

2004 Bordeaux pre-arrival offer



2004 Vintage – “Classic Bordeaux”

The hot and dry conditions in 2003 produced a small and very early crop. The weather and vines in 2004 went almost exactly the other way producing an extremely early and potentially prolific crop. Green harvesting, crop thinning and leaf plunking were necessary, production was still 7 million Hectolitres (2m more than 2003). In the winery, extensive triage, careful handling of the grapes and the use of saignée was essential to keep the wines balanced and avoid unwanted extracts. The results are mixed but the points to keep in mind are as follows:

- The better known growths and chateaux have the resources to facilitate extensive man hours required in hard vintages like 2004.
- Those who put in the effort have in general made quite austere wines with good natural acidity, firm tannins, and they are certainly not fruit bombs as seen recently.
- It is more a Right bank year with Cabernet Franc appearing to be the grape of the vintage, followed by Merlot from both Banks. For the left bank the appellations with more gravel based soils fared better.
- Sauternes has made some elegant botrytis wines in small quantities but this is not a great year.
- **The highlight of the campaign is the prices.** This is the year to top up your cellar with some of the biggest names going for a fraction of the price of previous years. We have only selected well known and highly regarded estates to offer in the knowledge they have put the work into the vineyards to get the wines right.
- If you are seeking a wine not listed, please don't hesitate to ask as it may be obtainable.

Notes by Jancis Robinson (JR), Robert Parker Jnr (RP) & James Suckling – Wine Spectator (WS)

Great Growths

2004 Ausone: “Very complex aromas of minerals, grapes and dried flowers. Hints of red licorice. Full-bodied, with a firm, racy tannin structure and a long, long finish. This is very close to 95-100” WS. RP 91-93 WS 92-94 JR 17+

2004 Cheval Blanc: “Incredible richness of Cabernet Franc here, with blackberries and dark chocolate character. This is full-bodied, with a solid core of fruit, but it's like a tightly knit ball of cashmere thread. The manager of the estate thinks it's better than his classic 2003. I think he may be right” WS. RP 93-95 WS 95-100 JR 18.5

2004 Haut Brion: RP 93-95 WS 92-94 JR 19

2004 Lafite Rothschild: “Only 40% of the crop made it into the 2004 grand vin, which is the antithesis of the opulent, powerful, concentrated 2003. The linear, elegant 2004 is a classic Lafite, revealing cassis, raspberry, graphite, and new earth-like characteristics. With terrific concentration, medium body, fresh acidity, and a vibrant, stylish taste, this blend of 90.5% Cabernet Sauvignon, 9% Merlot, and 0.5% Petit Verdot should be at its finest between 2010-2030” RP. RP 92-95 WS 92-95 JR 18

2004 Latour: “Healthy but not excessively deep crimson. Very dark, mineral, very Latour and classical. Iodine and other minerals. Great balance, Dense and fine, more polished than the old slightly more rustic style but with definite terroir expression. Great finesse and power all the way through. Although pretty tough and high in tannins with its IPT of 70, it also seems remarkably integrated rather than made up of entirely different elements. Lovely compaction. Quite a bit of acid. Lovely sweetness. Drink 2015-40” JR. RP 96-97 WS 95-100 JR 19

2004 Margaux: Notes not yet available

2004 Mouton Rothschild: Notes not yet available

2004 Pavie: “This is a compelling effort. A blend of 70% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc, and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon (cropped at 30 hectoliters per hectare), the 2004 Pavie represents the Lafite Rothschild of St-Emilion. A wine of great intensity, irrefutable minerality, a wonderful fragrance, and a tremendously long finish, this black/purple-colored, medium to full-bodied, vibrant effort boasts wonderful sweetness, but more minerality and definition than the blockbuster 2003 (which appears to be taking on more minerality as it ages). The 2004 is similar to the 2001, with additional focus and elegance. A profound effort, copious quantities of black raspberries, cherries, crushed rocks, and violets are followed by medium to full body, a precise palate with laser-like precision, beautiful fruit, a multilayered texture, and a long, sweetly tannic finish. Anticipated maturity: 2008-2025+” RP. RP 95-97+ WS 89-91 JR 16.5

2004 d'Yquem: This lively gold nectar has a super-powerful nose that comes leaping out of the glass, with just a hint of lemon oil from the Sauvignon (a full third of the blend this year) on top of the great whack of barley sugar richness of Semillon underneath. There is the most viscous pear juice sensation, good acidity, still some astringence and a great weight with a lovely fresh finish. Very persistent” JR. RP WS 95-100 JR 18.5

Recommended Growths & Chateaux

2004 Calon Segur: "Deep purple. Very concentrated and yet fragrant too (this is usually contradictory). Lively, well balanced, very fine tannins, silky textured. Good balance with lots of fruit on the front palate. Quite integrated with minerality like Latour. Mid weight (lighter than Latour). Confident and vivacious without a hint of tartiness" JR. RP 90-93 WS 89-91 JR 17.5

2004 Cannon: "Dark crimson which glows with health. Extremely bumptious ripeness - almost New World ripeness! Very, very sweet, and soft for a 2004. The tannins are the finest I have come across - one almost has to struggle to find them. A dancing lively wine with real finesse. This is the airiest right bank wine so far. Bravo. Pure pleasure. Although it may not be one of the longest lasting... Drink 2010-20" JR. WS 89-91 JR 17.5

2004 Cos d'Estoumel: *Not yet available*

2004 Domaine de Chevalier: "Rather splendid panoply of black fruits on the nose. Good lift, noticeable acidity and relatively light tannins. A wine that is not at all forced. Rather 'feminine' build. Will never make headlines but should be a pleasure to drink" JR. WS 85-88 JR 17

2004 Ducru Beaucaillou: *Notes not yet available*

2004 Gruaud Larose: The first of the big names to come out, and this is among the least expensive of the second growths. "Refined, with attractive fruit character, medium body and a silky tannin structure. Very good length and class on the palate. Long aftertaste." James Suckling. JR 16.5-, WS 89-91

2004 Haut Bages Liberal: Haut Bages Liberal is a wine, as mentioned above, that we have been following for a few years. The price has been kept at a very reasonable level, and the quality has been on the up. In fact given that this vineyard borders Latour, and is a fraction of the price, it is not surprising that people are getting on board. Jancis Robinson has described the 2004 as "a steal", and given it a great score. A recent tasting of the 2000 showed Haut Bages Liberal is getting it right. JR 17+, WS 85-88

2004 Haut Batailley: *Notes not yet available*

2004 La Lagune: "Fine deep colour, well-extracted blackcurrant fruit and quite rich and smooth on the palate, very positive fruit flavours and good balance, an aromatic, sophisticated wine with good presence and length. Drink 2010-20" Decanter. WS 87-89 JR 16

2004 Leoville Barton: Another excellent wine from Leoville Barton. This is probably the most popular Chateau that we sell in Australia. An excellent terroir and always a very reasonable price. Anthony Barton compares this to his 1996, which we currently have available at \$1275 a case. "A lovely wine with a pretty balance of fruit and ripe tannins. Full-bodied yet refined. Silky and beautiful, with blackberry and mineral character. Gorgeous for the vintage. You have to like this. Very close to 92-94." James Suckling JR 16 WS 89-91 RP 92-94

2004 Leoville Las Cases: "Intense aromas of black licorice, berries and currants follow through to a full-bodied palate, with lots of velvety tannins and a long, caressing finish. Builds on the palate. Reminds me of the 1996 Las Cases. May be better" WS. RP 91-93 WS 95-100 JR 17.5

2004 Leoville Poyferre: "it is an impressive St-Julien offering a deep ruby/purple color as well as a sweet bouquet of smoky cassis and cherries, medium body, and admirable concentration, purity, nobleness, and elegance. It's not a blockbuster, but rather a classic Bordeaux for drinking between 2008-2020" RP. RP 90-93 WS 89-91 JR 17+

2004 Lynch Bages: A perennial favourite, and a house that has been very consistent. Proprietor Jean-Michel Cazes compares the wine to the 1996 and 2001 vintages, both very successful for Lynch Bages. As always the price represents good value for money, with some commentators considering Lynch Bages to be a house where the 2004 is as good if not better than the 2003. "A good wine for the vintage, with berry and currant character and hints of chocolate. Medium to full-bodied, with silky tannins and a medium finish." James Suckling JR 16 WS 89-91

2004 Montrose: *Notes not yet available*

2004 Pavie Macquin: "One of the vintage's most impressive offerings... It offers an inky/purple color as well as a sumptuous perfume of creosote, blackberries, cassis, incense, and a balanced character. This full-bodied, rich 2004 is one of the most concentrated wines of the vintage with more texture than most. A brilliant effort, it admirably displays the high quality of this estate as well as its noble terroir. A wine for the connoisseurs, it should be at its peak between 2001-2015+" RP. RP 92-95 WS 89-91

2004 Pavillon Rouge du Margaux: "...this would be a great lesson in fine tannins for any aspiring winemaker. Despite the late harvest, the acid level is very respectable (ie refreshing). Good fresh, ripe fruit - very classic and will need quite as much time in bottle, if not more, as many Margaux cru classés." Jancis Robinson Pavillon Rouge is always one of the best second wines around, and at the moment it reflects the confidence and class of the whole operation at Ch Margaux. JR 17.5+, WS 89-91

2004 Troplong Mondot: Troplong has been a very good source for some years now. The 2004 (80% Merlot, 10% each Cabs Franc and Sauvignon) is well regarded by Jancis Robinson, James Suckling, and Robert Parker, who describes it as "layered, structured, backward, but enormously well endowed." This is a good price for Troplong Mondot in a vintage where the right bank has been very successful. JR 17, WS 89-91, RP 92-94

2004 Vieux Chateau Certan: One of the stars of the vintage. "Pure cashmere on the palate...incredibly long, silky tannins. An absolute joy to taste. In fact, it is amazing for the vintage. Seductive with a capital "S." This evokes the excellent 2000." James Suckling "...excellent ripeness as well as purity" Robert Parker. This wine has 25% Cab Franc, and 75% Merlot, but the success of the Cab Franc in 2004 has been a factor here. JR 18.5, WS 95-100, RP 90-93

Sweet Whites

2004 Climens: Climens is only available for tasting in separate lots at this stage as the wine has not been blended. It is the quintessential Barsac, and in price second only to Ch D'Yquem in most years. The 2001 is available from Bordeaux for an astounding 180 euros per bottle. Thankfully, this 2004 is much more reasonably priced. "...very promising with the usual miraculously satin texture. Very fat and satisfying for the vintage." Jancis Robinson JR 18

2004 Coutet: At one stage Australia was the reputedly the largest export market for Ch Coutet. It is always a good representation of Barsac, with its finesse and elegance, but also good sweetness and intensity. Very highly rated by Jancis this year, and at this price it appears a good buy, based on the prices of other vintages. "Mid copper. Serious botrytised wine on the nose with satisfying savoury notes. Rich and nuanced with extremely lively acidity and good length. Grownup wine. Long. A bit Toasty." Jancis Robinson JR 17.5 WS 89-91

2004 Filhot: *Notes not yet available*

2004 Rieussec: Outside of Ch d'Yquem, Rieussec is really the leading estate in the region, in terms of consistently producing excellent wines that also offer great value for money in an opulent Sauternes style. Climens and Latour Blanche also deserve mentions, Rieussec tends to offer better value than Climens (which in any case is a very different style), and has a more consistent strike rate than Latour Blanche, although the 2001 Latour Blanche is an incredibly delicious and concentrated example. The price of this wine is very reasonable, however with the surprisingly good 1999 Rieussec in stock and available now at \$690 a case, there is no compelling need to buy the 2004 en primeur, aside from ensuring that you get your preferred bottle size. Nevertheless, a good review from the Wine Spectator - "Full-bodied, with a lovely intensity and bright acidity. Long and elegant. The palate builds on the finish." JR 16.5 WS 92-94

2004 Bordeaux pre-arrival offer

June 2005

All wines are due for arrival mid 2007.



The Wines		Pricing per bottle		Order	Cost
		Single Price	Mixed case Price		
Ausone 1er grand cru (a)	St Emilion	\$555	\$500		
Cheval Blanc 1er grand cru (a)	St Emilion	\$555	\$500		
Haut Brion 1er cru	Pessac Léognan	\$370	\$335		
Lafite Rothschild 1er cru	Paulliac	\$370	\$335		
Latour 1er cru	Paulliac	\$405	\$360		
Margaux 1er cru	Margaux	\$370	\$335		
Mouton Rothschild 1er cru	Paulliac	\$370	\$335		
Pavie 1er grand cru (b)	St Emilion	\$290	\$260		
Chateau d'Yquem	Sauternes	\$450	\$405		
Calon Segur 3 éme	St Estephe	\$97	\$87		
Cannon	St Emilion	\$123	\$111		
Cos d'Estournel 2 éme	St Estephe	\$145	\$131		
Domaine De Chevalier	Pessac Léognan	\$80	\$72		
Ducru Beaucaillou 2 éme	St Julien	\$162	\$146		
Gruaud Larose 2 éme	St Julien	\$94	\$84		
Haut Bages Liberal	Paulliac	\$62	\$55		
Haut Batailley 5 éme	Paulliac	\$61	\$55		
La Lagune 3 éme	Haut Medóc	\$76	\$69		
Leoville Barton 2 éme	St Julien	\$101	\$91		
Leoville Las Cases 2 éme	St Julien	\$208	\$187		
Leoville Poyferre 2 éme	St Julien	\$94	\$84		
Lynch Bages 5 éme	Paulliac	\$108	\$97		
Montrose 2 éme	St Estephe	\$137	\$123		
Pavie Macquin grand cru	St Emilion	\$96	\$86		
Pavillon Rouge du Margaux	Margaux	\$90	\$81		
Troplong Mondot grand cru	St Emilion	\$98	\$88		
Vieux Chateau Certan	Pomerol	\$184	\$166		
Climens 1er cru 375ml	Barsac	\$78	\$70		
Coutet 1er cru	Barsac	\$86	\$77		
Coutet 1er cru 375ml	Barsac	\$45	\$40		
Filhot 2 éme 375ml	Sauternes	\$28	\$25		
Rieussec 1er cru	Sauternes	\$104	\$93		
Rieussec 1er cru 375ml	Sauternes	\$54	\$48		

Minimum order quantity is 3 bottles - which can be mixed. We reserve the right to adjust any orders if stock runs out, but will notify you prior to any changes. Please return this order form via post, email or fax (details below) asap. The nature of Bordeaux sales falls into a first come-first served basis.

Payment terms

The total price is as listed above. 50% is payable upon confirmation of order, with the balance (50%) due by December 31st 2005. There will be no additional charges, except in the unlikely event of a change to the Federal Government Wine Equalisation Tax (presently 29% of the wholesale cost of your purchase).

Name _____
Contact Tel _____
Contact Email _____

Payment Method (<i>Please select</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>)
<input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Diners <input type="checkbox"/> AMEX
Number _____
Expiry Date _____
Signature _____