

WINE News

New Year, New Bordeaux for Your Glass and Your Cellar



JANUARY 9, 2023 FEATURES

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Loaded with Great Bordeaux for 2023

by Clyde Beffa Jr, Co-owner and Bordeaux Buyer



From the lovely 20 year-old-value Bordeaux under \$20 to the top-of-the-line First Growths, we have something for everyone's taste, pocketbook, or cellar. Check out Ryan Moses and his top wines on pages 2 and 3. I showcase value "oldies" on pages 4 and 5. The Barton family wines—just arrived from Châteaux Léoville and Langoa Barton—are on page 6; while young, cellar-worthy wines are on page 7.

Finally, I highlight some of my favorite bottles on page 8 alongside some underrated Bordeaux dry whites.

Three for Under \$50 Bucks!

2016 Grand Mayne, St-Emilion \$49.99 94WA 93JD 93VN(NM) We love this Right Bank beauty for a young and drinkable red. Prime rib roast goes well with this. 93 points Antonio Galloni, VN: "The 2016 Grand Mayne has turned out beautifully. Fresh, perfumed, and nuanced, the 2016 is super-appealing. Sweet red berry, blood orange, mint, and flowers add energy to an expressive St-Émilion that is texturally rich and also vibrant."

2019 Lafon-Rochet, St-Estèphe \$44.99 95VN 94JS 94WS This property, located very near Cos d'Estournel, has vastly improved in the last ten years. Their 2016 was fantastic, and this 2019 is a beauty. 95 points Jeb Dunnuck: "Brilliant stuff, the 2019 Château Lafon-Rochet shows the best of the vintage with its pure, precise, elegant, yet at the same time concentrated style. Showing lots of ripe currant, plum, tobacco, Asian spice, and cedar pencil aromatics, it's medium to full-bodied, has nicely integrated acidity, and just seamless tannins."

2016 Meyney, St-Estèphe \$49.99 96JS 95VN 94DC Great values abound in this very northern region of Bordeaux. This property has great terroir and great pricing. The late Steve Bearden for K&L: "This is very dark with ripe tannins poking through the leather and tobacco-laced boysenberry and blackberry fruit. The wine is substantial and firm and has a very polished finish of dark fruit, clay and mineral."

Three for Under \$100

2019 Clos de Sarpe, St-Émilion \$67.99 96VN 95WA 94JS 96JD: "I love this estate, and their 2019 Château Clos De Sarpe offers the newer, balanced, elegant style of recent vintages while still bringing beautiful fruit and opulence. Cassis, blueberries, graphite, tobacco, damp earth, and violet notes are just some of its nuances, and this beauty hits the palate with full-bodied richness, a deep, layered mid-palate, awesome purity of fruit, good acidity, and a great finish."

2019 Château Pauillac, Pauillac \$69.99 94JD 93VN This is the first time we have carried this property, which is not to be confused with the wine that follows. The wine is superb. 96 points James Suckling: "Blackberries and blackcurrants with lead-pencil overtones in the nose and palate. Mint, too. It's full-bodied with very fine, polished tannins and an extremely long finish. Shows class and refinement."

2017 Pauillac de Latour, Pauillac \$99.99 Baby Latour for a fine price. 92 James Suckling: "This has aromas of blackberries, porcini mushrooms, tobacco and charred bark. It's medium-bodied with fine, supple tannins. Savory, with plenty of earth and mineral character. Fresh finish."

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Wines That Shaped 2022, and Some for 2023

by Ryan Moses, Key Accounts and Retail Analytics Manager



At K&L, we don't do a "wine of the year" for a few reasons—one is that it often feels arbitrary to elevate a single wine over ten thousand other compelling, interesting items, each with its own story and merits. But rarely have we had a wine that has had as much going for it as the **2019 Lynch-Bages, Pauillac (Pre-Arrival) \$159.99 100JD 99VN** did this year. A best seller since en primeur, it

is a wine that's easy to admire, as many top vintages of Lynch-Bages tend to be. Retasting it again this last summer left us little doubt that it delivers all the magic that makes the estate so special. You also can't forget the fact that for Pauillac of this caliber, you're usually talking about multiples of this price. There's little surprise that 2019 Lynch-Bages has been one of the most exciting collectibles of this past year. We're pretty sure that folks will be thrilled that they struck early on this wine (or doubled down on it!) over the years to come.

If last year was all about discovering the 2019s, then this year will be about meeting the 2020s. The best way to understand the vintage is to taste with the 80+ châteaux owners and representatives who will be pouring their 2020s at the **Union des Grands Crus (UGC) Tasting in San Francisco on January 27th \$75**. There's plenty of intrigue to be had with the 2020s, even if you can't make it to the UGC Tasting. K&L was one of the few U.S. merchants to make the trip for en primeur, and we found a lot to adore. Although initial prices were a bit on the high side, the market has shifted since release, and there's actually some stealthy value to be found.

Such is the case with **2020 Montrose, St-Estèphe (Pre-Arrival) \$194.99 98-100VN**, a mere taste of which had us musing about its potential as wine of the vintage. Those critics that have tasted it (not many did; they didn't send samples around) seem to echo our findings. A Montrose of this caliber is one that is not to be missed.



An enviable zip code: neighbors Pichon-Lalande and Pichon-Baron consistently perform at the head of the pack.

We also have our eye on wines from two neighbors in Pauillac: the **2020 Pichon-Lalande, Pauillac (Pre-Arrival) \$199.99 98-100JD 97WS** and **2020 Pichon-Baron, Pauillac (Pre-Arrival) \$179.99 98DC 97WS**. Both got top marks from multiple publications and exemplify the skillful winemaking of these two treasured fan-favorite estates.

Another wine that shouldn't be missed is the **2020 Léoville-Barton, St-Julien (Pre-Arrival) \$94.99 97-99WE 95-98ID**. Critics from Ian d'Agata ("an outstanding vintage for Barton") to Jeb Dunnuck ("it doesn't get any more classic Barton than this") are raving, and with good reason: the wine displays all the hallmarks of a modern-age

masterpiece, from an estate that continues to go from one strength to another.

For those who may have forgotten that the 2020s included a few special landmark anniversary labels, it would be a savvy move to look at our last stocks of **2020 Léoville-Poyferré, St-Julien (Pre-Arrival) \$109.99 96-98WE 95-97JD**, which dons a special black label for the vintage. The estate knocked it out of the park.



The 2020 vintage marks 30 years of winemaking for the Cathiard family at Smith Haut Lafitte. The anniversary was honored with a special label.

There's also wine-of-the-vintage chatter for **2020 Smith Haut Lafitte Rouge, Pessac-Léognan (Pre-Arrival) \$164.99 99-100JS 98-100WA 97-100JD**. 2020 marks an anniversary vintage for the Cathiard family, and the wine might also be a best-ever for the property.

The last set of wines that collectors should home in on at this stage in the game are from the Right Bank and are undeniable gems in 2020. First up is newly christened Grand Cru Classe A, Château Figeac. Although many don't take huge stock in Right Bank classifications, this upgrade is important on a few fronts. First: there is no denying that the Cabernet-heavy estate is in the middle of the conversation with the collectible elite, including other current and past certified estates like Ausone, Cheval Blanc, Pavie, and Angelus. The second is that we might start to see pricing that mimics that of these heavyweights. For now, **2020 Figeac, St-Émilion (Pre-Arrival) \$239.99 96-98VN 98DC** sells at a relatively modest rate for the heights that it hits.

Another property that is getting better and better by the day is La Conseillante. The "deeply impressive and profound" **2020 La Conseillante, Pomerol (Pre-Arrival) \$239.99 98-99JS 97-99WA** is pure brilliance, and will stand among their all-time greats with ease. We can't wait to see how these develop over the years, and you'll be hearing a lot about the bountiful 2020s in the coming year.



Young (Legit) Bordeaux



One of my favorite wines of the year was the **2016 Domaine de Chevalier Rouge, Pessac-Léognan** \$89.99 97JD 97VN. I can clearly see what Dunnuck was getting at when he was tempted to put another few points on top of this—when it is on, it is truly dynamic and will captivate wine lovers of all stripes. It has a textured richness to it that will thrill those looking for the essence of Cabernet, while never departing from its Bordeaux roots. This is a wine that will certainly be a joy to taste in ten or twenty years, but it is also undeniably delicious now. Age it if you will, but I had zero regrets opening a bottle, which speaks loudly to how un-demanding, non-finicky, and simply brilliant Bordeaux can be at any age.

Top Bordeaux also doesn't have to be expensive, considering the extensive range that the region has to offer. Domaine de Chevalier makes a best-in-class second wine: l'Esprit de Chevalier. We have the **2016 l'Esprit de Chevalier Rouge, Pessac-Léognan** \$29.99 94JS 92JD that captures a lot of the joy of the Grand Vin, but does so at a price that makes it a cellar defender of the highest regard. We also brought in the **2018 l'Esprit de Chevalier, Pessac-Léognan** \$29.99 95JS 92VN since the 2018 was also a landmark vintage for the estate, and it was about as much of a sure thing as it gets that the second wine would over-deliver.



And while we're in Pessac, talking about wines that live up to the top vintages at the estate, I would be remiss not to mention **2015 Le Petit Haut Lafitte, Pessac-Léognan** \$34.99 94JS 92VN that echoes the hard-to-find Grand Vin from 2015 that has been one of our all-time bestsellers over the years. Drinking beautifully at this stage, it is one of the reasons why Petit Haut Lafitte is held in such high regard in the landscape of second wines.

In St-Estèphe, 2016 continues to be the benchmark vintage when looking for upside. We also happen to have deep reserves in two of the finest values that are impossible to resist, even at this stage in the game. **2016 Lafon-Rochet, St-Estèphe** \$49.99 95NM 95VN is one that fans of the estate should go deep on, and those not in the know should make a point to try. It is one of the best prices you'll find, which only sweetens the deal on one of the savviest buys in the category.

And while we've been touting the wonders of **2016 Tronquoy-Lalande, St-Estèphe** \$36.99 94WA for years and years, the secret is out with a recent WA94 score that calls it "an impeccably balanced classic." The Montrose-made wine has value-of-the-vintage written



all over it and will be a high-upside hero in cellars for the years to come. That said, don't hesitate to try one now, as it already delivers in a big way.

Léoville-Poyferré's Masterpieces: 2010 & 2016



From the K&L team's 2022 visit to the property to taste the 2020 vintage.

My most recent check in on **2016 Léoville-Poyferré, St-Julien (Pre-Arrival)** \$119.99 98JD 98DC revealed not only the caliber of the vintage, but the fact that Léoville-Poyferré is crafting wines that can rival the finest in the region. Incredibly ethereal, it balanced finesse and freshness with a remarkable depth of flavor that kept revealing one nuance after another. I have little doubt that it would stand tall in a room of top collectibles from anywhere in Bordeaux.

Such is the case with **2010 Léoville-Poyferré, St-Julien (Pre-Arrival)** \$189.99 100JD

98+WA that recently came back into focus when Jeb Dunnuck awarded it a perfect score next to the 2010 Latour. It has also received top marks from both Vinous and Jane Anson in recent comprehensive verticals, making it a rival for the finest bottling the esteemed St-Julien producer has ever released. As reference-point vintages from a remarkable château that rival of some of the world's finest collectibles, it is still remarkable that they can be had for these kinds of prices. Even though there's a lot of high-end value to be found in Bordeaux, few Left Bank producers operating at this kind of level are still priced so reasonably.



I Love Bordeaux Wines over Ten Years of Age

by Clyde Beffa Jr., Bordeaux Buyer



Well, the containers kept on arriving in late 2022, and we now have more inventory of in-stock Bordeaux than ever before! My favorite wines to sell are older (pre-2011) value Bordeaux—wines that almost nobody in the U.S. sells.

A note: My reviews are marked with a CB; those of K&L's Jacques Moreira are marked with a JM; Gary Westby with a GW; Ralph Sands with an RS.

The Famous “7s of Bordeaux”

1997 and 2007 Bordeaux. Drink them now.

1997 Fourcas Dupre, Lustrac (1.5L) \$44.99 An attractive wine with plenty of black currant fruit, this 1997 provides a ripe entry on the palate, good purity, a medium body, and nice length. An old-school property from a soft, elegant vintage. Great wine, and it is under \$50—for a magnum! (CB)

2007 des Annereaux, Lalande-de-Pomerol \$17.99 This Merlot- and Cabernet Franc-based property produced a great value in 2007. We have stocked this wine before, and we are glad to have it back. It is flashy—almost new wave—with toasty, blackberry aromas and a bit of earthiness on the palate entry. Open it for an hour and enjoy. The 2007s, like 1987s and 1997s, represent fine values for early drinking. This is 15 years old, and it shows beautifully, with more sweet blackberry fruit on the palate. (CB)

2007 Verdignan, Haut-Médoc \$19.99 The coolness of the 2007 vintage is quite apparent in this wine, in the best sense. Classic in style, its medium-body palate reveals delicate but ripe notes of cherries, along with its soft tannins. It is drinking really well at this point, and it will be excellent for pairing with a meal or a cheese platter. (JM)

2007 Haut Bergey, Pessac-Léognan \$24.99 We carry several vintages of this fine property—especially pre-2016 vintages. We love these so-called “off vintages.” Robert Parker's Wine Advocate: “A sleeper of the vintage, this constant over-achiever's 2007 exhibits notes of plum sauce, soy, spice box, and unsmoked, high-class cigar tobacco. This round, generous sleeper of the vintage shows good density, medium-to-full body, and a silky, smooth style.” (RP)



2007 Barde-Haut, St-Emilion \$39.99 92JD: “From a vintage that's drinking nicely today, the 2007 Château Barde-Haut offers a medium- to full-bodied, rounded, plush, and supple style to go with the classic dark fruits, spice, leather, and tobacco notes that always seem to be present in the wine.”

Haut Bergey and Barde Haut were run years ago by the lovely Helene Garcin Leveque—a great friend of K&L.

Now she runs Barde Haut and her brother runs Haut Bergey.

Pre-2007 Bordeaux at 15+ Years

For a large party try the magnum of **1979 Fonbadet, Pauillac (1.5L) \$119.99** Château Fonbadet is nestled among some of the Pauillac's greatest estates, including Château Mouton Rothschild, Château Latour, Château Lynch-Bages, Châteaux Pichon-Longueville Baron and Comtesse. (CB)

1998 Peyrabon, Haut-Médoc (1.5L) \$39.99 Wow—Buy this beauty today, it will sell out quickly. A 24-year-old magnum for under \$40? What a sweet steal this wine is. Black cherry aromas and flavors—some brick rim, but wine is very lively. This property is very close to Pauillac. Killer deal. (CB)



1999 Bel Air Lagrave, Moulis-en-Medoc \$29.99 This little-known property makes super-value, old-school wines. Perfect now after 23 years—and you're paying less than \$1 a year! Black fruit aromas that follow to the palate. The late Clive Coates said: “There is more character and less of a four-square tendency here than is found at many of its neighbors. A wine to watch.”

2000 Lynch-Moussas, Pauillac \$79.99 Famous vintage, superb wine. **91WS:** “Very pretty aromas of crushed fruit, with raspberry and blackberry character. Full-bodied, yet fine and silky, with a long, delicious finish. Very balanced red. I can't remember tasting a better Lynch-Moussas.” (JS)

2001 Lynch-Moussas, Pauillac \$59.99 K&L loves 2001 Bordeaux wines—what great values for 21-yr old wines. This one is outstanding. Fresh and sweet and elegant. Jancis Robinson: “An exceptionally successful vintage for this property. Pretty, deep crimson. Rich nose redolent of treacle. Smooth, quite sumptuous texture. Very flattering and relatively subtle. (JR) 17/20 points” (01/2007)



2003 Sarget de Gruaud Larose, St-Julien \$44.99 The second wine of Gruaud Larose provides value and drinkability for those looking for a classic though ripe St-Julien. Named after Baron Jean Auguste Sarget, one of the men who purchased the Gruaud-Larose property in 1812 and whose family managed the estate for the following 50 years. The ripe vintage suits this usually tannic wine to a T. Ripe and ample—almost sold out. (CB)

2003 Chasse-Spleen, Moulis \$59.99 I just drank a bottle of this beauty: wonderful balance, long finish. **91WE:** “Always one of the star crus bourgeois, Chasse-Spleen has produced a 2003 that manages to combine the rich, ripe fruits of the year with the right tannins and sweetness, along with blackberry. It has the elegance and delicacy of Moulis, as well as some good intensity of flavor.”

2006 Sociando-Mallet “Cuvée Jean Gautreau,” Haut-Médoc \$54.99 Their prestige cuvée from a controversial vintage really shines. Blackberry and cedar aromas that follow to the palate. Decant and enjoy. (CB)

The Fabulous 2009s and 2010s

And they are affordable!

2009 Coufran, Haut-Médoc \$21.99 Over 10,000 bottles sold—just buy it and enjoy. 80% Merlot here. (CB)

2009 Verdignan, Haut-Médoc \$23.99 Coufran's big brother with more structure and some tannin on the back end. Soft, ripe vintage; old-school, full-flavored wine. Rich and round. Superb value. (CB)

2009 Côte de Baleau, St-Emilion \$29.99 93JS: "Wonderful aromas of blueberries, flowers, and blackberries follow through to a full body, with ultra-fine tannins and a delicious finish. So attractive already. The quality of the tannins is wonderful."

2009 Gaudin, Pauillac \$39.99 Old-school Bordeaux property plus sexy vintage plus great terroir (near Pichon-Lalande) equals a great value Pauillac. Plenty of stuffing, but also full, sweet cassis fruit flavors. Decant, and serve with pot roast. (CB)

2009 Capbern Gasqueton, St-Estèphe \$49.99 This was the first wine we tried in 2010 on the Bordeaux trip to taste the 2009 vintage, and we were blown away. It was a fantastic introduction to the greatness of the 2009s. For value 2009 Bordeaux, nothing beats this wine. There must be a little juice from Calou Ségur in here. So ripe and sweet and delicious. Toasty oak aromas and red fruit flavors. Great spice on the palate. Will cellar ten more years, but why wait? It'll be great tonight with a rack of lamb. (CB)

2009 Sarget de Gruaud Larose, St Julien \$49.99
The Sarget is a classic example of the 2009 vintage, with its soft tannins and perfect ripened fruit, but there's more... I thoroughly enjoy the developed notes of leather and tobacco along with a delicate floral touch. (JM)



2009 Sociando-Mallet "Cuvée Jean Gautreau," Haut-Médoc \$79.99
The first property I visited in 1985 (my first buy trip to Bordeaux) was Sociando-Mallet just north of St-Estèphe. The famous Bill Blatch introduced me to their wines, and I have loved them ever since. This is their top cuvée! A big wine normally, but tempered by the racy, sexy 2009 vintage, making for a delicious northern Bordeaux—perfect with wild game.

2010 Laborde, Haut-Médoc \$14.99 Jancis Robinson: "50% Merlot, 40% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Cabernet Franc. Dark crimson. Floral nose. Round and supple. A bit of sawdust quality marks out the tannins. Appetizing and neat with some interest and energy. (JR)" (10/2012) CB notes: Not to be confused with the Château Laborde of Lalande de Pomerol. Dirt cheap for a fine 2010.



2010 Haut-Bergey, Pessac-Léognan \$43.99
What a delicious wine at 12 years old. Just coming of age, like many of the big, tannic 2010s. Plenty of minerality on the nose and palate. Black fruits abound. The tannins have softened, and the fruit really stands out. Still-decant for one hour, and enjoy with a big juicy steak. Will cellar well another ten years. (CB)

2010 Bellefont-Belcier, St-Emilion \$59.99 This wine is fantastic and a great value at under \$60. As most of the 2010s, it is still a baby at 12 years old. Plenty of rich blackberry flavors with smoky, toasty aromas. Some licorice notes—black licorice of course. Rich and full-bodied wine that will go for another 15 years. A property to watch as the Kwok team has bought it. (CB)

2010 Grand Mayne, St-Emilion \$69.99 We rarely buy this property on pre-arrival for some reason, but I really like their wines. The 2010 Grand Mayne is delicious with pure blackberry and raspberry fruits that immediately seduce your senses. The palate is medium-bodied with some tannin, but plenty of sweet fruit. It is certainly very dense with ample blackberry and boysenberry mixed with dark chocolate towards the finish. Decant an hour; enjoy with a rack of lamb. (CB)

A Few Special Old Wines

Tasted Recently

1988 Gruaud-Larose, St-Julien \$169.99 Wonderful wine at its peak or near it. I tasted five bottles in early December, and they were all quite elegant on the palate—soft and fruity. Yes, the color is light brickish and the nose is old-school leather and savory notes, but so delicious on the palate. These 1988s have really come around from the young tannic wines they were for 20 years. Definitely a fine wine.

1990 Pontet-Canet, Pauillac \$299.99 Jancis Robinson: "Still deep glossy crimson. Looks much younger than 1994. The first subtle wine of the tasting! Mineral notes and quite dry on the end. Juicy, round and sweet. Still quite savory—much more so than most 1990s. 18/20 points (JR)"

2006 Cantemerle, Haut Medoc (1.5L) \$119.99 One of Phillip Dambrine's finest wines while at the helm of Cantemerle. "Wow! Very special wine made here in 2006, surely the best in modern times. Spicy ripe fruit with fine middle richness, sweetness, and mouthfeel. As good as it gets for the price. Rich and full, lingering finish. 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 42% Merlot, 8% Petit Verdot." (RS)

2006 Pontet-Canet, Pauillac \$149.99 This wine is BIG in every respect: the BIG, heavy bottle; the BIG, full-bodied, somewhat tannic structure (but with tons of latent fruit); and the BIG scores. "Drinking beautifully now but with a long life ahead, the '06 is currently a dark and chewy wine with a dense mid-palate and a firm, dry finish. Lively aromas of violets and black fruits are poised and refined yet the body is round and meaty with substantial tannins and a persistent finish. A huge success for the vintage." (The late Steve Bearden of K&L)

2010 Poujeaux, Moulis (1.5L) \$119.99 Tasting it again among 2009s showed me just how much structure these 2010s have—it is a powerhouse! It has an opaque, black-purple color and strong currant and cola Cabernet flavor wrapped tightly to its high-acid and high-tannin spine. If you have room in your cellar, this is a spectacular deal. If you are looking for something to drink in the next couple of years, keep looking! Put this in your cellar. (GW)

2010 Pontet-Canet, Pauillac \$289.99 If you want perfection!

Library Langoa and Léoville Barton Straight from the Château

by Clyde Beffa Jr., Bordeaux Buyer

Léoville Barton was K&L's wine estate of the year in 2022. We all lost a great man when Anthony Barton passed away in 2022 at the age of 91. Ralph, Trey, and I considered him Mr. Bordeaux—no one better! We are happy to now work with his daughter Lilian, who has been capably at the helm for some time. Their wines we present to you with *perfect* provenance—these bottles had never left the properties before they came to our shelves.

2006 Langoa-Barton, St-Julien \$79.99 These were our notes in April 2007 on the 2006s: "At property—some cranberry flavors. Good texture and mouth feel. Solid wine with rounded tannins. At UGC: quite a bit of cranberry on the nose and palate. Complete wine with sweet fruit flavors and lingering finish."

2009 Langoa-Barton, St-Julien \$99.99 Our notes in 2010: "At property: Red berry-cherry aromas and flavors. Plenty of grip. At UGC: Cranberry and cherry cola aromas and flavors. Super sweet midpalate impression, with rounded tannins and a lingering finish." **94VN:** "The 2009 Langoa-Barton has a gorgeous bouquet with blackberry, bilberry, cedar, and light tobacco aromas."

2010 Langoa-Barton, St-Julien \$89.99 Our notes in 2011 at the properties: "Sweet and fresh with black cherry flavors. The usual elegance of this wine fits perfectly with the hardness of the vintage." Trey: "I liked this as much as the Léoville. It's made in a more approachable style and should be a good 'earlier' drinker." Alex Pross: "A more feminine wine than the Léoville-Barton, with super bright, crunchy cherry fruit. Very fresh and long."

2016 Langoa-Barton, St-Julien \$64.99 The late (and great) Steve Bearden's notes from the 2017 Bordeaux tasting trip: "This is surprisingly bright and balanced, with crisp and effortless texture to the substantial body. Black cherry, dark plum, cola, and damp clay are present in this structured, clean, and fresh wine."

1995 Léoville-Barton, St-Julien \$169.99 I just drank a 375ml in August. The wine was young and vibrant. Some of these 95s need more time, and this one needs a few more cellar years. **92-94WA:** "A meaty rich ripe nose of cassis, mulberry, and cherry. Full-bodied and expansive structure. Layers of strawberries and red fruits. A rich voluptuous Barton."

1999 Léoville-Barton, St-Julien \$109.99 My notes from the 2000 April tasting trip: "Certainly among our favorites for the entire vintage. Quite a bit of Merlot and Cab Franc for the property. Dark purple color. Traces of licorice and raspberry, but mainly the wine tastes like delicious, ripe grapes. Just as powerful as 1996 and 1998, but the tannins are a touch softer. Anthony Barton's wine



The 1999 showed beautifully in December when the Hollywood staff gathered to taste the Barton wines.

shows beautiful balance, and though there's a lot of tannin, it is extremely well masked by the massive fruit. After 20-plus years in the bottle, it should be great. As for right now, maybe decant an hour before drinking. Prime Rib roast and this beauty would be a match made in heaven. Old school style—no over-oaked garage wine here."

2001 Léoville-Barton, St-Julien \$149.99 Our K&L team is on a 2001 Bordeaux kick. It's an underrated vintage that is showing great right now. Lovely wine here—decant and enjoy with a juicy steak.

2005 Léoville-Barton, St-Julien \$169.99 Our tasting notes in 2006 at property: "One of the best wines of the vintage. Monster wine. Went on and on forever. Black color. Tannic. Big, powerful red fruit. Broad and deep in the glass. Put away for a very long time. Super concentrated. High on everything—fruit and tannin and acid. Wet stones. Unbelievable concentration. Fabulous. Tasted four times."

2006 Léoville-Barton, St-Julien \$129.99—Almost sold out. Our tasting notes in 2007 at property: "Very rich and powerful wine. Fine length and depth of flavor. Great middle fruit. Balanced. At Joanne: solid nose—tons of plums and blueberries on nose. Brooding. Masculine wine. Together. Balanced. A winner again."

2007 Léoville-Barton, St-Julien \$109.99 My tasting notes in 2008: "Stunning wine. Elegant up front, firm. I love this wine. At the property, the wine was closed-up on the nose at first and then came out after airing. Lots of blackberry. At UGC it was spot-on. Lush, sweet with good backbone. Tannic finish but tannins are polished."

2009 Léoville-Barton, St-Julien \$169.99 Our tasting notes in 2010: "Closed at first. Big and brooding. Age it. At UGC: Red berry aromas and flavors. A big wine here with a tannic edge; it should age well for many years. At property: Huge wine that's closed and unyielding. Seems to have all the right elements, but hard to taste here." Ralph: "Deep, grapey, masculine wine. It was really good the second time we tasted it." **98WE:** "A major success of the vintage. *#3 Top 100 Cellar Selections of 2012* (RV)"

2016 Léoville-Barton, St-Julien \$169.99 The late (and great) Steve Bearden's notes on the 2017 Bordeaux tasting trip: "All the brooding potential and massive power you expect from this wine but tempered by a roundness of the edges and a fresh lift to the middle. This is dark and dense-looking with a chewy blackberry middle of surprising finesse and a super-sweet finish of grainy tannin showing ample tug. This will need time but it screams potential."



Lilian Barton follows in her father's footsteps as a wonderful ambassador for the family's wines.



Time Is on Your Side with Clyde's Top Young Picks

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2019 La Roque de By, Médoc \$13.99 93WE: "Situated close to the Gironde estuary, this 24-acre vineyard has produced a ripe, impressively structured wine. With dark tannins and juicy blackberry flavors, the wine is generous and has potential. Drink from 2025. (RV)"

2018 Beausejour 'Cuvée Prestige,' Fronsac \$14.99 91JS: "This has a spiced nose with aromas of chili, currant, potpourri and licorice. It's medium-bodied with firm, powdery tannins. Creamy and flavorful."

2019 Clos du Roy, Fronsac \$15.99 91JS: "Lots of blue fruit with slate and lavender character. Medium to full body. Chewy tannins. (JS)"

2016 Clarendelle (Clarence Dillon), Bordeaux \$17.99 91JS: "Ripe, blueberry and blackberry flavors with nice freshness and some healthy, supple tannins within the sleek frame, make this an immediately appealing red Bordeaux that's very food-friendly." Do I detect a little Haut Brion in this wine? This will be served at the 2023 Academy Awards parties.

2020 La Tour de By, Médoc \$17.99 One of the first Bordeaux wines K&L carried way back in the 1970s. We used to buy it from "Handcart" Eddie Lefcourt, one of the wholesale titans of the 70s.

2018 du Moulin Rouge, Haut-Médoc \$18.99 91JS: "Stewed blackcurrant, black olive, clove and hazelnut on the nose. Some iodine and tobacco. It's medium-bodied with firm, chewy tannins framing a juicy core of dark berries." (11/2021)



2020 Ceres Rouge, Haut-Médoc \$19.99 From the Haut Bages Libérale team, the 2020 Céres comes from a 8-hectare estate owned by Clare and Gonzalgue Lurton made with no added sulphites. One of the first of the 2020s to arrive, the wine is so good right now. Sweet, toasty aromas with a touch of tobacco. It has dark cherries and blueberry aromas. The palate is easy going with fleshy tannins, a feisty and thoroughly enjoyable natural wine. First time we have bought this property-and a good choice for sure. A touch modern,

but all in balance. Bravo Claire. Also the best price in the country, but not a lot available.

2019 d'Arce, Côtes de Castillon \$19.99 K&L was the first U.S. retailer to carry this lovely wine from our friend Héléne Garcin Lévêque. **92JD:** "I continue to love this estate, which is run by the team of Héléne Garcin and Patrice Levêque, with consulting advice from Thomas Duclos. Deep purple/ruby-hued (it's almost opaque) with a deep, rich bouquet of red and blue fruits, candied violets, truffle earth, and forest floor, the 2019 Château D'Arce hits the palate with medium to full-bodied richness, a layered, elegant mouthfeel, a terrific sense of freshness, and ripe yet integrated and polished tannins. Drink this complex, pure, seamless Castillon over the coming 10-15 years."



2019 Alcée, Castillon-Côtes de Bordeaux Rouge \$19.99 Ryan Moses, K&L: "In the running for value of the vintage, Alcée 2019 is a refreshing, detailed, and nuanced wine that we kept coming back to again and again when in Bordeaux this year. Now that it has landed, it more-than delivers on the promise. Great structure with red-to-black fruits, it is accessible and juicy, but never over the top. It has a vein of chalky minerality that provides texture and a sense of place. For this kind of price, it's an pretty impressive feat.

One of our many favorites from the Nicolas Thienpont portfolio, and a surefire go-to value for 2019 in Bordeaux."

2019 Cissac, Haut-Médoc \$19.99 Speaking of carrying a Bordeaux vintage for many years, we carried Chateau Cissac ever since 1980, after I went to a lecture and tasting with Harry Waugh-the famous English wine writer who was instrumental in bringing "foreign" wines to the USA. Harry owned a part of this property and he introduced it to the USA in the late 70s. **92-93JS:** "Very pretty, ripe fruit with blackberries, sweet tobacco and some chocolate. Medium to full body and round, ripe tannins. A slightly softer style. (JS)" (06/2020)

2019 Cambon La Pelouse, Haut-Médoc \$21.99 We have always loved the wines from this fine property and this 2019 does not disappoint. In fact, we think 2019 could be just behind 2009 and 2010 Bordeaux wines as the third best vintage of this century.

2019 Siaurac, Lalande de Pomerol \$23.99 Sweet and sexy. Buy and enjoy.

2014 Poesia, St-Emilion \$34.99 93VN Do not confuse this beauty with the Argentinian Poesia. Another April 2016 discovery at Barde Haut. Tons of fruit with some earthy, mineral aromas. Very ripe on the mid palate and soft, lingering finish. This new Garcin property really blossoms out after decanting. Great first vintage.

2015 Poesia, St-Emilion \$34.99 94JS An April 2017 discovery at Barde Haut. Tons of fruit with some earthy, mineral aromas. Very ripe on the mid palate and soft, lush, lingering finish. A bit more modern style than the 2014.

2019 Poesia, St-Emilion \$37.99 95JS: "Dried flowers, mimosa, blackcurrants, peppercorns, burnt orange on the nose. It's medium-bodied with firm, tightly wound tannins and crisp acidity. Zesty, mineral character on the tight finish. Lightly smokey at the end."



Héléne Garcin Lévêque.

Dry Whites to Enjoy Now

by Clyde Beffa Jr., Bordeaux Buyer

2020 Lamouroux Blanc, Graves \$12.99 The second label of Grand Enclos du Château de Cérons. 60% Semillon, 30% Sauvignon Blanc, 10% Sauvignon Gris. A K&L staff favorite for value in Bordeaux Blanc.

2020 Roquefort Blanc, Bordeaux \$12.99 A bit spicy as usual—almost Alsatian in style. Green apple, kaffir lime leaf, chalk, and crushed almonds on the nose. It's medium-bodied with bright acidity. Lots of citrus and stones with a chalky finish.

2021 Goudichaud 'Graves de Vayres' Blanc, Bordeaux \$14.99 85% Sauvignon Blanc, 10% Muscadelle, 5% Semillon. Lovely wine from a great white Bordeaux vintage. The Muscadelle adds aromatic complexity. The elegant nose has a blend of floral and slightly exotic fruits. A complex wine with an explosion of aromas on the palate. Elegant with great persistence. Finely balanced with a rich texture. Very pleasant to drink as an aperitif—or better yet with crab or lobster.

2020 l'Avocat Blanc, Graves \$15.99 A Sauvignon Blanc and Semillon blend, this Bordeaux Blanc is an absolute K&L favorite. Bracing acidity melds with ripe yellow apple and fig notes to satisfy any white wine

lover's thirst. Pairs with anything from mozzarella caprese to grilled fish. This wine loves to be enjoyed with great company.

2020 Chateau Guiraud "G" Bordeaux Blanc Sec \$15.99 92JA: Richer in mouthfeel than some vintages, this has a lovely tang of lime juice and lemongrass and silky texture - enjoyable and with a twist on the finish.

2021 Clarendelle Blanc (Clarence Dillon), Bordeaux \$17.99 If you are attending the Academy Awards in February, you will be drinking this. It is a ripe wine, full of apples and kiwi fruits, given weight and richness by the spice and nutty character. The wine is full and ready to drink.

2019 Tour Leognan Blanc, Pessac-Léognan \$18.99 Originally an estate located adjacent to Château Carbonnieux, both properties were purchased by Marc Perrin in 1956. Perrin reorganized the vineyards of both and designated Tour Léognan as the second wine of Carbonnieux. Made from the younger vineyards of Château Carbonnieux (vines younger than 12 years of age) but the same winemaking.

2017 l'Esprit de Chevalier Blanc, Pessac-Leognan \$27.99 95JS: "Cooked-apple, peach and pear aromas. Stone and chalk undertones. Full body. Dense and layered. Fantastic finish of dried citrus skin, salt and fruit. Beautiful now, but better in a year or two. Second wine of Domaine de Chevalier."

New Arrivals

2004 Giscours, Margaux (1.5L) \$149.99 I love this 2004, a very classic Bordeaux with fine structure. A bit old-school, which I really enjoy. I favor the 2004s over many of the 2003s, which I find a bit overblown and prune. This Giscours has the Margaux elegance combined with the classic structure of the 2004s. Try it with a pork roast.

2009 Duhart-Milon, Pauillac \$139.99 I had not been a huge fan of this property's wines from the 1980s, 1990s, and early 2000s, finding a greenness in the aromas and palate. That all changed when tasted the 2009. It was quite sweet and elegant, even sexy on the palate, and it earned some big scores by the score givers.

1996 Léoville-Poyferré, St-Julien \$179.99

1996 Pontet-Canet, Pauillac \$159.99 Two rising stars that have taken the Bordeaux market by storm in the last 25 years. The 1996 vintage was dominated by Cabernet Sauvignon on the Left Bank. On the Poyferré, Robert Parker scores 93: "This fabulous 1996 was tasted three

times from bottle, and it is unquestionably the finest wine produced by this estate since their blockbuster 1990." This is the year Poyferré really came to the St-Julien party hosted by its neighbors, Barton, and Las-Cases. Pontet-Canet made the turn about this same year with Alfred Tesseron at the helm. Huge wine that still needs decanting.

1988 Pichon-Lalande, Pauillac \$299.99

2010 Pichon-Lalande, Pauillac \$249.99 Everyone knows that Pichon-Lalande is my favorite wine in the world, ever since 1980 when I first tasted the ethereal 1978—May Eliane de Lencquesaing's first vintage at the property. To me Pichon is the epitome of red Bordeaux, and their wines from the 1980s, as a group, were the finest made in Bordeaux—including the First Growths. Their 1988 was young and powerful early on—a bit tannic, but possessing fine ripe fruit. Now it is perfect. I have consumed at least ten bottles in the last two years—each fabulously lush, ripe, sweet, elegant. Rack of lamb of course with this Pauillac. The 2010 is a young 1988, full of tannin and ripe fruits underneath.

98+ Antonio Galloni for Vinous: "An eternal wine, the 2010 Pichon Lalande is a total showstopper."

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