. 63% cabernet sauvignon, 30% merlot, 5% petit verdot and 2% cabernet franc.				
Score: 97-98					
Vinous	The 2023 Domaine de Chevalier was picked from September 7 to 30 and contains 13% alcohol. This is quintessential "DdC" on the nose: black fruit, sousbois and hints of black olive at first, subtle marine notes emerging with time in the glass. There's wonderful focus and delineation. The palate is medium-bodied with pencil-shaving-tinged black fruit on the entry. Perhaps a bit grippier with more spine than one would expect (especially following the more sensual 2022), this is very traditional in style, with a tremendously long and satisfying saline finish. Superb.				
Score: 94-96					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Domaine De Chevalier Blanc	94-96	97-98	94-96		\$130
Wines Advocate	A perfumed, complex bouquet of pear, white peach, hazelnuts, lime tree leaves and spring flowers prefaces the 2023 Domaine de Chevalier Blanc, a medium to full-bodied, fleshy and concentrated wine with racy acids, chalky, structuring dry extract, and a bright, vibrant profile that's rare in this vintage. This is a blend of 70% Sauvignon Blanc and 30% Sémillon.				
Score: 94-96					
James Suckling	This is layered and complex with an impressive mineral tension and depth. Medium- to full-bodied, very long and persistent. It has oyster shell, crushed stone and citrus peel character with racy acidity coming through, adding to its length and tension. Very long and firm at the end with a backbone of fine tannins for a white. 70% sauvignon blanc and 30% semillon.				
Score: 97-98					
Vinous	The 2023 Domaine de Chevalier Blanc was picked from August 28 to September 6 at 45hL/ha. It's a blend of 70% Sauvignon Blanc and 30% Sémillon. This has wonderful purity on the nose, revealing scents of lime, green apple and crushed stone—one of the most precise I have encountered at this early stage. The palate is well balanced with a fine bead of acidity that lends this white Pessac-Léognan superb focus. There's real intensity here, building with a sense of nascent confidence toward the mineral, almost slate-like finish. Very long and tender, this is a white Domaine de Chevalier from the top drawer.				
Score: 94-96					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Carbonnieux	91-93	93-94	91-93		\$38
Wines Advocate	The 2023 Carbonnieux reveals aromas of dark wild berries, mulberries, cassis, spices and menthol intertwined with violet notes with aeration. Medium to full-bodied, layered and textured with structured tannins, it's lively and rich with powdery tannins and a fresh, elegant finish. This blend of 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 33% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc and 5% Petit Verdot will be matured in one-third new oak.				
Score: 91-93					
James Suckling	This is a solid Carbonnieux with blackberry, forest-floor and crushed-stone character. It's medium-bodied with firm, muscular tannins and a cool and bright finish. Better than 2022?				
Score: 93-94					
Vinous	The 2023 Carbonnieux is a very pretty, promising wine. The open-knit, floral bouquet is immediately alluring, Medium in body and gracious, but with plenty of depth, Carbonnieux is beautifully refined in 2023. I admire its balance and poise. Hints of spice, crushed flowers and tobacco lift a core of dark blue- and black-toned fruits.				
Score: 91-93					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Carbonnieux Blanc	90-92	93-94	87-88		\$41
Wines Advocate	A blend of 65% Sauvignon Blanc and 35% Sémillon, the 2023 Carbonnieux Blanc exhibits elegant aromas of pear, white peach, spring flowers and herbs, followed by a medium-bodied, satiny and long texture enhanced by bright acids and a lively mid-palate. It concludes with a long, delicate, mouthwateringly mordant finish, making it a classic white wine from this estate.				
Score: 90-92					
James Suckling	Very bright and mineral with lively citrus-fruit, ginger, white-flower and crushed-stone character. A hint of seashell, too. It's medium-bodied, fresh and focused with tense acidity and a firm, lightly phenolic finish.				
Score: 93-94					
Vinous	The 2023 Carbonnieux Blanc is bright, chiseled and full of Sauvignon Blanc character. I find it a bit austere in feel, though. It lacks just that little bit of mid-palate texture that could take it to the next level.				
Score: 87-88					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Latour Martillac	90-92	93-94	88-89		\$34
Wines Advocate	Composed of 66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot and 14% Petit Verdot and matured with 40% in new oak barrels, the 2023 Latour Martillac reveals aromas of dark wild berries, spices, pencil lead and mulberries, followed by a medium to full-bodied, concentrated and rich, layered and fleshy palate that segues into a firm, long and mineral finish. The increased proportion of Petit Verdot, a response to mildew affecting the Merlot grapes, imparts a more structured and firm character than seen in previous years.				
Score: 90-92					
James Suckling	The blackberry and blueberry character comes through clearly here, alongside a hint of stone. Medium-bodied with creamy and polished tannins and a savory finish. Very typical for the appellation.				
Score: 93-94					
Vinous	The 2023 Latour-Martillac has a more straightforward, less nuanced bouquet than some of its peers at the moment. It does not quite engage the senses as I would have hoped. The palate is medium-bodied with quite assertive tannins matched by a crisp acidity thread, though again, the finish feels a little hard and muscular. I will be prudent with my score for now.				
Score: 88-89					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Latour Martillac Blanc	89-91	93-94	89-91		\$41
Wines Advocate	The 2023 Blanc from Latour Martillac reveals aromas of confit citron, lime, lime tree leaves, herbs and spices, followed by a juicy, round and layered palate framed by bright acids and a mouthwatering finish with delicate smoky hints. This blend of 60% Sauvignon Blanc and 40% Sémillon was matured 20% in new oak barrels.				
Score: 89-91					
James Suckling	A bright and delicious white with gooseberry, citrus-blossom and crushed-stone character. It's mineral and fresh with a medium body and vivid acidity. Tense and energetic with an attractively phenolic finish.				
Score: 93-94					
Vinous	The 2023 Latour-Martillac Blanc is a tense, steel dry white. Lemon peel, chalk, white pepper, sage, mint and crushed rocks lend brightness and energy. I like the vibrancy here, but I just wish there was a bit more mid-palate creaminess. At this stage, the Blanc is a bit austere. Tasted two times.				
Score: 89-91					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Malartic Lagraviere	91-93	95-96	90-92		\$45
Wines Advocate	The 2023 Malartic Lagravière, a blend of 53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 42% Merlot, 4% Petit Verdot and 1% Cabernet Franc, exudes aromas of dark wild berries, violet, mulberries, spices and licorice, complemented with a delicate touch of oak. Medium to full-bodied, supple and elegant with bright acids and a delicate mid-palate, it's refined and less structured than the 2022 vintage, making it a classic expression from this estate.				
Score: 91-93					
James Suckling	Very pretty and polished with blackberry, blueberry and ink character, as well as a hint of hazelnut. It's medium-bodied with well-integrated tannins to the fruit. Fine and flavorful finish.				
Score: 95-96					
Vinous	The 2023 Malartic Lagravière has a tightly wound nose with blueberry and blackberryfruit, touches of iris flower and peony. The oak here is nicely integrated, yet it needs more vigor and terroir expression. The palate is medium-bodied with crunchy black fruit. This is nicely structured with a fine line of acidity, though a touch more detail would help the finish. Tasted from two different bottles, the 2023 is a serious Pessac-Léognan, but I found myself more drawn to the 2022 last year. I prefer the estate's impressive white counterpart.				
Score: 90-92					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Malartic Lagraviere Blanc	90-92	95-96	92-94		\$66
Wines Advocate	The 2023 Malartic Lagravière Blanc, a blend of 80% Sauvignon Blanc and 20% Sémillon matured for 50% in new oak barrels, reveals a lemony, citrusy bouquet with aromas of lime tree leaves, pear and herbs. Medium-bodied to full-bodied, textural and layered, it's framed by bright acids and a long, elegant and mouthwatering finish.				
Score: 90-92					
James Suckling	A beautifully structured and complex white with pristine, bright citrus fruit and an exotic touch. There's a mineral character to it, too, with oyster-shell and crushed-stone notes. It's medium- to full-bodied with racy acidity that adds energy and tension. Very long finish with fine tannins that frame it nicely.				
Score: 95-96					
Vinous	The 2023 Malartic-Lagravière Blanc has a taut, correct and, in some ways, conservative bouquet that takes time to unfold in the glass. But, I appreciate the tension and mineralité. Hints of petrichor and Granny Smiths eventually take control. The palate is very well balanced with a fresh lemon sherbet-, orange pith- and lemongrass-tinged opening. There's a very appealing texture and impressive weight on the finish. Overall, this is a superb white Malartic to drink over the next 20 years.				
Score: 92-94					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

SAINT EMILION	WA	JS	V	WS	PRICE
Cheval Blanc	98-100	98-99	96-98		\$662
Wines Advocate	One of the most profound wines of the vintage is the 2023 Cheval Blanc, a striking wine that stands out for its strong sense of identity and seamless integration at such an early stage in its life. Wafting from the glass with notes of mulberries, lilac, dark fruits, iris root and violets, it's medium to full-bodied, supple and seamless, with a gourmand core of cool, vibrant fruit that entirely conceals its sweet structuring tannins, concluding with a long, perfumed finish. It's a blend of 52% Merlot, 46% Cabernet Franc and 2% Cabernet Sauvignon, drawing on fully 46 of the blocks that make up Cheval Blanc, and it attained 13.8% alcohol.				
Score: 98-100					
James Suckling	This is so cabernet, with blackcurrants, blackberries, crushed stone, graphite and lead pencil. Full-bodied with tight, chewy tannins that remain fine yet energetic. Winemaker Pierre-Olivier Clouet says this wine is a benchmark for Cheval Blanc. Reminds me of the great 1983. 13.8% alcohol. 52% merlot, 46% cabernet franc and 2% cabernet sauvignon.				
Score: 98-99					
Vinous:	The 2023 Cheval Blanc is uncharacteristically backward on first meeting, and it takes time to really fire up its engines. Quite strict and focused (surprisingly so), the bouquet reveals black fruit, a touch of bilberry, with just a whiff of iris flower. The palate has wonderful symmetry, outstanding mineralité and ample tension. It's extremely pure, with less weight than the 2022 but perhaps a touch more nerve. Modestly grippy on the finish, this "serious" Cheval Blanc will deserve several years in bottle. It's cerebral...and I like that. The 2023 is very different from the 2022—a beautiful minor chord.				
Score: 96-98					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Le Petit Cheval	89-91	94-95	92-94		\$205
Wines Advocate	There are only 15,000 bottles of the 2023 Le Petit Cheval, a blend of equal parts Merlot and Cabernet Franc that didn't have quite the plenitude of the grand vin. Offering up an attractive bouquet of minty berries, cherries, plums and petals, it's medium-bodied, pillowy and vibrant, with polished tannins and a bright core of fruit. I suspect that a bit of patience will be rewarded by more fat and texture.				
Score: 89-91					
James Suckling	There's depth of fruit, good structure and freshness in this black-cherry and chocolate-scented wine. It's full-bodied, yet it tightens up on the finish. Toned, muscular and crisp. 10% of the production of Cheval. 50% merlot and 50% cabernet franc.				
Score: 94-95					
Vinous	The 2023 Le Petit Cheval represents 10% of the estate's production and is a blend of equal parts Merlot and Cabernet Franc. In a way, that results in a Petit Cheval that is very Cheval, meaning very expressive in the bouquet but less giving on the palate. Crushed red berry fruit, cinnamon, star anise, pomegranate and blood orange lend an exotic flair. Bright acids and persistent tannins appear on the finish to give the wine shape, closing with a burst of energy. Superb.				
Score: 92-94					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Ausone	95-97	98-99	96-98		SOLD OUT
Wines Advocate	The 2023 Ausone reveals an incipient bouquet of violet, smoke, dark wild berries, spices and cherries, all beautifully interwoven with creamy new oak. Medium to full-bodied, layered and concentrated, with a rich chassis of tannin, it has a vibrant core of fruit and a long, mineral, vanillin-inflected finish. At 60% Cabernet Franc and 40% Merlot, this ranks alongside the 2014 vintage as one of the most Cabernet-dominant Ausone vintages of recent years, and it will mature for 20 months in new oak barrels.				
Score: 95-97					
James Suckling	I don't think I have tasted an Ausone like this. The purity of fruit and fluidity is so primary, like perfectly picked grapes with their juice. Then there is citrus freshness. It's muscular, with toned tannins that caress the palate and give a seamless finish. This really could push the boundaries for the character of Ausone, in the way of finesse with structure. Watch it. 60% cabernet franc and 40% merlot.				
Score: 98-99					
Vinous	The 2023 Ausone was picked September 14 to 30 and matured for a planned 20 months. It has a wonderful bouquet that is very floral in style and perfectly controlled, perhaps more refined than the 2022 (which incidentally had a degree more in alcohol). The palate is medium-bodied with a silky smooth entry, finely tuned with impressive mineralité. It just gently "rolls out" on the languorous finish. This is a more understated Ausone compared to recent vintages, but it exudes sophistication and could easily surpass the Vauthiers' 2022.				
Score: 96-98					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Chapelle D'Ausone	91-93	95-96	92-94		\$206
Wines Advocate	A fresh, delicate bouquet of cassis, violet, iris, raspberries and mulberries introduces the 2023 Chapelle d'Ausone, a medium to full-bodied, concentrated and textured wine with a fleshy core of fruit structured around chalky tannins and a long, precise finish.				
Score: 91-93					
James Suckling	Wow. This is really alluring, with multi-dimensional texture and length. Crisp and al-dente. It's medium- to full-bodied with ultra-fine tannins and crunchy, pure fruit. Salt comes through. 60% cabernet franc, 35% merlot and 5% cabernet sauvignon.				
Score: 95-96					
Vinous	The 2023 Chapelle d'Ausone is fabulous, as it often is. Succulent, ripe tannins give the 2023 tons of pure charm. Dark red/purplish fruit, lavender, spice, menthol, licorice and mocha all run through this sumptuous yet structured Saint-Émilion. This will be stellar in another few years time.				
Score: 92-94					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Belair Monange	94-96	97-98	95-97		
Wines Advocate	The 2023 Belair Monange is the first vintage from this newly created property that incorporates a balance of fruit from the plateau and fruit from the hillsides, as restructured and replanted parcels are returning to production. Wafting from the glass with attractive aromas of raspberries, violets and kirsch mingled with hints of incense, licorice and rose petals, it's medium to full-bodied, fleshy and layered, with a deep and textural core of fruit, lively acids and powdery tannins, retaining a cool, ethereal profile that foregrounds its limestone origins.				
Score: 94-96					
James Suckling	There's finesse and beauty to this, with blackberry, dark-chocolate, bark, mushroom and forest-floor character. But it's all class. Caresses your palate. Medium- to full-bodied and very long. Persistent and sophisticated. This shows the true character of the diverse vineyards of this estate. 98% merlot and 2% cabernet franc.				
Score: 97-98					
Vinous	The 2023 Bélair-Monange was picked September 11 to 29 at around 45hL/ha. It has a very intense, very well-defined bouquet: black cherries, mulberry and light iodine mixed with estuarine scents—scintillas of kelp and oyster shell in the background. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannins, very fresh and animated. Focused and mineral-driven, the 2023 has one of the most refined finishes that you'll find on the Right Bank this year. This is a very strong follow-up to the 2022 and it may even surpass it, though this is cut from a very different cloth insofar that it is unapologetically more classic in style.				
Score: 95-97					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Pavie		99-100	95-97+		\$398
Wines Advocate					
Score:					
James Suckling	The depth and intensity is really out of this world. The richness is there, but it's all in balance and has an almost weightless feel to it. It's medium- to full-bodied with purity and definition, and the magic of limestone soils keeps the pH low, giving energy, bright acidity and verve. Terrific young red. 51% merlot, 32% cabernet franc and 17% cabernet sauvignon				
Score: 99-100					
Vinous	The 2023 Pavie is fabulous. Rich, dense and explosive in the glass, it offers up generous dark red fruit, cedar, spice, pipe tobacco, menthol and mocha. The 2023 impresses with its notable density and sheer palate presence. Naturally, this needs time to be at its best, but it is already incredibly expressive. This is a superb vintage for Pavie.				
Score: 95-97+					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Angelus	95-96	97-98	94-96		\$442
Wines Advocate	A classic blend of 60% Merlot and 40% Cabernet Franc, the 2023 Angélu reflects this estate's continuing evolution with regard to ripeness, extraction and élevage choices, offering up attractive aromas of dark berries and plums mingled with hints of mint, potpourri, rose petals, vine smoke and orange zest. Medium to full-bodied, fleshy and supple, with a velvety attack that segues into a core of pure, pillowy fruit framed by supple, powdery tannins, it's cool and harmonious, concluding with a long, perfumed finish. This is a terrific effort that foregrounds the vintage and the terroir at their best.				
Score: 95-96					
James Suckling	The transparency of fruit and the finesse is really something here. There's depth and beauty to the pristine, fresh fruit. Full-bodied and muscular with wonderful tannins that provide tension and form. Subtle and weightless, this is a thought-provoking young wine. 60% merlot and 40% cabernet franc.				
Score: 97-98					
Vinous	The 2023 Angélu is the traditional blend of 60% Merlot and 40% Cabernet Franc. It aged for 20 months in new oak with just over half the Cabernet Franc aged in foudres (the Merlot is apparently less receptive to this larger vessel). It has a crisp and precise bouquet, not powerful, a light marine influence coming through with background scents of oyster shell. The palate is medium-bodied with fine-grained tannins. There's a pleasant saline edge to this Angélu, perhaps a little more compact on the mid-palate than usual, with touches of white pepper toward the finish. It needs a little more persistency on the aftertaste. This will deserve five of six years in bottle.				
Score: 94-96					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Beausejour Duffau	96-98	95-96	94-96		\$186
Wines Advocate	<p>Joséphine Duffau Lagarrosse's third vintage at this terrific hillside terroir is her most impressive to date. The 2023 Beauséjour (Duffau Lagarrosse) offers up aromas of black raspberries, mulberries, violets, spices and incense, followed by a medium to full-bodied, deep and layered palate that's seamless, suave and concentrated, with lively acids, beautiful purity of fruit and a long, mineral, gently balsamic finish. It's a blend of 70% Merlot and 30% Cabernet Franc, picked on nine days between September 13 and October 3. Duffau Lagarrosse's work on oak selection (she favors Burgundy's cooperage Cadus, among others) has delivered much more seamless integration at this early stage, and her attentive approach to extraction is already bearing fruit in the form of tannins that are more polished and refined than was formerly the case at this address. It's a brilliant effort from a property with almost limitless potential.</p>				
Score: 96-98					
James Suckling	<p>The purity of fruit is impressive here, with raspberry, blueberry and mineral character. It's so precise and focused with medium body and lovely length.</p>				
Score: 95-96					
Vinous	<p>The 2023 Beauséjour Duffau-Lagarrosse was picked from September 13 to 29 for the Merlot and October 2 and 3 for the Cabernet Franc at 46h/ha. It matured in 61% new oak. This is the last vintage to be made in the old vat room, the new one due to be completed in July. Allowing the barrel sample five minutes to open, it has a very succinct bouquet, predominantly red fruit with light loamy and crushed stone aromas, a touch of wilted rose petal in the background. The palate is very fresh on the entry with finely chiseled tannins. There is a lot of mineralité here deriving from the vineyard's limestone terroir, and the tongue tingles in the mouth (not unlike actually licking limestone!) Quite linear, chalky and tensile toward the finish, this is a finely tuned and complex wine that is in the similar style of, say, Canon. It's not as audacious as the previous vintage, but potentially more cerebral.</p>				
Score: 94-96					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Canon	96-98	99-100	94-96		\$154
Wines Advocate	<p>Wafting from the glass with aromas of mulberries and raspberries mingled with spices, rose petals, licorice and violets, the 2023 Canon is another brilliant wine from a property whose excellence can almost be taken for granted. Medium to full-bodied, deep and layered, it's seamless and concentrated, its vibrant core of fruit framed by sweet, powdery tannins and girdled by lively acids, concluding with a long, mineral finish.</p>				
Score: 96-98					
James Suckling	<p>This is so elegant and sophisticated already, with a really electric presence and length that goes on and on. It's medium- to full-bodied with an intensity of tannins. It remains weightless and energetic. The pH is 3.41, making this a vivid and lively wine. Currant, orange and stone. Sea salt, too. The limestone soils created a unique wine here in 2023. A blend of 71% merlot and 29% cabernet franc.</p>				
Score: 99-100					
Vinous	<p>The 2023 Canon was picked from around 6 September to 6 October at 45hL/ha and matured in 50% new oak. It has a perfumed bouquet with pure black cherries and touches of cassis and violet. The oak is beautifully integrated. Perhaps if I have to quibble, it is not quite as complex as the very best recent vintages, but that's a high bar nowadays. The palate is medium-bodied with sappy black cherry fruit laced with iodine, and veins of blue fruit. There is a sorbet-like freshness embroidered throughout this Canon, and it delivers a lovely cracked black pepper note on the finish. Excellent. Again.</p>				
Score: 94-96					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

La Gaffelière		94-95	94-96		\$76
Wines Advocate					
Score:					
James Suckling	The center-palate reflects excellent terroir, with blackberry, black-olive and walnut aromas and flavors. Tight center-palate with firm but creamy tannins and a flavorful, classy finish.				
Score: 94-95					
Vinous	The 2023 La Gaffelière is very pure and floral on the nose, with black cherries intermingling with violet and iris flower scents. The new oak is neatly integrated here. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannins and layers of lightly spiced black fruit. Cedar and graphite furnish the poised but persistent finish. This is another in a succession of impressive wines from this estate that just oozes sensuality. Superb.				
Score: 94-96					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Bellevue		92-93	92-94		\$56
Wines Advocate					
Score:					
James Suckling	A juicy and flavorful wine already. Medium-bodied and chewy, yet fresh. Lots of blackberry. It's structured and fleshy considering the vintage. Pure merlot.				
Score: 92-93					
Vinous	The 2023 Bellevue is a powerful, vibrant Saint-Émilion. Dark red-toned fruit, orange peel, spice, mint and white pepper confer brightness and energy. Saline underpinnings extend the finish while adding palpable tension.				
Score: 92-94					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Barde Haut		97-98	91-93		
Wines Advocate					
Score:					
James Suckling	A linear wine with fine tannins, red and black currants and minerals. Medium body. Salty, with tight fruit concentration and a pretty finish. Beautifully structured. 3.4 pH and 14% alcohol. 80% merlot and 20% cabernet franc. One of the best I have had from this chateau.				
Score: 97-98					
Vinous	The 2023 Barde-Haut is a blend from the entire property that was picked from September 14 to 28, vinified without SO2 until just before bottling in order to preserve aromas. This has an intense, attention-grabbing bouquet with layers of black plum and wild strawberry fruit, cohering with aeration after five minutes. The palate is medium-bodied with quite plush tannins, plenty of grip in the mouth. A finish with layers of blackcurrant and blueberry fruit with a liberal sprinkling of black pepper complete a fine and quite Rubenesque Saint-Émilion.				
Score: 91-93					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Le Carillon d'Angéus	91-93	94-95	90-92		\$112
Wines Advocate	The 2023 Le Carillon d'Angéus, as usual a blend of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc, exhibits attractive aromas of cherries, raspberries and blackberries mingled with hints of exotic spices, vine smoke and violets. Medium to full-bodied, fleshy and polished, it's layered and enveloping, with a charming, seamless profile and a long, mouthwatering finish. As readers will by now remember, this bottling is no longer a "second wine" per se but rather draws on some 25 hectares of dedicated vineyards, emphasizing Merlot from the cool terroirs of Saint-Christophe-des-Bardes, complemented by holdings in the gravelly Figeac sector and on clay soils near Angéus itself—with anything that doesn't make the cut relegated to the No. 3 d'Angéus.				
Score: 91-93					
James Suckling	There's depth and beauty to this wine. It offers crunchy fruit, a chalky undertone and a hint of raw coffee bean. Medium body. Fine tannins. Bright and transparent. 90% merlot and 10% cabernet franc.				
Score: 94-95					
Vinous	The 2023 Le Carillon d'Angéus matured in around 50% new oak. This is quite taut and linear on the nose—a more streamlined Carillon perhaps, with touches of crushed stone infusing the red berry fruit. The palate is medium-bodied with a hint of blood orange on the entry, vivacious red berry fruit and a generous white pepper note toward the finish. There's something almost Burgundian about this Carillon in terms of the tannin structure. Give it three or four years in bottle.				
Score: 90-92					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Grand Mayne		92-93	92-94		\$47
Wines Advocate					
Score:					
James Suckling	A very fine-grained red with tannins that caress your palate. Medium body. Reserved fruit character. Shows a nicely crafted expression already.				
Score: 92-93					
Vinous	The 2023 Grand Mayne was picked from September 11 to October 5 at 49hL/ha, matured in 60% new oak. It has a fragrant and pure bouquet: a mixture of red and black fruit, wilted roses and a light marine scent. The palate is medium-bodied with pliant tannins, a keen thread of acidity and a sense of mineralité toward the finish. Nicely poised throughout, this is a very delicious and refined Saint-Émilion in the making, deserving four or five year in bottle.				
Score: 92-94					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Berliquet	93-95	94-95	93-95		\$62
Wines Advocate	The 2023 Berliquet is the first vintage produced in the estate's new winery, equipped with double the number of vats, permitting proper separation of blocks. That's especially important, as Berliquet is a more diverse terroir than Canon, and it can now be interpreted with much more precision. Offering up aromas of cherries, black raspberries, licorice and violets, it's medium to full-bodied, pillowy and layered, with a fleshy core of concentrated fruit, refined, chalky tannins and lively acids.				
Score: 93-95					
James Suckling	A plump and juicy wine with redcurrants and plums, as well as orange peel. Full and layered with round, juicy tannins and a flavorful finish. Generous fruit in this vintage.				
Score: 94-95					
Vinous	The 2023 Berliquet was picked 23 September to October 5 at 45hL/ha, matured in 34% new oak plus 10 amphorae. Initially, the nose is quite backward and doesn't want to play. Give it a few swirls and it opens to reveal black cherries, blackcurrant and a distant tang of oyster shell emanating from limestone soils. The palate is medium-bodied with a very harmonious entry. Finely weighted, tensile and slightly savory in style, this is very elegant, finishing with citrus-like freshness. Berliquet has definitely been in the ascendant in recent vintages, and this is another to add.				
Score: 93-95					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

La Dominique		94-95	92-94		
Wines Advocate					
Score:					
James Suckling	This is linear and very fine-tanned with a crunchy undertone and a lovely medium to full body. Pretty, ripe fruit at the end, but always fresh. Racy and refined with structure.				
Score: 94-95					
Vinous	The 2023 La Dominique has a well-defined bouquet: a mixture of red and black fruit, undergrowth and wilted rose petals. This is a much more refined example from the estate. The palate is medium-bodied with mocha-tinged fruit and moderate depth, quite old school in style with a touch of leather on the finish. It's fine, but I would like just a tad more vivacity by the time of bottling. A second bottle toward the end of my tastings showed better than the first.				
Score: 92-94					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Saintayme	88-90	92-93	89-91		
Wines Advocate	A 100% Merlot, the 2023 Saintayme evokes aromas of dark wild berries, mulberries, licorice and pencil lead, followed by a round, supple and juicy palate with a fleshy core of fruit and dense, rich tannins that assert themselves with a structured finish.				
Score: 88-90					
James Suckling	Lovely freshness and balance with berries, orange peel and crushed stone. It's medium-bodied with nice, round tannins. Pure merlot.				
Score: 92-93					
Vinous	The 2023 Saintayme is pure Merlot, as usual, picked between September 27 and October 4 and matured in 30% new oak. This is quite lush on the nose with black plum and light blueberry scents and fine purity. It clocks in at 14.6% alcohol, but that is nicely disguised. The palate is medium-bodied with a slightly powdery texture, moderate weight and good balance. There's perhaps slightly less complexity on the finish compared to the 2022 at this stage last year.				
Score: 89-91					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Canon La Gaffelière	90-92	96-97	92-94		\$86
Wines Advocate	The 2023 Canon la Gaffelière offers up aromas of minty berries, plums, pencil shavings, dried herbs and bay leaf, followed by a medium to full-bodied, bright and crunchy palate underpinned by tangy acids and chalky tannins. It's a blend of 35% Merlot, 45% Cabernet Franc and 20% Cabernet Sauvignon.				
Score: 90-92					
James Suckling	Showing al-dente fruit with raspberries, orange peel and other hints of bitter citrus. Medium-bodied with creamy and medium, round tannins leading to a salty finish. Cabernet franc really showing through. A blend of 45% cabernet franc, 35% merlot, 20% cabernet sauvignon. May be better than 2022.				
Score: 96-97					
Vinous	The 2023 Canon La Gaffelière saw harvest between September 20 and 29, cropped at 35hL/ha with slightly more Cabernet Franc (45%) and Cabernet Sauvignon (20%) than usual. Matured in 40% new oak, this sports an unashamedly floral bouquet with pressed iris and violet flowers that are integrated with the black fruit—incredibly precise. The palate is very well balanced with slightly chalky tannins (a leitmotif of von Neipperg's 2023s). It fans out gently on the finish, yet it maintains a sense of verticality that you don't usually see in this Saint-Émilion. This is excellent, but a bit more Left Bank in style this year.				
Score: 92-94					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Larcis-Ducasse	93-95	96-97	93-95		
Wines Advocate	Harvested between September 14 and 25, the 2023 Larcis Ducasse offers up aromas of dark berries, preserved plums, orange confit, vine smoke, licorice and spices. Medium to full-bodied, layered and fleshy, with a sweet core of fruit framed by ripe, powdery tannins, it's succulent, suave and polished, concluding a mouthwateringly mineral finish. It's a blend of 86% Merlot and 14% Cabernet Franc.				
Score: 93-95					
James Suckling	This is really classic in character, with a fine tannin structure and medium body. It starts slowly and then accelerates quickly into intense black cherries, currants and a salty note. Savory and subtle. 86% merlot and 14% cabernet franc.				
Score: 96-97					
Vinous	The 2023 Larcis Ducasse was picked from September 14 to 25 at 43hL/ha. The nose is quite open with brambly red fruit, briar and subtle incense aromas. It's not as intense as the previous vintage, though I appreciate the definition and charm. The palate is medium-bodied with firm tannins on the entry that frame the layered black fruit, struck through with light flinty elements. Blind, I might have said there is Cabernet Sauvignon in the blend thanks to the graphite finish. It is a classically-styled Larcis Ducasse that should drink well for 20+ years.				
Score: 93-95					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Clos Fourtet	94-96	97-98	94-96		\$120
Wines Advocate	The 2023 Clos Fourtet is especially suave and refined this year, wafting from the glass with deep aromas of red berries, licorice, violets and pencil shavings, framed by a nicely integrated patina of new oak. Medium to full-bodied, supple and layered, with a velvety attack that segues into a bright, precise mid-palate, it's pure and lively, concluding with a mineral finish.				
Score: 94-96					
James Suckling	This is so full of energy. It's full-bodied with electrified tannins and a long, long finish. So polish and focus here with exquisite balance and length.				
Score: 97-98					
Vinous	The 2023 Clos Fourtet is pure class. Elegant and soaring, the 2023 offers up an exciting mélange of dark-toned fruit, leather, incense, dried herbs, pencil shavings and crushed rocks. Beams of supporting limestone-infused tannin and acid give Clos Fourtet is superdistinctive feel. The long, enduring finish is a thing of beauty. Clos Fourtet remains a benchmark example of wines from Saint-Émilion's famed limestone plateau. Tasted two times.				
Score: 94-96					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Pavie-Macquin	93-95	98-99	95-97		\$82
Wines Advocate	Aromas of sweet raspberries, cherries and plums mingle with notions of licorice and creamy new oak, introducing the 2023 Pavie Macquin, a medium to full-bodied, layered and concentrated wine with a deep core of fruit, tangy acids and powdery tannins. As higher density plantings on the plateau with superior vine genetics start to enter into production, and as the south of the property is restructured, this estate's tannins are becoming more refined, even if the very low pH of 3.35 still tends to foreground the wine's structure.				
Score: 93-95					
James Suckling	This is a twitchy, lively red with brambleberry, black olive and a real sense of limestone. The tannins are very well integrated. Lots of energy. Medium body. Extremely long. Very cool, fine wine from this estate in this year. 3.35 pH. 14.2% alcohol. 82% merlot, 17% cabernet franc and 1% cabernet sauvignon. Best ever?				
Score: 98-99					
Vinous	The 2023 Pavie Macquin is one of the stars of the vintage. An exceptional, vibrant wine, Pavie Macquin dazzles from start to finish. Seamless tannins wrap around a core of inky red/purplish fruit, lavender, mint, spice and blood orange, all framed by bright, salivating acids. The transition toward higher-density vineyards and greater freshness is paying huge dividends. This is a stellar effort from the château and long-time consultant Stephane Derenoncourt, who has kept Pavie Macquin as one of just a handful of estates he personally follows these days. In a word: Brilliant! Tasted two times.				
Score: 95-97					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Figeac	96-98	97-98	96-98		\$258
Wines Advocate	A brilliant classic in the making, the 2023 Figeac unwinds in the glass with aromas of cassis and mulberry mingled with notions of iris, cigar wrapper, pencil shavings, burning embers and spices. Medium to full-bodied, rich and layered, it's deep and concentrated, with an enveloping core of fruit that's framed by powdery tannins and lively acids, concluding with a broad, atypically mineral finish. It's a blend of 41% Merlot, 32% Cabernet Franc and 27% Cabernet Sauvignon that attained 13.5% alcohol.				
Score: 96-98					
James Suckling	The density and finesse to this is terrific, offering blackberry, dark chocolate, walnut and hazelnut, as well as currant and sandalwood. Orange peel, too. Full-bodied and compact with a superb core of thick, velvet-textured tannins and a juicy finish. Extremely long. 41% merlot, 32% cabernet franc and 27% cabernet sauvignon.				
Score: 97-98					
Vinous	The 2023 Figeac was cropped at 45hL/ha from September 6 until October 5, one of the longest harvest periods ever. It matured in 100% new oak, as usual. My samples included the 5% vin de presse. This has a very perfumed bouquet: red fruit rather than black, iris flower rather than violet, light sous-bois and tobacco scents deriving from the Cabernets. The palate is medium-bodied, and the Cabernets really "sing" on the entry. Black fruit mixes with graphite and light tobacco notes, surging with fresh acidity and real brightness, or what the French call éclat. There's gentle grip here—classic Figeac from start to finish, with a subtle marine influence toward the close. This will be a wonderful Saint-Émilion that ranks amongst the best wines of the vintage. Chapeau!				
Score: 96-98					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Monbousquet		94-95	91-93		
Wines Advocate					
Score:					
James Suckling	The freshness is very present, together with richness and minerality, black fruits and black olives. Hint of salt, too. Medium to full body with layers of ripe tannins and a juicy finish. Well done. Lightly salty.				
Score: 94-95					
Vinous	The 2023 Monbousquet is packed with blue/purplish fruit, spice, lavender, mocha and gravel notes. The 2023 is an especially serious Monbousquet with bright acids and vibrant tannins that lend notable energy throughout. This is another fine showing from the Perse family				
Score: 91-93					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Pavie Decesse					
Wines Advocate					
Score:					
James Suckling					
Score:					
Vinous					
Score:					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Troplong Mondot	95-97	97-98	95-98		\$158
Wines Advocate	A blend of 84% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Sauvignon and 3% Cabernet Franc, the 2023 Troplong Mondot unwinds in the glass with aroma of black raspberries, mulberries and cherries mingled with notions of iris, licorice, black tea and spices. Medium to full-bodied, deep and layered, it's textural and mouthfilling, with the mid-palate density so typical of this terroir, its concentrated core of fruit framed by beautifully polished tannins and succulent acids.				
Score: 95-97					
James Suckling	A tight and very focused young Troplong with freshness and finesse that adds plenty. Medium to full body, ultra-fine tannins and a vivid finish. Lots of blackberry and blueberry character. It really opens and envelops your palate, caressing every square inch. Cashmere-like texture. The limestone comes through beautifully.				
Score: 97-98					
Vinous	The 2023 Troplong Mondot is simply stunning. It's one of the best wines yet made under the direction of Aymeric de Gironde. Towering and statuesque, the 2023 explodes out of the glass with tons of vertical energy. Dark red-toned fruit, licorice, spice, lavender, mocha and pencil shavings are some of the many notes that infuse the 2023 with character. The combination of soaring aromatics, chiseled fruit and a limestone-infused finish is nothing less than captivating. What a wine. Aging is in 60% new oak, 22% 20hL foudre and 18% once-used oak. Tasted two times.				
Score: 95-98					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Beau-Séjour Becot	96-98	96-97	95-98		
Wines Advocate	The first vintage produced in the estate's highly functional new winery, the 2023 Beau-Séjour Bécot has turned out beautifully and looks likely to rival or surpass the brilliant 2022. Unfurling in the glass with notes of raspberries, dark berries and minty cherries mingled with notions of iris, wisteria and lilac, it's medium to full-bodied, layered and velvety, with a suave attack that prefaces a cool, complete core of fruit that's pure, perfumed and mineral, concluding with a long, saline finish. It's a blend of 77% Merlot and 23% Cabernet Franc that was harvested from September 7 to October 4, sub-block by sub-block.				
Score: 96-98					
James Suckling	A wine with very bright and al-dente fruit. Aromas and flavors of redcurrants and minerals with lavender and chalk. Medium to full body and a solid core of tannins integrated with the dark fruit. Toned-muscle quality to the tannins. Fresh and vibrant at the end. Pure fruit. Energy. 77% merlot and 23% cabernet franc.				
Score: 96-97					
Vinous	The 2023 Beau-Séjour Bécot is fabulous. Rich, opulent and explosive to the core, the 2023 offers up a heady mélange of dark red/purplish fruit, spice, lavender, rose petal, blood orange and bright saline notes. As always, Cabernet Franc plays an important role in shaping the aromatic and flavor profile. The 2023 is an absolute stunner. It's the first vintage made in the new cellar. That's of course not enough of a track record to make any definitive assessments, but in the 2023, I see a wine with more aromatic presence, greater precision and more refined tannins than any recent vintage I can recall. In a word: magnificent. Tasted two times.				
Score: 95-98					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Bellevue Mondotte					
Wines Advocate					
Score:					
James Suckling					
Score:					
Vinous					
Score:					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Clos de Sarpe		93-94	92-94		\$68
Wines Advocate					
Score:					
James Suckling	Very polished and refined, with succulent fruit and a creamy texture. Medium body. Bright finish. From organically grown grapes.				
Score: 93-94					
Vinous	The 2023 Clos de Sarpe continues a fine run of form. This is composed and refined, lovely, slightly earthy red fruit blossoming in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with fine-grained tannins, very pure and refined, with a finish that could teach a few of its fellow Saint-Émilion Grand Crus a thing or two about elegance and panache. Bravo.				
Score: 92-94					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Croix de Labrie		97-98	91-93		\$118
Wines Advocate					
Score:					
James Suckling	This is very unique and spicy, with white pepper, salt, iodine and oyster shell. Blackberry and black licorice, too. Medium to full body with great freshness, but it's very structured with fine and chewy tannins, before finishing fresh and energetic. Crunchy. 3.41 pH and 14.2% alcohol. 85% merlot, 10% cabernet sauvignon and 5% cabernet franc. All biodynamically grown grapes. Better than 2022?				
Score: 97-98					
Vinous	The 2023 Croix de Labrie has a refined and delineated bouquet of expressive black fruit laced with iris flower and violet. The palate is medium-bodied with a smooth, almost sensual opening. There is a slight savory touch here, but it's elegant and refined on the finish. The 2023 is probably earlier-drinking than other vintages, but it's nonetheless wellcrafted and may well gain matière during barrel-maturation.				
Score: 91-93					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

La Serre	91-93	93-94	90-92		
Wines Advocate	The 2023 La Serre continues this estate's upward trajectory, exhibiting aromas of mulberries, cassis, rose petals and spices, followed by a medium to full-bodied, fleshy and supple palate that's lively and giving, with a succulent core of fruit framed by powdery tannins. In the vineyards, the team has been working to avoid desiccation, which in the past sometimes tended to accentuate the character of the Cabernet Franc at this estate.				
Score: 91-93					
James Suckling	Juicy and creamy in texture with blackberry and light, smoky oak. Medium body, fine velvety tannins and a crunchy finish. 73% merlot and 27% cabernet franc.				
Score: 93-94					
Vinous	The 2023 La Serre was picked September 13 to October 4. This has a lovely, sensual nose with raspberry coulis, wild strawberry and just a hint of vanilla. It's always one of J-P Moueix's more seductive entry-level wines. The palate is medium-bodied with plush tannins, fine acidity, a velvety mouthfeel and a vivid, red cherry and black pepper finish. Very promising				
Score: 90-92					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

L'If	93-95	96-97	94-96		\$176
Wines Advocate	The 2023 L'If, crafted by Cyrille Thiepont and originating from vines owned by Jacques Thienpont, unveils a dark bouquet of licorice, dark wild berries, pencil lead, coniferous forest, spices and oak. Medium to full-bodied, creamy and unctuous, it's rich and concentrated with a fleshy core of fruit framed by powdery tannins, culminating in a long, mineral, chalky finish. This is a blend of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc.				
Score: 93-95					
James Suckling	What strikes you about this wine is the center-palate and the purity of cool fruit notes, such as brambleberry and orange peel. Medium body. Whole and layered with ultra-fine tannins leading to a silky texture and persistent finish.				
Score: 96-97					
Vinous	The 2023 L'If is unusually floral and refined for a wine that has, in the past, been darker and more ample in structure. Cedar, tobacco, crushed flowers and mint add lift and aromatic presence. Silky tannins create an impression of finesse. The 2023 represents the first year of vinification in the new cellar outfitted with cement vats. Overall, though, this wine feels like a new chapter for L'If. The vibrancy and energy here are palpable. Tasted two times.				
Score: 94-96					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Valandraud		97-98	95-97		
Wines Advocate					
Score:					
James Suckling	Wow, this is really something. Very fruity, with dark blackberries and blueberries, as well as blood oranges. It's full and layered with great depth of fruit and chewy, polished tannins. Turns lightly salty at the end. Power with precision. 84% merlot, 8% cabernet franc and 8% cabernet sauvignon.				
Score: 97-98					
Vinous	The 2023 Valandraud delivers exactly what you expect on the nose from Jean-Luc Thunevin's crown jewel: very polished scents of black cherries, cassis and crushed violets. One sample had a soupçon of sur-maturité, although another at the château displayed more composure and coolness. The palate is rich and fruit-driven with layers of black fruit. The sample at the château showed more backbone and grip, a healthy sprinkling of cracked black pepper and a long and persistent finish. Give this three to five years, because it is a seriously good Saint-Émilion.				
Score: 95-97					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Virginie de Valandraud		94-95	90-93		
Wines Advocate					
Score:					
James Suckling	This shows depth and power, yet it comes across as elegant and refined, too. Medium- to full-bodied with an impressive structure that lasts long on the palate. The tannins are super-fine and pixelated. 90% merlot, 5% cabernet franc and 5% cabernet sauvignon.				
Score: 94-95					
Vinous	The 2023 Virginie de Valandraud is bright, punchy and full of character. Crushed flowers, mint and spice weave through a core of layered red fruit. Floral overtones reappear to extend the beautifully persistent finish. There's terrific freshness here. Superb.				
Score: 90-93					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

POMEROL	WA	JS	V	WS	PRICE
Feytit Clinet		94-95	93-95		
Wines Advocate					
Score:					
James Suckling	Very pretty and classy with berry, chocolate and hazelnut character. Medium body. Creamy, round tannins lead to a lightly crunchy and attractive finish.				
Score: 94-95					
Vinous	The 2023 Feytit-Clinet is fabulous. Rich and sumptuous in the glass, the 2023 offers up a heady mix of blue/black fruit, gravel, chocolate, scorched earth, lavender and liquified rocks. Feytit-Clinet is often a rich, structured Pomerol, but in 2023, the tannins are totally woven into the wine's fabric, making for a wine that marries power with finesse. Clean mineral notes extend the finish effortlessly. The 2023 will see 14-15 months in oak—70% new and 30% once-used barrels. Yields were a healthy 42 hectoliters per hectare. Tasted two times.				
Score: 93-95					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Latour a Pomerol	92-94	94-95	91-93		\$94
Wines Advocate	Jean-Pierre Moueix's "fermage" of this estate began in 1962, and his eponymous firm has only just acquired ownership of the vineyards to produce the 2023 Latour à Pomerol, which gives one a sense of how long it can take to acquire land in Pomerol! Offering up aromas of minty cherries, cassis, rose petals and petroleum jelly, the wine is medium to full-bodied, rich and fleshy, with a generous core of sun-kissed fruit, sweet, powdery tannins and a broad, penetrating finish				
Score: 92-94					
James Suckling	This is structured and focused, with firm tannins and a polished texture. Seamless and long with medium to full body. Deep and layered on the palate, building to a rather muscular finish. Big at the end. Almost rustic in style. 100% merlot.				
Score: 94-95					
Vinous	The 2023 Latour à Pomerol was picked from September 7 to 19. It has a concentrated nose with more opulent black fruit laced than I anticipated, laced with violet and iris flower. Marine notes simmer in the background. Maybe I would have liked a little more delineation? The palate is medium-bodied with fleshy, ripe red fruit, a caressing mouthfeel, fine acidity and a dash of spice toward the finish. It's a generous and open-knit Pomerol that will give a lot of pleasure in its youth, but it leaves profundity for another vintage				
Score: 91-93					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Le Gay		96-97	93-95		\$120
Wines Advocate					
Score:					
James Suckling	Very attractive center-palate with blackberry fruit, a hint of chocolate and a minerally, terra-cotta undertone. Medium-bodied, fresh and racy. Shows tension and clarity. It grows on the finish with muscular yet fine tannins. May be better than 2022.				
Score: 96-97					
Vinous	The 2023 Le Gay is intensely aromatic, floral and quite pretty. Crushed flowers, spice, mint, herbs, licorice and tobacco meld into a core of dark red/purplish berry fruit. All the elements are very nicely balanced in this stylish, mid-weight Pomerol from the Parent family. The 2023 is a blend of 85% Merlot and 15% Cabernet Franc vinified entirely in 100% new French oak barrels. Élevage is projected to be 14 months, about 2 months shorter than normal. Tasted two times.				
Score: 93-95					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Le Pin	94-96	99-100	97-99		SOLD OUT
Wines Advocate	The 2023 Le Pin is another strong effort for this small Pomerol winery, wafting from the glass with aromas of wild berries, violets, exotic spices and creamy new oak. Medium to full-bodied, polished and suave, it's velvety and refined, with attractive purity of fruit, lively acids and a long, gently vanillin-inflected finish. It's the result of multiple harvests, starting with young vines, between September 11 and 23.				
Score: 94-96					
James Suckling	Shows the exotic nature of Le Pin with blackberries, milk chocolate and hints of spices, as well as coffee beans from the ripe seeds in the grapes. It's medium-bodied with focused and creamy tannins. Also plenty of nectarine and clementine character. This is so classic Le Pin at the finish. It lasts for minutes in your mouth. Silky and flavorful. 100% merlot magic.				
Score: 99-100					
Vinous	The 2023 Le Pin was picked between September 11 and 23 at 39hL/ha—four pickings according to age of vine and plot. It matured in 65% new oak (this figure has gradually reduced since the 2020 vintage). They had no mildew, due to the free-draining gravel soils, though the Thienponts saw more at L'If. I love this nose. This is so pure and refined, it seems to embrace and gently hug the senses, like your favorite aunt or uncle. It blossoms in the glass to reveal subtle crushed stone and graphite notes. The palate has unerring symmetry, finely chiseled tannins and a linear, penetrating finish that goes on and on. This is one of the best vintages of Le Pin I have tasted from barrel, more serious and more floral than some recent vintages.				
Score: 97-99					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

La Fleur Petrus	94-96	97-98	94-96		\$212
Wines Advocate	The 2023 La Fleur-Pétrus is very attractive, unfurling in the glass with aromas of dark berries, sweet cherries and plums mingled with hints of incense and spices, discreetly framed by new oak. Medium to full-bodied, velvety and layered, it's deep and textural, its rich core of fruit framed by plenty of sweet, powdery tannin.				
Score: 94-96					
James Suckling	Very tight for this chateau, with blackberry, chocolate and black-cherry character, as well as a hint of smoky oak. Full and very poised with focus and beauty. 96.5% merlot, 3% cabernet franc and 0.5% cabernet sauvignon.				
Score: 97-98					
Vinous	The 2023 La Fleur-Pétrus is fabulous. Increasingly, I find it one the most complete Pomerols in the Moueix range. Perhaps, that's because it comes from numerous parcels throughout the appellation and is therefore a wine that greatly benefits from blending. Bright acids and floral top notes add lift to a core of red-toned fruit. Hints of cedar, sweet pipe tobacco, mint and orange peel linger on the beautifully persistent finish.				
Score: 94-96					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

La Violette		95-96	93-96		
Wines Advocate					
Score:					
James Suckling	Full-bodied with a rich and chunky mid-palate, packed with fruit and chewy tannins. It's very well framed and muscular, but not heavy. This should develop well with more time in barrel.				
Score: 95-96					
Vinous	The 2023 La Violette emerges from a tiny 1.68 hectare vineyard in the heart of Pomerol, 100% hand-destemmed and vinified in 100% French oak barrels from cooper Saury. Sumptuous and racy, the 2023 offers up a beguiling mix of crème de cassis, blueberry, menthol, licorice, spice and French oak. La Violette remains one of the most distinctive wines in Pomerol.				
Score: 93-96					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Vieux Chateau Certan	94-96	97-98	96-98		\$318
Wines Advocate	The 2023 Vieux Château Certan bursts from the glass with demonstrative aromas of dark berries, pencil shavings, violets mingled with notions of burning embers, iris, crushed mint and black tea. Medium to full-bodied, velvety and sensual, with a gourmand attack that segues into a layered, enveloping mid-palate, it's polished and perfumed, with a sweet core of fruit and a long, gently oak-inflected finish. This year's blend of 82% Merlot and 18% Cabernet Franc checks in at 14% alcohol and a pH of 3.74.				
Score: 94-96					
James Suckling	A very fine and polished young VCC with subtle density and a racy backbone of tannins. Compact with well-toned muscles and a persistent finish. Very silky. Really grows at the end. 82% merlot and 18% cabernet franc.				
Score: 97-98					
Vinous	The 2023 Vieux Château Certan is like a drug. Its exotic aromatics, deeply layered fruit and sublime textures are just captivating. I tasted the 2023 from an assembled base blend and four core components. Every wine was nothing short of breathtaking. When I think of the archetypes of greatness in Bordeaux, VCC is one of them. The 2023 is a blend of Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Like all producers, Alexandre and Guillaume were forced to decide whether to pick their Cabernets before or after the September rains. As it turned out, none of the lots picked before the rain made it into the Grand Vin. Only those picked later were deemed of high enough quality.				
Score: 96-98					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

L'Evangile	93-95	96-97	94-96		\$264
Wines Advocate	Wafting from the glass with deep aromas of dark berries, spices, licorice and petals, framed by a sweet patina of new oak, the 2023 L'Evangile is medium to full-bodied, deep and layered, with a textural attack that segues into a supple, integrated core that's framed by sweet, powdery tannins. It's a blend of 78% Merlot, 21% Cabernet Franc and 1% Cabernet Sauvignon, checking in at 13.5% alcohol, that was harvested between September 4 and 28.				
Score: 93-95					
James Suckling	A fine line of tannins runs through this medium- to full-bodied wine. Chocolate, walnut and lead pencil on very fine tannins. Classy and focused, providing elegance with strength. Tight at the end. 78% merlot, 21% cabernet franc and 1% cabernet sauvignon.				
Score: 96-97					
Vinous	The 2023 L'Évangile was picked from September 4 to 28 at 42hL/ha, which is the highest for many years. Matured in 50% new oak (including 15 foudres) and 8% in amphoras (my sample only from used barrels), this has a very floral and precise bouquet with dark red fruit, blueberry, hints of blood orange and light sous-bois scents. It's very L'Evangile. The palate is medium-bodied with filigree tannins. Crisp and precise, there's fine tension toward the finish with a lingering black pepper note. This is a lovely L'Évangile that deserves five or six years in bottle. It will be worth the wait.				
Score: 94-96					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Hosanna	92-94	98-99	95-97		\$158
Wines Advocate	Rich and gourmand, the 2023 Hosanna wafts from the glass with aromas of ripe berries, baked red fruits and cherries, framed by hints of fresh mint and creamy new oak. Medium to full-bodied, velvety and layered, it's a rich, textural wine with a ripe core of slightly liqueured fruit, supple tannins and a long, vanillin-inflected finish.				
Score: 92-94					
James Suckling	Wow. This is really structured and sizzling with dark fruit, such as blackberries and blueberries. Salty, racy aftertaste. The tannins are energetic and so long, driving the wine through an almost endless finish. Lots of old vines used for this. 74% merlot and 26% cabernet franc.				
Score: 98-99					
Vinous	The 2023 Hosanna is a classic wine from this property. Rich, ample and explosive, the 2023 offers up copious dark-toned fruit, mocha, new leather, licorice and chocolate notes. As always, Hosanna is marked by its textural breadth, volume and dark flavor profile conferred by old vines planted in the mid 1950s, just after the 1956 frost. Of the 4.5 hectares, one was replanted in the early 2000s. The 2023 is a fine example.				
Score: 95-97					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

L'Eglise Clinet	93-95	97-98	98-100		\$360
Wines Advocate	The 2023 L'Eglise Clinet unwinds in the glass with brooding aromas of dark berries and cherries mingled with baking chocolate, pipe tobacco and toasty new oak. Full-bodied, layered and muscular, with a sweet core of fruit framed by rich, powdery, generously extracted tannin, it's broad-shouldered and powerful, concluding with a long, expansive finish. It's a blend of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc that checks in at 14.6% alcohol.				
Score: 93-95					
James Suckling	The purity and precision of this young Eglise Clinet is exceptional, with finesse, intensity and fine tannins that last for minutes on the palate. It grows slowly and then builds and continues. The energy is terrific. Finishes long and confident. All about structure with finesse. The tannins really are refined and tightly woven. 90% merlot and 10% cabernet franc.				
Score: 97-98					
Vinous	The 2023 L'Eglise-Clinet was picked between September 10 and 14 and matured in 82% new oak. It has a stunning bouquet with enthralling delineation and focus, very intense with blackberries, raspberry, crushed stone, Earl Grey and a touch of blood orange. The palate is medium-bodied with fine-boned tannins and a dash of cracked black pepper. It's very harmonious and fans out brilliantly on the finish. It is surely going to vie with the stupendous 2022, and this ranks as one of the best wines of the vintage. Tasted on two visits at the beginning and end of my Bordeaux tastings.				
Score: 98-100					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

La Petite Eglise	91-93	94-95	92-94		\$58
Wines Advocate	As usual, the 2023 La Petite Eglise is a blend of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc that checks in at 14.4% alcohol. Wafting from the glass with aromas of plums and cherries mingled with notes of dark chocolate and truffle, it's medium to full-bodied, fleshy and succulent, with a rich core of fruit, sweet tannins and good depth at the core, concluding with a broad, oak-inflected finish.				
Score: 91-93					
James Suckling	A firm and racy red with blackberry, black olive, and orange peel. Just a hint of salt. Medium to full body. Tight center-palate with lovely tannins and a savory finish. Fresh and balanced at the end. Crunchy. Open. 90% merlot and 10% cabernet franc.				
Score: 94-95					
Vinous	The 2023 La Petite Eglise is a serious, deep wine. It is one of the few second wines in Bordeaux that needs some time in bottle to be at its best. Dark-toned fruit, graphite, leather, menthol, spice and incense lend this large-scaled Pomerol a ton of distinction. A dollop of Franc (10%) adds tension and vibrancy.				
Score: 92-94					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Clinet	94-95	95-96	94-96		
Wines Advocate	Rich and layered, the 2023 Clinet wafts from the glass with aromas of dark berries, spices and licorice, framed by creamy new oak. Medium to full-bodied, deep and complete, with a rich chassis of powdery tannin underpinning its sweet core of fruit, it concludes with a broad, vanillin-inflected finish. As is routinely the case at this address, it's a successfully rendered Pomerol in a more modern style.				
Score: 94-95					
James Suckling	This is full-bodied yet tight and poised, with a pretty, pure center-palate of ripe fruit and fine, integrated tannins. Classy presence. May be better than 2022.				
Score: 95-96					
Vinous	The 2023 Clinet is powerful and racy right out of the gate. Crushed flowers, spice, mocha and a kiss of French oak meld into a core of dark red- and black-toned fruit. This modern, stylish Pomerol is so expressive. Hints of graphite, lavender, crushed rocks and pencil shavings linger on the substantial finish. Tasted two times.				
Score: 94-96					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Clos L'Église		95-96	93-95		
Wines Advocate					
Score:					
James Suckling	A very tight and focused red with racy tannins and a linear, racy texture. It's medium-bodied with excellent energy and plenty of blackberry and olive flavors. Very long finish. 14% alcohol. 3.7 pH. 70% merlot and 30% cabernet franc.				
Score: 95-96					
Vinous	The 2023 Clos l'Église presents a gorgeous contrast of intense dark fruit against a mineral backbone that confers energy. There's a ton of nuance here. Graphite, crushed rocks, plum, mocha, spice, leather and dried herbs are all vividly sketched. There's a bit more Cabernet Franc in this year's blend, as one of the Merlot parcels is being replanted. That results in an especially nuanced Clos l'Église that captures the best the year had to offer.				
Score: 93-95					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Gazin	88-90	95-96	91-93		\$82
Wines Advocate	Revealing aromas of dark berries, cassis and cherries, the 2023 Gazin is medium to full-bodied, firm and compact, with a dense core of fruit framed by chewy tannins.				
Score: 88-90					
James Suckling	Very classy, with a crushed-stone and terra-cotta highlight to the blackberry, chocolate and hazelnut character. It's medium-bodied with a personality that grows on the finish and delivers intensity and length at the end. Very long. Very structured. We will see which is better, 2022 or 2023.				
Score: 95-96					
Vinous	The 2023 Gazin has a typical bouquet for this Pomerol estate—always understated, and one where you have to spend time coaxing aromas. Eventually, it offers predominantly black fruit laced with black truffles and light earthy scents. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannins. It veers more toward red fruit laced with white pepper on the cohesive and classically styled finish. This is maybe not a long-term Gazin, but it has an air of sophistication.				
Score: 91-93					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

La Conseillante	98-100	97-98	96-98		\$258
Wines Advocate	One of the great wines of the vintage, and one that can rival its 2022 counterpart, the 2023 La Conseillante wafts from the glass with a strikingly floral bouquet of violets, lilac, raspberries, exotic spices, candied orange, pipe tobacco and rose petals. Medium to full-bodied, supple and fleshy, its textural attack segues into a layered and enveloping core of pure, vibrant fruit framed by sweet tannins and concluding with a long, precise finish. It's a blend of 88% Merlot and 12% Cabernet Franc, some 30% of which is maturing in amphorae. Harvest began on September 7, lasting until October 2, block by block.				
Score: 98-100					
James Suckling	Wow. What beauty, elegance and length in this young wine, with medium body and vivid, bright acidity that gives energy and greater length. The tannins are extremely fine-grained, with an endless, silky texture. Another al-dente wine with brilliance. Goes on for minutes. 88% merlot and 12% cabernet franc.				
Score: 97-98					
Vinous	The 2023 La Conseillante was picked from September 7, with the final Cabernet Franc brought in on October 2 at 43hL/ha. There were just six days of picking over 3.5 weeks. Matured in 70% new oak, it has a very well-defined bouquet with black cherries, wild strawberries, touches of violet and a hint of crushed stone. The palate is medium-bodied with a captivating, edgy opening. Just slightly granular in texture thanks to the tannin structure, it's very harmonious and poised, with a sophisticated, mineral-driven finish. This is an exceptional La Conseillante from Marielle Cazaux and her team. It will rank alongside the 2022 even if it is very different stylistically.				
Score: 96-98					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Lafleur Gazin	91-94	93-94	91-93		\$37
Wines Advocate	The Mouiex firm acquired this estate in 2021 (after cultivating it in "fermage" since 1974) and sold off the less optimally situated parcels lying on sandy soils. The 2023 Lafleur-Gazin offers up aromas of dark berries, cherries, baked plums and mint, followed by a medium to full-bodied, fleshy and layered palate that's quite deep and extracted, perhaps reflecting an understandable ambition to signal new seriousness at this address. It's 100% Merlot.				
Score: 91-94					
James Suckling	A solid and structured Pomerol with blackberry, black olive and light brown-sugar character. Hint of smoked wood, too. It's medium- to full-bodied with very integrated, slightly muscular tannins and a persistent finish. 100% merlot.				
Score: 93-94					
Vinous	The 2023 Lafleur-Gazin is a succulent, juicy Pomerol backed by notable textural depth and resonance. Ripe, red-toned fruit and exotic floral notes give the Lafleur-Gazin its distinctive, forward profile. Readers will find a Pomerol with tons of immediate appeal and pure charm. I expect the 2023 will drink well right out of the gate.				
Score: 91-93					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

La Fleur De Gay					\$102
Wines Advocate					
Score:					
James Suckling					
Score:					
Vinous					
Score:					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Nenin	93-94	94-95	90-92		
Wines Advocate	The 2023 Nenin is very attractive, bursting from the glass with aromas of raspberries, dark berries, rose petals and spices, followed by a medium to full-bodied, fleshy and supple palate that's pure and sensual, with a succulent core of fruit, sweet tannin and an immensely charming profile that promises a broad drinking window.				
Score: 93-94					
James Suckling	A linear and structured red with blackberry, raspberry and a hint of crushed stone. Medium-bodied with a solid core of fruit and a long, intense finish. Crunchy and minerally. Classy. Precise. 67% merlot, 30% cabernet franc and 3% cabernet sauvignon.				
Score: 94-95					
Vinous	The 2023 Nenin was picked September 9 to 28 at 46hL/ha and matured in 40% new oak for a planned 16 months, including 7% vin de presse. It is the first vintage including 3% Cabernet Sauvignon from a parcel located near Trotanoy. There is quite an attractive marine/sea spray element in the aromatics that lends freshness, certainly elevating it above the Fugue. The palate is medium-bodied with a fresh entry and fine acidity, quite saline in the mouth with a liberal sprinkling of black pepper on the finish.				
Score: 90-92					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Guillot Clauzel	92-94	94-95	92-94		\$110
Wines Advocate	Guillaume Thienpont harvested the 2023 Guillot Clauzel a few days later than Vieux Château Certan, as is generally the case, and he has once again produced an excellent wine, redolent of dark berries and cherries mingled with hints of rose petals, pencil shavings and mint. Medium to full-bodied, layered and fleshy, it's supple and refined, with a vibrant core of fruit and a long, pure finish. It's once again a blend of Merlot complemented by 17% Cabernet Franc.				
Score: 92-94					
James Suckling	This is really like a Burgundy in its nature and sensibility. Medium body with a round, creamy texture and flavors of plums, redcurrants and spices. It's long and caressing. Minerally at the end. A beauty. 83% merlot and 17% cabernet franc.				
Score: 94-95					
Vinous	The 2023 Guillot-Clauzel is gorgeous. Fresh, floral and medium in body, this is all class from start to finish. Since taking over winemaking for this small, two-hectare property in 2018, Guillaume Thienpont has really dialed in the approach. The denser, oakier winemaking of the first few years has evolved into an approach that seeks to exalt the finesse this site is capable of. The 2023 is really quite delicious.				
Score: 92-94					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Petit Village	89-91	96-97	91-94		\$144
Wines Advocate	Aromas of dark wild berries, cassis, chocolate, spices and coniferous forest preface the 2023 Petit Village, a medium to full-bodied, layered and textured wine with a rich, concentrated core of fruit framed by a structured texture, powdery tannins and concluding with an oak-inflected finish.				
Score: 89-91					
James Suckling	A racy, classy and linear wine with blackberries, minerals, stones and flowers. It's medium- to full-bodied with very fine tannins and a racy finish. Creamy texture as well. 65% merlot, 25% cabernet franc and 10% cabernet sauvignon.				
Score: 96-97					
Vinous	The 2023 Petit-Village emerges from the eastern blocks on the property—in other words, those on the Pomerol plateau. Black cherry, chocolate, espresso, licorice and spice infuse the 2023 with notable richness. This is an especially potent, bold style built on textural opulence and breadth. The Cabernet signatures are pretty strong here. Tasted two times.				
Score: 91-94					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

De Sales	90-92	93-94			
Wines Advocate	Aromas of dark berries, red fruits and cherries mingled with hints of mint and violets introduce the 2023 De Sales, a medium to full-bodied, fleshy and supple blend of 80% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon (which performs well on these terroirs) and 5% Cabernet Franc. Charming, elegant and fruit-driven, if it can make it into bottle without succumbing to the Brettanomyces that inflicted the 2021, it will be well worth seeking out.				
Score: 90-92					
James Suckling	Very polished and pretty with berry, chocolate and light lemon-peel character. Medium body. Creamy texture. Refined and polished.				
Score: 93-94					
Vinous					
Score:					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

SAUTERNES / BARSAC	WA	JS	V	WS	PRICE
Coutet		94-95	94-96		\$48
Wines Advocate					
Score:					
James Suckling	A Barsac with dried-apple, apricot and spice character. The botrytis comes through with a healthy and clean nature to it. Medium-bodied and medium-sweet with a spicy finish.				
Score: 94-95					
Vinous	The 2023 Coutet has a tightly-wound bouquet that demands more coaxing than its peers. It typically already possesses laser-sharp focus and is less flamboyant than fellow Barsacs, underpinned and sharpened by its limestone soils. The palate is well balanced with intense botrytised fruit, lightly spiced dried honey and orange rind notes, just a hint of apricot in the background, stretching out on the finish that lingers on the tongue. I am not sure it is the best Coutet in recent years, but it is certainly a very fine contribution to the vintage that should age well in bottle.				
Score: 94-96					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Climens				93-96		
Wines Advocate						
Score:						
James Suckling						
Score:						
Vinous	The 2023 Climens is a dense, racy Barsac. Today is embryonic, but the potential is there. A wine of textural resonance, Climens offers up an exotic mélange of dried apricot, pear, spice, dried flowers, orange peel and passion fruit. I am very much looking forward to tasting this in bottle.					
Score: 93-96						
Wines Spectator						
Score:						

L'Extravagant Doisy Daene (375ml)				96-98		
Wines Advocate						
Score:						
James Suckling						
Score:						
Vinous	The 2023 L'Extravagant de Doisy-Daëne soars out of the glass with stunning aromatics redolent of passion fruit, pineapple, exotic white flowers, mint, apricot and orange blossom. Bright acids lend freshness as the 2023 explodes on the back end. Even with all of its natural intensity, L'Extravagant is incredibly refined.					
Score: 96-98						
Wines Spectator						
Score:						

Doisy Daene		93-94	95-97		\$53
Wines Advocate					
Score:					
James Suckling	There's a refined focus and beauty to this, with spice and honey character. Medium-bodied, sweet and poised. Flavorful at the end, in an elegant way, with density and tension.				
Score: 93-94					
Vinous	The 2023 Doisy-Daëne, a blend of 80% Sémillon and 20% Sauvignon Blanc, takes time to unfurl on the nose. Notes of lemon curd, dried peach and a touch of marmalade are all nicely defined, developing subtle pithy elements with aeration. The palate is just wonderful. Very harmonious with perfectly judged acidity, it's extremely pure with a tensile finish. This is Barsac in full flight. It will be outstanding once bottled. Bravo!				
Score: 95-97					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Guiraud		96-97	92-94		\$68
Wines Advocate					
Score:					
James Suckling	You really see the class and botrytis character here with clarity and focus. Notes of spice, mushroom powder, subtle apricot and honey. It's medium-bodied, fresh and bright with nice sweetness at the end. A modern and precise Sauternes.				
Score: 96-97					
Vinous	The 2023 Guiraud, now made by former Yquem winemaker Sandrine Garbay, has a rather reticent nose at first, opening with orange pith and pear aromas. It just needs a bit more intensity. The palate is medium-bodied with a tangy opening. It's a little spicier than its peers—marmalade and stem ginger, with more peachiness toward the finish. It feels harmonious and poised, but I would wait until the aromatics open, so give it four to five years after bottling.				
Score: 92-94					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Suduiraut		97-98	98-100		\$74
Wines Advocate					
Score:					
James Suckling	The purity of the botrytis grabs your attention, with density and intensity to the dried fruit, sweetness and length. Very spicy and long. Almost oily. Really rich. 150g/L residual sugar. 100% semillon.				
Score: 97-98					
Vinous	The 2023 Suduiraut (100% Sémillon) is a real stunner. Light on its feet yet wonderfully deep, the 2023 offers up a heady mix of tangerine oil, mint, white flowers, apricot and passion fruit. Readers will find a Sauternes that is more finesse than power. The 2023 is essentially a blend of three picks. The first was done at the end of September and accounted for 20% of the crop. The core of the vineyard, about 75%, was picked in a day ten window in October, following the September rains. A smaller third pick rounded out the harvest.				
Score: 98-100					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Rieussec			93-95		
Wines Advocate					
Score:					
James Suckling					
Score:					
Vinous	The 2023 Rieussec, in its uniquely shaped bottle, has a very precise and focused bouquet —one of the more mineral-driven noses I encountered during my barrel tasting of Sauternes. The palate taut and fresh, very well balanced with a superb bead of acidity. Lemon curd, vanilla and marmalade notes emerge toward the cohesive finish. Quite stylish.				
Score: 93-95					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Raymond Lafon				91-93		
Wines Advocate						
Score:						
James Suckling						
Score:						
Vinous	The 2023 Raymond-Lafon was showing a bit of reduction on the nose when I tasted it, though the fruit seems to be pure and well-defined. The palate is lively on the entry thanks to a firm bead of acidity, although I am seeking more viscosity and complexity on the finish. This is not bad, but a bottle at the château tasted later that same day showed a little more nervosité. Promising.					
Score: 91-93						
Wines Spectator						
Score:						

Carmes De Rieussec				91-93		
Wines Advocate						
Score:						
James Suckling						
Score:						
Vinous	The 2023 Raymond-Lafon was showing a bit of reduction on the nose when I tasted it, though the fruit seems to be pure and well-defined. The palate is lively on the entry thanks to a firm bead of acidity, although I am seeking more viscosity and complexity on the finish. This is not bad, but a bottle at the château tasted later that same day showed a little more nervosité. Promising.					
Score: 91-93						
Wines Spectator						
Score:						

La Tour Blanche		90-91	93-95		\$64
Wines Advocate					
Score:					
James Suckling	There's a density to this, with some caramel and spice to the dried-apricot and apple character. It's medium-bodied and medium-sweet with a medium finish.				
Score: 90-91					
Vinous	The 2023 La Tour Blanche is a deep, heady Sauternes. Apricot, mint, white flowers and orange cont are some of the many notes that build as the 2023 shows off its class. There is a real sense of creaminess married with power and intensity that distinguishes this edition of La Tour Blanche.				
Score: 93-95					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

Lafaurie Peyraguey		94-95	94-96		
Wines Advocate					
Score:					
James Suckling	A dense and very intense Sauternes with spiced pear, apple and orange peel. Caramel and spice with some brown sugar. Full and deep. Very sweet. Flavorful finish. Shows depth and intensity. 160 g/L residual sugar. Reminds me of 2003. 100% semillon.				
Score: 94-95					
Vinous	The 2023 Lafaurie-Peyraguey has a pure and perfumed bouquet with dried honey, peony, orange blossom and quince aromas that are very well defined. The palate is well balanced with a viscous opening and superb acidity, flush with very pure marmalade, quince and apricot flavors. Incredibly persistent on the finish, this is a very impressive Sauternes.				
Score: 94-96					
Wines Spectator					
Score:					

TERMS & CONDITIONS

- * Prices indicated are Ex-Bordeaux.
- * Immediate payment is required upon confirmation.
- * We accept payment via cheque or bank transfer only.
- * Prices are subject to change without prior notice.
- * Invoiced prices are valid for one week from date of invoice.
- * We reserve the rights to cancel invalid and unpaid invoices.
- * Orders confirmed and paid are non-refundable and/or non-exchangeable.
- * Additional freight charges of \$20 per 750ml bottle is payable upon arrival of wines.
- * Wines and freight charges are subject to the prevailing rate of GST, payable upon arrival of wines.
- * Wines listed are in 750ml per bottles unless otherwise stated.
- * Estimated arrival of wines in June-July 2026.
- * Minimum order of 6 bottles per label, subjected to availability.
- * Orders are subjected to confirmation.