

Bordeaux 2022 Vintage Report



JUNE 26, 2023 FEATURES

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2022: The Best Bordeaux Vintage Since 1870?

By Clyde Beffa Jr., Bordeaux Buyer



I wrote this in the 2020 and 2021 K&L vintage reports: "In stating the weather conditions in most of my past vintage reports since the late 1980s, I used the notes of the famous Bill Blatch—Mr. Bordeaux. Bill retired from the négociant business several years ago, and I lost my source for weather reports. This year I read a fine vintage report from two professors from Bordeaux University (Laurence Geny

and Axel Marchal, et al.), and I used many of their observations and facts for my weather condition portion of this report. I thank them profusely." Well, this year I also used their fine report as it seemed to be the most factual and unbiased. Again, I thank them. By the way, our team had dinner with Mr. Blatch and Mrs. Blatch in Bordeaux, and I must say they were in fine form.

The main trip this year was organized by Trey Beffa, who went the week with Ralph Sands and Ryan Moses. I joined them later in the week, in time to taste at Joanne (90 wines) and visit Haut-Bailly, Haut-Brion, and Pape Clément. And also to attend a few parties in the area.

From all the Bordeaux 2022 reports we had been reading for the last few months, we were expecting a great vintage. Not since the 2009 vintage had there been so much buzz. I must say the 2022 vintage, for the most part, lived up to all the hype. Was it as good as 2009 (my favorite vintage of the 21st century)? Most all articles hailed 2022 as a great vintage—surely the best of the 21st century, they said. Some said it was as good as

1945 or 1928! One in-the-know person even said best since 1870!

Unlike the 2009 vintage, which had perfect ripening conditions and no problems in the vineyards, 2022 had its share of problems—from frost to several heat spikes and drought during the summer. I only tasted about 110 wines on my trip so I will rely heavily on my cohorts who tasted many more. I must say the reds I tasted were mostly quite good. Better than 2009? Only time will tell. Better than 1928, 1929, 1945? Only the young collectors will be able to answer that question. I love these three vintages, and I have drunk quite a few of them in the last few years.

One thing for sure is that the Bordeaux property workers in 2022 had a lot more tools to work with (in the vineyards and in the wineries) than the folks making wine during the Depression years and Second World War years!

Our trip took place at end of April (about a month later than normal), and this gave the young wines time to settle. Since the late 1980s, we have been complaining about tasting the new wines too early in their lifecycle—late March and early April. That extra month really helps.



A small but mighty team this year. Ryan Moses (left), Trey Beffa (right), and Ralph Sands (not pictured) did the vast majority of the tastings and visits, while Clyde joined later in the week.

The 2022 vintage report from the aforementioned Bordeaux University professors begins: “After a 2021 vintage full of contrasts, we cannot deny ourselves the pleasure of declaring that, even this early in the ageing process, the wines produced in 2022 already seem quite exceptional and remarkable!”

Prerequisites for Excellence

As we talked about last year in the 2021 report, there are five prerequisites in creating a great Bordeaux—it is important to reiterate these five prerequisites as they are essential for a successful vintage:

- 1) and 2) Relatively quick and even flowering and fruit-set during weather that is sufficiently warm and dry to ensure good pollination and predispose toward even ripening.
- 3) Gradual onset of water stress thanks to a warm, dry month of July to slow down and then put a definitive stop to vine growth no later than véraison (color change).
- 4) Completely ripe grapes thanks to optimum photosynthesis in the leaves up until the harvest, without any noteworthy resumption of vegetative growth.
- 5) Fine (relatively dry and medium-warm) weather during harvest, making it possible to pick the grapes in each plot at optimum ripeness without running the risk of dilution, rot, or loss of fruity aromas.

Winter, Spring, and Early Summer

After a slightly drier winter than usual, several cool nights in March resulted in bud break occurring as expected for the time of year and later than in 2021. Thanks to the delayed growth cycle, frost in early April caused significantly less damage in the vineyards compared to 2021.

May was warm, almost summer-like, and the vine growth accelerated—it was looking like an early vintage. Number 1 and 2 prerequisites above were met in early May with a quick and even flowering. Some violent storms and hail damage occurred in late May—but only certain areas were affected. It rained a lot in June and some very high temperatures were recorded later in the month. During these storms, the water table benefited from some needed rainfall, which would be important during the hot summer. The hot weather continued, and even intensified, with a second heatwave



in July. Around the same time, water stress set in, slowing grape development. The number 3 prerequisite was achieved, and the early character of the vintage was confirmed.

Late Summer and Harvest

Vine growth had stopped by August and the berries were changing color (véraison). Some scorching occurred, and leaf thinning was an important step at this point. August was hot and dry, but the overnight temperatures remained reasonably cool. This probably helped the red wines retain some freshness and acidity. At this point and forward the berries were quite small, especially the Cabernet grapes. These conditions were conducive to the ripening of the red wine grapes and the accumulation of phenolic compounds. Number 4 prerequisite was met. The first red wine grapes were picked in early September, and weather conditions during the harvest made it possible for winegrowers to pick each grape variety at optimum ripeness, without fear of dilution or rot. Number 5 prerequisite was met—at least for the red wines.

The Whites and Stickies

The white wines of 2022 are another story in my mind. Yes, it was an early harvest before the hot end of August and beginning of September, so the grapes were harvested under good conditions. They have plenty of fine aromas, but I found most of the white wines (especially the lower priced ones) to be a bit too flabby, without the fine acidity of 2021.

The stickies (sweet wines) turned out quite well for the properties that waited to pick their grapes in mid-October. This was thanks to some ideal wet weather at the end of September that triggered the rapid development of *Botrytis cinerea*, and then some hot weather in mid-October. Estates that chose to wait patiently were rewarded and hurried to pick grapes with remarkable richness and purity, giving personality, balance, and depth to the 2022 fine sweet white wines.

Conclusion—and the Market Place

There are some great red wines made in 2022. Some properties made their best wine in many years. We had heard that the owners were going to raise the 2022 prices from 10–25% in this vintage, and they did. A few even went up over 30%. As I write this conclusion in mid-June, and 75% of the Bordeaux wines are on the market, I am amazed that some of these great wines (like Cheval Blanc, Ausone, Branaire-Ducru, Léoville-Barton, Beau-Séjour Bécot, Les Carmes Haut-Brion, and Pichon-Lalande) have sold out already or are close to selling out. We still have not seen the prices of the First Growths and a few of the top reds, but the campaign has done OK in general. Some fine wines are still available at good prices, namely Malescot St-Exupéry, Phélan Ségur, Gloria, and Domaine de Chevalier. Unfortunately, few of us will be around in 100 years to see if these 2022s will be as good as the 1928s or 1929s or 1945s are now—let alone as good as the 1870s!



Flipping the Script with a Ripe, Fresh Vintage

By Ryan Moses, Bordeaux Specialist



It is fascinating to cycle through the anticipation of a vintage and follow it through to the En Primeur season. In some ways, the story writes itself—the seeds get planted for the initial hype in December, and it flowers into full-blown hyperbole by late March. Landing in Bordeaux, you gear up to put all the noise aside and focus just on the wines, but it is a whirlwind that is almost built to distract you

from dedicated attention. Notes in hand, you go home to be greeted by press from every angle, attaching one score after another that can make or break a wine. And then prices are stubbornly high—not always, but nearly always.

As unexpected of a vintage as 2022 was, the script felt already written for us from the get-go. But that is why we make the trip. Yes—this was a vintage that surprised us with lively acidity and freshness, to match up with the lush and rich fruits. But that doesn't mean that it was easy to avoid being heavy handed, or that everybody was able to thrive at the same level. The unprecedented conditions also brought unprecedented wines—they will be unusually approachable early, but it will be interesting to see if there's a trade-off in the long term for this wealth of accessibility.

For those looking for what makes the vintage great, there will be plenty of examples to come in these pages, and more over the years as the wines land in the market in 2025. Those who enjoy a bit more fruit and don't mind more of a hedonistic profile will adore what they find. There are also many estates that are classicists to their core and were able to pull it off in 2022.

Merlot weathered the heat with much more success than Cabernet, so the vintage leans a bit more to the Right Bank. But this isn't a one-sided vintage—we found a ton to love in St-Estèphe and St-Julien, with charmers in Margaux, Pauillac, and Pessac as well. At the top of the vintage, you'll find wines that will easily be reference points for the estate, and regardless of your stylistic preferences, some all-timers will certainly come from 2022.

There are certainly some challenges in 2022, for both the market and winemakers. First off is naturally low yields. The heat did a number on Cabernet, and while the fruit was resilient, the small berries resulted in not only less wine, but a higher proportion of tannin. This made blending a difficult balance, and often changed the relationship between first and second wines in the cépage or production levels. The second pressure is the inflationary market—not only have supply costs been up, but the dynamic of futures leans heavily on borrowing within the region, something that puts a lot of stress on the parties involved when rates are higher.

The last piece of the puzzle is pricing. The average property is looking to raise pricing about 15% to 30% over their previous releases. It should be said that this is a tough measuring stick, as comparing 2022 (rich/ripe vintage) to 2021 (cool/classic vintage) is just another habit we've fallen into, not one that we should necessarily rely on. But at some of the suggested rates, the 2022s are coming out on par with other great vintages on the market, and there are many. Never have we seen a string of successful vintages in such a compact time as Bordeaux has experienced since 2016 (or you could argue 2015...or 2014...). At the same going rates, many of these risk feeling like they're a new chapter in a book that's readily available at the library. Then again, there are some telling a story that has no parallels and should be locked down before release because of it.

So where does this put us for the 2022 campaign? I still think there's a ton of value in Bordeaux, relative to a lot of the other big regions in the world (don't tell them I said that). It would also be a mistake to miss out on some of these wines. I do believe that the best of them will experience appreciation before arrival, regardless of a significant mismatch between consumer demand and château positioning for many others.

For me, it's not a question of whether or not I want to collect 2022s, it's about when to strike and how broadly to play. So whether you are looking for special formats (please ask if you don't see them immediately available), have a deep connection with a particular

property, or are looking to catch that next rising star on the upswing, there are finds in 2022 worth buying early. Here's what I have an eye on in 2022...

Top Picks

2022 Léoville-Las-Cases, St-Julien (Pre-Arrival) \$379.99 & 2022 Léoville-Las-Cases, St-Julien 6-Pack in OWC (Pre-Arrival) \$2,275.00 & 2022 Léoville-Las-Cases, St-Julien (1.5L) (Pre-Arrival) \$759.99 & 2022 Léoville-Las-Cases, St-Julien (1.5L) 3-Pack in OWC (Pre-Arrival) \$2,275.00 99-100JS 98-100JD 98-100WA 98DC Sometimes LLC is hard to appreciate En Primeur, as it can be a demanding, tannic, and compact wine. This year it was all class, showing an incredible depth and dynamic that had "wine of the vintage" written all over it. Although pricing might be ambitious and allocations could be fleeting, the wine is just that good.



2022 Cos d'Estournel, St-Estèphe (Pre-Arrival) \$239.99 98-100JD 98-99JS Since their legendary 2016, some of the wines at Cos have seemed pushed, or strained to find an identity between the hedonistic wines of yesteryear and the ethereal refinement they're striving for. The 2022 strikes the perfect balance between fruit, texture, and accessibility.

2022 Rauzan-Ségla, Margaux (Pre-Arrival) \$114.99 97-99JD 97-98JS 97DC 97JA This wine was so explosive and expressive that I can still taste it now, six weeks later. Okay, not really, but you get the idea—it seemed to be Margaux on steroids, but in a balanced expression that still had the texture, acid, and tannins to give it a sense of place. Ripe but balanced, opulent but grounded.

2022 Pichon-Lalande, Pauillac (Pre-Arrival) \$240.00 97-100JD 98-99JS 97-99WA 98DC Impeccable texture defines this PLL, giving it a level of refinement that's rarely seen in combination with such a depth of fruit. It is aromatically complex, certainly has the tell-tale Cabernet and Pichon-Lalande markers throughout, and keeps you coming back to the glass to discover one nuance after another.

2022 Pichon-Baron, Pauillac (Pre-Arrival) \$179.99 96-98JD 96-97JS 95-97WA 96DC I often find that Pichon-Baron is defined by dark fruit and imposing tannins, one of the more monolithic wines in the neighborhood, even for its richness and complexity. While the aromas hinted at the same for 2022, the palate delivered a remarkable purity and focus, a brightness to the fruit, and an impressive texture and tannins to back it up. Certainly a bit of a stylistic shift, but to me it felt like another level for the already impressive estate.

2022 Malescot-St-Exupéry, Margaux (Pre-Arrival) \$62.99 96-97JS This one might show up a few times

in our vintage report, which is a good sign. It still has a bit of a modern flair in 2022, but the composure, quality of the tannins, and the liveliness of the wine made for an incredibly delicious, hard-to-resist Malescot that had us all quickly in agreement. If that wasn't enough, Clyde had the same response three days later, without any other context.

2022 Figeac, St-Émilion (Pre-Arrival) \$349.99 98-100WA 98DC 98JA

97-98JS This is one that's not on everybody's radar but should be. Each prior vintage is about as good as it gets, but for some reason public opinion doesn't put it alongside the big names in the region. It should be considered as a competitor to whatever cult Right Bank you can imagine, and in 2022 it easily is, with a perfect marriage of elegance, purity, and depth of flavor.

2022 Troplong Mondot, St-Émilion (Pre-Arrival) \$139.99 99-100WA 97-99JD 98DC 98JA 97-98JS A shining example of how the estate has completed an amazing stylistic shift, once hedonistic and ripe, and now high toned, textural, and terroir driven. This rendition is almost electric, and while the fruit is ripe, it sheds most of the hot vintage character that you'd expect.

Honorable Mentions



There are also a few honorable mentions that should be on every discerning collector's radar. I have a soft spot for both the Phélan-Ségur and Canon-la-Gaffelière estates and was glad to see them craft noteworthy 2022s that should be welcome additions to any carefully curated collection:

2022 Phélan-Ségur, St-Estèphe (Pre-Arrival) \$49.99 96-97JS 95-97VN 94-96JD 95DC 95JA

2022 Canon-la-Gaffelière, St-Émilion (Pre-Arrival) \$84.99 97-98JS 95-97JD 94-96WA 94-96VN 95DC.

I was also impressed by the following wines. They all stood out among their peers as great examples of the vintage and their respective estates:

2022 Saint-Pierre, St-Julien (Pre-Arrival) \$59.99 95-97JD 95-96JS 94-96VN

2022 Grand-Puy-Lacoste, Pauillac (Pre-Arrival) \$79.99 96-98VN 95-97WA 96DC 96JA 95-96JS

2022 Clinet, Pomerol (Pre-Arrival) \$114.99 96-98 96DC 96JA 94-96WA 94-96VN

Both Winemakers and Vines Learn to Adapt to the New Normal

By Trey Beffa, Bordeaux Specialist



2022 “An Emotional Vintage” — Château Cos d’Estournel

“Emotional” rarely means easy and straightforward. St-Estèphe had some of the biggest challenges of any commune in 2022. Most all the properties we visited consider the weather pattern in 2022 as unusual. Is it possible the recent weather patterns are in fact the new norm—the “unusual” becoming the new “usual”?

After a cool spring, warm weather set in during the month of May, and that would be the trend for the rest of the summer. However, the region was hit in late June with hailstorms, which impacted many Cabernet vines. Once the heat set in, it did not let up. At Cos d’Estournel, they experienced a record number of days in the growing season above 100 degrees F.

On paper, it looked as if this could be another vintage like 2003, which was known for its extreme heat. However, that was 20 years ago, and vineyard managers have since learned how to work with warmer vintages. Not only that, but the vines have also learned how to adapt. This was a key talking point throughout Bordeaux this past April. Saskia de Rothschild of Château Lafite believes “the vines are adapting” to these warmer, drier summers. Charles Fournier from Château Mouton also said, “The hot and dry weather began early, and it stayed that way, giving the vines a chance to adjust.” The adjustment of the vines to the warmer weather was key to the quality of the fruit that came in.

Another factor that many believed help retain freshness in 2022 was that, despite the hot days, the nights were relatively cool. It’s a weather pattern that is like what Napa Valley experiences in a normal year. One of the earliest harvests on record, many properties had all their grapes in by the latter part of September. Another factor that helped the grapes was the relatively warm and dry harvest during the month of September. There was no fear of storms or approaching weather, so properties were able to take their time picking their fruit.

St-Estèphe

Overall, St-Estèphe has some fabulous wines in 2022. It is, however, a bit more variable than other communes. Selection will be key.

2022 Calon-Ségur, St-Estèphe (Pre-Arrival) \$149.99 & 2022 Calon-Ségur, St-Estèphe 6-Pack in OWC (Pre-Arrival) \$895.00
2022 Calon-Ségur, St-Estèphe (1.5L) (Pre-Arrival) \$299.99

97-99JD 96-98WA The 2022 is a blend of 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc, and 1% Petit Verdot. The nose is very fresh. Red fruits dominate. In the mouth lots of earth and minerals are present. The wine is focused and tight, with a leaner, fresher profile. 2022 has quite a high percentage of Merlot for the property, whereas generally, it is around 10%.

2022 La Dame de Montrose, St-Estèphe (Pre-Arrival) \$44.99 & 2022 La Dame de Montrose, St-Estèphe 6-Pack in OWC

(Pre-Arrival) \$255.00 93-95JD 92-94WA 92-94VN Merlot is in large supply as always with this wine: 71% Merlot, 23% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Petit Verdot, and 1% Cabernet Franc. Aromas are fresh and spicy, with a round and supple mid-palate. Tannins are firm but fresh. Quite a bit of power for a second selection.



2022 Tronquoy, St-Estèphe (Pre-Arrival) \$28.99

93JA 92-93JS Very focused and concentrated with lots of minerality, hints of chalk, and cedar. Shows a nice core of black and blue fruits. Solid effort! No more “Lalande” in the name starting in 2022, this wine is a blend of 59% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, and 6% Petit Verdot.

2022 Cos d’Estournel, St-Estèphe (Pre-Arrival) \$239.99 & 2022 Cos d’Estournel, St-Estèphe 6-Pack in OWC (Pre-Arrival)

\$1,425.00 & 2022 Cos d’Estournel, St-Estèphe (1.5L) (Pre-Arrival) \$479.99 & 2022 Cos d’Estournel, St-Estèphe (1.5L) 3-Pack in OWC (Pre-Arrival) \$1,425.00 98-100JD 98-99JS 97DC 97JA The 2022 Cos is a deep, rich, concentrated wine. Flavors of black cherries, mint, and minerals are underneath a dark core of fruit. The tannins are firm but integrated and ripe. This was one of our favorites from the North Médoc. A blend of 61% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Merlot, 1% Cabernet Franc, and 1% Petit Verdot.

2022 Phélan-Ségur, St-Estèphe (Pre-Arrival) \$49.99 & 2022 Phélan-Ségur, St-Estèphe 6-Pack in OWC (Pre-Arrival) \$299.00 & 2022 Phélan-Ségur, St-Estèphe (1.5L) (Pre-Arrival) \$99.99 & 2022 Phélan-Ségur, St-Estèphe (1.5L) 3-Pack in OWC (Pre-Arrival)

\$299.00 96-97JS 95-97VN 94-96JD 95DC 95JA Like many properties up north, the storm of June 20th wiped out lots of Cabernet vines, so a high percentage of Merlot is in the final blend this year. Very aromatic and fresh, hints of cocoa powder, cassis, and spice. Tannins are firm. Nice wine. 56% Merlot, 40% Cabernet Sauvignon, 2% Cabernet Franc, and 2% Petit Verdot.

2022 Ormes de Pez, St-Estèphe (Pre-Arrival) \$31.99 Fruity and toasty; a bit tight and medium weight in the mouth. Hints of earth, spice, and tobacco. 39% Cabernet Sauvignon, 51% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc, and 2% Petit Verdot.

2022 de Pez, St-Estèphe (Pre-Arrival) \$39.99 On June 21st, de Pez had hail in the vineyards, which destroyed nearly 40% of the crop. One could think of this as a green harvest as the wine is delicious. Lovely nose of fresh-cut berries, crisp and bright fruit, velvety texture. Fine tannins. The best young de Pez I have tasted. A sleeper!

2022 Lilian Ladouys, St-Estèphe (Pre-Arrival) \$19.99 92-93JS 91-93JD Loaded with red fruit and spice. Long, fresh, and quite tasty.

2022 Meyney, St-Estèphe (Pre-Arrival) \$32.99 & 2022 Meyney, St-Estèphe 6-Pack in OWC (Pre-Arrival) \$197.00 95JA 94-95JS Red fruits, hints of minerals and wet stone. Bright, crunchy tannins. Good effort.

Pauillac

Some of the top wines tasted on the trip were from Pauillac. Though to a lesser extent than St-Estèphe, there was quite a bit of variability. It is not an “across the board” vintage anywhere in Bordeaux, yet there are quite a few success stories from Pauillac.

2022 Lafite Rothschild, Pauillac (Pre-Arrival) \$799.99 99JS

97-99JD 98DC 96-98VN 97JA One of the top First Growths for the vintage! The 2022 is a layered, round wine in the mouth with hints of cassis, spice, tobacco, and cedar. Red fruits; long, ripe, and integrated tannins. Big wine but comes across as elegant and balanced. 94% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Merlot, and 1% Petit Verdot.

2022 Duhart-Milon, Pauillac (Pre-Arrival) \$79.99 95-96JS

94-96JD The 2022 Duhart is a blend of 78% Cabernet Sauvignon and 22% Merlot. This is quite a high percentage of Cabernet for this wine compared to years past. The wine is very focused, shows bright and lively red fruits with a strong Cabernet backbone.



2022 Mouton Rothschild, Pauillac (Pre-Arrival) (\$Inquire) 98-100JD

98-99JS 98DC 98JA Harvest began at Mouton on September 1st, one of the earliest on record. The blend in 2022 for the Mouton was 92% Cabernet Sauvignon and 8% Merlot, which represents the highest percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon in the blend since 2010. 2022 shows a tightly knit, compact, and firmer Mouton than that of recent

years. Its silky, layered fruit is a bit masked currently with its tannic backbone. This should develop more in barrel over the next year.

2022 Clerc Milon, Pauillac (Pre-Arrival) \$89.99 95-96JS 95DC

95JA Interesting that this is the first time at the property we have tasted Clerc before d'Armailhac. The Clerc primary comes from vines on clay soils, while d'Armailhac and Mouton come from gravel soils. The 2022 shows a round, rich middle palate, hints of licorice and cherry flavors, with firm fruit tannins on the finish. Should come together nicely. A blend of 59% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc, and 1% Carménère.

2022 d'Armailhac, Pauillac (Pre-Arrival) \$54.99 96-97JS 94-96JD

93-95VN Bright red cherry fruit, lots of minerals, and spice. Plenty of elegance and sweetness. Long finish that lingers. A blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot, 16% Cabernet Franc, and 2% Petit Verdot.

2022 Pontet-Canet, Pauillac (Pre-Arrival) \$119.99 & 2022 Pontet-Canet, Pauillac 6-Pack in OWC (Pre-Arrival) \$715.00 & 2022 Pontet-Canet, Pauillac (1.5L) (Pre-Arrival) \$239.99 & 2022 Pontet-Canet, Pauillac (1.5L) 3-Pack in OWC (Pre-Arrival) \$719.00

99-100JS 97-99JD 95-97VN July and August were so hot that Alfred Tesseron “sprayed the vineyards with sunscreen.” When he told me that, I thought, *what does that mean?*—especially with his focus on biodynamic and organic farming. Apparently the “sunscreen” they use is a blend of clay powder and water, and it helped protect the

grapes from getting burnt. It was the earliest and longest harvest ever at Pontet-Canet. The resulting wine was impressive: ripe, lush, and creamy in the mouth, with blackberry and red currant flavors really standing out in the middle of the wine. Savory, ripe, fleshy tannins hold the wine together. Quite different in flavor profile than other Pauillac wines. A blend of 57% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc, and 4% Petit Verdot.

2022 Lynch-Bages, Pauillac (Pre-Arrival) \$139.99 & 2022

Lynch-Bages, Pauillac 6-Pack in OWC (Pre-Arrival) \$835.00 & 2022 Lynch-Bages, Pauillac (1.5L) (Pre-Arrival) \$279.99 & 2022 Lynch-Bages, Pauillac (1.5L) 3-Pack in OWC (Pre-Arrival) \$835.00
98-99JS 96-98JD 97DC 97JA 2022 is a blend of 66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc, and 3% Petit Verdot.



Barrel room at Lynch-Bages.

Rich, juicy texture, dense and firm in the back—lots of power here underlined by hints of graphite, mineral, and blackberry fruit. Long finish. Serious wine!

2022 Haut-Batailley, Pauillac (Pre-Arrival) \$59.99 94-95JS

93-95VN Since taking over the property in 2017, the Lynch-Bages team has started the process of replanting the vineyards. Most of the fruit is currently going into the second wine called “Verso,” but, as these vineyards start to come online, this property will continue to develop. The 2022 is a blend of 30% Merlot and 70% Cabernet Sauvignon. In more of a feminine style, this wine shows bright and fresh fruit, hints of red currants and cherries. The finish is long and crisp. Quite nice!

2022 Pichon-Lalande, Pauillac (Pre-Arrival) \$240.00 & 2022 Pichon-Lalande, Pauillac 6-Pack in OWC (Pre-Arrival) \$1,440.00 & 2022 Pichon-Lalande, Pauillac (1.5L) (Pre-Arrival) \$480.00 & 2022 Pichon-Lalande, Pauillac (1.5L) 3-Pack in OWC (Pre-Arrival) \$1,440.00
97-100JD 98-99JS 97-99WA 96-99VN 98DC A blend of 78% Cabernet Sauvignon, 17% Merlot, and 5% Cabernet Franc. This was one of my favorite wines from the 2022 vintage. It is loaded with savory fruit, very sweet and layered in the mid-palate, hints of cream, vanilla, and cocoa powder. Lots of earthy flavors in the background, this wine is velvety and fresh. Should be a winner for the vintage!

2022 Pichon-Baron, Pauillac (Pre-Arrival) \$179.99 & 2022 Pichon-Baron, Pauillac 6-Pack in OWC (Pre-Arrival) \$1,075.00 & 2022 Pichon-Baron, Pauillac (1.5L) (Pre-Arrival) \$359.99 & 2022 Pichon-Baron, Pauillac (1.5L) 3-Pack in OWC (Pre-Arrival) \$1,075.00 96-98JD 96-98VN 96-97JS 95-97WA 96DC The 2022 is a blend of 89% Cabernet Sauvignon and 11% Merlot. Loaded with red currant fruit, it's very lush and round in the mid-palate with a long, toasty, velvety texture. Tannins are ripe and sweet. Another winner from Pauillac!

2022 Grand-Puy-Lacoste, Pauillac (Pre-Arrival) \$79.99 & 2022 Grand-Puy-Lacoste, Pauillac 6-Pack in OWC (Pre-Arrival) \$475.00 & 2022 Grand-Puy-Lacoste, Pauillac (1.5L) (Pre-Arrival) \$159.99 96-98VN 95-97WA 96DC 96JA 95-96JS Aromatic and fresh. Lots of lift, quite rich and with a nice extraction—all held together with a firm, tannic backbone.

Haut-Médoc, Médoc, and Others

2022 Mauvesin Barton, Moulis-en-Médoc (Pre-Arrival) \$19.99 Pretty aromas, bright and crisp. Firm, tannic finish but shows a sweet core of fruit. Good wine.

2022 Cantemerle, Haut-Médoc (Pre-Arrival) \$30.99 93-94JS 92-94WA Red fruits, lots of elegance and sweet fruit in the middle palate. Fine tannins. One of our favorite Haut-Médocs in 2022. Good value and should drink well right out of the gate.

2022 Poujeaux, Moulis (Pre-Arrival) \$28.99 94-95JS 94JA A lot of clay in the soil in Moulis creates a darker, chewy wine. There's a good deal of structure and density. Powerful and firm tannic backbone. Masculine-style wine. Lots of bang for the buck here.

2022 La Lagune, Haut-Médoc (Pre-Arrival) \$49.99 95-96JS Ripe red currant fruits, spicy, very fresh with finesse and balance. Soft integrated tannins. A winner from the Haut-Médoc.

St-Julien

A successful region in 2022 along with Margaux.



St-Julien's Léoville-Poyferré shines in 2022.

2022 Gloria, St-Julien (Pre-Arrival) \$44.99 & 2022 Gloria, St-Julien 6-Pack in OWC (Pre-Arrival) \$265.00 & 2022 Gloria, St-Julien (1.5L) (Pre-Arrival) \$89.99 94-96JD 94-96VN Quite powerful and rich, black licorice, black fruits, hints of mocha, dense and concentrated.

2022 Saint-Pierre, St-Julien (Pre-Arrival) \$59.99 95-97JD 95-96JS 94-96VN Dense and extracted fruit, blackberry fruits with hints of graphite and tar. Firm tannins.

2022 Talbot, St-Julien (Pre-Arrival) \$64.99 95DC 94-95JS 93-95JD 93-95WA Very dark color, lots of extraction, hints of chocolate. Tannins are ripe yet firm. Velvety texture. Nice length on the finish.

2022 Beychevelle, St-Julien (Pre-Arrival) \$94.99 95-97JD Shows a sweet ripe core of fruit, red fruits, very fresh and clean. Tannins are lively and integrated. Not usually my favorite wine out of barrel, but this is a very nice Beychevelle!

2022 Léoville-Poyferré, St-Julien (Pre-Arrival) \$114.99 & 2022 Léoville-Poyferré, St-Julien 6-Pack in OWC (Pre-Arrival) \$685.00 & 2022 Léoville-Poyferré, St-Julien (1.5L) (Pre-Arrival) \$229.99 2022 Léoville-Poyferré, St-Julien (1.5L) 3-Pack in OWC (Pre-Arrival) \$685.00 97-100JD 53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 34% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc, 4% Petit Verdot. Inky dark color, spicy aromas, blackberries, licorice, dense powerful wine with firm tannins and a juicy middle.

Margaux

2022 Labégorce, Margaux (Pre-Arrival) \$34.99 95DC A blend of 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 45% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc, and 2% Petit Verdot. Deep, dark purple in color, with toasty aromas, hints of vanilla, red currants, black cherry, and tons of spice. This wine shows a velvety sweet core of fruit with lots of stuffing and freshness.

2022 Prieuré-Lichine, Margaux (Pre-Arrival) \$43.99 95-96JS Hints of chocolate and hazelnuts.

2022 Marquis d'Alesme, Margaux (Pre-Arrival) \$49.99 95DC 95JA A blend of 63% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot, and 2% Cabernet Franc. Dark chewy black fruits, firm tannic backbone. A good mid-term cellar pick.

2022 Kirwan, Margaux (Pre-Arrival) \$49.99 & 2022 Kirwan, Margaux 6-Pack in OWC (Pre-Arrival) \$299.00 93-95JD 94DC Lush fruit, dark fruits, round in the mouth, nice length and purity.

2022 Cantenac Brown, Margaux (Pre-Arrival) \$54.99 & 2022 Cantenac Brown, Margaux 6-Pack in OWC (Pre-Arrival) \$325.00 96DC 94-96WA 94-96VN 95JA Dark color, lots of spice in the nose, round elegant mid-palate, fresh and bold tannins on the finish. Very nice wine!

2022 Malescot-St-Exupéry, Margaux (Pre-Arrival) \$62.99 & 2022 Malescot-St-Exupéry, Margaux 6-Pack in OWC (Pre-Arrival) \$375.00 & 2022 Malescot-St-Exupéry, Margaux (1.5L) (Pre-Arrival) \$125.99 96-97JS 94-96JD 93-95WA 93-95VN Toasty, exotic aromas. Hints of chocolate, black currants, and blackberry fill the round, creamy middle. Lots of length. Very fine tannins.



The Margaux commune produced some very fine wines in 2022.

Wonderful purity and power. One of the top wines from the Margaux appellation. A blend of 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, and 5% Petit Verdot with an alcohol level of 14.5%.

2022 d'Issan, Margaux (Pre-Arrival) \$67.99 & 2022 d'Issan, Margaux 6-Pack in OWC (Pre-Arrival) \$400.00 & 2022 d'Issan, Margaux (1.5L) (Pre-Arrival) \$135.99
96-97JS 95-97JD 96DC 95JA Dark fruits, broad and rich in the mouth, lovely texture and

balance. Firm yet integrated tannins.

2022 Brane-Cantenac, Margaux (Pre-Arrival) \$89.99 & 2022 Brane-Cantenac, Margaux 6-Pack in OWC (Pre-Arrival) \$530.00 & 2022 Brane-Cantenac, Margaux (1.5L) (Pre-Arrival) \$189.99
2022 Brane-Cantenac, Margaux (1.5L) 3-Pack in OWC (Pre-Arrival) \$570.00 98DC 98JA 96-98JD 96-98VN 96-97JS Lush and round. Creamy and sweet in the middle. Very fresh. Fine tannins. Very nice effort!

2022 Lascombes, Margaux (Pre-Arrival) \$84.99 Inky dark color, concentrated, still a nice core of sweetness. Balanced and lively.

2022 Rauzan-Ségla, Margaux (Pre-Arrival) \$114.99 & 2022 Rauzan-Ségla, Margaux 6-Pack in OWC (Pre-Arrival) \$685.00 & 2022 Rauzan-Ségla, Margaux (1.5L) (Pre-Arrival) \$229.99 97-99JD 97-98JS 97DC 97JA 96-97WA 95-97VN Perfumy aromas, exotic fruits, juicy fleshy mouthfeel. Very long and lush. Excellent wine!

Pessac-Léognan

2022 Latour-Martillac, Pessac-Léognan (Pre-Arrival) \$36.99 95-96JS Dark fruits, hints of chocolate, and black cherries. Tannins are present but integrated and fresh. Very nice wine! 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 42% Merlot, and 8% Petit Verdot.

2022 Domaine de Chevalier Rouge, Pessac-Léognan (Pre-Arrival) \$76.99 & 2022 Domaine de Chevalier Rouge, Pessac-Léognan 6-Pack in OWC (Pre-Arrival) \$450.00 & 2022 Domaine de Chevalier Rouge, Pessac-Léognan (1.5L) (Pre-Arrival) \$154.99 & 2022 Domaine de Chevalier Rouge, Pessac-Léognan (1.5L) 3-Pack in OWC (Pre-Arrival) \$445.00 98-99JS 96-98JD 95-97VN 96JA 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, 3% Petit Verdot, 2% Cabernet Franc. Lovely fruit and spice, elegant and fresh in the mouth.

2022 Pape Clément, Pessac-Léognan (Pre-Arrival) \$84.99 & 2022 Pape Clément, Pessac-Léognan 6-Pack in OWC (Pre-Arrival) \$500.00 & 2022 Pape Clément, Pessac-Léognan (1.5L) (Pre-Arrival) \$169.99 97-98JS 96-98JD 60% Merlot, 40% Cabernet Sauvignon. Big and dense, lots of structure and power. Black fruits.

2022 Haut-Bailly, Pessac-Léognan (Pre-Arrival) \$164.99 & 2022

Haut-Bailly, Pessac-Léognan 6-Pack in OWC (Pre-Arrival) \$950.00 & 2022 Haut-Bailly, Pessac-Léognan (1.5L) (Pre-Arrival) \$319.99 & 2022 Haut-Bailly, Pessac-Léognan (1.5L) 3-Pack in OWC (Pre-Arrival) \$950.00 98-100JD 97-98JS 96-98VN 97JA 56% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot, and 2% Cabernet Franc. Red cherry, currant fruit. Pure, lively with flesh and spice.

St-Émilion

2022 Angélu, St-Émilion (Pre-Arrival) \$449.99 & 2022 Angélu, St-Émilion 6-Pack in OWC (Pre-Arrival) \$2,695.00 & 2022 Angélu, St-Émilion (1.5L) (Pre-Arrival) \$899.99 98-99JS 97-99JD Very aromatic and fresh up front. Focused, layered, dense middle fruit with flavors of cassis, mint, and savory herbs. Long and fresh on the finish. Big wine but it doesn't come across as such. 60% Merlot and 40% Cabernet Franc. 14.5% alcohol.

2022 Carillon de L'Angélu, St-Émilion (Pre-Arrival) \$119.99 94-95JS Elegant, high-toned berry fruit, spicy edges, very fresh with crunchy tannins that hold the wine together. 90% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc. 60% new oak, 14.5% ABV.

2022 Barde-Haut, St-Émilion (Pre-Arrival) \$37.99 96-98JD 94-96VN 95JA A big success in 2022! Dark in color and loaded with blackberry and blueberry fruit. Lush and fleshy with round, sweet tannins that linger on the finish. A bit in the modern style, and I am OK with that. This wine should drink well right out of the gate. 80% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc.

2022 Poesia, St-Émilion (Pre-Arrival) \$34.99 93-95JD 93-95VN Exotic aromas are followed by ripe currant and blackberry fruit on the palate. Quite sweet and ripe with hints of minerality in the back. 70% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Franc.

2022 Beau-Séjour Bécot, St-Émilion (Pre-Arrival) \$89.99 & 2022 Beau-Séjour Bécot, St-Émilion 6-Pack in OWC (Pre-Arrival) \$535.00 & 2022 Beau-Séjour Bécot, St-Émilion (1.5L) (Pre-Arrival) \$179.99 98-100VN 96-98RP 95-97JD Ripe and fleshy palate, very fresh, red cherry cola, spice. Elegant and long.

2022 Larcis Ducasse, St-Émilion (Pre-Arrival) \$189.99 & 2022 Larcis Ducasse, St-Émilion 6-Pack in OWC (Pre-Arrival) \$630.00
2022 Larcis Ducasse, St-Émilion (1.5L) (Pre-Arrival) \$199.99 98-100JD 98-99JS 96-98VN Very elegant, sweet, and velvety in the mouth. Lovely balance and very fresh. Excellent.

2022 Pavie-Macquin, St-Émilion (Pre-Arrival) \$89.99 & 2022



Hélène Garcin-Lévêque is the talented, versatile winemaker at Barde-Haut, Clos l'Eglise, and Poesia. She visited our Redwood City store in June 2023.

Pavie-Macquin, St-Émilion 6-Pack in OWC (Pre-Arrival) \$535.00 & 2022 Pavie-Macquin, St-Émilion (1.5L) (Pre-Arrival) \$179.99 98JA 96-98JD 95-97VN Exotic and perfumy, rich and thick in the mouth, extracted fruit but not harsh. Very dense and rich. Blackberry and jam, yet bright and fresh. A winner!

2022 Tour Saint Christophe, St-Émilion (Pre-Arrival) \$34.99 95-96JS 94-96JD Very rich black fruits, a bit extracted and modern as usual, but shows a lively fresh finish. This wine should represent great value for the Right Bank. 80% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc.

2022 Haut-Brisson, St-Émilion (Pre-Arrival) (\$Inquire) 93-94JS 92-94JD Toasty nose, upfront and clean with a velvety mouthfeel and soft ripe tannins. Forward and refreshing. Nice wine!

2022 Canon, St-Émilion (Pre-Arrival) \$169.99 99-100WA 98-99JS 97-99JD 98DC 98JA High-toned, very bright red crunchy fruits. Elegance and finesse, savory fruit spice.

Pomerol

2022 Gazin, Pomerol (Pre-Arrival) \$89.99 95-96JS Fruity elegance and sweet upfront. Lush texture, sweet core, ripe tannins. Elegant and fresh.



A Short but Sweet Trip

By Clyde Beffa Jr.



I only visited three properties on this April trip and tasted about 70 wines at the fine Joanne tasting. My young colleagues tasted many more wines, and you can read their extensive notes throughout this report.

St-Émilion

2022 Bellefont-Belcier, St-Émilion (Pre-Arrival) \$42.99 97-98JS 95DC Under

the Kwok ownership, this property is singing like the old days. Sweet, ripe, and totally satisfying. Superb value.

2022 Chauvin, St-Émilion (Pre-Arrival) \$38.99 93JA Our good friend Sylvie Cazes is doing a fine job. This north-facing property has produced a fine 2022, but it will need some years in the bottle. It's a value at under \$40.

2022 Canon-la-Gaffelière, St-Émilion (Pre-Arrival) \$84.99 97-98JS 95-97JD What can I say except that it is one of the best wines on the Right Bank—sweet and lovely as usual. They have been on a roll since 2017.

2022 Larcis Ducasse, St-Émilion (Pre-Arrival) \$109.99 98-100JD 98-99JS A star of the Right Bank. Sweet and long on the palate. Lots of black fruit flavors and a sweet finish.

2022 Pavie-Macquin, St-Émilion (Pre-Arrival) \$89.99 98JA 96-98JS 96DC A big boy-sweet, spicy aromas. Full-bodied and delicious. Rich and round, an ager.

Haut-Médoc

2022 Sociando-Mallet, Haut-Médoc (Pre-Arrival) \$39.99 Closed up on the nose, but fine on the palate. Lots of black fruit flavors and plenty of tannin at the back. Big wine—will need time.

2022 La Lagune, Haut-Médoc (Pre-Arrival) \$49.99 95-96JS I loved this wine at the Joanne tasting. Boysenberry aromas, sweet palate entry, plenty of body. Another long, powerful wine with some tannins showing at the end.



St-Émilion ambiance.



Our crew at Haut-Bailly with winemaker Véronique Sanders. Haut-Bailly is one of our favorite properties in Pessac, year after year.

Pessac-Léognan Reds

2022 Malartic-Lagravière, Pessac-Léognan (Pre-Arrival) \$47.99 96DC 96JA 95-96JS Red berry aromas and some minerals on the nose. Red-fruited Cabernet flavors and fine earthy notes. Quite elegant. Could be a fine value like 2015.

2022 Haut-Bailly, Pessac-Léognan (Pre-Arrival) \$164.99 98-100JD 97-98JS 97JA 56% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Merlot, and the rest Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc. Very elegant, subtle aromas of red berries and toasty oak. Like their 2009—great texture and mouthfeel. Opulent wine, but under control. One of the best I tasted on my trip.

2022 La Mission Haut-Brion, Pessac-Léognan (Pre-Arrival) \$349.99 98-99JS 97DC 97JA 52% Cabernet Sauvignon, 43% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc. More austere and masculine than Haut-Brion. Tons of minerality on the palate. A big, tannic wine much like their 2010. Fine length—buy it if you are young.

2022 Haut-Brion, Pessac-Léognan (Pre-Arrival) \$699.99 98-99JS 96-98JD 95-97WA 96JA 54% Merlot and 36% Cabernet Sauvignon with 10% Cab Franc in the mix. Closed up on the nose, but lovely, spicy flavors on the palate entry. Blueberry flavors—a racy, sexy wine that's finely balanced. One of the best of the vintage.

Margaux

2022 Prieuré-Lichine, Margaux (Pre-Arrival) \$43.99 95-96JS I have been impressed with this property of late with outstanding wines from 2016 and 2019—and this one is just as good. Fine texture and mouthfeel. Wonderful balance and a lingering red berry finish. A solid value for 2022.

2022 Kirwan, Margaux (Pre-Arrival) \$49.99 93-95JD 94DC 92-94VN I have loved this property since the 1980s. Not only because the owners were/are so nice, but mainly because they make a fine Margaux wine. Perfumy nose of cassis and a touch of violets. Sweet palate entry of red berries and a sweet finish. A touch of tannin at the back end—should age well.

2022 Cantenac Brown, Margaux (Pre-Arrival) \$54.99 96DC José Sanfins (director) is doing a great job at this property. Very spicy,

savory aromas, sweet palate entry, and fine structure at the back end. Hopefully priced as a fine value.

2022 Malescot-St-Exupéry, Margaux (Pre-Arrival)

\$62.99 96-97JS This was one of the five best wines I tasted in Bordeaux during En Premier week. Fabulous passion fruit aromas with some boysenberries in the mix. Super-ripe upfront fruit flavors that are sweet at the start, with integrated tannins and a lovely long finish. A fabulous wine—better than their mind-blowing 2015! Margaux elegance at its finest.

2022 Lascombes, Margaux (Pre-Arrival) \$84.99 New ownership here, and their first wine is a big winner. A huge property that in the recent past was making good, but not great wines. This 2022 could be a great wine—time will tell. Toasty, peppery, spicy aromas. The toasty, black fruit palate entry is stunning. Excellent balance and rounded tannins.



Ralph and Trey on their way to Lascombes, a big winner in 2022.

2022 Rauzan-Ségla, Margaux (Pre-Arrival) \$114.99 97-99JD 97-98JS 97DC 97JA Another Chanel property that is knocking the ball out of the park as of late. One of the best wines I tasted on my trip. Heavenly aromas of black raspberries—so sweet on the palate entry. Perfect balance and very integrated tannins.

St-Julien

2022 Lagrange, St-Julien (Pre-Arrival) \$54.99 & 2022 Lagrange, St-Julien 6-Pack in OWC (Pre-Arrival) \$325.00 95-97VN 96DC 96JA 94-96JS 94-96WA I am usually not a fan of this property when we taste barrel samples, but this 2022 is outstanding. Toasty, red rose and cassis aromas. Fine texture on the palate and very well-balanced. Quite pure for the property. Bravo.

Pessac-Leognan Whites

I am generally not a fan of the dry white wines of 2022. They seem to be overly sweet and rich while not finely balanced like the wines of 2019 or 2021. The few I liked, however, are fantastic, and they are listed on the next page.

Of course **2022 Haut-Brion Blanc, Pessac-Léognan (Pre-Arrival)** (**\$Inquire**) and La Mission Haut-Brion Blanc were outstanding. But they are a bit above my pay grade.



Domaine de Chevalier's Blanc gets a new label this year.

2022 Domaine de Chevalier Blanc, Pessac-Léognan (Pre-Arrival) **\$109.99 98-99JS** A new label, but the same fine juice in the bottle. An elegant, well-balanced 2022 white. They do a great job at this property.

2022 Carbonnieux Blanc, Graves (Pre-Arrival) (**\$Inquire**) Lovely wine—as good as their 2019, which I love and drink often. Citrus and white flower aromas follow to the palate. Well balanced.

2022 Pape Clément Blanc, Pessac-Léognan (Pre-Arrival) **\$129.99 JS98-99** A top white from

2022 Bordeaux—2 stars from me. 63% Sauvignon Blanc and 35% Sémillon and 2% Muscadelle. Melony aromas and flavors but crisp acid underneath. I really like this.

Sauternes

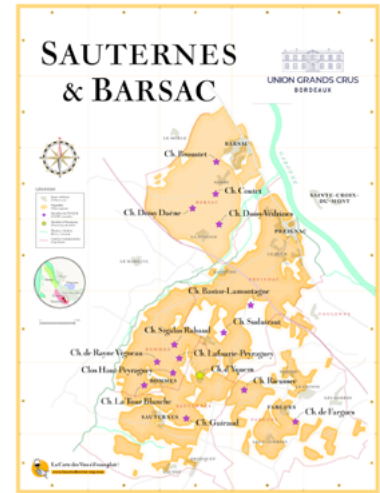
I only tasted a few at the Joanne tasting. However, my colleagues tasted a range of them and said that most were quite good. They

raved about **2022 Suduiraut, Sauternes (Pre-Arrival)** **\$64.99 98-99JS 97-99JD**, but yields were down so availability is low. We will only offer a few 2022 Sauternes on pre-arrival this year.

2022 Doisy-Daëne, Sauternes (750ml) (Pre-Arrival) **\$44.99** & **2022 Doisy-Daëne, Sauternes (375ml) (Pre-Arrival)** **\$22.99**

94-95JS I really liked this stickie, which has a very high 95% of Sémillon in the blend. It shows very elegant, with mango, exotic spices, and pineapple aromas.

It has exquisite balance on the palate and very fine acidity. I found some other Sauternes a bit too heavy and slightly unbalanced, but this Barsac was fresh, spicy, bright, and delicious.



With thanks to the UGCB for this map of the southern commune world famous for its

2022 Rides the Waves to Success!

By Ralph Sands, Bordeaux Specialist



Trey and Ralph at Latour.

Bordeaux makes wines of ripe fruit, high tannins, and bright acidity—that is what Bordeaux does—boom! And Bordeaux has done this again in 2022.

Before tasting this vintage I had personally experienced the numerous heat waves that framed 2022,

and I was worried about overripe wines. Fortunately, I was in for a surprise, as the vines apparently were not worried at all and handled the heat gracefully from the beginning of the season to the end. The wines turned out to be intensely powerful and classic in style. The skin-to-juice ratio of small Cabernet Sauvignon berries plus the thankfully excellent Merlot made them this way. Don't let the Napa-Sonoma style cross your mind—these are Bordeaux all the way.

Many very good, powerful expressions of wine were made across the board, but great patience will be required in most cases before they are ready to drink. Is it a great vintage? What vintage does it compare to? Is there enough sweet fruit and rounded tannin to carry the wines to a delicious finish? Do they really taste great young? This is the dance we do every April, and, now, in my 30th vintage evaluation, it takes but a moment to taste the sample, know exactly

where it fits, and write a short note. Boom.

2010 is without question the comparison vintage in my mind. As they should, most 2022 wines have fantastic aromas and a good signature in their youth, but such descriptors as “great sweetness,” “silky textures,” “layers of fruit,” “rounded tannins,” and “great tasting young” are rarely to be found in my notes. The 2022 vintage is perfect for clients who want to age these complex, long-lived wines in their cellars—believe me, you will not have to worry about them for a while! But, if this is not you, concentrate on the beautiful 2019s and 2020s in stock as they'll be ready to drink sooner.

Notes and comments as tasted... my system for barrel samples is this: “1 Star” means I like the wine and would buy it for myself and K&L. “2 Stars” indicates an outstanding wine I would love to own! “3 Stars”.... that's legendary quality!

With visits to the estates, UGC tastings, and négociant tastings, I was able to taste most wines in this vintage twice. My notes on St-Julien start it off. We must remember that these are barrel samples and only snapshots of the finished product, but we also know the best effort is made to show them well. Cheers and I hope you enjoy! Email me with any specific questions at ralph@klwines.com.

I Love St-Julien Wines

2022 Ducru-Beaucaillou, St-Julien (Pre-Arrival) **\$244.99** & **2022 Ducru-Beaucaillou, St-Julien 6-Pack in OWC (Pre-Arrival)** **\$1,450.00** & **2022 Ducru-Beaucaillou, St-Julien (1.5L) (Pre-Arrival)**



\$489.99 & 2022 Ducru-Beaucaillou, St-Julien (1.5L) 3-Pack in OWC (Pre-Arrival) \$1,450.00 97-99JD 98JA 97-98JS 97DC 82% Cabernet Sauvignon—sleek, racy, super fine. Red claret is the first thought when you taste this wine. Very strong, linear wine but in the Borie style—extremely elegant at the same time. The tight focus of this '22 reminds me of the 2000 vintage—needs time! 2 Stars.

2022 Léoville-Las-Cases, St-Julien (Pre-Arrival) \$379.99 & 2022 Léoville-Las-Cases, St-Julien 6-Pack in OWC (Pre-Arrival) \$2,275.00 & 2022 Léoville-Las-Cases, St-Julien (1.5L) (Pre-Arrival) \$759.99 & 2022 Léoville-Las-Cases, St-Julien (1.5L) 3-Pack in OWC (Pre-Arrival) \$2,275.00 99-100JS 98-100JD 98-100WA 98DC Tasted so great! Maybe that's because we tasted it on the Right Bank at Château Nenin. All kidding aside, this is a great LLC. So much power, concentration, and richness from the racy redcurrant-cherry fruit. Impressive. Reminds of 1986. 2 Stars...3? Maybe...

2022 Beychevelle, St-Julien (Pre-Arrival) \$94.99 95-97+JD 95DC Silky, racy blue fruits frame this wine! Sweet and long on the mid-palate and a cool-clean finish to this delicious wine. Like Branaire, it is very hard to argue with its great taste. 2 Stars!

Haut-Médoc

The UGC tastings are so important. At the heavily attended UGC in San Francisco, many ask me where to start. I tell all my clients to start at the Haut-Médoc, Listrac, and Moulis estates—that is exactly what I do in Bordeaux—and pay close attention. You will walk away knowing the style of the vintage straight away as you progress to taste the more famous and polished wines. We taste many of the famous wines twice and then many others in a different environment, which I think is a great thing.

At the UGC at Château Lynch-Bages, the host's wine, **2022 Lynch-Bages, Pauillac (Pre-Arrival) \$139.99 98-99JS 96-98JD 97DC 97JA 95-97VN**, showed great again as well as the **2022 Pichon-Lalande, Pauillac (Pre-Arrival) \$240.00 97-100JD 98-99JS 97-99WA 96-99VN 98DC** and **2022 Pichon-Baron, Pauillac (Pre-Arrival) \$179.99 96-98JD 96-98VN 96-97JS 95-97WA 96DC**. **2022 Grand-Puy-Lacoste, Pauillac (Pre-Arrival) \$79.99 96-98VN**

95-97WA 96DC 96JA 95-96JS (attractive richness!) was a standout as was **2022 Phélan-Ségur, St-Estèphe (Pre-Arrival) \$49.99 96-97JS 95-97VN 94-96JD** (elegant and focused). La Tour de By (firm and stern); **2022 Sociando-Mallet, Haut-Médoc (Pre-Arrival) \$39.99** (big juice with good tannin control); and Coufran, with its high Merlot, all showed well!

The UGC at Château Beychevelle unveiled many very good, strong wines! Chasse-Spleen is fresh and firm with bright red fruits. **2022 Poujeaux, Moulis (Pre-Arrival) \$28.99 94-95JS 94JA** is very strong and direct with some middle richness, as it is every time! **2022 Gloria, St-Julien (Pre-Arrival) \$44.99 94-96JD 94-96VN** was great both times that I tasted it: lovely nose, middle fruit rounded tannins—very good! **2022 Cantemerle, Haut-Médoc (Pre-Arrival) \$30.99 93-94JS 92-94WA** is strong, fresh, and elegant. **2022 Kirwan, Margaux (Pre-Arrival) \$49.99 93-95JD 94DC** has excellent purity, and was tasty each time I tasted it! **2022 Giscours, Margaux (Pre-Arrival) \$69.99 97-98JS 95-97VN 96DC 94-96JD 94-96WA 95JA** is masculine and firm. **2022 Siran, Margaux (Pre-Arrival) \$34.99 95-96JS 93-95VN** has supple tannins and a good taste.



Dinner and a few goodies with Véronique Dausse (center), Managing Director of Château Phélan-Ségur.

St-Estèphe and Pauillac

2022 Calon-Ségur, St-Estèphe (Pre-Arrival) \$149.99 97-99JD 95-98WA 96DC 70% Cabernet Sauvignon. Lovely, elegant wine, sweet natural red fruits, round and easy on the palate with fine balance. Tasty and a bit perplexing after tasting about 400 wines, this runs against the style of the vintage? 1 Star.

2022 Cos d'Estournel, St-Estèphe (Pre-Arrival) \$239.99 98-100JD 98-99JS 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot. Attractive fruit of grapey blackberries, black walnut tones, and exotic woody notes. Strong acidity and focused black fruits. Always hard to argue with this great-tasting wine. 2 Stars.

2022 Lafite Rothschild, Pauillac (Pre-Arrival) \$799.99 99JS 97-99JD 98DC 96-98VN 97JA 94% Cabernet Sauvignon. A strong but elegant and classy Lafite framed by spicy wood. This is a classic claret! A complex, long-finishing wine and with 17% press wine, it

will need time. The nickname for the wine here is the “Rebellious Uncle”—is he American? 2 Stars.

I found Carruades de Lafite to be very nice and far more forthcoming in its attractive, plump red fruit, easy drinking style with lots of freshness. It will provide a nice earlier drinking option. 1 Star.

2022 Mouton Rothschild, Pauillac (Pre-Arrival) \$709.99 98-100JD 98-99JS 96-99WA 98DC 98JA 92% Cabernet Sauvignon. A very powerful Mouton! Extremely deep black fruits with strong minerality come at you in serious layers, along with richness and polished tannins. Very serious and a bit stern. I would bet that this is how 1986 may have tasted young, although at Mouton they may reference 1893! 2 Stars!

2022 d’Armailhac, Pauillac (Pre-Arrival) \$54.99 96-97JS 94-96JD 93-95VN Very deep, just ripe, black-red fruit, strong mineral notes, round and long. Very good! 2 Stars.

2022 Clerc Milon, Pauillac (Pre-Arrival) \$89.99 95-96JS 95DC 95JA 89% Cabernet Sauvignon. As usual, this wine is full of freshness and firm, spicy-crisp fruit. 1 Star.



Trey and Ryan at Pontet-Canet.

2022 Pontet-Canet, Pauillac (Pre-Arrival) \$119.99 99-100JS 97-99+JD Big, rich, intense wine full of deep exotic purple-blue fruits! Great tasting wine, lush and lovely through the finish—a complete wine. Will deliver pleasure much earlier than almost all wines from this area! Alfred Tesserson thinks it is the best wine he has ever made, and he has made some great ones. Hard to argue with! 2 Stars...

2022 Lynch-Bages, Pauillac (Pre-Arrival) \$139.99 98-99JS 96-98+JD 97DC 97JA 66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Merlot. A powerful and intense wine loaded with strong black-red fruit, focus, and drive! Precise tannins and balance to go along with the always tasty fruit. A serious Lynch to put away a while. Love it. 2 Stars.

2022 Ormes de Pez, St-Estèphe (Pre-Arrival) \$31.99 39% Cabernet Sauvignon, 51% Merlot, 8% Cab Franc, 2% Petit Verdot. Showed very well here! Loaded with strong, rounded fruit with black cherry notes. Very attractive; juicy but serious wine. 1 Star and another for value!

2022 Haut-Batailley, Pauillac (Pre-Arrival) \$59.99 94-95JS 93-95VN 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot. Showed off its classic Pauillac old-vine power and rustic-earthly edge. That touch of old-school could be called complexity, depending on your palate. Champagne Buyer and old-school claret enthusiast Gary Westby will love this wine! 1 Star.

2022 Pichon-Lalande, Pauillac (Pre-Arrival) \$240.00 97-100JD 98-99JS 97-99WA 96-99VN 98DC 78% Cabernet Sauvignon, 17% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc. Great strength and fine balance on display here as the sweet-cedary fruit floats across the palate! Firm and fresh, reminds me of the 1986 I recently tasted that was just outstanding! 2 Stars!

2022 Réserve de la Comtesse de Lalande, Pauillac (Pre-Arrival) \$49.99 92-94JD is a lovely young wine to drink on the earlier side with great freshness!

Château De Pez lost 40% of the crop from the violent hailstorm that ripped up the Gironde on the evening of June 20th last year. We had a perfect view as they rushed to close the dining room windows at Château Pichon Longueville explaining the lightning can come right through the rooms!

I told the new director here, Florent Genty, that the **2022 de Pez, St-Estèphe (Pre-Arrival) \$39.99** may be the best de Pez I’ve ever had! Nice, silky-rich fruit, dark and sweet with some good grip! 1 Star, easy!

2022 Pichon-Baron, Pauillac (Pre-Arrival) \$179.99 96-98JD 96-98VN 96-97JS 95-97WA 96DC 89% Cabernet Sauvignon. Much like its neighbor, Latour, this wine explodes in the mouth with dark spicy Cabernet fruit, sparkling acidity, freshness, and power! Good mid-palate fruit and texture leads to a serious, focused finish. Everything is in balance here, ensuring a long life in the cellar. Excellent first wine from new director Pierre Montegue. 2 Stars!



The 2022 Château Latour is classic Latour with power and precision. Loaded with deep, focused, old-vine fruit; super fresh but tightly spun, with hints of black olive and walnut. No surprise here: a long runner. 2 Stars!



The next day: hail on June 21st.

Margaux

2022 Rauzan-Ségla, Margaux (Pre-Arrival) \$114.99 97-99JD 97-98JS 97DC 97JA 72% Cabernet Sauvignon. Grapey, lively and fresh! Elegant, silky black fruits across the palate. Full of finesse and length. Impressive complete wine! 2 Stars...

2022 Margaux, Margaux (Pre-Arrival) (\$Inquire) 98-100JA 97-99JD 98DC 92% Cabernet Sauvignon. Fantastic aromas of old-vine Cabernet Sauvignon, the sign of greatness! The deep black fruit is sleek (think black cherry); it's long, tall, and full of finesse! Reminds me a bit of 2005. 2 Stars. Pavillon Rouge was also quite good, super fresh and linear, sparkling acidity and nice rounded tannins. At least 1 Star for now!

2022 Malescot-St-Exupéry, Margaux (Pre-Arrival) \$62.99 96-97JS 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot. Lovely nose of ripe, deep grapey fruits with hits of dark chocolate. Strong wine with controlled tannins and a long finish. Outstanding wine here and phenomenal value! 2 Stars...3?

2022 Marquis d'Alesme, Margaux (Pre-Arrival) \$49.99 95DC 95JA 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot. Shining wine with super-fresh, zesty blue-purple fruit. Elegant, tasty, and refreshing! 1 Star.

2022 Labégorce, Margaux (Pre-Arrival) \$34.99 95DC 92-94JD Rich, round, and silky in its semi-tropical fruit bowl aromas and earthy notes. Fine balance and some grip on the finish. 1 Star.

2022 d'Issan, Margaux (Pre-Arrival) \$67.99 96-97JS 95-97+JD 96DC 95JA 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 12% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot. As with Malescot, flat-out delicious wine is made here! Old-vine fruit, nice sweetness, rounded power, and then the long, elegant finish! Superb! 2 Stars.

Also tasted from the team at Issan: **2022 Lafon-Rochet, St-Estèphe (Pre-Arrival) \$47.99 95-97VN 94-95JS 93-95+JD 94JA** 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot. Loaded with fruit black as night, concentrated and powerful. Quite a statement! 1 Star.

2022 Palmer, Margaux (Pre-Arrival) \$389.99 & 2022 Palmer, Margaux 6-Pack in OWC (Pre-Arrival) \$2,355.00 & 2022 Palmer, Margaux (1.5L) (Pre-Arrival) \$779.99 98-99JS 97-99JD 96-98VN 51% Cabernet Sauvignon, 45% Merlot. A very strong Palmer! Sleek, grapey, red-black fruits with notes of black olive; tasty and concentrated. Laser-focused, reminds me of 2005. Needs time. 2 Stars.

On to the Right Bank...

At the UGC Pomerol, I gave stars to La Cabanne, which is nicely balanced with black fruits!

2022 Clinet, Pomerol (Pre-Arrival) \$114.99 96-98JD 96DC 96JA 94-96+WA Big, super-sweet front and good chalky finish.

2022 Gazin, Pomerol (Pre-Arrival) \$89.99 95-96JS Strong with lots of tension!

2022 Figeac, St-Émilion (Pre-Arrival) \$349.99 98-100WA 98DC 98JA 97-98JS The masculine style of Figeac very well suits the style of '22! 35% Merlot, 34% Cabernet Franc, 31% Cabernet Sauvignon. Dark, spicy, firm, and fresh! Not a hint of over-ripeness. Elegant, intense wine. Long runner. 2 Stars.

2022 Angélu, St-Émilion (Pre-Arrival) \$449.99 & 2022 Angélu,



Le Ban du Millésime party Thursday night.

St-Émilion 6-Pack in OWC (Pre-Arrival) \$2,695.00 & 2022 Angélu, St-Émilion (1.5L) (Pre-Arrival) \$899.99 98-99JS 97-99JD 60% Merlot, 40% Cabernet Franc. Notes of sweet passion fruits, strong attack and drive of perfectly extracted red fruit. This sparkles with freshness. Superbly balanced.

2022 Canon, St-Émilion (Pre-Arrival) \$169.99 99-100WA 98-99JS 97-99JD 98DC 98JA The epitome of red-fruited elegance, freshness, firmness, and grace. Incredible balance and finish! The reference wine for me is 1982, a wine of great elegance like the '22—it made me many loyal customers. 2 Stars.

2022 Troplong Mondot, St-Émilion (Pre-Arrival) \$139.99 99-100WA 97-99JD 98DC 98JA 97-98JS 90% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc. Impressive, complex wine here! The big, sweet black fruits are strong and long, it has searing intensity, minerals, and chalk. 2 Stars.

2022 Barde-Haut, St-Émilion (Pre-Arrival) \$37.99 96-98JD 94-96VN 95JA This wine is super fresh and very ripe. There is some nice richness, but it's not overdone. Very good tasting and a real crowd pleaser! Value. 1 Star.

2022 Haut-Brisson, St-Émilion (Pre-Arrival) (\$Inquire) 93-94JS 92-94JD Big, bright and ripe red fruit front; then dries out quickly.

2022 Tour Saint Christophe, St-Émilion (Pre-Arrival) \$34.99 95-96JS 94-96JD Loaded with zesty blue-purple fruit! Bright and tasty with a little chalk on the finish. Great value. 1 Star.

The UGC at Château Valandraud was a darn good room of wines! With 2 Star beauties from:

2022 Larcis Ducasse, St-Émilion (Pre-Arrival) \$109.99 98-100JD 98-99JS Great essence of flashy raspberry and chalk.

2022 Canon-la-Gaffelière, St-Émilion (Pre-Arrival) \$84.99 & 2022 Canon-la-Gaffelière, St-Émilion 6-Pack in OWC (Pre-Arrival) \$510.00 97-98JS 95-97JD 94-96WA 94-96VN 95DC Elegant red fruit with sweet middle texture, lovely! Great at estate also!

2022 Clos Fourtet, St-Émilion (Pre-Arrival) \$129.99 98JA 97-98JS 96-98JD 97DC Big, dark, rich wine with powerful length.

2022 Pavie-Macquin, St-Émilion (Pre-Arrival) \$89.99 98JA 96-98JD 96DC 95-96JS Good long sweet finish!

To Pessac-Léognan We Go...

2022 Smith Haut Lafitte Rouge, Pessac-Léognan (Pre-Arrival) \$149.99 97-98JS 97DC 97JA A powerful combination of mouthcoating purple-black fruit, acid, and structured tannins. Serious business—reminds me of 2010! 2 Stars.

2022 Haut-Bailly, Pessac-Léognan (Pre-Arrival) \$159.99 98-100JD 97-98JS 96-98VN 97JA Fine nose of violets and ripe Bing cherries! This strong, red-fruited wine is broad and nicely textured. Classic Haut-Bailly that also reminds of 2010, no softie! 2 Stars.

2022 Domaine de Chevalier Rouge, Pessac-Léognan (Pre-Arrival) \$76.99 98-99JS 96-98JD 95-97VN 96JA Tasty, elegant, and fresh red-black fruits. Not a hint of heaviness or harshness. Concentrated and balanced! Reminds me of beautiful 1988. Enjoy earlier! 2 Stars.

2022 Malartic-Lagravière, Pessac-Léognan (Pre-Arrival) \$47.99 96DC 96JA 95-96JS The sweet red fruit is broad, soft, and seamlessly long finishing. Very tasty, earlier drink. 1 Star.

2022 La Mission Haut-Brion, Pessac-Léognan (Pre-Arrival) \$349.99 98-99JS 97DC 97JA 62% Merlot, 22% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14% Cabernet Franc. Strong, deep, old-vine aromas and flavors. Warm and

a touch smoky. Long and strong on the finish with velvety tannin control. 2 Stars.

2022 Haut-Brion, Pessac-Léognan (Pre-Arrival) \$699.99 98-99JS 96-98JD 95-97WA 96JA 54%Merlot, 36% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Cabernet Franc. Big, deep, grapey, and firm—loaded with tannin and acid. A masculine, focused wine with not a touch of over-extraction. Another tight, long runner. Reminds me of 1989! 2 Stars.

2022 Pape Clément, Pessac-Léognan (Pre-Arrival) \$84.99 99 97-98JS 96-98JD Very big wine with strong exotic black fruit and toasty new oak. Lots of international flash and flare! 1 Star .

As you can see, I think it is clear the 2022 is a very good, powerful vintage. Is it legendary or great? Time will tell... Cheers, Go Giants and Toujours Bordeaux!



Scenes from the last night of the trip: dinner at Caudalie in Pessac-Léognan.

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