

# THE MASTER'S NOSE CLUB

“Bordeaux beyond its big names”

SIX DELICIOUS WINES FROM TOP QUALITY, LESSER-KNOWN CHATEAUX

FROM SIX DIFFERENT BORDEAUX APPELLATIONS

READY TO DRINK NOW!

PROOF THAT BORDEAUX CAN OFFER GREAT VALUE!

Real Wines 



Château Siaurac

CHATEAU FONPLEGADE

  
CHATEAU VILLARS

  
CHATEAU LE PAPE

*Grand Cru Classé*  


SÉGLA

## THE REGION

# ABOUT BORDEAUX

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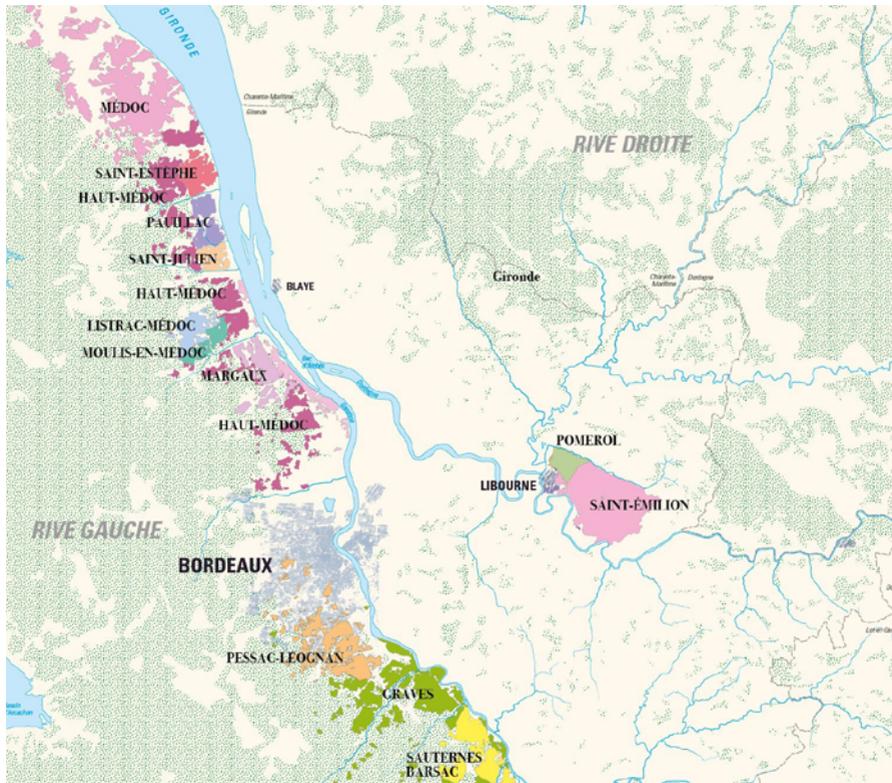
Bordeaux produces some of the finest, most ageworthy and expensive wines in the world.

It is most famous for its big name chateaux, its 1855 classification of the great chateaux of the Medoc, and for producing the best Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot based wines money can buy!

But beyond its 100 or so most prestigious names, there are many smaller chateaux producing wines of dramatically improving quality in the past 20 years, at very reasonable prices and often organically and with great respect to the environment. The challenge is to find the best of these producers!

I have tasted hundreds of Bordeaux over the past 15 years, many on more than one occasion. I am always on the lookout for hidden gems; for wines made by honest, passionate, quality-obsessed families, which remain relatively undiscovered, and which represent excellent value.

This wine selection is a result of this quest! My aims are to show you the diversity of wine styles from six of Bordeaux's different sub-regions; to offer you wines which are ready to drink now; and to demonstrate the high quality and great value which the region's smaller chateaux and second wines are capable of.



## LEFT BANK VS RIGHT BANK

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In this wine packet there are three wines from Bordeaux's Left Bank and three from its Right Bank.

The Left Bank means the left (or western) bank of the River Garonne, which then flows into the Gironde – the wide, murky brown river which flows northwest from Bordeaux city to the Atlantic Ocean. The bulk of this region is referred to as “the Medoc” but it also comprises the appellation of Pessac Léognan – just to the south of Bordeaux city. The vineyards of the Left Bank generally have gravelly soils, which give the vines excellent drainage and are perfect for growing Cabernet Sauvignon grapes, whose roots do not appreciate being submerged in water! The terrain here is fairly flat with gentle, small rises which give optimum exposure to the sun and improved drainage. The vineyards are sandwiched between the Atlantic Ocean to the west and river Gironde on the east, both of which act as temperature moderators in very hot or very cold weather. The

Left Bank is home to the 61 “Classified Growths” of the 1855 classification, including the big name “First Growths” of Latour, Lafite, Mouton, Margaux and Haut Brion. Its most famous communes are Pauillac, St. Estephe, St. Julien, Margaux and Pessac Leognan. Its wines are blends of mainly Cabernet Sauvignon with varying proportions of Merlot and Cabernet Franc. They are wines with firm tannins and cassis fruit flavours – the hallmarks of Cabernet Sauvignon – and take several years to evolve and mellow in bottle. The secret with Left Bank Bordeaux (or “claret” as the English like to refer to these wines) is to drink them at the right time, once the tannins have had time to soften and the flavours to evolve and become more complex. In the case of smaller chateaux and second wines, this can happen after a relatively short time – 3 to 5 years – but the top wines from the great chateaux sometimes need 20 or 30 years before you can begin to enjoy them.

## THE REGION

The Right Bank refers to the vineyards to the right (or east) of the River Dordogne, which then flows into the Gironde. The main grape here is Merlot, which loves the clay and limestone-based soils of the region as they retain more water during the heat of summer; basically, Merlot is a thirstier grape than Cabernet Sauvignon! Cabernet Franc is the other important constituent of Right Bank blends – it adds freshness and structure to the round, smooth Merlot-based wines. Right Bank wines at their best are plush, opulent and sensuous, with soft tannins and juicy red fruit flavours when young; as they develop in bottle, “secondary” flavours of truffle, dark chocolate and tobacco become more noticeable. The best known communes here are St. Emilion and Pomerol, home to big

names such as Cheval Blanc and Petrus respectively. But just over the borders of these two famous communes are the “satellite” appellations of the Right Bank; lesser known names such as Lalande de Pomerol, bordering Pomerol to the east, or Fronsac bordering St. Emilion to the north and west. It is often in these areas that the best value discoveries of the Right Bank can be made, just as in Burgundy today the less famous appellations of Rully, St. Aubin or Santenay are the source of several rising star producers.

The vineyards of the Right Bank are generally much smaller in size than those on the Left, meaning that you get far lower quantities of wine from a Right Bank chateau. An average chateau in Pauillac might produce 10 – 20 times as many cases per year as an average Pomerol chateau!



## THE PRODUCERS

# CHATEAU SIAURAC, *Château Siaurac* LALANDE DE POMEROL

This beautiful chateau, built in the 19th century, is located on a continuation of the famous plateau of Pomerol, less than 1km west of Chateau Petrus, and is the largest and the most iconic estate of the Lalande de Pomerol appellation. It comprises 46 hectares of vines with an average age of 34 years, planted on gravel and clay soils. The chateau holds the “sustainable

agriculture” certification and stopped using any chemicals in the vineyard as from the 2015 growing season. Since 2020 it has been certified organic. Pénélope Godefroy (ex Chateau Latour) has been responsible for the winemaking since 2014 with the guidance of highly respected consultant oenologist Jean-Claude Berrouet (ex Chateau Petrus.)



# CHATEAU FONPLEGADE, *CHATEAU FONPLEGADE* ST. EMILION GRAND CRU CLASSÉ *Grand Cru Classé*

This wonderful old chateau has been producing wine since the late 1500s! It was purchased by an American couple, Stephen and Denise Adams, in 2004, who have gradually elevated it into one of the rising stars of Bordeaux’s Right Bank. The Adams are total believers in sustainable vine growing; they achieved organic certification for their

18.5 hectares of vineyards in 2013 and biodynamic status in 2020, making this one of the very few certified biodynamic producers in Bordeaux. Their wines offer some of the most vivid and vibrant expressions of the limestone and clay soils of the famous St. Emilion plateau (situated just down the hill from Chateau Ausone!)

## THE PRODUCERS

# CHATEAU VILLARS, FRONSAC



This super chateau has been owned by the same family for 7 generations, dating back to the French Revolution. Current owner Thierry Gaudrie has run the estate and made the wines since 1997. He is a trained oenologist and a passionate viticulturist who strives to get the best out

of his terroir every year. This is the Chateau's flagship red wine, coming from 39 year old vines planted on clay and limestone soils. All grapes are picked by hand, and the young wine was aged for one year in 40% new oak barrels before being bottled in March 2013.



# CHATEAU LE PAPE, PESSAC LEOGNAN



With 9 hectares of vines on gravelly soil, Chateau Le Pape has a superb terroir in the heart of the Pessac-Leognan appellation, close to Chateaux Smith Haut Lafite and Haut Bailly. It is without doubt one of the most magnificent-looking chateaux of the region, and one of the few where you can stay if ever visiting Bordeaux; a unique Bordeaux experience I would highly recommend!

The chateau dates back to 1805, but it is really only since it was purchased by American businessman Robert Willmers, owner of neighbouring Chateau Haut Bailly, that it has started to perform at a new quality level. The wines are now made by the talented Veronique Sanders and her team from Haut Bailly, and from the 2015 vintage onwards represent excellent value buys from this region.



# LACOSTE BORIE, PAUILLAC



This is the second wine of one of the very few remaining, family-owned Classified Growth chateaux of the Medoc; Grand Puy Lacoste. It is a wine of soul and personality and a totally true expression of Pauillac, Bordeaux's most famous and expensive appellation. Chateau Grand Puy Lacoste has been owned by the charming Borie family since 1978. Perfectly situated between Chateaux Pontet Canet just to the

south and Lynch Bages to its west, the vines are an average of 38 years old and are planted on deep gravel soils which are perfect for Cabernet Sauvignon. This chateau has a reputation for producing great wines in Bordeaux's best vintages, such as 1982, 2000, 2009, 2010 and 2016, but since 2009 both the "grand vin" and Lacoste Borie, its second wine, have consistently been two of Pauillac's best value gems.

# SEGLA, MARGAUX

## SÉGLA

"Segla" is the second wine of Chateau Rauzan Segla, which has become the finest quality chateau in the Margaux appellation after Chateaux Margaux and Palmer in recent years. The chateau has over 350 years of history, but this second wine was launched in 1995 by the technical director at the time, Jon Kolasa. The terroir of Rauzan Segla is mostly

gravel with clay subsoils. Although the best and oldest vines on the estate are used to produce the "grand vin" (Rauzan Segla), the quality of this second wine is amazing for its price, making this consistently one of the best buys on the Left Bank. Segla was aged for 16 months in 25% new French oak barrels.



## ABOUT THE WINES

# OUR EXQUISITE SELECTION

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**Chateau  
Siaurac 2015**  
(one bottle)

Made from a blend of 80% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc and 5% Malbec from the chateau's best vineyard plots, this was matured for one year in 20% new French oak barriques. It is mellow, full bodied and full of ripe, fruitcake flavours with some autumnal, truffle and herbal notes and gentle hints of vanilla. Long and smooth on the finish, this evolves really nicely over 2 – 3 days after opening.

114,000 bottles were produced. Drink now – 2030

Rated 90 – 92pts by Neil Martin and 16.5pts by Jancis Robinson MW



**Chateau  
Fonplegade  
2012**  
(one bottle)

This blend of 95% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Franc is a superb example of the excellent but underrated 2012 vintage on the Right Bank and is just entering its peak drinking window. It is fresh, pure and profound, with deliciously rich forest fruit flavours and velvet-smooth tannins. Additional notes of cedar, spice and fallen autumn leaves from its lengthy bottle age give impressive complexity.

42,000 bottles were produced. Drink now – 2035

Rated 93+/100 pts by Robert Parker.



**Chateau  
Villars 2011**  
(one bottle)

This blend of 72% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Franc and 3% Cabernet Sauvignon is an excellent success from the warm but generally unexciting 2011 vintage. Remarkably complex, it is full of red and black fruit flavours, with notes of white mushrooms and spice. Still fresh, it has a silky-smooth texture, warmth and impressive depth of flavour, and is drinking perfectly now. Tip! The 2011 vintage is winemaker Thierry Gaudrie's "coup de coeur" of all the vintages he has produced! 50,000 bottles were produced. Drink now – 2025

Rated 89pts by Robert Parker and a "sleeper of the vintage" (ie one of his great value tips)



## ABOUT THE WINES



### **Chateau Le Pape 2016** (one bottle)

A blend of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Sauvignon. With fresh cassis and red forest fruit flavours and firm but fine tannins, this beautifully balanced wine is both elegant and intense. It is long on the aftertaste, with an iron-like minerality on the finish which is typical of the top terroirs of Pessac Leognan. Although you can enjoy it now, this wine would certainly benefit from a further 2 – 5 years of ageing in bottle to soften its tannins and release its full spectrum of flavours.

40,000 bottles were produced. Drink now – 2035

Rated 90 – 92pts by Neil Martin



### **Lacoste Borie 2016** (one bottle)

The 2016 vintage will turn out to be one of the all time greats in Pauillac, with perfect amounts of sunshine and rainfall during the growing season. In a great year, the second wines of the best chateaux can represent some of the most astute buys in Bordeaux, as all the grapes should be perfectly ripe and healthy, and the winemaking is of the same very high standard as for the “grand vin”. This blend of 61% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc is fine and elegant with gently balanced flavours of dark, cassis fruit and cedar from its 16 month evelage in French oak barrels. The tannins are present but gentle, making this a perfect claret to enjoy now or over the next 5 – 8 years.

Drink now – 2030. Rated 88 – 90pts by Neil Martin



### **Segla 2015** (one bottle)

A blend of 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 43% Merlot, 1% Petit Verdot and 1% Cabernet Franc. The warm and sunny 2015 vintage was a huge success in the Margaux appellation, and particularly for Chateau Rauzan Segla, whose “grand vin” was one of the finest they have ever produced. Segla, their second wine, is full of the region’s trademark red fruit flavours with a gentle violet and floral perfume. It is elegant and finely structured, full of energy and tension, pure and perfectly balanced. This is a serious and very impressive second wine, but above all a wine of pleasure, a wine which will make you happy, and a great value example of this famous but sometimes erratic region!

120,000 bottles were produced. Drink now – 2032

Rated 90 – 92pts by Neil Martin

# THE BORDEAUX WINE REGIONS

Les appellations suivantes peuvent être produites sur l'ensemble du vignoble bordelais:

- Rouge
- Rosé
- Blanc sec
- Blanc doux

- Bordeaux
- Bordeaux Clairnet
- Bordeaux Rosé
- Bordeaux Supérieur
- Crémant de Bordeaux

