

FEBVRE


Original thinking in wine



NT = Not Tasted

Reds - CS = Cabernet Sauvignon, M = Merlot, CF = Cabernet Franc, PV = Petit Verdot & C = Carmeneres Whites - SB = Sauvignon Blanc & S= Semillon

Chateau	Appellation	Robert Parker 2009	Jancis Robinson 2009	Monica Murphy 2009	Notes Monica Murphy 2009 All wines tasted at UGC tasting in Bordeaux	Noel Mac Mahon 2009	Notes Noel Mac Mahon 2009 All wines tasted at UGC tasting in Bordeaux	Nigel Werner 2009	Notes Nigel Werner 2009 Wines tasted at London tasting 3 weeks after UGC
Domaine de Courteillac	Bordeaux Supérieur	88-89	NT		Made by Dominique Meneret who retired recently as one of Bordeaux's top negociants, this is his own estate. Although its appellation is the lowly Bordeaux Sup, this wine for many years has punched way above its weight and can be compared to a modern style but elegant Saint Emilion.	18++	Very clean and delicious fruit. Wonderful typicity here. Excellent balance between the fruit and acidity. A superb wine that pushes all the buttons. Intense yet very elegant wine. Gorgeous		
Cap de Faugères	Côtes de Castillon	90-92	NT		Cap de Faugeres is an ascending star in a less important appellation. Worth looking at.				
Cantemerle	Haut Médoc	92-94*	15.5	NT	Noel and I missed the Haut-Médoc tasting but we have always followed this wine as being one of the best values in the Medoc. Normally, elegant, balanced and mid-weight, Parker obviously thinks it is their best ever.			17.5	58%CS,33%M,6%PV, Cantemerle is often maligned as the most southerly of the Cru Classes Chateaux, but it regularly punches well above its weight offering great value for relatively early drinking after about 5 years, elegant bouquet most appealing soft charming character fine balance with soft tannins. Bound to be a value buy.
Lamothe Bergeron	Haut Médoc	NT	16.5	18.5+	Smooth, elegant and balanced - very good wine. This was a wine we followed here at Febvre for many years and we are delighted to discover it again.	18	Really good wine here with very good balance and wonderful fruit presentation here. Delicious		
Lanessan	Haut Médoc	90-92	16+	NT				17.5	Lanessan may not be everyone's favourite, but I have often found it most rewarding and a strong contender in the value category, attractive aromatic floral nose, medium weight, elegant, quite broad, good balance and fine length.
Sociando-Mallet	Haut Médoc	90-92+	16.5	18+	Superb nose very good balance and refreshing acidity. Fine tannins.			18	This chateau is one of my long time favourites and it has delivered excellence in its class yet again, a complex perfumed nose with distinct cedary notes on the palate fine structure and balance, elegance and length.
La Fleur de Boüard	Lalande de Pomerol	91-93	16	19	It has the lot : suaveté, velvet textures concentrated rich dark fruit and huge creamy texture. A sumptuous wine.	18	Really lovely wine here fruit balance elegance presentation on the palate is really excellent.		
Alter Ego de Palmer	Margaux	89-92	16.5	18	A delicious, extremely smooth, darkly fruity and balanced wine. Very supple. It has the breed and finesse of the best Margaux.	18.5	Aniseed notes, layered mocha chocolate notes. Palate is extraordinary with massive intensity of fruit, dark plums, cassis fleshy with no hint of extraction. Finish is long complex and intense. A real find of the vintage for me.		
Brane Cantenac	Margaux	93-95	16	18	Perfumed red fruit on the nose with a very nice elegant mouth feel and fine tannins.	16.5	1st wine of the day. Quite extracted tannins that are quite fine and rounded. Juicy fruit and elegant length. Quite nice really.	17.5	60%CS,36%M,4%CF. Impressive perfumed nose most elegant, medium weight with delightful black fruit flavours fine balance.
Dauzac	Margaux	88-90	16.5	18	Savoury nose, quintessential Margaux, firm in youth but with hidden spice and silky texture. Compact, tight style which bodes well for a beautiful wine later.	17.5	Quite defined liquorice statement here. Very rich and concentrated palate. Very pointed fruit presentation. Very good	18.5	64%CS,36%M. Elegant feminine bouquet quite classy, lush supple brambly fruit with impressive refreshing acidity and moderate tannins. Value Buy!
d'Issan	Margaux	93-95	17	18	Rather good; big and brawny but finely balanced. Ch. d'Issan has been going through a minor revolution recently under the hand of Emmanuel Cruse.			18	65%CS,35%M. Perfumed floral bouquet, a little austere at present on the palate yet powerful with impressive acidity and length. Could be a Good Value Wine.
du Tertre	Margaux	90-92	17.5	18	Brooding black fruit, damsons, on the nose but very good balance of acidity. Rather an ethereal style alongside so many huge wines. Lovely length and finesse. Very charming and approachable.	18.5	Lovely violets here - really fantastic nose. Excellent piercing fruit presentation. Delicious elegant and really complex wine. A find for the year.	18.5	40%CS,35%M,25%CF. Du Tertre has been "boxing above its weight" since 2000, another great effort harmonious bouquet, elegant soft fruit character well balanced with very fine length. Should be one of the Value wines of the vintage.
Durfort Vivens	Margaux	87-89+	17	17+	Silky, suave Margaux, with a vein of savoury flavour echoing the lightly spicy nose. Ripe tannins	17	Very elegant lovely fruit presentation but with a meaty punch that is not tough. Fantastic fine-grained tannins.	17	75%CS,20%M,5%CF. Restrained nose yet well developed palate with ripe blackcurrant fruit flavours fine balance and a warm satisfying finish.
Malescot Saint-Exupéry	Margaux	95-97	17.5	19	Sumptuous many faceted nose, intense and full of red and black fruit, layers of rich fruit, very bright and vivacious, big oak but will integrate smoothly. Some heat and spice on the finish which will tame.	17++	Very nice presentation here. Lovely ripe fruit, beautiful balance, very elegant wine. This is a really well-presented wine, that will be one of the sleepers of the vintage.		
Margaux	Margaux	98-100	19+	NT	Sadly, trouble at the Passport Office precluded us from making the necessary appointments at some of the First Growth Chateaux! But if you can get some, you can't go wrong!				

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Palmer	Margaux	94-96	18	18.5	Has everything-spice, fruit, flesh and good acidity, warmth of alcohol but will age very gracefully	19	Intense blackcurrant. Delicious smooth palate, very fine-grained and smooth tannins. Beautiful intensity of fruit on the palate Really high quality wine for long ageing. Wonderful acidity and great length.							
Rauzan-Ségla	Margaux	92-95	17.5	17+	Big and very concentrated on the nose, dark, brooding blackcurrant fruit and a lot of cedar but with floral notes. Weight comes through on the palate with a hearty flourish.	16++	Very chunky here again, but fruit presentation is as big if not bigger in palate terms. Big bruiser of a wine. Winter fire-side wine for the carnivores amongst us!	17+	54%CS,41%M,4%PV,1%CF. Elegant fragrant nose, a little tight but has a compact concentrated flavour with impressive length, a very promising wine.					
Siran	Margaux	87-88+	17	17+	Restrained but attractive fruit on the nose, velvety coating tannins, lovely balance and very smooth finish									
Patache d'Aux	Médoc	NT	15	NT	This good value wine was mentioned in many quarters during the week but we missed tasting it somehow!									
Chasse-Spleen	Moulis	90-92	16.5					17.5	50%CS,43%M,7%PV, always worth following and has developed quite a fan club over the year and this '09 will not disappoint, nose yet to develop but palate has bags of rich ripe juicy fruit flavours, delightful acidity and soft refined tannins. Value potential.					
Clerc Milon	Pauillac	90-92+	17	18	Tad medicinal on the entry - cough drops. Oak nicely used. Very nice spicy nose fresh herbal notes. Lovely balance will be very elegant.	19	This has all of the permitted grape varieties except Malbec in the blend. CS (50%), M (44%), PV (4%), C (1%) & CF 1%. Lovely balance again and truly wonderful juicy tannins. This is a real corker for me.							
d'Armailhac	Pauillac	90-93*	16.5	18	Silky smooth entry; lovely juicy fruit balanced and fine. An elegant lighter style on the nose with lovely scents of violets.	17	Very sweet fruit presentation here, really a hallmark of the vintage I think. Great balance again of acidity and intensity.							
Grand-Puy-Lacoste	Pauillac	91-93	17.5	18.5	Very good. Sturdy but so balanced. Fresh, direct and powerful with lashings of dark fruit and great length.			18.5	70%CS,28%M,2%CF. most impressive nose with developed notes of cedar and cigar box, full flavour with richness and concentration finely balanced, a star wine for me!					
Haut-Bages Libéral	Pauillac	NT	15.5	18	Pointed and precise fruit. Very savoury cedar and vanilla nutmeg- will be a smasher. Huge length.	16.5++	Lovely nose with perfect balance and intensity. Lovely length and cedar notes.	17.5	80%CS,20%M. Beautiful elegant bouquet, well developed slightly firm structure compact a very promising wine. This must be one of the value wines of the vintage.					
Haut-Batailley	Pauillac	88-90	17	17.5	Tough and big and a little hot. Lovely fruit and spices though.			17.5	65%CS,30%M,5%CF.restrained bouquet but beautifully developed fruit character ripe with impressive acidity well balanced.					
Lafite Rothschild	Pauillac	98-100	19		We expect high prices here because of the Asian demand. If you can get hold of any, you will be extremely lucky. By all accounts, a stunner.									
Latour	Pauillac	98-100	19		Here again, the demand will far outstrip supply and it will not come cheap. If your heart is set on it, you will need huge powers of persuasion !									
Les Carruades de Lafite	Pauillac	92-94+	17		This could be your consolation prize if you fail in acquiring either of the two stars above.									
Les Forts de Latour	Pauillac	93-95*	18		Re-read the above note!									
Lynch Bages	Pauillac	94-96+	17	18+	Deep dark brooding blueberry fruit on the nose with hints of cinnamon and nutmeg. Massive mouth feel that is full & gripping. Tannins are enormous & fine-grained. Alcohol is quite high but matched by fruit and well defined acidity.	18	Lovely violets notes here. Firm tannins that are very fine-grained and rounded. Intense fruit character and high levels of extraction, but there is great balance in the wine here.							
Mouton-Rothschild	Pauillac	96-98+	18.5		Mouton is always a good investment if you can get it. By all accounts, just a shade less stellar than Lafite and Latour above. But not by much!									
Pibran	Pauillac	NT	16.5		This is a wine we follow direct from the owners. This year it has excelled according to Nigel so we will be interested in putting some by.			17.5	63%M,37%CS. This is a wine we have been following on our main list for some time, their 09 is sublime in its class, great concentration on the nose with well developed ripe fruit character on the palate, fine balance with refreshing acidity and soft tannins. A real Value buy.					

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Pichon-Longueville Baron	Pauillac	93-95	18	18	Very ripe summer fruits very elegant style - less intense and cedary than previous years. Charpenté on the entry with a softer finish and lovely fine-grained tannins.	18+	Strength yet elegance here for a change. Powerful mid palate, very concentrated and powerful. Masses of cassis fruit.	19	A most impressive wine for me with a wonderful complex bouquet developing with cedar and tobacco notes, sweet concentration with intense flavours, it does not get much better than this!!
Pichon-Longueville Comtesse de Lalande	Pauillac	96-98	17	18+	Very smoky but closed on the nose. Faint aromas of flower petals. Brooding black berry fruit. Cedar notes here again with a velvety finish.	19++	Elegant nose with roses, but yet still quite closed I think. Palate has a real step up in quality, lovely soft tender fruit and excellent balance and length. This is a really stunning wine - for the real purists, I think.		
Pontet-Canet	Pauillac	97-100	18	18.5	Pontet-Canet is a sure bet! This year is the culmination of several years of huge strides in the winery and vineyards. A stunner by all accounts. I tasted a tea-spoon full which seemed superb!			18.5	Pontet Canet has been in scintillating form since 2000, the stunning '05 has been eclipsed by this stellar '09, intense black fruit aromas developing with a hugely concentrated palate of cassis and subtle new oak rounded off with impeccably balanced acidity and tannin.
Couhins WHITE	Pessac-Léognan	NT	NT	19+	I loved this one. Silky, deep but beautiful mouth feel, a balanced, creamy finish redolent of fresh orchard fruit, exotic white flowers on the nose. One of my favourite whites of this tasting, its flavour lingered for a long time..				
de Fieuzal RED	Pessac-Léognan	91-93+	15.5	18.5+	Perfumed and elegant on the nose. Floral notes balancing a flinty acidity and a creamy, finely integrated finish. Refined but opulent! I loved it - it has got everything.	17	Deep colour quite closed on the nose generous round and multilayered soft round tannins. Very generous and elegant wine.	18.5	55%M,45%CS. Lochlann Quinn's Chateau has performed extremely well in both red and white this year, deep colour a warm soft fruit nose delicious summer fruit ripeness fine balance, a well made wine, impressive.
de Fieuzal WHITE	Pessac-Léognan	NT	17+	19	Perfumed and elegant on the nose, floral with super acidity, great fruit balance, creamy oak finish. Overall, a beautifully crafted wine with depths of flavour to come.	18	Lemon and sherbet notes very sweet fruit presentation lovely balance excellent wine	17.5	70%SB,30%S, lovely elegant nose with usual tropical charm, most refreshing acidity very lively, (the only white I tasted so no comparisons available for me!)
Domaine de Chevalier	Pessac-Léognan	94-96	17.5	18	Domaine de Chevalier was a triumph this year- beautifully structured with all the earthy power of Graves mixed with elegance and layers of forest-floor flavour. A success all round.				
Domaine de Chevalier Blanc	Pessac-Leognan	NT	17.5	18.5	The white from Domaine de Chevalier is as rare as hen's teeth. If you can lay your hands on this one, buy. It was delicious. Big, almost savoury, with layers of aroma of citrus and flowers, the palate is big and full with well-used new oak bouquet.				
Ferran Rouge	Pessac-Leognan	88-90	15	17.5	All that Pessac-Leognan should be, earthy, sinewy but ripe tannins and a lovely creamy mouth feel on the finish				
Ferran WHITE	Pessac-Léognan	NT	NT	17.5	Semillon dominated, with lovely ripe honeyed and mellow fruit. Very traditional style. Lovely rich, luscious food wine				
Haut Brion Blanc	Pessac-Léognan	NT	17	18	This was a sumptuous white wine, with honeyed, floral notes, creamy and very rich, even though it has a high proportion of Sauvignon Blanc this time around. Perhaps a little more decadent than normal but with great promise and a lingering, fruit filled finish. It is a wine with a lot of fat and flavour, yet manages in spite of high alcohol, to finish fresh and clean.				
Haut-Bailly	Pessac-Léognan	96-98+	16	20	Wow! The first wine I tasted with perfect equilibrium, though there were many more to follow. Typical of the region, suave but not fleshy, beautifully structured with finely tuned fruit and oak. 13.4% abv. Nose fragrant, red fruit. They told me they worked hard to keep down the alcohol in this warm vintage.				

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Haut-Brion Rouge	Pessac-Léognan	98-100	19	20	I had the rare good fortune of tasting completely on my own at the Chateau, the entire range of seven wines from the Clarence Dillon, Haut-Brion cellar. No distractions! What I found was perhaps the pinnacle of all my wine-tasting experiences. The Ch. Haut-Brion Rouge was the epitome of perfection. It had so much intensity, breed and structure it is hard to describe without sounding over the top. But if you can think of all the fruit superlatives, with every attractive nuance from cedar to flowers, it is there in the many layered vinous 2009, all under one roof. Wow!!!!				
La Chapelle de La Mission-Haut-Brion (second wine of La Mission Haut-Brion Rouge)	Pessac-Léognan	91-94*	17.5	18.5	About equal Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot with a good dollop of Cabernet Franc, this ultra-balanced wine had unmistakable Graves breed and typicality. Meaty, earthy notes on the nose, enviable structure and lingering stylish length.				
La Clarte de Haut-Brion (this is the new name for the second white wine, blended, of both Ch. Haut-Brion and Ch. La Mission Haut-Brion - previously under the names Les Plantiers de Haut-Brion and Laville Haut-Brion which are discontinued)	Pessac-Léognan	NT	17	18	This is a vibrant, juicy, well-defined wine laced with the honeyed smoothness of Semillon. It shares the same elegance that is so evident in its illustrious parents, Chateaux Haut-Brion Blanc and Ch. La Mission Haut-Brion Blanc. A luscious, lightly spicy wine for drinking while you wait for the big boys, and preferably, with a hearty meal.				
La Mission Haut Brion Blanc	Pessac-Leognan	NT	17.5	19	Another wonderful white wine, this offering is so balanced and full of flavour, it is a wonderful drink. The Semillon is very much to the fore, giving a honeyed, satiny texture and the Sauvignon Blanc adds some fresh, crisp acidity and aromas of grapefruit, to prevent it from being too heavy. Superb				
La Mission Haut-Brion Rouge	Pessac-Léognan	98-100	18	19.5	What can I say? This wine has it all, powerful, sumptuous, with every dark, brooding, intensely fruity adjective you can think of, teamed with exceptional structure, massive but noble ripe tannins, this wine is the opulent, luscious counterpoint to the quintessential elegance of the Haut-Brion.				
Le Clarence de Haut- Brion (formerly known as Bahans-Haut-Brion) Rouge	Pessac-Léognan	90-93	17+	18.5	The second wine of Ch. Haut-Brion, in any other company this would be the Grand Vin. Beautifully structured, showing mineral notes and plenty of the Graves terroir, this wine is a huge success and will repay several years ageing. Lovely smooth dark fruit, cedar notes and well-used oak combine to a silky, concentrated wine with great finesse.				
Les Carmes-Haut-Brion	Pessac-Léognan	90-92	17.5	18.5	As always, this little estate has produced exemplary and delicious wine. It is always a sure-fire bet and delivers in spades this year- elegance personified.				
Picque-Caillou Blanc	Pessac-Léognan	NT	16.5	18+	Delicious fruit, silky and creamy. Delightfully crisp with exotic flowers and very ripe white peaches. This wine, being more reticent and understated than many of its neighbours, nevertheless shows some serious finesse, reflecting the fact that the terroir is similar to its near neighbour, Ch. Haut-Brion.		This wine always sells out at En Primeur time, so this is your opportunity to get a case or two, if you can. We were fortunate to have a lovely family meal at the chateau on one of the nights with Paulin and his wife, Isabelle, while their 5 children floated around like butterflies. Maybe it was the chocolate I had brought as a little gift!		

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Picque-Caillou Rouge	Pessac-Léognan	85-86	16.5	18+	Concentrated but reticent at the moment. This wine will open out to a balanced very terroir-driven wine with notes of oak cinnamon and cloves. Not a heavy-weight, it is refreshingly silky and a pleasant relief from some of the slightly overweight offerings from the appellation.			17	55%M,45%CS, very elegant nose with subtle tobacco notes, well developed palate medium body plenty of ripeness, an impressive wine at this level and should be a value buy.
Smith Haut-Lafitte	Pessac-Léognan	96-98+*	16+	19	Massive very spicy cinnamon nutmeg and even cloves. Very balanced and a lot of fine grained new oak. Very complex satin tannins oak in balance and perfect. I liked it a lot this year because it was not too big and showy as it can be sometimes. Great success. The white was excellent too.				
Bourgneuf-Vayron	Pomerol	86-88	16	18	Very approachable on entry, big black intense fruit with liquorice and some chocolate notes. This wine can usually offer a good value Pomerol with plenty of class.	17	Sweet cherry fruit of crushed black currants. Cherries damsons quite confected caramelised fruit - yummy! Lovely soft and approachable finish even now.	17	Distinctive sweet fruit on the nose, palate a little austere at first but has a good underlying fruit base should develop well.
Certan de May	Pomerol	93-95	17.5	17	Big wine - alcohol a little too high for me. Mid-palate a little overcome with tannins. Very spicy and muscular. Has not yet knit and could end up a little clumsy although it might yet be a sleeper.	17	Cherry and black pepper notes here. Sweet fruit again but a little more power of tannins and general depth of flavour here. More masculine than feminine I think. Lots of spice.	18.5	Slightly restrained bouquet but developing, smooth creamy texture with very fine balance, layers of flavour that develop on the palate very intense, most impressive.
Clos l'Eglise	Pomerol	96-100	16.5		This chateau owned by Sylvie Garcin-Cathiard is always a winner although we did not taste here this year. Time constraints!				
Hosanna	Pomerol	98-100*	17	18.5+	A perfumed rich and powerful nose. Round and mouth-filling on entry- elegant and cool red and black fruits with good acidity; very mellow and smooth. A lot of ripeness here but not cooked	19	Deep dark juicy fruit on the nose with very luscious mouth feel. Lovely soft coating tannins, real sweetness here, as always. Very long finish and although it has quite a heated finish, the alcohol has plenty of fruit to absorb it. Very balanced and fine wine this year.	19	Most impressive exotic intense aromas and flavour, round and harmonious so complex with great length.
La Conseillante	Pomerol	95-98	17	18+	Dark fruit balance and depth of fresh berries. Supple tannins, full of finesse with huge length. A gorgeous wine.			18.5	A hugely concentrated wine with great refinement, very rich and round with terrific structure and impressive length.
La Fleur-Pétrus	Pomerol	96-98+*	17+	19.5	Wonderful balance with fine silky texture here. Deep purple, so smooth and elegant. Stunning wine. Fresh acidity and great clarity. One of my highlights of the vintage.	18.5+	Quite closed nose but with figs and sultanas present. Plum, damson and blackberry fruit on the palate. Long lingering finish. Quite a kick of refreshing acidity and green fruit. Perfect.	18	Charmingly elegant bouquet, ripe rich and intense, very compact and balanced with wonderful acidity and complex soft tannins on the finish
Lafleur-Gazin	Pomerol	87-89	16.5	18	Lighter style than other Moueix Pomerols. Elegant and earthy. Super balance with fresh acidity and fine sweet tannins and lovely fruit.	17	Quite a closed nose here. Very sweet fruit with cassis and plums to the fore. High soft powdery tannins if a little short on the finish. Lighter grade wine than the others in the Moueix flight.	17.5	Attractive developing bouquet, elegant creamy richness good weight harmonious fine balance impressive acidity soft tannins and good length.
Latour à Pomerol	Pomerol	92-94*	17.5	18.5	Overall, a slightly lighter style than most of the Pomerols, smooth and elegant if a little chewy, it has a creamy oaky finish.	18	Lovely sweet dark aromas of cherry and dark juicy plums. High fine tannins that blend in very well with the acidity. Well balanced potent wine.		
Le Pin	Pomerol	95-98	18	19+	Exceptional depth and balance. All the spices, very supple fruit tannins, fine and creamy, really lovely wine. My first time to taste Le Pin and I was highly impressed. I had expected a much bigger, almost over the top wine and was delighted with the breed and finesse of this tiny production.	19.5+++	Highly developed wine of complex fruit aromas of cassis, blueberry and strawberries as well. Lovely silky mouth-coating tannins that are very profound. Absolutely terrifyingly brilliant. Fantastic wine. I am at a loss for words here!		
Moulinet-Lasserre (this wine comes from Clos Rene estate)	Pomerol	NT	NT	18	Huge deep purple colour, massive fruit, supple tannins, really good acidity. Velvet, blackcurrant nose & cherries. Bright + fresh.	17	Powerful intensity of black cherries and cassis, juicy mouth feel and high soft round tannins with powerful mouth feel. Overall a lovely balance of fruit and acidity. Great intensity. Really good this year.		

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Pétrus	Pomerol	96-100	19		For the first time since 1995 vintage, I did not taste the Pétrus at this stage. But by all accounts it surpasses even the superb 1998 and the highly-rated 2000. Apparently a huge success.				
Plince	Pomerol	NT	16.5	18.5	Enormous mahogany depth. Purple edges with creamy coulis noses. Round soft entry, dry very fine tannins tobacco notes cedar with very good structure. Massive length.	17.5	Damsons and dark plums. Rounded wine with a little green, refreshing kick on the palate. Tannins a little grippy, but very soft. Long smooth finish. Good wine.	17.5	Very dense colour, well defined classy rich bouquet, smooth elegant round and supple, most appealing, value wine.
Rouget	Pomerol	91-93*	17	18+	Liked it. A tad sweet/sour but elegant and not extracted. Fine wine with a good future.				
Trotanoy	Pomerol	97-100*	18	19.5	Smooth chocolate, tobacco, cream with lovely balance a real whopper. Nose very intense with dark fruits and spices, complex layers. Seamless structure. Always a huge favourite of mine and this year is no different!	19	Very high fruit definition with cassis, black olives and a savoury twist (so early in its life!). Lovely fruit and concentrated fine round tannins on the palate. Wonderful length and balance. Very fresh acidity.	18.5	Very dense colour, concentrated bouquet with rich mulberry fruit, round and most intense with refreshing grip and a compelling long finish.
Angélus	Saint-Emilion	96-100	16	19	Really has the balance all in synch, huge but fresh. Velvet texture, powerful and opulent, yet has great elegance. Superb wine.	19	Massive high tannins but beautifully soft and supple even now. Really excellent fruit presentation. Will be lovely	18	Nose rather restrained, big concentration of flavour fine acidity and mouth filling tannins all the ingredients to age impressively.
Ausone	Saint-Emilion	95-97+	17.5+	19.5+	Incredibly sweet fruit and toffee also. Tannins are so fine that they dance. Acidity is perfect and superb and elegant length. Is exactly what it should be.	19.5	Highly aromatic wine with layers of blackberries, cassis and damson plums. Very silky and supple tannins lovely balancing acidity. Really sublime wine here full of elegance and complexity. How many layers does this wine have? An absolute cracker!		
Barde-Haut	Saint-Emilion	93-95	16.5+	18.5	This little gem of a property, owned by Sylvie Gardin-Cathiard, is making tight, intense and very elegant Saint-Emilion and this year it has excelled.				
Beauséjour Duffau-Lagarosse	Saint-Emilion	96-98	16.5+	18+	A huge, impressive wine, seemed a little hot on the entry but the massive fruit more than compensated as the flavour developed into layers of dark fruit, cedar and oak. A whopper without being crass.				
Belair- Monange	Saint-Emilion	94-96+	16.5	19	Excellent deep colour sweet dark fruit nose and very good acidity. All the usual elegance of the old Belair but with extremely juicy, clear red and black fruit. Acidity balances the long finish. Quite a lot of sweet spice. Smooth taut structure very long. Parker has at last seen the light!	18.5	Quite closed nose again here. On the palate lovely black cherry fruit very pointed fruit presentation (almost like a still-life painting!). High fruit presentation here again. Very sumptuous wine with lovely sweet spice overtones.	17	Bright youthful colour, attractive floral bouquet developing, round ripe fruit with admirable concentration.
Bellevue	Saint-Emilion	90-92	16	19	Superb massive clean expressive fruit though a big concentrated wine, it was in perfect balance, luscious and well defined. Great stuff!	17	Very good depth and fruit concentration.		
Bellevue-Mondotte	Saint-Emilion	95-100	16.5	18+	My first time tasting this one I think but I was most impressed. Smooth and luscious, concentrated dark fruit and good length.				
Canon La Gaffelière	Saint-Emilion	94-96	17	18	This one is good with a refreshing lift of acidity and elegance. Canon La Gaffeliere is one of the most traditional of Saint-Emilions and this year has excelled.				
Carillon De L'Angelus	Saint-Emilion	88-90	16	18+	Exemplary open sweet fruit; elegant and delicious, a wine for drinking the medium term for sheer pleasure.	18	Lovely sweet fruit, great length, excellent balance. Second wine of a superb house.		
Cheval Blanc	Saint-Emilion	98-100	18.5		Stellar as usual, but this one is said to really reach for the stars. Unhappily, we did not get there this year to taste but Jim Fitzgerald assured me it was beyond words!				
Clos de l'Oratoire	Saint-Emilion	91-93	17					17.5	90%M,10%CF. Intense bouquet with spicy star anise character on the nose, sweet ripe fruit with very good balance.

FEBVRE


Original thinking in wine




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Clos des Jacobins	Saint-Emilion	92-94*	16.5	19	Delicious, with lovely eloquent, intense fruit. Quintessence of Saint-Emilion, luscious and ripe yet in a traditionally elegant style.	17.5	Real step up in quality here velvet tannins and lovely fruit. Lovely balance with high soft and supple tannins. Quite smoky and intense.		
Clos Fourtet	Saint-Emilion	95-98	17.5	18	Very savoury and precise nice balance. Tannins are very good				
de Fonbel	Saint-Emilion	87-89	16	18++	Delicious acidity here with fresh ripe fruit; lovely pointed definition. There was a real touch of class and breed in all the wines shown at Ch. Ausone, and this was a delight.	18	Black cherries and lovely sweet fruit definition really centred quality here. Really excellent wine here not extracted at all. Lovely balance and complexity. Really good.		
Figeac	Saint-Emilion	NT	17+					18	Figeac often does not show well at these tastings but it was spot on this time, very complex bouquet already developing, richly concentrated with a very fine structure and great balance, a very successful wine.
La Chapelle d'Ausone	Saint-Emilion	93-95	16.5	18+	Meaty, warm on the nose with Indian spices. Big, dark fruit on the palate with notes of cinnamon and cardamom. In perfect balance.	18	Quite muted on the nose, but very concentrated on the palate. Very ripe cassis fruit and very supple tannins that are soft and elegant. This is an intense, high quality wine with lovely elegance and balance.		
La Commanderie	Saint-Emilion	87-89	16.5	18.5	Open, generous and fragrant nose with sweet and very ripe tannins, flinty acidity and very fine. Delicious and what I love to find in this appellation, grace and flavour.	17.5	Lovely elegant fruit. Sweetly intense and generous. Real quality here		
Larcis Ducasse	Saint-Emilion	91-94	17	18	A beautifully elegant presentation with direct, clean and succulent fruit, ripe soft tannins. Exceptional balance.			18.5	This wine really jumped out of the pack for me! A wonderfully expressive nose with big sweet fruit character, creamy and round and so elegant. The sort of style "R P" used to get very excited about!
Magdelaine	Saint-Emilion	92-94+	16+	19	As always, very clear and direct. Fabulous dark colour. Nutmeg notes, spicy oaky nose but integrated and fine. It expresses wonderful balance.	17.5++	Slightly dumb on the nose, light cherry notes. Lovely expressive fruit of damsons, black cherries with warm round and soft tannins. Great combination of fruit and tannin. Very elegant wine here with excellent balance.	18	Magdelaine has been performing very well over recent vintages, it shows a very classy exotic nose with a beautiful creamy lush ripe fruit based palate, very fine structure and balance.
Moulin Saint-Georges	Saint-Emilion	87	16	19+	Stunning! Perfect balance to this wine. Tannins here are exceptionally ripe. Incredible intensity of red fruit on the nose, perfumed and elegant. A real beauty from a top stable, Ausone.	18	This is a very very good wine with really vibrant and expressive fruit - a real feature of the vintage for me. Intense dark fruit aromas and real elegance. I hope and pray that there will be enough of this to go around.		
Troplong Mondot	Saint-Emilion	94-97	16.5	18	Very big wine. Brooding, with massive tannins. Is there enough fruit here to support the oak and extraction? Just overlaid at present I think. An enigma! But overall, it is there for the long haul and will repay in spades.			18.5	Troplong can be a bit up and down, but this is certainly on the up! A most impressive, rich, intense nose, big concentration of complex exotic flavours, a real blockbuster in style.
Calon-Ségur	Saint-Estèphe	92-94+	18		None of us got a chance to taste this but by all accounts, a very good vintage for them				
Cos d'Estournel	Saint-Estèphe	98-100*	16.5		Again, not tasted by us but apparently brilliant, a whopper with just about everything. One or two comments overheard thought it might be too enormous.				
Cos Labory	Saint-Estèphe	87-88+	17	18+	Super wine here. Lovely cedary nose with perfect balance. Attractive fruit and flowers perfume on the nose jumps out. Very elegant.	18++	Lovely musk tones, cedar notes and firm but very nice tannin presentation here. Lovely fruit definition here		
Lafon-Rochet	Saint-Estèphe	91-93*	16.5	19	Super wine. Mouthfuls of sweet fruit, smooth and elegant palate. Nose is so expressive of summer fruits and warm spice.	17	Lovely fruit definition here. Very sweet and expressive blueberry fruits here.	16	Tight nose yet ripe fruit developing on palate, rather firm tannins but good acidity and the structure is there.
Les Ormes de Pez	Saint-Estèphe	88-90	17+	17	Red and black fruits here. Very elegant with soft and ripe tannins, showing the signature highly attractive nose of this vintage in Saint Estèphe.	16.5	Deep colour, with dark ripe cherry fruit. Tannins that are ripe and soft. High alcohol again here.		

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Montrose	Saint-Estèphe	96-100*	16.5		Some mixed reports, some thought it too big but in general, a winner it seems.			18	75%CS,29%M,5%CF +PV, a ripe, intense nose very concentrated, well extracted with the rich, slightly firm tannins one often finds in youthful St Estephes
Branais-Ducru	Saint-Julien	92-95	16.5	17	Very charpenté, (pointed) on entry, sturdy, with alcohol perhaps a little high, but enough fruit to balance. Big tannins with just a little bitter twist on the finish. But it should improve as it has the necessary weight to last.	16	Lovely nose here. Fruit presentation is excellent with lovely mid-weight definition and long firm drying tannins, but lovely wine nonetheless.	16.5	65%CS,28%M,4%PV,3%CF, well developed bouquet with some lovely cedar notes, fine structure elegant with good acidity and soft balancing tannins, Branaire is often one of the bargains of the vintage.
Clos du Marquis	Saint-Julien	91-93	17		We did not taste this but Leoville Las Cases has been getting rave reviews and this one is certainly going to be good as well.		If I were a betting man I would take a punt on this wine sight unseen, as the estate has been to the forefront of quality for many years. If you are put off by the high prices of the Leoville-Las-Cases parent, take the teenager, Clos du Marquis as a worthy replacement.		
Ducru-Beaucaillou	Saint-Julien	96-98+	17		Excellent reports here from almost all commentators. Alas, we did not taste at Ducru this year.				
Gloria	Saint-Julien	91-93*	17	18+	Not always my favourite but on this occasion it shows a lovely intensity of red ripe fruit and a lot of poise.				
Gruaud Larose	Saint-Julien	92-94+	16.5	17.5	Rich intense nose of chocolate, dark fruit, smoke and spice. This is a much darker and more sinewy style with a big coating of fine tannins. A bit too much extraction? Just fades away a little.	18+	Really excellent wine with lovely juicy fruit presentation and balancing acidity. Real intensity on the mid-palate, almost luscious. Wonderful! This will really repay a period of ageing.	19	Such an impressive wine with a wonderfully concentrated bouquet round mellow and complex, great balance and length, this is a stunner!
La Croix de Beaucaillou	Saint-Julien	88-90	16.5		Second wine of Ducru Beaucaillou, it should drink well in the medium term. Not tasted by us.				
Lagrange	Saint-Julien	90-93	17	18	Rich and ripe vanilla fudge Juicy and creamy fruit very well balanced wine. Hint of tobacco and cloves.	18	High tannic structure and lovely summer fruit berry definition. A touch of leafiness on the finish that is actually refreshing.	17	54%CS,36%M,10%PV. Charming nose very elegant with good weight balance and length.
Langoa Barton	Saint-Julien	90-92+	16.5	19	Musky, smoky and round. A balanced wine, so elegant and the terroir shines right through. Some say it surpassed its big brother Leoville this year. Pretty "Even Steven" for me. Both were delicious, balanced and very elegant. Pencil shavings on the nose remind one of Loire Cabernet Franc but riper.	18	Lovely fragrant nose. Hints of pencil shavings and cedar oakiness. Really excellent, very juicy with wonderful fruit maturity and definition in this really lovely year for wine.	17.5	Most elegant charming style as usual, appealing sweet juicy fruit on the palate with wonderfully balancing acidity and tannins.
Léoville Barton	Saint-Julien	93-95+	17+	19.5	Just so condensed yet elegant, smooth, silky tobacco, cedar, toffee, cinnamon that evolves by the second. Sweet essence of flowers on palate - it has everything. Out on its own for elegance and freshness.	18+++	A magnificent nose of spices, dark berry fruits and savoury character. Really elegant wine. This is a big wine, with bigger alcohol than I would have thought, but it is counter-weighted by very expressive fruit. One to put in a very quiet part of the cellar and forget about for a decade, if you can wait that long!	18.5	Anthony Barton is thrilled with this vintage for his two properties saying it is one of the best he has ever worked with. Typical charm and elegance of St Julien really shines out here, a dense complex wine already augers well for a great future yet again.
Léoville Las-Cases	Saint-Julien	96-100	17		By all accounts, Las Cases excels this year. Sadly, not tasted!				
Léoville Poyferré	Saint-Julien	97-100*	17.5	19.5	Superb - its got depth, smoothness, compact and so defined, with rich, ripe soft fruit. Nose is very aromatic. I have been watching Poyferre closely for the past few years and this chateau is just getting better every year. This one is a stunner! Fabulous integrity.	18.5	This is a really lovely wine, quite one of the most improved wines from Saint-Julien in the last few years. Since 2006 this estate has really increased the quality. If you can't get Léoville, go for this estate! Lovely mid-weight condensed fruit and excellent length. A really really good wine.	18	60%CS,29%M,6%PV,5%CF, already showing a beautiful bouquet with distinct cedary notes a rich cassis character, super structure and fine balance with impressive finish.
Sarget de Gruaud Larose	Saint-Julien	NT	NT				This is the second wine of Gruaud Larose and we get an allocation every year that always sells out. A wine for the smart money for early drinking.		
Talbot	Saint-Julien	92-94	17	18+	Elegant and lovely - just perfect balance red summer fruits yet soft yielding tannins.	18+	Lovely rose and sweet fruit aromas on the nose. Really luscious mid-palate weight. A sumptuous wine. Lovely	18	65%CS,30%M,5%PV. Impressive perfumed nose, so elegant with soft round mulberry fruit flavours fine balance great acidity, a super performance.
Carmes de Rieussac	Sauternes	NT	NT				This is a wine that will really suit those of you with sweet "tooths" and with an eye to a budgeted purchase of sweeter wines from this region.		
D'Yquem	Sauternes	NT	19+		Not tasted by any of us I'm afraid!				

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Nairac	Barsac	NT	NT		Always a lovely elegant style of Sauternes/Barsac, understated but intense. Reported to be very good this year.					