

## Bordeaux 2019 En Primeur report – Paul Liversedge

### **Bordeaux 2019 En Primeur Offer – an exciting buying opportunity!**

I must be honest. I did not originally intend to offer Bordeaux “en primeur” this year. Given all that is going on in the world right now, it somehow didn’t seem to right to be asking you to buy wines which you won’t receive for 2 years! And I also do not like offering wines to my customers which I have not personally tasted, as for obvious reasons I was not able to travel to Bordeaux this Spring.

But then Chateau Pontet Canet – always one of my favourite Bordeaux chateaux - released their 2019 at an eye-catching 30% discount to last year. And I read more and more great comments about this vintage from the top international wine journalists, who had been sent samples to taste directly to their home offices. And I quickly realised that Bordeaux 2019 seems to be a very good quality vintage at very fair prices – a combination rarely seen in the past 15 years! I was then invited by the Unions de Grands Crus of Bordeaux to attend their tasting of around 100 of the key wines from this vintage, which took place in Zürich at the end of June. So I have been able at least to form a personal judgement about the overall quality of the vintage.



*Tasting Bordeaux 2019 en primeur samples in Zürich; 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2020*

[Please see my Bordeaux 2019 En Primeur offer \(also on our news page\)](#). I have selected what I believe to be 40 of the most interesting wines this year, based on a mix of consistently positive press comments/high press scores, the chateau's reputation, my personal preferences, and most importantly – good value for money!

**I do believe that all these wines, at their different price points, offer that most elusive of combinations in Bordeaux – excellent quality from a very fine vintage at attractive prices. And that, if you are a lover of Bordeaux, this vintage really does represent an exciting buying opportunity!**

### **How to order**

[Please send your orders to me by e mail to paul@realwines.ch.](mailto:paul@realwines.ch)

### **Caveat**

Please note that the one difficulty with this vintage is that many chateaux have reduced the amount of wines they are offering en primeur by 20-40%! I have highlighted those wines where I only have very small allocations. Unfortunately, I will only be able to offer these wines to customers who make balanced orders, ie not just the hard to get wines! So I would advise you to place your orders sooner rather than later to avoid disappointment!

### **3 personal quick-tips if you're looking to buy this year**

1. The Left Bank is much more interesting as a whole in 2019 than the Right. The summer of 2019 was hot and dry, which suited the thick-skinned Cabernet Sauvignon-dominated blends of St Estèphe, Pauillac, St Julien, Margaux and Pessac Léognan MUCH better than the more heatsensitive Merlot-dominated blends of St Emilion and Pomerol. Of course the great terroirs and chateaux of the Right Bank were able to rise above this challenge, but be careful further down the quality hierarchy of over-heated, over-ripe and overly-alcoholic red wines!
2. There are many great value wines this vintage under CHF50/bt! This is an excellent vintage to buy well known chateaux's second wines, where the quality is sometimes extremely close to that of the grand vin, whilst the price is only a fraction thereof (usually around 25-30%.) And several less well known chateaux have seemingly produced their best wines ever this year, meaning that – for a change – you don't have to break the bank to find really interesting wines!
3. Almost all 2019 reds should be drinkable at a comparatively young age vs previous vintages eg from around 5 years old, yet they should have long drinking lives if you are inclined to lay them down; as a simple rule, the better the chateau, the longer the ageing potential.

For more information about this vintage, please read the 2 excellent vintage reports on our News page by Lisa Perotti-Brown of the Wine Advocate and Neal Martin of Vinous.

Paul Liversedge MW 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020.



*My 2 favourite wines from AC Margaux at the Union de Grand Crus tasting of Bordeaux 2019 in Zürich*