

the innerCellar

Special Edition Newsletter

Dear Customer,

We began to get an indication of the potential quality of the 2010 Bordeaux vintage during the weeks leading up to the harvest last year and when our Bordeaux team went to taste barrel samples in April all the initial promise was confirmed. We remain optimistic due to our confidence in the long term future for the wines and the overall prospects for the market. Do bear in mind that this was a vintage that produced wines of great quality in even the more modest properties. As usual the top wines are on strict allocation and priority will be given to customers who have bought previously. Please do contact us directly if you have any enquiries.

– The Altaya Team

Bordeaux En-Primeur 2010

The following are wines which we feel have over-performed in this vintage and approach, or in some cases equal, first growth quality. These are twelve properties which have really seized the potential offered by the 2010 vintage.

Angelus	Ducru Beaucaillou	Montrose	Pontet Canet
La Conseillante	L'Evangile	Palmer	Troplong Mondot
Cos d'Estournel	Lynch Bages	Pichon Baron	Vieux Chateau Certan

Weather condition: The weather from December 2009 through to February 2010 was cold and harsh. This delayed bud-break until early to mid-April, a few days later than 2009. Flowering began in mid-May and led to satisfactory fruit set for both red and white varieties except for some Merlot vines. This problem for certain pockets of Merlot was the only major disruption to the smooth progress of the vintage. The temperature rose towards the end of June but was not excessively hot. In particular night time temperatures were noticeably cool, leading to higher acid levels than 2009. This has led to the 2010 vintage having a markedly fresher character which tends to offset the high levels of tannin and alcohol. Rainfall in August and September was well below average, ideal conditions for fully ripe, healthy grapes as the time of harvest approached.

Vintage Characteristics: For most of those tasting in Bordeaux last week, the difference in style compared with 2009 was remarkable. In contrast to the flattering, forward style of 2009 with the tannins masked by ripe fruit, 2010 showed higher acidity with firm tannins giving great structure which suggests potential for long ageing. The wines are by no means complete at this stage and time will tell but already comparisons have been drawn with 2005 and 2000.

Buying strategy: We see no reason to change to our usual policy of concentrating only on the top wines. This is a great, even very great vintage which has produced many wines which will evolve into classics. The chateaux owners are well aware of the quality they have produced and the level of interest in major markets so we are unlikely to see prices decrease. As always there will be reasonably priced wines on offer along with the big names. Our Bordeaux Sales Team is happy to guide you towards those wines which in our opinion offer the best value for money.

Tasting notes: All of the following wines were tasted by us in Bordeaux during the first week of April 2011. Our comments and ratings as well as those of Jancis Robinson (JR), Robert Parker / Wine Advocate (WA), and James Suckling (JS) are indicated on the following pages.

Bottling: Prices are for standard 750ml bottles. Wines can be bottled in half bottles, magnums or other formats for an additional charge. Please provide special bottling instructions before 31st August 2011.

Storage: There will be storage charges if we do not receive any shipping instruction before 30 Nov 2012. The charge will be HKD \$180 per annum per case or per large format bottle. Cellarage invoices will be raised on 1 January 2013. If you wish to collect your wine early, we will refund you with the remaining full month(s) storage fee on a pro-rata basis.

Shipping Cost: \$180 per case + Insurance (1.5% cost of wine). Please instruct us in advance for special shipping arrangements.

Offer: Please note that the following wines are offered ex-cellars Bordeaux. Minimum order is 1 case of 12 bottles (750ml) for each wine. If you need special bottling (half bottles, magnums or other large formats), please let us know at the time of order. They will be available for delivery in Spring/Summer 2013. Payment upon receive of invoice.

St. Estephe

Calon Segur 2010 (AWL 92-94) (JR 18) (JS 92-93) (WA 92-94+)

69.5 EUROS per bottle

AWL Dark ruby. Herbs, spices, ripe plums and creme de cassis aromas. Quite a rich earthy wine with good acidity. Grippy finish with copious minerality. **JR** Really racy and energetic on the nose (compared to Montrose..?) and with great savour on the palate. The press wine is a little evident at the moment. Very racy and fine and terroir-driven. No added sweetness. Neat and long and very authentic. **JS** A racy and refined red, with currants and hints of tobacco. Full and very silky. Delicate and elegant. Very long, with wonderful acidity. So friendly at this stage. A touch of fresh herbs. Like to see a little more concentration but outstanding. **WA** A concentrated, textured wine that requires a decade of cellaring. Notes of plums, kirsch, liquorice, incense and herbs. Full-bodied, moderately tannic, pure, fresh and precise, this beauty will require lots of patience from prospective purchasers.

Cos d'Estournel 2010 (AWL 96-98) (JR 18.5) (JS 96-97) (WA 95-97)

208 EUROS per bottle

AWL Crème de cassis, earth, chocolate, meat and minerals can be found on the palate. Coco beans, crushed red fruit. Fine acidity and very uplifting. Precise and impressive wine made with international style. Excellent effort! **JR** Real energy and vitality and racy stuff. Pure, refined perfect Cabernet – pretty rich and alcoholic underneath but much, much drier and more appetising than either the 2009. Minerals and fruit in a lovely tincture. Such great texture and nobility. Racy thoroughbred. Great balance and potential. Purity and energy - but you'll need to wait so long for it! **JS** This is a classic Cos, with wonderful layers of ultra-polished tannins and wonderful character of spices, currants and minerals. I love the finish and raciness to this. Lots of pedigree. **WA** Aromas of damp earth, black currants, blackberries, liquorice and charcoal. Firm, thick and super-concentrated, it is another outrageously impressive wine that will require 6-10 years of cellaring. It should keep for 30+ years. It is somewhat 2005-ish in its structure and palate impression.

Dame de Montrose 2010 (AWL 88-90) (JR 17) (JS 91-92) (WA 91-93)

36 EUROS per bottle

AWL Minerals, herbs and grapes in the nose. Medium weight. Fresh palate with a touch of saltiness. Quite firm in the end. A serious second wine. **JR** Lovely scented top note and then sumptuously round texture. Fresh and lively with good muscles. Excellent balance and really very flattering without being overripe or sweet. It finishes dry and minerally. Fine skinned. Really a very fine wine indeed – well done! **JS** The finesse in this wine is impressive for a second wine, with wonderful polish. Beautiful finish. **WA** One of the finest examples of this cuvee I have yet tasted. Intense blueberry and cassis fruit intertwined with floral notes, a plump, unctuous texture and abundant fruit characterize this seductive, fleshy wine.

Montrose 2010 (AWL 95-97) (JR 17) (JS 95-96) (WA 96-99+)

149 EUROS per bottle

AWL The nose is filled with dark fruit, gentle herbs, roasted meat, leather and minerals. This muscular wine expands on the palate and is supported with a big backbone. Ending with a sweet grapey and tannic finish. Definitely built for the long haul. **JR** Very different from classical austere Montroses but soft and charming. As a wine, it is extremely well made with just a little furriness on the finish. As a Montrose it's a bit disconcerting but my mark ignores this. Rather unusual lack of freshness. Just a bit plodding, astringent and sweet on the end. **JS** This is really integrated and polished, with a full body and super layers of cashmere-like tannins. Goes on and on. **WA** Glorious aromatics of blueberries, boysenberries, black currants and a crushed chalk-like minerality. The tannins are less intrusive than I would have suspected for such a young Montrose, but they are unquestionably ripe and well-integrated. Deep, full-bodied and massive, this beauty should be at its finest between 2018-2050.

Pagodes de Cos 2010 (AWL 90-92) (JR 17) (JS 92-93) (WA 90-93)

46 EUROS per bottle

AWL Smoke, herbs, black fruit aromas. Rich, very good concentration of fruit. Slightly spicy and oaky finish. Probably the best Pagodes ever made, comparable to 2009. **JR** Rich, somehow burnished fruit aromas. Very sweet and winning start and then pretty tight but in some years in the past this would have looked like a pretty good classed growth. Very slightly lean on the finish and a little tarry but well done and supple until the very end, which is a bit sudden. **JS** Love the nose of this wine, with spices and berries and currants. Full and very refined, with super silky tannins and a long, long finish. **WA** Possibly the finest Pagodes the estate has produced, this 2010 is better than many vintages of Cos d'Estournel produced in the sixties and seventies. Plump and fat with an abundant concentration of black fruits as well as outstanding intensity, purity and texture.

Pauillac

d'Armailhac 2010 (AWL 91-93) (JR 17) (JS 92-93) (WA 89-92)

37 EUROS per bottle

AWL Roasted herbs, red berries and minerals in the bouquet. Sweet, light cedar, red cherries flavours. Nice weight. Quite expressive. A masculine Armailhac. **JR** Very luscious start to the palate and some lovely structure. Really appetising and very dry on the end. Pauillac gravelly flavours. Long. Well balanced. No brute but no coquette either. Great vivaciousness and balance. **JS** Very strong and muscular d'Armailhac with mineral and currant character. Full, linear and toned. Very racy and long. Plenty of finesse too. **WA** A pronounced nose of underbrush, cedarwood, liquorice and black currants. This attractive, elegant, mid-weight Pauillac should be drinkable early in life and last for 15+ years.

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Carruades de Lafite 2010 (AWL 92-93) (JR 17.5) (WA 91-94)**295 EUROS per bottle**

AWL Generous plummy and black cherries notes in the bouquet. Medium to full-bodied. Very good minerality on the palate with a spicy and sweet finish. Very powerful for Carruades. Well done! **JR** Very savoury and glossy. Immediate polish on the nose here. Raspberries and tar. Great intensity and fluidity. Really this is SO much better than it used to be. Very fine wine by any measure. Bone dry. Minerals and chew on the end but no rustic tannins. Very fine and long. **WA** May turn out to be one of the finest yet produced. Notes of charcoal, black currants, sweet cherries, liquorice, herbs and cedar are all present in this full-bodied, opulent, stunning second wine. It will be drinkable upon release and should last for 20 or more years.

Clerc Milon 2010 (AWL 92-94) (JR 17) (JS 95-96) (WA 91-93)**54 EUROS per bottle**

AWL The nose is filled with crème de cassis, soy sauce, licorice and minerals. Ripe herbs, earth and intense fruit. Fantastic and serious wine. Powerful. **JR** Very ripe nose. Very thick, ripe and dramatic. Loose and a bit formless with a dry finish. There's a little tart note in there which some people might find a bit much. Drying finish. Fades rather fast. But overall there is succulence. It is clear that a lot of work has gone into this. **JS** I can't remember tasting a young Clerc as exciting as this since the 1980s. Fascinating aromas of blackberries and currant jam. Very deep. Tar too. Full and very dense. It just tickles the tip of your tongue. So much there. **WA** Notes of incense, creme de cassis and flowers and a broad, rich wine with superb purity, concentration and depth. This layered, expansive effort could turn out to be one of the finest this estate has ever made. Give it 3-5 years of cellaring and drink it over the following two decades.

Duhart Milon 2010 (AWL 93-95) (JR 17+) (JS 91-92) (WA 94-96)**110 EUROS per bottle**

AWL Cedar, minerals and spices aromas. Good attack. Muscular palate with a fine middle palate. Firm tannic and chewy finish. **JR** Sweet prune start – looks much more intense than Carruades, presumably because of all the Cabernet. Very introvert; not much nose. Juicy, fresh and liquorice – lots of energy. Lots of freshness. Dry finish. Very subtle but with extremely marked tannins. Just a little rugged. But the fruit is wonderfully concentrated. **JS** Pure Cabernet with currants, violets and minerals on the nose. Full and polished with ultra-refined tannins and a wonderful intensity of spices and sweet tobacco. **WA** A classic Pauillac, reveals beautiful notes of creme de cassis, licorice, tobacco leaf and forest floor. Bigger and more muscular than most previous vintages, this full-bodied Pauillac possesses stunning density as well as intensity.

Grand Puy Lacoste 2010 (AWL 94-95) (JR 17) (JS 95-96) (WA 93-96)**64.5 EUROS per bottle**

AWL Fragrant nose of spices, kirsch, black fruit and sweet minerals. Fresh palate with good density, structure and ripeness. Slightly toasty flavours in the long finish. **JR** Sweet start but without great intensity on the mid palate. Very chewy end. Just a bit awkward and unfocused. Correct balance though with good Pauillac character. I'm just a little worried about the freshness of samples. I may well have underestimated this usually very reliable wine. **JS** Lovely aromas already, with currants and blackberries. Full body, with very fine, yet dense tannins and a rich finish. Reserved and sophisticated. Noble tannins. **WA** The fabulous 2010 reveals all the hallmarks of this estate. Classic notes of creme de cassis, blueberries, blackberries, crushed rocks and flowers, sweet tannin and an exceptionally full-bodied and multilayered mouthfeel as well as a boatload of tannin. Cellar it for a decade and drink it over the following three decades.

Les Forts de Latour 2010 (AWL 94-96) (JR 18) (JS 94-95) (WA 92-95)**208 EUROS per bottle**

AWL Notes of minerals, plums and rose petals. Delicious, ripe fruit. Very lush and round. **JR** Scented and supple on the nose! Oddly enough this seems lighter than one might expect from this vintage and name – has it absorbed all the lighter cuvées? Really quite luscious and sweet. Very rich for Forts. Very flattering and winning. The open face of Latour. A bit sweeter than usual – very much the open face. Less classic Latour than usual. **JS** This is hyper fine, with beautiful tannins that are incredibly integrated. Full and super intense. Licorice and currants and violets. Splendid. Violet and mineral, with hints of blackberry and blueberry on the nose. Full-bodied, with superreserved and refined tannins, yet dense and very impressive. Long and racy. Lasts for minutes. **WA** Possibly the most profound Forts de Latour ever produced. Super-concentrated as well as unctuously textured and opulent, this pure, deep Forts de Latour should drink well for 25-30 years. It is as great as the prodigious 1982, which is still drinking well at age 29.

Lafite 2010 * (AWL 98-100) (JR 19) (JS 100) (WA 98-100)**1,180 EUROS per bottle**

AWL Knock-out cedar, spices, minerals and vanillin in the amazing bouquet. Very plush and ripe on the mouth. Delicious and syrupy fruit with great classic and finesse characters of a grand Lafite. Very masculine structure yet fresh and supple. Finishing very long (minutes) and with a dash of caramel and chocolate. This will go down as one of the legends and will age extremely well. **JR** Lovely Lafite scent – recognisable member of the family with a hint of oyster shells. But some extra breadth, even fat, this year. Hugely ambitious. Dense and quite dry on the end. But with Lafite breed and race. Somehow manages to have real roundness, covering the notable acidity and doubtless tannins which are very difficult to discern. Already a marvel and a pleasure to taste. Lovely, lovely balance. **JS** Believe the hype. Lafite is perfect in 2010. The nose is amazing with sweet tobacco, dark chocolate and currants. It is amazing. It's like gazing into the blue sky in wonder after tasting this young wine. Full and powerful with amazing minerals, currants and bitter chocolate. It starts off slowly and then finishes with a bang. This is really layered and wonderful. It goes on and on. Stunning. **WA** This exceptionally rich, thick Lafite came in with the highest level of natural alcohol (13.5%) ever achieved at Lafite Rothschild. Unctuous texture and sweet black currant fruit intermixed with graphite, charcoal and truffle notes. A director Charles Chevalier told me, between July and the October harvest, Bordeaux had its driest weather since 1949, but it never got excessively hot. Hence the tiny berries, freshness and extraordinary precision of Lafite Rothschild. This superb effort will undoubtedly shut down slightly once it is bottled despite a pH of 3.8.

Latour 2010 * (AWL 98-100) (JR 19) (JS 98-99) (WA 98-100)**1,080 EUROS per bottle**

AWL Impressive nose of kirsch, cassis, minerals, licorice and spices. Full-bodied and generous mouthfeel that is filled with abundant fruit and exotic spices. Perfect wine! **JR** Again, more 'glamour' than I expected. Especially on the nose. Very ambitious and gorgeous. Thick and dense and hugely long term and dry on the end. Spices – something quite Asian about this – a hint of Szechuan pepper. Explosive. Super dry and introvert but with great velvety texture. So introvert and super dry, super Latour. Monumental. The massive fruit lurks underneath the very ripe tannins at the moment. **JS** The quality of the tannins and density of fruit is truly beautiful. This is so focused, with purity and beauty. The 1990 Latour came into my head when I tasted this (twice). It starts off slowly and then builds and builds and builds. So intellectual. A superb wine with precision. **WA** Appears to be a huge and massive Pauillac fruit bomb. Possessing abundant amounts of everything, it even eclipses the 2009 in terms of power with a lower pH and higher total acidity. Extraordinary perfume of spring flowers, blueberry, blackberry and cassis liqueurs and hints of white chocolate as well as earth intermixed with vague charcoal and truffle-like components. With unreal concentration, full-bodied power, and a precision, freshness and refined level of tannins that are something to behold, this remarkable offering is one of my personal favourites of the vintage. It will undoubtedly shut down after bottling and enjoy 50-60 years of longevity.

Lynch Bages 2010 (AWL 95-97) (JR 16) (JS 98-99) (WA 95-97)**123 EUROS per bottle**

AWL Exotic spices, minerals, new leather, cedar and freshly crushed berries can be detected on the nose. Full-bodied, concentrated and weighty. Maximum ripeness and intensity. Great firm structure and finish. Extremely long. Probably the most powerful Lynch Bages ever. Really impressive! **JR** Dense and superripe. Sweet black-cherry notes on the nose but rather awkward and tart on the palate. Rather 'styled' somehow. Not very well integrated. Really quite hard work with drying green notes on the end. **JS** What incredible precision and clarity. Currants, minerals, mint and lead pencil. Full body, with super-refined tannins and a long, long finish. I am loving this young wine. Builds on the palate. **WA** Blew me away on each occasion I tasted it during my two week sojourn in Bordeaux. Tannic and concentrated, this huge Pauillac boasts impressive notes of creme de cassis, smoke, graphite and spring flowers. This dense, seriously endowed, monstrous Lynch Bages is reminiscent of some of the wines made at this estate in the 1950s, 1960s, 1970s and 1980s.

Mouton 2010 * (AWL 97-99) (JR 18.5) (JS 99-100) (WA 97-100)**750 EUROS per bottle**

AWL Charming nose with black fruit, kirsch, spices, mint and chocolate. The unctuous, powerful and thick wine slowly grows and expands on the palate. Gorgeous spicy flavours and mouthfeel. Superripe with lots of refined and sweet tannins. A marvelous Mouton with great purity, concentration and length. Will need plenty of time. **JR** Very opulent and heady on the nose. Lovely perfume. Lots of fully ripe black fruits. Amazingly polished – so much so that you are almost distracted from the huge tannic charge. Very, very polished middle palate. Bone dry, pretty tannic finish. **JS** This is pure Mouton. The aromas to this wine are so fabulous. I thought right away back to the 1947, one of the great classics of Mouton. Menthol, minty, light eucalyptus, currants and dark fruits on the nose. Full bodied, with super intense and powerful fruit and tannins. So unique for a first growth. **WA** A 50-60 year wine that is not meant for consumers looking for near-term gratification. This backward, tannic, full-bodied, exceptionally promising 2010 reveals enormous weight along with extravagant levels of precise, fresh boysenberry and creme de cassis fruit. The abundant minerality is due no doubt to the fresh acidity.

Le Petit Mouton 2010 (AWL 92-94) (JR 16) (JS 94-95) (WA 90-93)**155 EUROS per bottle**

AWL Red berries, plums and minerals flavours. Delicious wine. Well-balanced and very round. Velvety tannins. **JR** A slightly green note arising, and quite slim on the palate. Fresh and easy and certainly no excess of tannin on the basis of this sample. An easy wine that seems much less ambitious than the other 'seconds of the firsts'. Sweet on the finish. Then a little inky. **JS** This is really exceptional with beautiful chocolate and blackberry character. It's full and velvety with gorgeous ripe tannins. Loving this. Wonderful richness and length. **WA** May be finest second wine Mouton Rothschild has yet produced. The selection process is unquestionably severe, and the 2010 Le Petit Mouton is even higher in alcohol than the grand vin. Abundant cassis, supple tannins and more near-term pleasure can be found in this full-bodied, rich, impressively endowed effort.

Pichon Baron 2010 (AWL 96-98) (JR 18) (JS 95-96) (WA 97-99+)**149 EUROS per bottle**

AWL Intense black cherries, licorice, sweet spices and minerals in the lightly vanilla-laced bouquet. Powerful. Great structure and depth with such ripeness and freshness. Minerally and syrupy finish. Will live long. Very impressive! **JR** Very sumptuous nose with rather more interesting nose than most at this early stage. Very rich and sumptuous and gorgeous on the palate. Lovely complete expression of the ripeness of both fruit and tannin in 2010. Dry and cool on the finish. Very complete. Tea-leaf aromas and lovely texture. Unctuous and much less dry on the end than many 2010s. This should be a lovely wine that could be broached relatively early but will last. **JS** This has wonderful purity of fruit with currants, blackberries and liquorice on the nose and palate. Full body, with velvety yet polished tannins and a long, long finish. Roses and flowers at the end. Tar too! **WA** It was absolutely compelling on each of the three times I tasted it. Super concentration and richness as well as full body, it offers an awesome display of creme de cassis, blackberry liqueur, liquorice, camphor and spring flowers. Stunningly pure and unctuously textured with high but sweet, well-integrated tannins, this superstar of the vintage is definitely a wine to purchase as a future.

Pichon Lalande 2010 (AWL 94-96) (JR 17+) (WA 92-95+)**149 EUROS per bottle**

AWL Beautiful nose with ripe dark fruit, vanilla, spices and cedar. Fine core of juicy fruit. Silky and polished tannins. Long ripe finish. **JR** Very rich and supple. Round and flattering. Mid weight and nicely balanced. Very easy, representative, succulent example of 2010. Lots of integrity. **WA** Thick, unctuous style with fresh blackberry and cassis fruit intermixed with hints of graphite, herbs and coffee. The vintages tell-tale minerality is present in this structured, tannic, backward effort.

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Pontet Canet 2010 (AWL 95-97) (JR 17.5+) (JS 97-98) (WA 96-100)**125 EUROS per bottle**

AWL Black plums, cherries, intense spices and hint of oak and vanilla in the really gorgeous and attractive bouquet. Great freshness, density, depth and length. Very well-structured and refined. Firm finish. **JR** Dense, rich and minty on the nose with real density. Lots of luscious chew. This is clearly from a great vintage with huge vivacity. Heavy undertow. Long. Minerals and firm. Racy. **JS** What a nose of black currants, minerals and blueberries. Flowers too. Liquorice. Full bodied, with a wonderful texture of super refined tannins and a long, long finish. A beautiful concentration of fruit and purity and precision. So clear and focused. Super, super long. The tannins and finish are all in balance. **WA** A remarkable, full-bodied effort it is of first-growth quality (some may even argue that it eclipses several first-growths). Dense purple to the rim, it offers classic notes of creme de cassis, graphite, subtle smoke and spring flowers. Multidimensional with massive concentration as well as vivid purity, precision and freshness, this is another astonishing effort from an obsessive/compulsive proprietor who is doing everything right.

Reserve de la Comtesse 2010 (AWL 88-89) (JR 16.5) (JS 90-91) (WA 89-91)**34 EUROS per bottle**

AWL Floral, liquorice aromas. Medium-bodied. Fine acidity. Firm tannins. **JR** Intense and flattering – on the nose anyway. Creamy texture. This would be a lovely introduction to the vintage. Just a little dry and drying on the end but it's gorgeous on the front palate. I think the frontal charm would flatter enormously. Sweetness and flattery. **JS** This starts up slowly and moves on with speed. Super fine tannins and a mineral and flower and spice. Full and silky. **WA** Loads of chocolatey, herbal, black currant fruit and mocha-infused notes in a dark plum/purple-tinged, fleshy style.

St. Julien**Beychevelle 2010 (AWL 92-93+) (JR 17) (JS 93-94) (WA 90-92)****65 EUROS per bottle**

AWL Very fruity sweet nose with violets and floral character. Big structure for the estate with lovely freshness and rich tannins. **JR** Slightly simple toasty oak nose. Pretty chewy palate. Very dry tannins! Very pure expression but it will need a great deal of time to show itself in any flattering light. **JS** Mineral, lemon grass and berries on the nose. Full bodied, with ultra-fine tannins and a wonderful finish. Lasts for minutes. This is the best Beychevelle in years. Maybe decades. **WA** Flowery blueberry, red and black currant fruit notes intermixed with a hint of damp earth emerge from this wines moderate aromatics. Elegant with medium body as well as a classic Beychevelle style with high tannins and a more restrained structure, the elevated tannins suggest 7-8 years of cellaring will be necessary.

Branère Ducru 2010 (AWL 92-94) (JR 17) (JS 93-94) (WA 93-95)**54 EUROS per bottle**

AWL Bright cherries, minerals and crème de cassis aromas. Spicy notes on the very fresh and elegant palate. Good power leading to a long finish. **JR** Nice freshness on the nose. Very round and supple and polished. Opulent without being sweet. More approachable than most of the 2010s I have tasted so far. Fresh and the fruit almost disguises the marked tannins on the finish. **JS** This is very clear and precise, with blackberry and liquorice and hints of toasted oak. Full bodied, with super refined tannins and a pretty finish. It's there. This is very classy and elegant. Tight and refined. Polished. **WA** A fabulous effort, the 2010's notes of raspberry jam, black currants, crushed rocks and spring flowers are followed by a wine of impeccable purity, medium to full-bodied power, sweet tannin and stunning texture and length. With superb richness and beautiful overall equilibrium, it will benefit from 4-5 years of cellaring and keep for 25 or more years.

Clos du Marquis 2010 (AWL 91-93) (JR 17) (JS 92-93) (WA 91-93)**40 EUROS per bottle**

AWL Deep ruby/purple colour. Dark fruit, spices, violets and minerals can be found in the nose. Fabulous mouthful of fruit. Medium to full-bodied with a sweet finish. Built for the long haul. **JR** Rich, round and polished. Easy and fun and really attractive, even if not for the long term. Very fine tannins – the most glamorous wine from this stable. **JS** A little tough now but a solid core of currants and blueberries. Full body, with chewy tannins and a bright, crisp acidity on the finish. **WA** A relatively big wine at 13.6% natural alcohol, with loads of black cherries, black currants and crushed rocks in a medium to full-bodied format. Layered, intense, high-class and complex, this wine should drink nicely for 15 or more years.

La Croix de Beaucaillou 2010 (AWL 90-91) (JR 17) (JS 92-93) (WA 90-92)**37.5 EUROS per bottle**

AWL Black purple colour. Fresh round fruit and generous. Delicious. **JR** No longer a second wine but from a plot in the centre of the appellation with less estuarine influence. Very deep crimson. Very rich and round. Suave and convincing. Lots of life and masses of fruit. **JS** What a beautiful nose, with currants and spices and hints of filtered coffee. Full and silky, with beautiful texture and length. Excellent. **WA** Sweet mulberry and boysenberry fruit intermixed with liquorice, forest floor and earth are followed by an opulently textured, fleshy wine that is dense and outstanding. I joked with Bruno Borie that the second wine is probably better than many of the Ducru Beaucaillous produced in the 1970s.

Ducru Beaucaillou 2010 (AWL 97-98) (JR 18) (JS 99-100) (WA 96-98+)**168 EUROS per bottle**

AWL Black centre. Penetrating nose of black plums, exotic spices, sweet minerals and minerals. Full-bodied and so ripe. Very rich and fresh tannins. **JR** A return to something drier and more classical. It's all about the quality of tannins, according to Bruno Borie. Very firm and solid and confident – all from terroir. You could stick a spoon up in it, but in a good way. Drier and more grown-up than in some previous years. Very long term. Perfect for those who seek something really serious. **JS** I can't believe the precision and complexity in this wine. This is really amazing with minerals, berries, currants and blackberries. Full and extraordinary. It goes on and on and on. Tasted twice. Best ever from Ducru. **WA** A truly remarkable wine, with a beautiful nose of creme de cassis, spring flowers and crushed rock, this full-bodied, sensationally concentrated wine has massive richness, high but very sweet tannin, and stunning purity and depth. Proprietor Bruno Borie seems to have pulled out all the stops in turning out an absolutely compelling effort that is the essence of Ducru Beaucaillou.

Gruaud Larose 2010 (AWL 91-93) (JR 16) (JS 93-94) (WA 92-94)**50 EUROS per bottle**

AWL Cedar, earth and minerals in the aromas. Leathery and slightly herbal notes on the palate. Good concentration. **JR** Sweet black-cherry aromas. Oddly tarted up for a St-Julien. Just lacks a bit of depth and savour but it is certainly flattering and has applied its make-up very carefully. Awkward amalgam of assorted elements. **JS** Blueberry, currant and citrus fruit character on the nose and palate. Full and chewy with ultra-fine tannins and a bright acidity. **WA** Finest Gruaud Larose since the 2000 and 1990. The opaque purple-coloured 2010 exhibits copious notes of Asian plum sauce, spice box, creme de cassis, loamy soil and a beefy/meaty character. It is full-bodied, dense and powerful, with stunning purity.

Lagrange 2010 (AWL 90-92) (JR 16.5) (JS 94-95) (WA 89-92)**43.5 EUROS per bottle**

AWL Freshly crushed berries. Elegant and quite rich. **JR** Headily perfumed. Sweetly charming on the front palate and then it segues into structured chew. Real vitality here. Very cool and dry on the end – not succulent at this stage! **JS** A wine with very pretty balance and length already. Full body, with a wonderful core of ripe fruit and a persistent silky finish. Lasts for a long time. Dense. **WA** A backward, muscular/masculine style of St-Julien, it reveals abundant tannin along with a subtle hint of vanillin intermixed with lead pencil shavings, white chocolate, black currant and cassis characteristics. Although less expressive than some of its 2010 peers, it is a big, powerful, rich wine that needs a decade of cellaring.

Langoa Barton 2010 (AWL 91-93) (JR 17.5) (JS 93-94) (WA 90-92)**50 EUROS per bottle**

AWL Saturated purple colour. Plummy and minerally aromas. Generous, ripe and supple. Very good grip with refined tannins. **JR** Notably ripe with black fruits on the nose. Then sinew and a cool finish but much more luscious than some St-Julien. Not tarted up. A very good ambassador for the vintage's characteristics. Dry finish. Very fine tannins. Succulent fruit on the nose. Lively and polished and with real vitality and pzazz. Still very embryonic with lots of fine tannins. **JS** What a depth of fruit here, with dark chocolate and currants and blackberries. Full and velvety. Wonderful texture. Like it. Better than 2009. **WA** Softer than I expected given the highly extracted, exceptionally tannic wines routinely produced by proprietor Anthony Barton, the oaky, powerfully concentrated, dense 2010 Langoa Barton possesses silky, well-integrated tannins. Nevertheless, the level of wood and the primary nature of the black currant and black cherry fruit suggest 7-8 years of cellaring will be essential.

Leoville Barton 2010 (AWL 94-95) (JR 17.5+) (JS 97-98) (WA 91-93+)**80 EUROS per bottle**

AWL Concentrated nose with freshly crushed black fruit, minerals and cherry liqueur. Full-bodied. Lots of ripeness, energy and power with good acidity and a big tannic finish. For the very long term. **JR** Less obviously aromatic than the Langoa 2010. Drier but still very ripe and voluptuous. Tea leaves and a savoury note. Real energy. This should be a very long-term player. **JS** This is phenomenal, with dark fruits, with cassis and blackberries Full and super silky, with incredible fruit and ripe tannins. It goes on and on. So much depth of fruit here. Barton is on a roll again in this vintage. **WA** Surprising amounts of oak, excruciatingly painful tannin levels, good acidity and a massive mouthfeel. One of the biggest, most backward wines of the vintage, forget it for a decade and drink it over the following 30+ years.

Leoville Las Cases 2010 (AWL 95-97+) (JR 17.5) (JS 95-96) (WA 95-98)**220 EUROS per bottle**

AWL Fantastic nuances of ripe black fruit, sweet spices, vanilla, oak and cherry liqueur in the bouquet. This minerally wine is very muscular and powerful, probably the biggest in the Medoc. A classic Las Cases with enormous potential but will need plenty of time. **JR** Very introvert and very dry. Super-sweet start and initially seems much rounder and less obdurate than usual. Though those dry tannins certainly creep up on you at the end! Some silkiness and glorying in the special ripeness of the Cabernet in this wine. Very dry end. Not that long funnily enough. A certain transparency that is not usually there. **JS** This is very silky, with a racy and fresh character of violets, currants and raspberries. Full with a super texture. Racy structure. Reminds me of the 1996. **WA** A classic, fresh, yet backward style. A full-bodied style of Las Cases, with classic sweet kirsch, graphite and black currant fruit as well as hints of new saddle leather and subtle oak. Backward, layered and multi-dimensional, the wine is stunningly rich, but brooding.

Leoville Poyferre 2010 (AWL 93-95) (JR 17.5) (JS 93-94) (WA 95-98)**100 EUROS per bottle**

AWL Pungent oak, black fruit and hint of minerals in the bouquet. More expressive on the mouth. Creamy palate with copious fruit and minerals. Large frame and huge grip with this powerhouse. **JR** Very fine and sophisticated on the nose. Both concentration and lift but then perhaps just a bit too concentrated on the palate? Certainly very attention grabbing with lots of very ripe, very dry fruit. Lustrous. With some welcoming appeal. Pure, luscious Médoc Cabernet. Very long and vibrant. **JS** This is so velvety and beautiful with a juicy, orange peel, raspberries and currant character on the nose and the palate. Full with a long, long finish. Wonderful texture to this wine. Dense and yummy. **WA** One of the prodigious wines of the vintage. Sweet perfume of spring flowers, black raspberries, creme de cassis and a hint of spicy oak. This seamlessly constructed St-Julien possesses massive concentration, moderately high tannins, abundant glycerine, an unctuous texture, remarkably fresh acids and wonderful precision.

Talbot 2010 (AWL 90-93) (JR 17) (JS 92-93) (WA 91-93)**44 EUROS per bottle**

AWL Delicate sweet fruit and herbs can be found on the smokey nose. Medium-bodied with good creaminess and juiciness. Quite a firm structure for this estate. **JR** Delightful, rather floral fragrance. Medium weight. Polished and fine. A really very winning wine with great balance even if it is not the most intense 2010. For relatively early drinking. **JS** This super focused and firm, with a bright and intense fruit. Full and super silky, with a long, long finish. Super straight and beautiful. **WA** Abundant amounts of sweet, up-front fruit give this wine a precocious appeal compared to many of its brethren. Sweet boysenberry, black currant, cherry, smoke and liquorice aromas and flavours. This deep, medium to full-bodied, classic Talbot should be approachable when released, and age effortlessly for 15 or more years.

Margaux

Alter Ego de Palmer 2010 (AWL 92-93+) (JR 17) (JS 91-92) (WA 90-92)

46 EUROS per bottle

AWL Saturated ruby. Attractive and generous bouquet of sweet spices, minerals, crème de cassis, flowers and glycerol. Medium weight with lovely ripeness, roundness and elegant finish. Fine indeed. **JR** Markedly aromatic. Lifted with a strong undertow. Racy and vibrant, just a little green note there and even orange peel. Great tension and even a little sucking-stone character. Much more structure than usual. **JS** Floral and blackberry and currant. Full to medium body. Round and velvety with chocolate and nuts. Firm and structured. **WA** The 2010 is the richest ever made. Thick and juicy, its black fruits intermixed with acacia flowers, camphor, and subtle smoky notes are followed by a plump, corpulent style of wine with loads of fruit, glycerine and texture.

Brane Cantenac 2010 (AWL 92-94) (JR 17) (JS 91-92) (WA 93-96)

61 EUROS per bottle

AWL Plummy nose with sweet herbal notes. Fresh and very elegant on the palate with plenty of dark fruit. A real beauty with the right balance of power. **JR** Exotic nose with some spice and aromas of old-ladies' handbags. Really rather rewarding on the nose but on the palate it seems a little too sweet and soft. Then becomes a bit green and astringent. Awkward, though there are interesting elements here. Should come right in the end. **JS** Balanced and polished, with pretty tannins and attractive fruit. Very elegant for the vintage. Lovely length to the wine. **WA** Exceptional wine. A dense purple color is accompanied by a floral-scented bouquet revealing notes of licorice, graphite and red as well as black currants. Layered, rich and concentrated, this impressively constructed, seamless Margaux has plenty of tannin, but it is buried under the extravagant fruit and glycerin.

Giscours 2010 (AWL 91-93) (JR 17.5) (JS 94-95) (WA 92-95)

48.5 EUROS per bottle

AWL Earth, smoke and leather aromas. Some ripe herbs and plums on the mouth. Medium weight. Good spicy finish. **JR** Quite complex and complete. Just beautifully balanced. This is ripe claret. Nothing forced nor self-conscious. Just great balance and confidence. Fresh finish. Real Margaux. Appetising and subtle. But no blockbuster. Even a little sinewy on the finish. **JS** This is very structured and muscular with a lots of toasty new wood showing now but if you dig deep you see a rich and beautiful fruit and velvety tannin structure. Very sexy. **WA** The over-achieving Giscours has turned in a great performance in 2010, which possesses notes of liquorice, black truffles, sweet blackberry and cassis fruit, flowers and soil undertones. It is very full-bodied and exceptionally opulent, fat and round, but the vintages acids, precision, high glycerine, alcohol and extract are all present.

D'Issan 2010 (JR 17.5) (JS 93-94) (WA 94-96)

54 EUROS per bottle

JR Heady and perfumed and very Margaux. More subtle on the nose. Very sweet start with good freshness. Tighter and introvert. Needs a long time. Lovely delicacy. Very fine tannins on the end but with Margaux polish. **JS** Starts off elegant and balanced, with blueberry and floral character. Full and silky. But turns chewy and mouth puckering. Very extracted. But will turn out really outstanding. Best from here in decades. **WA** Notes of violets, blue and black fruits, a striking minerality, excellent purity, texture and length, a medium to full-bodied mouthfeel and noticeable but sweet, well-integrated tannins.

Lascombes 2010 (AWL 92-94) (JR 17.5) (JS 91-92) (WA 94-97)

79.5 EUROS per bottle

AWL Very rich nose with meat, earth, roasted herbs and black fruit. Powerful extraction. Slightly dry in the end. **JR** Lifted nose and very sweet and sumptuous. Extremely caressing in terms of texture. Wine as massage. But with lots of tannins hidden in there underneath. So much pleasure in store... Though pretty alcoholic! **JS** Impressive start, with lots of polished and silky tannins here, and an enticing depth of fruit and a caressing finish. Slightly one-dimensional. **WA** The 2010 may turn out to be the greatest Lascombes ever made. It boasts a dense purple colour along with an extraordinarily uplifted set of aromatics consisting of blueberry liqueur, black cherries, subtle smoke, crushed rocks and restrained oak. Massive fruit, an unctuous texture, a skyscraper-like mid-palate and stunning definition (because of good acids and a modest pH) have resulted in a formidable wine.

Malescot St. Exupery 2010 (AWL 91-93) (JR 16) (JS 96-97) (WA 94-96)

66.5 EUROS per bottle

AWL Vanilla, animal, jammy berries and oak in the intense bouquet. Gobbles of ripe black fruit. Very much the muscular and extracted style. Slightly dry finish. **JR** Sweet and creamy. Then a bit too sweet. A bit forced and very painful acidity on the finish. Bit of a caricature. Aggressively astringent finish. **JS** This is a 2005 Malescot in the making. And that was stunning. I love the blueberries, chocolate and nuts on the nose and palate. The finish lasts for minutes with so much. Goes on and on. **WA** A gorgeous fragrance of spring flowers, cedarwood, black and red currants and hints of spice box and subtle oak is followed by a generously endowed, full-bodied, opulent wine with layers of concentration, a restrained yet exuberant personality, superb fruit purity and a long finish. There is plenty of tannin, no doubt elevated alcohol and wonderful freshness as well as delicacy.

Margaux 2010 * (AWL 99-100) (JR 19) (JS 100) (WA 96-98)

780 EUROS per bottle

AWL Ripe spices, dark fruit, cherry liqueur and delicate minerals aromas in the magnificent nose. Very generous on the palate with amazing concentration, roundness, freshness and ripeness. This has great minerality in the seamless finish. **JR** Some light vegetation at first which opened out and mellowed to something utterly seductive in the glass. Dry and intense. Very rich on the front and amazingly supple – it smells as though it may be going to be a bit of brute but on the palate it is still so intense and polished initially but then it is clear that there are masses and masses of tannins. There is noble, fine, perfectly confident, minerally fruit that opens out on the palate. **JS** A phenomenal nose of roses, violets, and other flowers. Subtle yet rich raspberries and currants. This a curious wine, almost ethereal. It is all in the front of the palate with ultra-fine tannins. It is full and very rich but it is forever balanced and in harmony. What a wine. It is a pinpointed wine. So cerebral. It sends shivers down my spine. Incredible. **WA** The classic, quintessential Margaux character of spring flowers, almost cool-climate precision, medium body, and a seamless integration of tannin, wood and alcohol. The blue and black fruit characteristics are present, and the wine restrained. The most measured and polished of all the first growths I tasted, it is also less concentrated than any of the other first growths, but the elegance is classic. The tannins are remarkably delicate and sweet, and the softness of this wine will provide magical drinking at a relatively early age, yet its balance and concentration will carry it for 20 or more years.

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Palmer 2010 (AWL 97-98) (JR 18) (JS 97-98) (WA 95-97)**240 EUROS per bottle**

AWL Intense bouquet of spice box, crushed rocks, cherry liqueur, black fruit, glycerol, vanilla and a hint of roasted herbs and chocolate. The initial velvety texture expands into a firm and powerful structure in the mouth. Amazingly rich wine. The most powerful Palmer ever! **JR** Amazingly sweet and luscious on the nose. Incredibly sweet and distinctive – pure pleasure at first. Very round and luscious and has massive polish. Incredibly open at this stage – will it close up, I wonder? But underneath, a great stew of tannins lurk...! Great freshness but no leafiness. This is already carrying the Palmer hallmark in spades and its only on the finish that one sees the strong vintage character. **JS** This nose is crazy with treacle tart, dark fruits, spices and milk chocolate. I was in a state of amazement tasting this. Full bodied and very powerful with wonderful ripe tannins and intense nuts and dark chocolate on the palate. More powerful than 2009. **WA** Notes of camphor, incense, blackberry, espresso roast, and subtle barbecue smoke. Extremely full-bodied and unbelievably powerful, this wine is going to be one of the great classics ever to emerge from this iconic chateau. It is extremely tannic, but the tannins are eclipsed by the extravagant concentration of fruit, unctuousity, and density of this wine. This will be a Palmer to put away for 10 years and drink over the following 40+.

Pavillon Blanc de Margaux 2010 (AWL 92-94) (JR 17) (JS 95-96) (WA 91-93)**115 EUROS per bottle**

AWL Clear definition and purity. This is richer and longer than 2009. Well done! **JR** Very flinty and dense and minerally. Much less fat than usual. Much drier than old vintages. Intense and tense. Green flavours. **JS** Dense and rich with dried lemons, mangos, papaya and apples, yet it's super bright and crisp. It's all there. Best-ever white from Margaux? **WA** This year, this represents less than 40% of the crop. The Pavillon has very fine delineation on the nose with hints of lime flower and a little brioche, not as gregarious as recent vintages. The palate is medium-bodied with very fine acidity on the entry, hints of green lemon, Clementine, a touch of white peach with very good tension towards the finish. Excellent.

Pavillon Rouge de Margaux 2010 (AWL 92-94) (JR 17.5) (JS 94-95) (WA 90-92)**155 EUROS per bottle**

AWL Intense black fruit, spices, sweet minerals and hint of vanilla in the bouquet. So fresh and uplifting. Beautiful and really gorgeous wine. **JR** Very noble indeed on the nose. Lovely supple stuff with clear first-growth influence. Very polished and dense and on the back the tannins really, really build up! This is a wine for the long term! Cool, dry finish. Very graceful. Feminine and very Margaux. **JS** A wine that shows a lovely finesse and beauty with orange peel, flowers, blueberries and raspberries. Full and super fine texture. It goes on for minutes. I love the refinement. **WA** Plenty of black fruits, violets, forest floor and earth are present in this wonderfully textured, opulent wine, which will provide immediate gratification when it is released in a year. It should drink nicely for up to 15 or more years.

Rauzan Segla 2010 (AWL 93-94) (JR 17.5) (JS 97-98) (WA 92-94)**92 EUROS per bottle**

AWL Spices, red berries, sweet herbs and floral notes in the charming bouquet. Medium to full-bodied. Well-structured and round. Generous flavours and a spicy finish. **JR** Very sweet, purple-fruited notes on the nose. Sweet and simple and open with some minerality. Dry and Cool finish. **JS** A wonderful wine with flower, currant and hints of minerals and wet earth with some smoke. Full bodied, with chewy and creamy tannins. The texture is incredibly long with notes of citrus, dark fruits, and ripe raspberries. Super distinguished style. **WA** Hints of menthol, blueberry, black currant and sweet, earthy notes, full-bodied and displays terrific purity, texture, and overall precision. The tannin levels are high, but the wine balances them out with its impressive level of concentration. This wine will probably need 5-10 years of cellaring when released and drink well for 30 or more years.

Pessac Leognan and Graves**Le Clarence de Haut Brion 2010 (AWL 91-93) (JR 17) (JS 93-94) (WA 90-93)****123 EUROS per bottle**

AWL Minerally based nose with plenty of spices. Fabulous red fruit, minerals and sweet new leather on the palate. Spicy finish. **JR** Very refined and aromatic. Drawing-room refinement, really quite spindly. All frame and not much flesh at the moment. Very, very dry on the finish. There is even a hint of green. Will need quite a time to broaden out. **JS** This is a fresh and lively young wine. The second wine of Haut-Brion has a lot of linear richness. I really like the texture of this, with super-polished tannins and vibrant acidity. **WA** Probably the greatest second wine made at this estate since the 1989 Bahans-Haut-Brion, this blend of 52% Merlot, 36% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot reveals elegant minerality along with lots of sweet black cherry and raspberry fruit intermixed with hints of damp earth and forest floor. Medium to full-bodied and lush, it should drink beautifully for 10-15 years.

Domaine de Chevalier 2010 (AWL 93-95) (JR 17.5+) (JS 95-96) (WA 91-93+)**52 EUROS per bottle**

AWL Black ruby purple colour. Jammy black fruit, spices, minerals and hint of vanillin in the bouquet. Very good concentration and density. **JR** So racy and inky, mineral and sinewy. Chewy. SO youthful! Racy and sinewy. Lively, fragrant. Mouth filling and vibrant though it has yet to evolve much character but the balance seems promising. Acid dominates tannin here. **JS** This is the most structured and powerful DC in a long, long time. Full bodied, with polished and rich tannins and a long finish. The rising star of Bordeaux? **WA** The nose offers elegant aromas of crushed rocks, acacia flowers, boysenberries, black currants and subtle toast as well as oak. This thick, rich, tannic, backward wine will require patience.

Domaine de Chevalier Blanc 2010 (AWL 92-94) (JR 17.5) (JS 99-100) (WA 92-94+)**70 EUROS per bottle**

AWL Pure, very clean and fine. A classic and well-balanced Domaine de Chevalier. **JR** Tense and long lived with great electricity. Still very astringent and taut with some exotic aromas on the nose and then a certain green grassiness on the palate. Still extremely youthful. May well last longer than I suggest. **JS** This is a remarkable wine with a density of fruit that reminds me of a Montrachet from a great vintage. It's full bodied, dense and rich -- almost oily -- but then it turns bright and fresh with a powerful backbone of acidity. A marvel. **WA** 85% Sauvignon Blanc and 15% Semillon, and in need of 8-10 years of cellaring, this is one of the most backward dry whites of the vintage with unbelievable minerality and personality.

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Haut Bailly 2010 (AWL 94-96) (JR 17) (JS 95-96) (WA 95-97)**98 EUROS per bottle**

AWL Very deep colour. Minerally notes. This is an impressive and powerful wine. Very rich and tannic finish with a touch of chocolate. **JR** Really savoury, well integrated, interesting-already nose. Then a bit inky on the palate at the moment. Medium bodied and very Cabernet. Needs lots of time. A dry wine, be warned. Classical stuff. **JS** A superb nose of blackberries, flowers and licorice. Full bodied, with a powerful palate of super rich fruit yet bright tannins and loads of blackberries and citrus on the finish. This is really structural with amazing purity of fruit. It is so direct and powerful. **WA** An opulently styled effort, offers a sweet kiss of graphite, charcoal, black cherries, black currants and compelling forest floor-like notes. A seamless integration of acidity, tannin, alcohol and oak is found in this full-bodied yet delicate, precise 2010. There is plenty of tannin but it is well-hidden behind the extravagant quantity of fruit.

Haut Brion 2010 * (AWL 97-98+) (JR 18++) (JS 97-98) (WA 98-100)**760 EUROS per bottle**

AWL Earth, soy sauce, new leather and crème de cassis in the nose. Generous, expressive and a lot of depth on the slightly farmy palate. Great minerality in the long and fresh finish. A big and bold Haut Brion. **JR** Full, opulent nose in which the classic Haut-Brion aroma is well masked by lots of slightly austere fruit. Very fine tannins – very drying finish. An extremely slow burner. Much drier than La Mission, and at the moment not desperately expressive. Its lips are pursed at the moment, and so are mine tasting it. Unusual to come across such a long-term wine even here. This may not make a massive impact en primeur because it is keeping so much in reserve. I think it will eventually make a great wine but it's surly at the moment. **JS** Wonderful aromas of dark fruits with sweet tobacco and lilac character. Blackberries too. Amazing nose. This is tight and powerful with beautiful tannins and a racy structure. It lasts for minutes. Super refined yet muscular style of Haut-Brion. **WA** Should turn out to be one of its all-time greats ... an amazing feat given what they have accomplished over recent vintages. A gorgeous perfume of scorched earth/burning embers, blueberries, black currant liqueur and crushed rocks. Full and opulent with nobility, finesse, purity and elegance, this amazing effort possesses extraordinary levels of extract as well as formidable, but sweet, well-integrated tannins.

Malartic Lagraviere 2010 (AWL 89-91) (JR 17) (JS 94-95) (WA 92-94)**39.5 EUROS per bottle**

AWL Minerally fruit flavours. Quite firm for Malartic but lacking a bit of focus. Perhaps trying a bit too hard this year. **JR** Raw meat and putty on the nose – attention grabbing! Quite fresh on the palate and well sculpted. Fine tannins. Pretty subtle dry wine. Racy and not fat. A well-mannered guest at the dinner table, methinks. Acidity dominates tannins. **JS** This is impressive, with a gorgeous palate of super velvety tannins and ultra-ripe fruit. Full and caressing yet muscular and powerful. **WA** Aromas of vanillin, smoked herbs, tobacco leaf, black currants and blackberries. This rich, elegant Pessac-Leognan is loaded with potential.

La Mission Haut Brion 2010 (AWL 96-97) (JR 18) (JS 95-96) (WA 98-100)**675 EUROS per bottle**

AWL The bouquet is predominantly minerals, crushed rocks, dark plums and cherry liqueur. Very muscular and powerful wine with intense spices and black fruit. A real lingering finish that last for minutes. Sweet chewy tannins. **JR** Scented and really quite muted and even austere on the nose. And then very fleshy and even rather gorgeous on the palate. Wonderfully refined tannins and quite broad fruit but there is a nub of something a little green in the fruit itself? Great freshness and sweetness. The acidity nicely counterbalances the alcohol. **JS** This is very perfumed for La Mission with dark berry, light chocolate, flowers, and minerals. Full and silky with fine tannins and a bright and tangy finish. Intense and powerful. Refined. Long. **WA** The pH is normal which gives the wine an extraordinary precision, freshness and vibrancy despite its massive size. A classic nose of blueberry liqueur, crème de cassis, spring flowers and crushed rocks. This monumental, full-bodied, incredibly rich La Mission-Haut-Brion will need a decade of cellaring and should last for 40-50 years.

La Mission Haut Brion Blanc 2010 (AWL 95-96) (JR 18.5) (JS 98-99) (WA 93-95+)**675 EUROS per bottle**

AWL Restrained on the palate. Notes of vanilla. **JR** Very broad and mineral and utterly captivating already on the nose. Lovely dry minerals on the finish. Really racy. Great build. Wonderful precision. Nothing fat at all. So many interesting elements that will surely become more complex. Even quite delicate though I'm sure it has lots of alcohol! **JS** I love the lemon-lime, mineral and lilac character to this young white. It says great Montrachet but it's dry white Bordeaux. Full and super minerally and racy. Intense and vibrant. Tangy. Like a red wine in structure. Very dense and beautiful. **WA** Exhibits crisp, zesty acids as well as a full-bodied mouthfeel offering lots of lanolin, sealing wax, honeyed Mandarin oranges and lemon oil. This sensational effort has 30-40 years of aging potential.

Pape Clement 2010 (AWL 90-92) (JR 16.5) (JS 96-97) (WA 93-95+)**108 EUROS per bottle**

AWL Sweet toasty and oaky nose with jammy berries. Muscular wine with a very dry finish. Overly extracted. **JR** Direct and leathery on the nose. Then very sweet – almost right-bank sweetness – but then it returns to acidity and fine tannin. A dramatic even if not-that-comfortable wine. Almost too drying on the finish but it works in the end. Slightly tarry finish. **JS** Very chewy, with wonderful blueberry and mineral character. Hints of mint too. Full and super classy. Love the texture of the tannins. Hyperrefined in texture. **WA** Subtle notions of smoke, graphite, oak, black cherries and blackberries jump from the glass of this impressively perfumed claret. Medium to full-bodied, strikingly elegant and less thick and intense than a structured vintage such as 2005, the 2010 possesses remarkably sweet tannin (sweeter than the 2005) as well as a full-bodied, long finish.

Pape Clement Blanc 2010 (JR 16) (JS 94-95) (WA 93-96)**110 EUROS per bottle**

JR Open, fruity! nose with the scent of lime Spangles. A bit boiled sweets/hard candy rather than subtle though there is lots to enjoy in the short term. Big and boisterous. **JS** This is a powerful white with wonderful mineral and citrus character on the nose and palate. Full and racy, bright acidity and dense palate. Long, long finish. Excellent. **WA** This superb, honeyed effort exhibits orange marmalade, lemon custard and exotic tropical fruit notes.

Smith Haut Lafitte 2010 (AWL 95-97) (JR 17) (JS 98-99) (WA 95-97)**82 EUROS per bottle**

AWL Freshly crushed berries, sweet minerals and hint of oak. Spicy sweet palate. Full bodied and very long. **JR** Savoury and appealing on the nose. Very fresh – admirably fresh. Very Graves and fragrant with firm minerality and very dry finish. Nothing overdone. Nicely balanced for the long term. **JS** Wonderful aromas of currants, berries and minerals. Very stoney. Full bodied, with an intense and dense palate structure. Loads of blackberries, sweet tobacco and hot stones. Long finish. **WA** An extraordinary nose of graphite, blackberries, cassis, liquorice, smoke, and camphor. The unbelievable skyscraper-like texture, stunning purity, and formidable intensity make for a remarkably rich, long, full-bodied wine that is classic Graves, a staggering 2010.

Smith Haut Lafitte Blanc 2010 (AWL 92-94) (JR 17.5) (JS 95-96) (WA 92-95)**74 EUROS per bottle**

AWL Good sweet citrus fruit. Very ripe and generous. Great quality this year. **JR** Creamy rich on the nose. Very broad and majestic on the palate – much richer than the 2008. Very neat and should have a good long life. Relatively opulent. **JS** Even better than the 2007, which was great. I love the racy, complex nature of this young white, with honey, apple pie, tropical fruits and hints of vanilla cream. Lovely backbone of bright acidity. **WA** Another phenomenal wine from the Cathiards, this rich 2010 exhibits lemon custard, melon, tropical fruit and a touch of smoky oak. It should last 20+ years.

St. Emilion**Angelus 2010 (AWL 97-98) (JR 17.5) (JS 97-98) (WA 94-96+)****248 EUROS per bottle**

AWL Crushed rocks, jammy black fruit, coffee and new leather in the nose. Very dense and voluptuous. Long chewy finish with chocolate note and sweet tannins. Exceptional wine! **JR** Manages to be both savoury and luscious on the nose. Thick and dense and very sweet on the finish. All stops pulled out to make an impression! Very firm finish after great riches. Dry, slightly tarry finish. **JS** Wild aromas of blackberries, dark chocolate and hints of toasted nuts. Very intense. Full bodied, with super integrated tannins and a fabulous finish. Goes on for minutes. This takes off on the palate. Really impressive. **WA** Another fabulous wine from proprietor Hubert de Bouard. Abundant aromas of acacia flowers, blueberry liqueur, black raspberries, liquorice and subtle toasty oak in the background. A notion of graphite emerges as the wine sits in the glass, which tends to be a characteristic of Angelus. Long, rich, dense and full-bodied with high but well-integrated tannins.

Ausone 2010 (AWL 98-100) (JR 18.5) (JS 96-97) (WA 98-100)**1,300 EUROS per bottle**

AWL Black fruit, cherry liqueur, heavy spices, chocolate and glycerol aromas. Full-bodied and voluptuous for the well-endowed palate. Spectacular power, density and finesse. There is enormous potential here. **JR** Lovely punch and scent on the nose and then real tight impact on the palate. Not the completeness of Pétrus but a very good vintage expression. Some warm berries triumph over terroir but this is sweet then tight and tough. Extremely youthful. Very drying on the end. Very rich and exuberant overall. Vivacious and not too, too dry on the finish. Less exaggerated than some other recent vintages. **JS** It has almost supernatural fruit character and earth shattering acidity. Full and tannic, it finishes with a dark fruit jam but then goes to citrus acidity and freshness. A tiny bit too much. **WA** The 2010 Ausone is unquestionably extraordinary. An exotic, seamless bouquet of incense, Asian spices, blueberries, raspberries and blackberries. Full-bodied with a striking liqueur of minerality as well as a magical combination of complexity, substance and nobility, it reveals softer tannins than I expected for this vintage, so perhaps it will be more accessible in its youth than recent Ausone vintages have tended to be.

Beausejour Duffau 2010 (AWL 93-95) (JR 16.5) (JS 98-99) (WA 96-100)**208 EUROS per bottle**

AWL Toasty new oak aromas with jammy cherries and chocolate. Quite a powerful wine. More modern than before but delicious. Ripe chewy tannins. **JR** Easy with much less of the exaggerated framework that characterises most of Stéphane Deroncourt's 2010s though it is a relatively tough wine. **JS** Clearly the best wine from here since 1989 or 1990. The intensity of dark fruits is insane with citrus and flowers as well as dark fruits. Full and lively with a finish that lasts for minutes but it is dense and impressive. **WA** The 2010 achieved a remarkably high 15% natural alcohol. However, the high alcohol is completely hidden by the wines freshness, high acids and modest pH. A remarkable nose of blueberries, blackberries, crushed chalk, acacia flowers, liquorice and truffles is accompanied by an unbelievable minerality on the palate, full-bodied power, amazing texture, a multidimensional personality and a 50+ second finish. One of the most profound wines of the vintage.

Canon 2010 (AWL 95-96) (JR 16) (JS 95-96) (WA 92-94+)**99 EUROS per bottle**

AWL Red plummy fruit, crushed rocks and spices aromas in the ultra-elegant nose. Very lively and energetic palate finishing long and with a high line. **JR** Slightly smudgy on the nose. Thick and sweet and angular on the palate. Job done, but without enormous grace, and surely with quite a bit of oak? **JS** Blackberries and hints of spices and fresh herbs. This is so tasty. It has wonderful round and juicy tannins, with lots of fruit yet subtle and spicy, with chocolate and light coffee. So yummy. Hard not to drink it. This is a classic style of Canon, such as 1955 or 1959. Better than 2009. **WA** Perfumed notes of spring flowers, crushed chalk, black currants, black cherries, earth, forest floor and oak. Full-bodied as well as elegant and precise, this brilliant effort needs 5-8 years of cellaring and should drink well for three decades or more.

Cheval Blanc 2010 (AWL 97-98) (JR 18.5+) (JS 99-100) (WA 96-98+)**930 EUROS per bottle**

AWL Dark plums, minerals, kirsch, velvets and earth in the serious bouquet. Superb round and syrupy robe with spices, roasted herbs, leather and glycerol notes. Very powerful, deep and ripe with supple and sweet tannins. Very long and impressive. **JR** Meaty and savoury. Almost austere on the nose relative to how young Cheval usually tastes. Very youthful but aromatic, then lovely lusciousness on the palate. Recalls great old Chevals with that seductive freshness. Lovely dry finish. Great structure but also lovely floral seductive aroma. Opens out in the glass in the most convincing manner. **JS** The blueberry and blackberry character and bouquet of violets is off the charts. Full body, the Cabernet Franc dominates the blend now, with so much dark fruits, minerals and flowers with hints of spices. It is a very powerful and linear CB and shows amazing length and purity. Zen-like focus. **WA** In the style of some of the great Cheval Blancs of the late 1940s, this wine is rich, opulent, full-bodied. Mulberries, black currants, fresh minerals, and floral notes jump from the glass of this full-bodied, dense wine. With its tannins, good acidity and surprisingly modest pH, this should be an exceptionally long-lived wine, more backward and delineated than the fatter, more opulent 2009.

Clos Fournet 2010 (AWL 90-92) (JR 17.5) (JS 93-94) (WA 95-97)**82 EUROS per bottle**

AWL Plummy and chocolatey bouquet. A silky and round palate with lovely fruit. Generally good but can do with more length. **JR** Very interesting and intriguing nose with, already, many layers. Toast, orange peel, lustrous sheen, something akin to coconut milk (but not the cheap sheen of too-obvious American oak). Very winning and engaging. Breadth and length. Dry but not drying finish. Very vital on the finish – and long too. **JS** A beautiful wine, with everything in the bottle. Blackberries, minerals and blueberries. Full and silky. Long, long finish. **WA** A beautiful bouquet of incense, blueberry and blackberry liqueur, liquorice and camphor. Full-bodied and opulent with more tannin and glycerine than the massive 2009, the 2010, while less sumptuous than the 2009, is a huge effort that is undoubtedly capable of lasting 30+ years.

Figeac 2010 (AWL 94-96) (JR 16.5++) (JS 94-95)**175 EUROS per bottle**

AWL Plummy, floral aromas. Very fresh, spicy and ripe opulent palate with nice weight, depth and length. Fabulous stuff! **JR** High-toned minerality on the nose. Lots of appetising sap and savour. Loose and round and easy peasy. Attractive in that it's not overdone; possibly a chance missed in that it's just slightly slack. Or possibly it's Figeac..! Ah. That last phrase was written when I tasted this blind and it's true that this potentially great wine rarely shows well en primeur. **JS** This is very structured, with a solid core of plums, chocolate and bright acidity. Firm and silky tannins and a long, long finish. A powerful and structured young wine.

Larcis Ducasse 2010 (AWL 92-94) (JR 16.5) (JS 95-96) (WA 95-97)**57.5 EUROS per bottle**

AWL Crushed red fruit, minerals and a dash of oak in the bouquet. Very round and velvety texture. Lovely balance. Finishes with some smokey and sweet herbal notes. **JR** Sweet start and real vibrancy on the palate. Very polished in a modern but not exaggerated way. Quite racy on the finish. **JS** The intensity to this wine is incredible with an electric dark fruit character and dark chocolate note. It's so lively and vibrant. Full and beautiful. **WA** This phenomenal terroir has produced a wine with great individuality. Notes of black currants, sweet cherries, garrigue, liquorice and incense. Already complex, it reveals formidably endowed, full-bodied flavours, a skyscraper-like texture, marvellous depth, moderately high tannins and excellent precision as well as freshness.

Magdelaine 2010 (AWL 92-93) (JR 16.5) (WA 92-94)**59 EUROS per bottle**

AWL Deep crimson. Very ripe and creamy. Medium to full-bodied. Excellent ripeness. **JR** Very heady nose – quite intense. Lovely sumptuous fruit. Very forward. Very fine tannins almost disguised by the plumpness of the fruit. Perhaps not for the very long term? Sappy and refreshing. Not straining to impress. **WA** Lots of minerality intermixed with deep, black raspberry and black cherry fruit, a rich, medium to full-bodied mouthfeel and abundant tannin.

Pavie 2010 (AWL 92-93) (JR 17) (JS 96-97) (WA 95-98+)**238 EUROS per bottle**

AWL Crème de cassis, minerals, glycerol and vanilla can be found on the overripe nose. New oak, grilled meat and chocolate flavours on the palate. A very powerful wine but without enough finesse. **JR** Much more lift and savour than its stablemates. Still pretty demanding in terms of all those painfully dry minerals on the finish. But it has been miraculously sculpted so that it has a certain smoothness on the mid palate, even if it dries out terribly on the end. Strictly for modernists, with a hint of dark chocolate powder. Very much a long distance runner. **JS** Very powerful. It sneaks up on you. It doesn't show its strength at first but then takes off with excellent ripe fruit, spices, chocolate and nuts. So long and exciting. **WA** Abundant notes of roasted coffee, blackberries, cassis, full-bodied power and sensational density, texture and length. There is also a boatload of tannin, so do not expect this 2010 to provide near-term consumption. Somewhat reminiscent of the 2005 in its freshness, precision and intensity, it requires 7-10 years of cellaring and should keep for 3-4 decades.

Pavie Macquin 2010 (AWL 94-96) (JR 15.5) (JS 95-96) (WA 96-98+)**88 EUROS per bottle**

AWL Black fruit, kirsch, hint of oak in the bouquet. Gobbles of very fresh and ripe fruit with good concentration and depth. Long mineral finish. Voluptuous style. **JR** Certainly pure on the nose. And pretty ripe. Very sweet start and then very worked and polished. Chewy end. Oak a bit too much of a feature in this wine! **JS** Super compacted with incredible intensity of minerals, black fruits, licorice and spices. Full and dense. Wild fruit that goes on for minutes. A little firm as always but will open nicely. **WA** Exhibits lots of minerality (from this terroir's clay and limestone soils) as well as the entire spectrum of black fruits. Full-bodied and backward, its like drinking crushed limestone/chalk when you taste this intense, tannic, powerful wine. It will require 8-10 years of cellaring and should evolve for 35-40+ years.

Tertre Roteboeuf 2010 (AWL 97-98) (JR 17)**140 EUROS per bottle**

AWL The impressive nose is almost Burgundian (from Musigny) with black cherries, spices, sweet minerals and . So dense and concentrated yet it's light on its feet. A firm grip in the finish. Will last very long. This is really joyful, lively and opulent wine. Excellent! **JR** Very sweet start, then chewy. Quite awkward at the moment, with rich undertow. Funky, completely unlike anything else! Just a bit too sweet... A statement but very atypical for 2010. Where's the freshness? Dense and drying on the end.

Troplong Mondot 2010 (AWL 94-96) (JR 15.5) (JS 95-96) (WA 96-98+)**112 EUROS per bottle**

AWL Black fruit, chocolate, leather and minerals can be found on the nose. Voluptuous fruit on the muscular palate. Very powerful wine. Lengthy. **JR** Light cocoa notes on the nose. Lots of sweet maltiness. Pushed to the limit of ripeness. Perfectly serviceable modern St-Émilion style but a little bit painful to taste at this stage. Slightly drying finish. **JS** What a nose. Gorgeous aromas of minerals, flowers and dark berries. Stunning. Full bodied, with a solid core of fruit and racy tannins. Citrusy finish too. **WA** This stunningly rich effort offers abundant blueberry, black raspberry, liquorice and graphite notes intermixed with a hint of espresso roast, a seriously concentrated, super-intense mouthfeel, full-bodied power, a complex, multidimensional texture and a nearly 50-second finish. It will require 5-6 years of bottle age after its release and should keep for three decades or more. Just prodigious!

Pomerol**Certan de May 2010 (AWL 93-95) (JR 16.5) (JS 94-95) (WA 91-93)****78 EUROS per bottle**

AWL Crème de cassis, spices, minerals and a hint of oak in the nose. Good weight and balance. Very lengthy. **JR** Heady, sweet, purple berries on the nose. The finish is dry but this is the closest that the Moueix Pomerols come to lusciousness and any obvious oak influence. A little bit sweet and oaky at the moment with a bit of stringiness on the finish. **JS** Gorgeous aromas. Tar, dark fruits and forest leaves on the nose. Full body, with lovely velvety tannins and a long aftertaste of dark chocolate, dark fruits and cappuccino. **WA** Aromas of black fruits intermixed with an iron-like character, soil, oak and earth undertones emerge from this full-bodied, masculine, borderline rustic wine. With abundant concentration as well as elevated tannins, this Pomerol will require patience.

Certan Marzelle 2010 (AWL 92-94)**43 EUROS per bottle**

AWL Aromas of black crushed fruits. Very rich but acidity keeps it fresh. Probably their best effort ever.

Clinet 2010 (JR 16.5) (JS 95-96) (WA 95-98)**98 EUROS per bottle**

JR Such ripeness it's almost cheesy on the nose. Then very firm on the palate – verging on inkiness. A real backbone here! This wine's two faces don't seem to be talking to each other yet. **JS** Nothing on the palate and then all of a sudden it blasts off on the finish. Superb Clinet. Full and velvety. Juicy. **WA** An extraordinary bouquet of boysenberries, blueberries, black currants, liquorice, truffles and a hint of asphalt. The wine possesses great intensity, a multidimensional mouthfeel, stunning glycerine and richness, and wonderful freshness as well as precision because of the vintage conditions. This massive Pomerol will age effortlessly for 30-35 years.

La Conseillante 2010 (AWL 95-97) (JR 17) (JS 97-98) (WA 95-98)**168 EUROS per bottle**

AWL Medium to full-bodied. A dash of that portiness in the very ripe palate that is filled with fresh fruit. High level of alcohol and tannins. **JR** Racy, lifted nose, verging on tea and treacle, but on the palate there seems no excess of acidity. Solid 21st-century thick right-bank Merlot. Solid and complete with real density. Actually on the finish it does seem to be built for the long term. Just a little astringent on the very end, but overall pretty satiny. **JS** The nose is exuberant, with pure violets and berries. Insane. This is so straight and racy, with super fine tannins and a long, long finish. There is a minimalist clarity to the wine. **WA** Quintessentially floral, this dense purple-coloured effort reveals sweet flowery black raspberry and blueberry liqueur notes, more power, muscle and concentration than most vintages and exquisite elegance, purity and personality. Serious tannin lurks beneath the surface, but the overall impression is of a medium to full-bodied, strikingly deep, beautifully pure, well-balanced wine.

Clos l'Eglise 2010 (JR 15) (JS 92-93) (WA 92-95)**119 EUROS per bottle**

JR A note of green is apparent even on the nose. Drying tannins. Almost wood shavings. **JS** The quality of the tannins in this young red is superb, with a texture of velvet. Full and yummy. **WA** Unquestionably a top-flight effort for both the vintage and the appellation. Sweet perfume of jammy boysenberries and black currants, oak, truffles and caramel. This opulent, deep yet powerful Pomerol possesses fresh acids and tremendous precision.

L'Eglise Clinet 2010 (JR 18) (JS 97-98) (WA 96-100)**345 EUROS per bottle**

JR Savoury and dense and lively. Lip smacking. Lots of sweetness and nerve. Well done! A very firm thread and great integrity. Lovely texture. Much more sweetness than I would expect for a 2010. Racy and charming but with real density. **JS** So much elegance and complexity to this young wine with plenty of flowers and dark fruit notes. Full and super refined, with amazing complexity and firmness. It is very tight and silky. Long and intense. **WA** Proprietor Denis Durantou has again produced one of Bordeaux's most profound wines. A wonderfully sweet nose of mulberry and black fruit, hints of mocha and caramel, and some subtle background oak, the 2010 is very expansive, multi-dimensional, with stunning purity, richness and equilibrium. The finish is very long, with significant tannins, but they are beautifully integrated.

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L'Evangile 2010 (AWL 96-98) (JR 18) (JS 94-95) (WA 96-98)**208 EUROS per bottle**

AWL Fantastically floral and spicy nose. Very round and voluptuous palate with great minerality. Lively finish with chewy and ripe tannins. **JR** Sweet and rich and full and extremely lush and flattering. Very smart and long and rich. Purity was the aim. Sweet start but lots of tannin and firmness. A wine I would really relax with. Long and relaxing and a bit like a massage. Dry finish but so calming and charming. **JS** What a nose, with orange peel, dark berries and blueberries. Full and bright, with super velvety tannins. Acidity is juicy too. Very sumptuous. Creamy tannin texture. **WA** Exhibits massive levels of black raspberries, Asian plum sauce, truffles and cassis. The wine is unctuously textured and remarkably fresh with a weighty richness (much like the 2009) but greater delineation. A marvellous effort, it, along with the 2009, may turn out to be one of the two greatest wines made by L'Evangile. The 2010 should drink well young yet last for three decades or more.

La Fleur Petrus 2010 (AWL 95-97) (JR 17) (JS 98-99) (WA 95-98+)**198 EUROS per bottle**

AWL Plummy and minerally nose. Creamy texture with a spicy overtone. Nice firm finish. **JR** Ripe and gamey, almost animal. Very strong impact and still embryonic but with lovely savour after the impact of the sweet fruit – but overall the tannin and acid of 2010 make this a very distinctive Fleur Pétrus. Nothing hedonistic about this. And not especially persistent. **JS** What a complex nose of dark fruits, truffles and wet earth. Fascinating. Full, yet super long with ultra refined tannins and a long, long finish. It is tannic and muscular but polished and reserved. It's a wine with refinement and power. **WA** A big, sweet perfume of mocha-infused black raspberry and black cherry fruit that is extravagantly rich, textured and long. Super-pure, deep and full-bodied, this remarkable wine will be one for the history books. The tannins are elevated, but the depth of fruit and richness are amazing. For those who will never be able to afford a bottle of Petrus, this is about as close as one can get to the aromas and flavours of that mythical wine.

Le Gay 2010 (JR 17) (JS 93-94) (WA 95-97+)**95 EUROS per bottle**

JR With attractive sweetness and freshness. Racy and polished. There is definitely enough freshness to keep this appetising. Unctuous with a strong line of terroir chew. Long. **JS** A beautiful solid core of ripe fruit, with coffee and light vanilla. Tobacco too. Full and dense, with polished tannins and bright acidity. **WA** A distinctive perfume of liqueur of rocks, blueberries, blackberries, truffles and a subtle hint of oak. Extremely tannic, full-bodied, structured, masculine and backward with abundant minerality as well as ferocious extract and intensity.

Gazin 2010 (AWL 95-96) (JR 17) (JS 92-93) (WA 93-95)**54 EUROS per bottle**

AWL Crushed berries, cocoa bean and spice box in the absolutely gorgeous nose. Amazingly smooth yet concentrated. Big finish. **JR** High toned and aromatic. Very comfortable and unforced. Highly successful with real vivacity. Dry finish. Was this on some clay? Well done! Quite juicy. **JS** This is a little tight. But it shows plenty of coffee and chocolate notes and dark fruits. Full and silky. I really like the polish to the tannins. **WA** Loads of black currant and kirsch-like fruit intermixed with liquorice, caramel, mocha and toasty oak. This seriously endowed, broodingly backward cuvee.

Latour a Pomerol 2010 (AWL 93-95) (JR 17) (JS 95-96) (WA 92-94)**68 EUROS per bottle**

AWL Raisiny, chocolatey nose with crème de cassis. Creamy mouthfeel but with a specular long and full finish. **JR** Rather unusually open red fruit aromas. Then great freshness and polish. Tannins quite hard to discern until the very end of this super-fruity number. Easy to love, even if without massive intensity. Slightly angular on the end. Lighter than some but with great appeal. **JS** This is the best LP I have had a long time, with black currant and flowers. Full body. It builds on the palate, with incredibly polished tannins and a long, intense finish. **WA** Lots of liquorice, camphor, blackcurrant, earth and spice notes. The sweetness of the tannins along with the wine's density, opulence and richness make it one of the finest recent examples from this estate.

Petrus 2010 (AWL 98-100) (JR 19) (JS 100) (WA 98-100)**Please inquire**

AWL Astonishing bouquet with violets, black fruit, minerals, kirsch. A miraculous mouthful of port like fruit but there remains good acidity. A most powerful Petrus along the line of 1947, 1950 and 1961. **JR** Hugely intense and succulent. Really muscular and concentrated. Very firm indeed. Good richness to begin with. Lightly bitter on the end. Wonderful texture. Creamy, with real minerals and lushness on the nose. Great vivacity. **JS** This is extraordinary. It is just like 1989 but it is even more refined and defined. It's so deep and compelling. I put my nose in the glass and I knew it was perfection. Full, yet super refined. So, so long. It just builds and builds with flavour, like a tiny light in the sky that becomes a falling star. It is phenomenal. **WA** One of the most concentrated and massive Petrus offerings I have ever tasted. Classic aromas of mulberries, black cherries, black currants, liquorice, mocha, caramel and truffles. Full-bodied, multi-dimensional and impressively pure with high but sweet, well-integrated tannins, this 2010 should drink well for 30+ years.

Vieux Chateau Certan 2010 (AWL 98-100) (JR 18.5) (JS 100) (WA 96-98)**208 EUROS per bottle**

AWL Impressive aromas of black fruit, minerals, crushed rocks, . Power with grand elegance, purity and finesse. Almost porty, superbly long wine. Such grandeur! This estate is totally on a roll. **JR** Pretty floral and scented and pretty. Very concentrated and intense. Lots of minerals on the finish. Lovely rich satisfying undertow. Hint of ripe pears oddly enough. Lovely completeness. Great balance and build. Very, very long. The strongest right-bank wine so far. Excellent layers. Very serious – a marvellously intellectual Merlot! **JS** This is off the charts. I am blown away. This is so concentrated yet perfect. With chocolate, blackberry, coffee. Full and amazing in density and balanced. The grapes were tiny and the production was tiny. I am speechless. This may match the legendary 1947 or 1945. **WA** The alcohols are often the highest ever yet the acidities are fresh and lively, and the wine crisp and refined. This is a deep purple-coloured wine, with loads of opulence and fat, a voluptuous texture and tremendous purity.

Haut Medoc

La Tour Carnet 2010 (JR 16) (JS 92-93) (WA 92-94)

25 EUROS per bottle

JR Quite high volatility. Very fresh fruit in a light sandpaper corset at the moment. This will never be sweet and all-enveloping but it should make a fine luncheon claret! **JS** A wine with dark berry, licorice and tar character. Subtle and silky. Lovely polished tannins and fresh acidity. **WA** A big, tannic, nearly over-sized wine boasting a dense purple color along with notes of graphite, blueberries, black raspberries and spring flowers. Great fruit on the attack, a powerful, full-bodied mouthfeel and an unusually masculine, muscular style suggest this 2010 will require patience, but it could turn out to be one of the finest La Tour Carnets ever produced.

Cotes de Bourg

Roc de Cambes 2010 (AWL 92-93) (JR 17.5)

43 EUROS per bottle

AWL Pungent spices, dark fruit and stones in the intense nose. Delicious fruit with delightful freshness. Just the right amount of tannins in the sweet finish. **JR** Very sweet and rich and tense. One of the tensest wines I have come across – real tension on top of great ripe fruit rather than overworked ‘taut’ wines. Really very impressive. Rich and very exciting. Not at all porty but very sweet and fresh. Holds its alcohol well. Very fresh. Really very unusual! Spicy and rich but not at all heavy. Smoothed tannins – thanks to all that new oak? Though very fresh and not that long on the finish.

Barsac and Sauternes

Coutet 2010 (JR 18) (WA 93-95)

50 EUROS per bottle

JR Smudgy and interesting, already, on the nose. Lots of richness and smoothness. Really. This approaches the idea of a classic vintage with its density and concentration. Long. Very fine. **WA** Endowed with a delightful bouquet of freshly sliced mango, Tropicana and a touch of honey, with good definition and minerality. The palate is medium-bodied with very impressive balance and poise, and is slightly viscous in the mouth, with almond, lemon curd and a touch of orange peel. The finish is composed and long.

Rieussec 2010 (JR 17++) (JS 95-96) (WA 90-92)

52.5 EUROS per bottle

JR Intense nose with strong botrytis influence. Pure and rich though not the most monumental by a long way. And a little bit sticky, and astringent, on the end. All the ingredients are there but in completely embryonic form. **JS** I love the botrytis spice character to this wine with dried apricots and tropical fruits. It's full bodied, medium sweet with a long intense finish. It's very layered. Wine of the vintage. **WA** Impressive clarity on the nose, with fresh pineapple, grapefruit and a touch of lime flower, and tangible minerality. The palate has that ‘Tropicana’ vibe with guava, almond and pineapple that slightly obfuscates the terroir towards the finish. This is a highly enjoyable, comparatively rich 2010 Sauternes, but without the intellect of some of the finest examples of the vintage.

Suduiraut 2010 (AWL 90-93) (JR 18) (JS 93-94) (WA 94-96)

52.5 EUROS per bottle

AWL Tropical fruit with dominant pineapple and tangerine, hint of wax and quince to end. Gentle and round. Lovely balance. **JR** Broad and rich and fresh but with very ripe pear-juice notes. There is real weight here. Much less citrus peel than most other 2010 Sauternes. Real race. Dangerously delicious now. Long. Super clean. Medium to heavy weight. Great undertow. Long. Nervy. **JS** Very classic styled Sauternes in a subdued way. I love the notes of orange flowers with honey and spices. Very long and racy. **WA** A comparatively rich, botrytized bouquet with dried honey, pineapple and a touch of Seville orange marmalade, with exquisite definition and focus. The palate is well-balanced, with a viscous texture and a good level of botrytis, demonstrating fine minerality and tautness. Dried mango, quince and spice all interlace the focused finish, which is long in the mouth.

D'Yquem 2010 (AWL 96-98) (JR 18.5) (JS 94-95) (WA 96-98)

455 EUROS per bottle

AWL Freshly pressed fruit, flowers and pineapple aromas. Wonderful notes of apricot, tangerine and melon can be found on the finely balanced palate. Delicious wine with great freshness! **JR** Gorgeous, classic nose. Pear juice a go-go. Absolutely stunning freshness as well as all the botrytis. Classic. Real punchy perfect savoury Sauternes. Zesty and lovely with some chew on the end. No shortage of botrytis. Very distinctive. Refined finish. **JS** This is a super balanced and racy Yquem with nuts. Light pineapple and apple character. Full and dense but bright and fresh. Love the spicy botrytis with light apple tart and nuts on the finish. **WA** The nose understated at first but unfurling with each passing moment with subtle scents of freshly sliced apricots, Clementine, clear honey and white flowers. There is an underlying minerality that really defines this bouquet. The palate is similar to the nose, revealing hidden facets with almost each swirl of the glass – orange blossom, limestone, white peach and honeysuckle. This is such a precise d'Yquem; it is after you have swallowed the wine that one comprehends just how brilliant it is.

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JR - Jancis Robinson
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