

## **Bordeaux 2025 – another outstanding vintage ending in “5”!**



### **En Primeur Campaign Overview**

I spent the third week in April in Bordeaux, tasting the soon-to-be-released 2025 vintage from barrel. It's a tough life being a wine merchant I know!

I went as always with an open mind, thirsty both to taste these new wines and to discover all I could about the 2025 vintage style and quality across the different regions of Bordeaux.

And I left with a smile on my black-toothed face. For this is a truly delicious vintage, whose quality across the board is extremely high. When the year ends in “5”, Bordeaux almost always has a very good vintage, and 2025 is certainly no exception!

There are many beautiful wines in this vintage, which stylistically resembles a combination of previous noteworthy vintages: the pretty, ripe fruit of 2023, along with the structure of the 2022's and the balance, freshness and finesse of the superb 2016's. These are wines which should appeal to both seasoned collectors and new buyers alike.

The downside of the 2025 vintage was the low yields, with some chateaux reporting reductions of up to 50% on last year. This will no doubt affect both the size of our allocations and, worryingly, the release prices.

We expect a short and fast-paced en primeur campaign this year, with many wines releasing in quick succession, beginning 29th April! As usual, I prefer not to bombard you with daily emails each time a chateau releases its 2025 wine for sale. Instead, I will review all chateaux release prices relative to the quality of their wines and send you my personal top 40 picks of the vintage at the end of the campaign, hopefully in early June.

*Please let us know if you would like to receive our Top 40 Bordeaux 2025 en primeur buying tips at the end of the campaign? Send email to [office@realwines.ch](mailto:office@realwines.ch)*

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## **2025 Vintage Report**

The 2025 vintage was a vintage unlike any other single vintage, with most growers we spoke to only being able to compare it to a combination of previous vintages.

The growing season started off with a near perfect Spring: rain arrived in the right quantities at the right times and then progressed into lovely warm sunshine with a short, cold snap in March, fuelling early optimism and excitement about the vintage. Summer started in early June and was long, sunny and warm, with extended periods of drought. This resulted in smaller, highly concentrated berries, with thicker skins to counteract the heat and sunshine. Growers repeatedly stressed the importance of the cooler night-time temperatures during July and August, which helped give freshness and balance to the fruit.

Crucial to the style of wines in this 2025 vintage was a short, 3 day burst of rainfall at the end of August. This reduced the potential alcohol levels in the grapes by around 1%. Very few red wines in the 2025 vintage have alcohol levels higher than 14%, with most falling between 13-13.5%. Also, it brought cooler temperatures just in time for picking, with a significant volume of dry whites being picked before the end of August, Merlot picking occurring in early September followed by the Cabernet later in the month.

The successful reds have a wonderful purity of purple fruit flavours with gentle floral notes, ripe but deceptively firm tannins, really good freshness and moderate alcohol levels. They are wines of impressive balance, structure and finesse. These are reds that will, on the whole, drink well from an early stage but have the potential to cellar for decades to come.

The dry whites were also successful this year, with delicious, exotic fruit flavours and balanced acidity. Quality levels in Sauternes and Barsac are expected to be high, largely due to prime conditions for Botrytis development.

2025 is clearly a successful vintage from a quality (if not quantity) perspective — wines worth serious consideration for any cellar. Many producers across all appellations and levels (from Cru Bourgeois to Grand Cru) seemed delighted with the quality of both their grand vins and also their second wines. As ever, we will be focusing on the wines we believe represent the best value and quality for you.



### **Final Thoughts**

Climate change is clearly making Bordeaux hotter and drier; 2022, 2023 and 2025 were the warmest and driest vintages on record in the region. But so far, this seems to have had a mainly positive effect, producing wines with deliciously ripe fruit and tannins which are approachable far younger than Bordeaux wines of the past century.

Viticulture and vinification techniques have never been more sophisticated; an increasing number of Bordeaux's chateaux now work partly or wholly organically or biodynamically, which in my view helps the grapes to retain purity and freshness in these warmer vintages. Almost all of the best known chateaux have built state of the art new wine cellars in recent years, which have added extra precision, purity and levels of perfection to their wines.

The down side of this huge investment is that many chateaux are still repaying these capital costs, which gives constant upward pressure on the prices of their wines. The world's economy right now is in a precarious state, as we all know, and there is little consumer appetite for paying increased prices for young, unbottled vintages from Bordeaux. So the release prices will, perhaps more than ever before, be critical this year in deciding the success of this 2025 en primeur campaign. We will as always try only to recommend wines to you which we believe offer fair value. After that, the decision is yours!