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Compiled by Jon Ellison



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# Bordeaux 2014



This was my first trip to Bordeaux since tasting the 2010 vintage in March/April of 2011. I had chosen not to attend the En Primeur tasting for the 2011, 2012 and 2013 vintages after speaking with industry contacts in Bordeaux. According to information they provided me, the wines produced in those three vintages were over-priced for their quality level. With this in mind, I decided to focus my buying on other wine regions.

Happily, 2014 was a different story and we have Mother Nature to thank for this. The winter was wet and warm, which led to an early bud break in spring. Thankfully there was not any frost in the spring and a warm, but dry, April helped slow down the vines' growth. The period from May to September was challenging with the region experiencing everything from cold, damp conditions in May to hot days in June. From July until the end of August the outlook was grim as this period was dominated by cold, wet days. From

the end of August until the end of October Bordeaux enjoyed an Indian summer which effectively saved the vintage. Between the early bud break and the extended warm fall weather, grapes enjoyed almost three extra weeks of hang time.

This is a vintage that reminds me of 2001 with the added benefit of more than a decade of improvements in viticulture, technology and winemaking practices. I would not classify this as a Left Bank versus Right Bank vintage, rather I would say that this is a Cabernet Sauvignon versus Merlot vintage. While most Merlot wines are good, those with a higher percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon can be judged as very good to great. As usual, I found myself leaning towards, and buying, the wines from St. Julien and Pauillac.

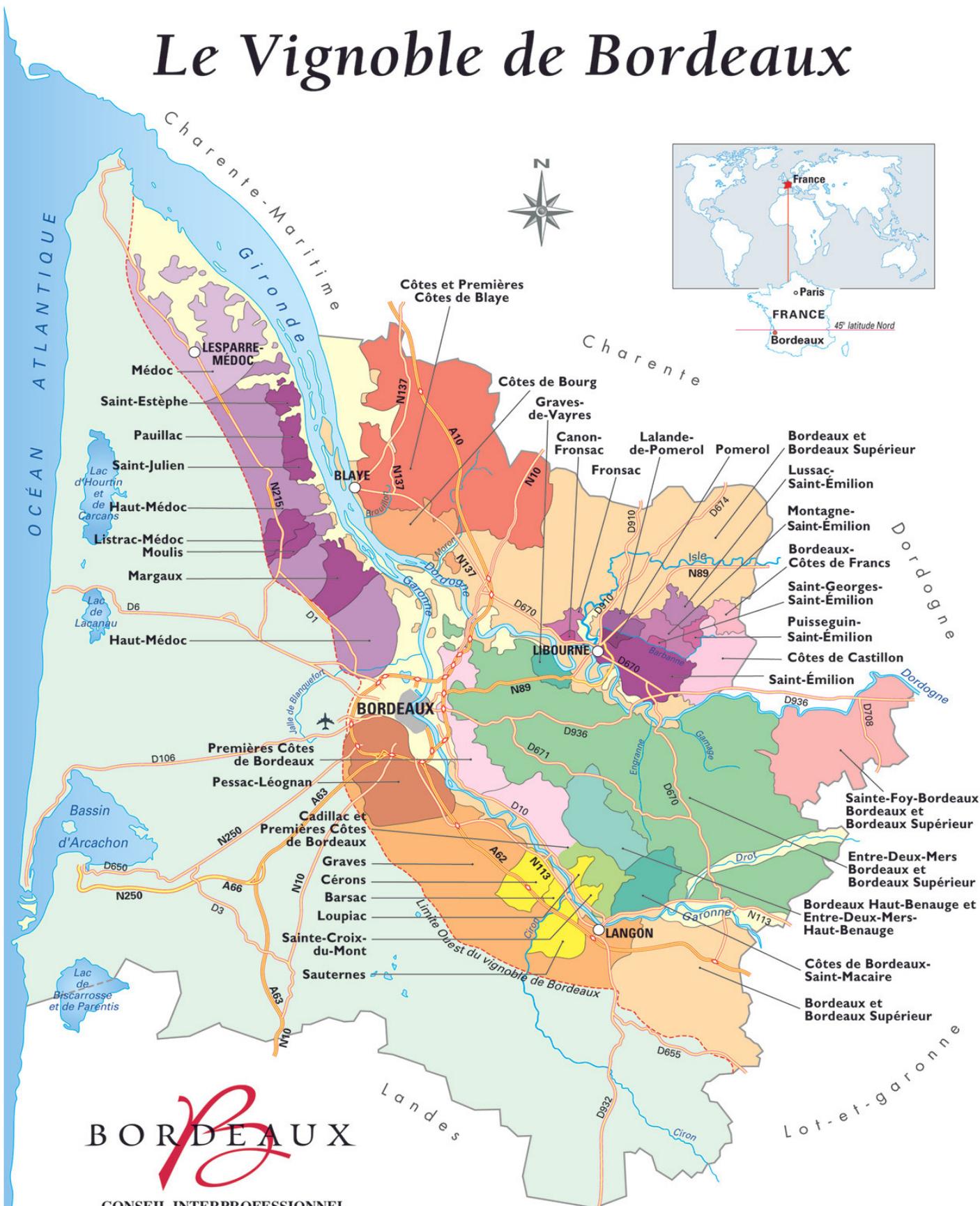
After tasting the 2014's I decided that the wines were of sufficient quality to justify our return to our Futures program. The wines have the power and ripeness to age, and most are excellent mid to long-term cellaring candidates. These are wines that you can enjoy while waiting for the mammoth 2009's and 2010's to mature.

You may note that our selection is not as diverse as previous offerings. Since the quality of the vintage was variable, I decided to focus my buying on those wines which I really liked and thought it worthwhile to invest in. If there are specific wines from the vintage that you are after but that we do not have on offer, please let Jon Ellison ([jonellison@marquis-wines.com](mailto:jonellison@marquis-wines.com)) know and he will investigate availability of said wines for you.

Kind regards,

John Clerides, Owner of Marquis Wine Cellars

# Le Vignoble de Bordeaux



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## LEFT BANK

The Left Bank is the wine region of Bordeaux located on the west side of the Garonne River. It includes the appellations of Haut-Médoc, Saint-Estèphe, Pauillac, Saint-Julien, Listrac, Moulis, Margaux, Pessac-Léognan, Graves and Sauternes. The red wines from the Left Bank are generally dominated by Cabernet Sauvignon with smaller percentages of Merlot, Cabernet Franc and sometimes Petit Verdot and Malbec. In 2014, the success of the majority of the wines rests largely upon Cabernet Sauvignon with Cabernet Franc playing a strong supporting role.

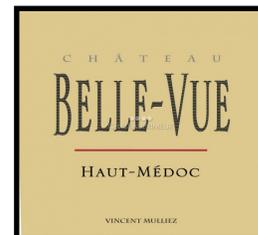
### Haut-Médoc/Médoc

The Médoc extends northwest of the city of Bordeaux. It is divided into the Haut-Médoc, where the classified growths are also found, and the Bas Médoc, located further north on the marshes at the mouth of the Gironde River. Although the appellation technically covers the entire Médoc, most wines of the Médoc come from the Haut-Médoc. Usually one of the most reliable regions of Bordeaux, the quality of the Médoc's in 2014 was variable due to the challenging growing season. Vineyards situated on the cold, clay soils struggled to ripen fully while vineyards situated on the warmer, gravel soils tended to ripen better and as such produced superior wines. With this in mind, we only purchased one wine from this region.

#### Château Belle-Vue - \$37.30 plus tax (\$42.90)

"The Château Belle-Vue 2014 is a blend of 47% Cabernet Sauvignon, 31% Merlot and 22% Petit Verdot cropped at 53 hectoliter per hectare and raised in 25% new wood. The nose is a little austere at first but it begins to open up with style. The palate is medium-bodied with ripe blackberry and undergrowth notes, fine tannin with a light white-pepper tone on the finish. This is a fine Haut-Médoc to drink over the next decade."

- eRobertParker.com #218 88-90 points



"The 2014 Belle-Vue is dark, supple and exceptionally beautiful, especially at this level. Raspberry jam, spice, new leather and cinnamon are laced together in a supple, racy super-expressive Haut-Médoc loaded with personality. This is a fabulous effort and superb value. The blend is 47% Cabernet Sauvignon, 31% Merlot and 22% Petit Verdot that spent 30 days on the skins followed by malolactic fermentation in barrel. Belle-Vue is a very serious wine in 2014. It's as simple as that."

- Vinous, Apr 2015 89-92 points

"I have been a big fan of this winery since it was introduced to me some ten years ago by one of my Bordeaux négociant friends. A medium size winery, 10.4 hectares, with a drainage ditch being all that separate it from Giscours in Margaux. This wine exceeds its appellation and price point. Lots of primary fruit and plenty of backbone."

- John Clerides, Marquis Wine Cellars

### Saint-Estèphe

Saint-Estèphe is the northern-most commune appellation in the Haut-Médoc. The wines from this commune tend to be austere and robust in their youth, needing fairly long ageing to show their best. Since the 1980's however the trend has been to craft wines with a higher percentage of Merlot, thus making the wines approachable at a younger age. While Merlot plantings have risen, the star of this appellation is still Cabernet Sauvignon which can ripen to perfection and dominates the blends each year. The wines of 2014 have excellent concentration and depth. Despite the slightly higher percentage of Merlot planted, this appellation benefitted from lower rainfall which means the wines are in fine form. Definitely worth considering.

**Château Calon Ségur - \$147.74 plus tax (\$169.90)**

“The Château Calon-Ségur 2014 is a blend of 66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13% Cabernet Franc, 19% Merlot and 2% Petit Verdot cropped at 41hl/ha and aged in 100% new oak for what is intended to be 20 months. The alcohol comes in at 13.8%, which would have been higher if more Merlot had been retained. The first impression is one of the oak because coming straight after the Montrose '14 (élevage in 60% new oak) the wood element is more pronounced here. It is relatively opulent and high-toned compared to its Saint Estèphe counterparts, developing floral scents with time but never quite extricating itself from the winemaking. The palate is medium-bodied with quite firm tannin that lend this more chewiness than either Montrose or Cos d'Estournel. There is a lot of backbone to this wine, well focused with a good line of acidity, but again, I believe a more moderate use of new oak would have allowed the terroir to be expressed in what is a terroir-driven vintage. It is an impressive, you could almost say ambitious Calon Ségur, though I am seeking more personality via the terroir to be articulated. Tasted three times with consistent notes.”



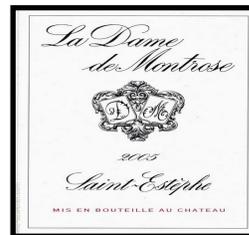
- eRobertParker.com #218 91-93 points

“The 2014 Calon Ségur is silky, polished and exceptionally beautiful. Freshly cut flowers, mint, dark berries and sage are some of the notes that are pushed forward in a sweet, unctuous St. Estèphe endowed with tons of class and personality. Raspberry jam and crushed flowers add further shades of nuance. The 2014 captures a deeply intriguing blend of lifted aromatics, super-ripe, fruit, pulsating energy and polished tannins. Persistent and impeccably balanced throughout, the 2014 Calon Ségur is without question one of the wines of the vintage. The refined finish alone is striking. In 2014, the blend is 66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 19% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot. Calon Ségur remains one of the few classified growths the average consumer can still afford to buy by the case. As such, it is likely to be one of the very best wines readers will find for the money. Don't miss it.”

- Vinous, Apr 2015 93-96+ points

**La Dame de Montrose - \$69.48 plus tax (\$79.90)**

“The La Dame de Montrose 2014 is a blend of 50% Merlot, 45% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Petit Verdot representing 37% of the total production. The bouquet is a little simple if compared to say, Les Pagodes de Cos 2014: blackberry mixed with boysenberry, a hint of black olive that is accentuated with time. The palate is medium-bodied with firm, grippy tannin. There is moderate concentration here, just a touch of spice emerging toward the finish that tapers away a little too early. At the moment there is a gulf between this and the superlative Grand Vin - it will be interesting to see whether it remains there in bottle.”



- eRobertParker.com #218 84-86 points

“The 2014 La Dame de Montrose presents a distinctly savory profile. Sweet red cherries, flowers, orange peel, herbs and white pepper give the 2014 much of its aromatic lift. Beautifully layered to match its gracious, understated personality, the 2014 impresses with its striking balance and laid-back sense of power. All the elements meld together in a wine of total grace. The 2014 showed better each time I tasted it over the course of two weeks. This is a very sexy second wine from Montrose. The blend is 50% Merlot, 45% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% % Petit Verdot that represents 37% of the total production.”

- Vinous, Apr 2015 90-93 points

“For the past decade or so the trend has been to treat second wines with the same respect as the first wine, no after thoughts here. When I initially tasted the wine I said to myself, “how can a wine get much better?” Well Montrose was good, but this incarnation of La Dame is as good as many previous efforts of their first wine.”

- **John Clerides, Marquis Wine Cellars**

### **Château Montrose - \$243.39 plus tax (\$279.90)**

“The Château Montrose 2014 is a blend of 61% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot that represents 47% of the total production. It was picked from mid-September via five or six tries through the vineyard. The aromatics represent a clear step up in quality from the second wine, attired with far more precision and focus, much more purity with scents of blackberry, boysenberry and blue fruit, now with touches of violet and vanilla. It is beautifully defined and actually, at least at this juncture, closely aligned with Cos d’Estournel 2014. The palate is medium-bodied with filigree tannin that underpin layers of pure mineral-rich black fruit. There is an enthralling sense of energy and precision here and it fans out remarkably on the finish. Dare I say, this is one grand vin that comes perilously close to matching the heights of the 2009 and 2010. This is a brilliant Montrose, one of the best you will find on the Left Bank this vintage. Tasted on five separate occasions, twice at the château.”



- **eRobertParker.com #218 95-97 points**

“The 2014 Montrose is one of the most intriguing wines of the vintage. An elegant, beautifully layered wine, the 2014 Montrose comes across as incredibly silky and polished. The typical Montrose power, richness and breath take a backseat to a total sense of refinement, as the 2014 is a remarkably nuanced and noble wine. Beams of acidity and minerality give the finish its salivating energy and brightness. Given that Montrose is slow to develop, my sense is that the 2014 is not ready to show all of its cards just yet. Today, it's all about potential, and there is plenty of that here. Sweet red cherry plum, dried flowers and spices are some of the notes that are laced into the exquisite, alluring finish. The blend is 61% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot that represents 47% of the total production.”

- **Vinous, Apr 2015 93-96+ points**

“A mere 47% of the vineyards was used in making the 2014 Montrose. Wow! A stunning example of what St.-Estèphe can offer. Perfect harmonious fruit, tannins and acidity, one of the best wines of the vintage. Brilliant.”

- **John Clerides, Marquis Wine Cellars**

### **Pauillac**

Just south of Saint-Estèphe lies the appellation of Pauillac, with the largest number of First Growths. Known for its long-lived wines with notes of cedar, cassis and cigar box, this commune is the most consistent from vintage to vintage. As always, the variety of wine styles produced in 2014 is amazing. Fragrant, severe and sumptuous, all the wines are Cabernet Sauvignon dominated and overall the quality is very good.

**Château Clerc Milon - \$104.26 plus tax (\$119.90)**

“The Château Clerc-Milon 2014 contains less Merlot than usual as the old vines produced just 15 hectoliters per hectare. The blend consists of 58% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot, 11% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot and 1% Carmenère. Like the d’Armailhac '14, there is a sense of opulence on the nose, ripe blackberry intermingling with black olives. The palate is rich and quite tangy on the entry. This is a “full-on” Clerc-Milon, quite extravagant in the context of the vintage, not a shy Pauillac, perhaps due to that expressive old vine Merlot? There is a pinch of soy on the finish that continues onto the aftertaste. Feisty Clerc-Milon for those who want a bit of va-va-va-voom in their Pauillac.”



- eRobertParker.com #218 90-92 points

“Dark red cherry, plum, smoke, tobacco, new leather and licorice flesh out in the 2014 Clerc Milon. Deep and pliant to the core, the 2014 boasts notable resonance from start to finish. Although not a huge wine, the 2014 is long on finesse and class, with silky tannins that balance some of the more overt elements. Hints of cedar, tobacco, earthiness and herbs add the final shades of dimension. Today, the 2014 is quite inward and not fully expressive, but it is nevertheless absolutely impeccable. The blend is 58% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot, 11% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot and 1% Carmenère.”

- Vinous, Apr 2015 91-94 points

“Robust and a bit angular on the initial taste, but the wealth of fruit makes up for it. I was very impressed with the depth and balance of the wine.”

- John Clerides, Marquis Wine Cellars

**Château D’Armailhac - \$78.17 plus tax (\$89.90)**

“The Château d’Armailhac 2014 is a blend of 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36% Merlot, 12% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot (slightly more Merlot than usual.) It will be matured in around one-third new oak. The opulence and richness is immediately apparent on the nose with hints of black olive infusing the black fruit. The palate is medium-bodied with slightly grainy tannin, quite dense black fruit with a spicy attack towards the saline finish. It feels a little abrasive at the moment but the rough edges should be rounded by the time.”



- eRobertParker.com #218 88-90 points

“The 2014 d'Armailhac is absolutely delicious. Dark red cherry, plum, pomegranate, spice and floral notes are bold and exuberant in the glass. This is an especially extroverted, silky d'Armailhac long on class, finesse and resonance. All the elements are in the right place. Ripe, silky tannins add to an overall impression of creaminess, but there is also a terrific element of pure energy here. The 2014 has a bit more Merlot in the blend than usual and also clocks in around 13.8% in alcohol, which is high for the estate. More importantly, though, d'Armailhac is a real overachiever in this vintage. The blend is 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36% Merlot, 12% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot.”

- Vinous, Apr 2015 90-93 points

**Château Duhart-Milon - \$126.00 plus tax (\$144.90)**

“The Château Duhart-Milon 2014 is a blend of 55% Cabernet Sauvignon and 45% Merlot that was picked from 29 until 10 October and 23 until 29 September respectively. It has a more fruit-driven nose than usual, a little less tertiary and austere than the Duhart's of old perhaps. The palate is medium-bodied with fine, quite sappy black fruit and well judged acidity. Nicely focused as usual here with a touch of salinity coming through on the finish. I feel that it is just missing the sense of dimension and authority that a great Duhart can possess, but it retains the aloofness that I admire so much. I will remain cautious for the time being and see how it fills out during its élevage.”



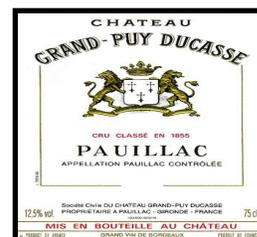
- eRobertParker.com #218 89-91 points

“The 2014 Duhart-Milon is a bit bombastic in this vintage. Scents of leather, smoke and tar meld into a core of intense dark fruit. Powerful and voluptuous on the palate, the 2014 shows the influence of a higher than normal percentage of Merlot in the blend. Firm yet well-integrated tannin carry the finish. The 2014 comes in at 12.8% alcohol, but feels richer and weightier than that. The blend is 55% Cabernet Sauvignon and 45% Merlot.”

- Vinous, Apr 2015 88-91 points

**Château Grand-Puy Ducasse - \$73.83 plus tax (\$84.90)**

“The Château Grand Puy Ducasse 2014 has a clean and pure bouquet: cedar and tobacco marrying nicely with the black fruit, though it needs a little more thrust. The palate is medium-bodied with a supple, fleshy, coconut-tinged entry. The oak needs to be better integrated with the fruit: it's seductive at the moment but it needs to translate that into substance in bottle.”



- eRobertParker.com #218 88-90 points

“The 2014 Grand Puy Ducasse boasts serious power and intensity. Bold, dark and massive on the palate the 2014 presents considerable density in its dark flavors. Today the new oak is dominant, while the heavily-extracted style appears to overpower the fruit. If the 2014 comes together in barrel it will merit a more positive note, but at the moment I am not convinced about its overall balance given the sheer massiveness of the tannins. My impression is that the 2014 is overdone. Tasted twice.”

- Vinous, Apr 2015 87-90 points

“My notes read – a sexy wine, sent shivers up my spine. Chocolate, cocoa notes, with licorice underpinnings.”

- John Clerides, Marquis Wine Cellars

**Château Grand-Puy-Lacoste - \$117.30 plus tax (\$134.90)**

“A blend of 82% Cabernet Sauvignon and 18% Merlot picked between 25 September and 9 October at 33 hectoliter per hectare. The aromatics are not as immediate as the Haut-Batailley and demand more coaxing from the glass, but that comes with the territory. It unfurls with each swirl, black fruits at first, then GPL's trademark, graphite and gravel scents storm into the room. Leaving the glass aside for 10 minutes there is a distant tang of shucked oyster shells. The palate is understated on the entry. This is not a powerhouse Grand-Puy-Lacoste, rather one that emphasizes finesse and precision. It is almost unerringly low-key and yet there is an enormous length already in place. As usual, I suspect that its secrets (or at least some of them) will be unlocked during its barrel maturation. One of the appellation's most cerebral offerings.”



- eRobertParker.com #218 93-95 points

“Vibrant and pulsating in the glass, the 2014 Grand Puy Lacoste impresses for its superb overall balance. The flavors are bright and beautifully expressive, with sweet floral notes woven throughout that give the wine much of its nuance, while the seamless, silky tannins speak to finesse. Even with all of its explosive energy, the 2014 is not an obvious or huge wine; rather it is a Pauillac that draws the taster in with its multiple shades of dimension. A wine of true class and pedigree, the Grand Puy Lacoste is shaping up to be a real gem in this vintage. Tasted twice.”

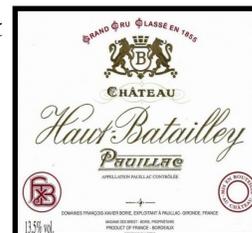
- **Vinous, Apr 2015** 92-95 points

“Quite structured and a bit angular at this young age. However it has all the acid, fruit, tannins and backbone to age in the cellar for the long haul.”

- **John Clerides, Marquis Wine Cellars**

### **Château Haut-Batailley - \$73.83 plus tax (\$84.90)**

“The Château Haut-Batailley 2014 is a blend of 78% Cabernet Sauvignon and 22% Merlot picked between 25 September and 9 October at 33hl/ha. The nose seems to revel in that Cabernet Sauvignon: sensual black fruit on the nose mixed with minerals and incense aromas. It offers knockout precision. The palate is medium-bodied with very fine tannin that are enveloped in pure black cherry fruit mixed with blueberry and even hints of orange rind. There is already plenty of energy coiled up in this Haut-Batailley – a splendid Pauillac in the making.”



- **eRobertParker.com #218** 91-93 points

“The 2014 Haut Batailley is quite dark and intense. Dark plum, smoke, game, leather and white pepper flesh out in a powerful, incisive wine built on pure power. The 2014 is likely to require at least a few years for the tannins to soften. Today, the 2014 Haut Batailley is a bit imposing, yet there is plenty of intrigue.”

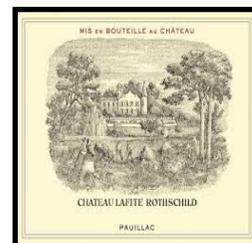
- **Vinous, Apr 2015** 89-92 points

“Ample fruit, impressively rich and dense and quite tight. Classy, elegant and in a word “superb”. Will need time in the cellar.”

- **John Clerides, Marquis Wine Cellars**

### **Château Lafite Rothschild - \$948.61 plus tax (\$1090.90)**

“The Château Lafite-Rothschild 2014 is a blend of 87% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Merlot and 3% Cabernet Franc, picked from 22 September until 10 October with the Petit Verdot, the Cabernet finished two days earlier. The Grand Vin is adorned with surprising richness and opulence on the nose: layers of ripe black plum and juniper, fine definition with even a hint of fig developing with continued aeration. After 5 minutes it turns volte face and becomes much more graphite and cedary - more Pauillac in essence. The palate is medium-bodied with ripe tannin, a potent core of black and blue fruit with a bullish (for Lafite) peacock's tail on the finish. Very long in the mouth, this is a Lafite that yearns to compensate for last year and it accomplishes that with some panache.”



- **eRobertParker.com #218** 94-96 points

“A rich, powerful wine, the 2014 Lafite-Rothschild boasts superb depth, nuance and class. Hints of plum, cinnamon, wild flowers and exotic spices are woven throughout, but the flavors remain quite primary. The delicate, brilliant finish points to a bright future for a Lafite that should start to drink well with minimal cellaring. The blend is 87% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Merlot and 3% Cabernet Franc. In 2014, the Grand Vin accounts for 38% of the production.”

- **Vinous, Apr 2015** 92-95 points

### **Château Lynch Bages - \$173.83 plus tax (\$199.90)**

“The Château Lynch Bages 2014 is a blend of 69% Cabernet Sauvignon, 26% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot matured in 75% new oak. Yields were a respectable 40 hectoliters per hectare, although that figure is less than Jean-Charles Cazes predicted earlier in the season. The nose is well defined with veins of graphite infusing the black fruit: quite strict for Lynch Bages, a little reserved at this early stage. The palate is medium-bodied with chalky tannin, racy acidity although the pH is around 3.7, linear and a little austere on the finish. This is tightly coiled at the moment, gritty in the mouth but I like the Pauillac typicité here – not a million miles away from Grand Puy Lacoste in style. This deserves respect and I suspect it will age with the style of Jean-Charles's father, who turned 80 on the day of my visit.”



- **eRobertParker.com #218** 92-94 points

“A huge, dense wine, the 2014 Lynch-Bages rips out of the glass with layers of intense fruit. Huge swaths of tannin provide the framework for a decidedly extroverted, boisterous Pauillac. Hints of dark red and purplish-hued fruit, spices, new leather and cedar gradually open up, but it is the wine's explosive personality that speaks most loudly at this stage. I don't quite see the finesse of the very best Pauillacs. It will be interesting to see if that develops in the coming years. The blend is 69% Cabernet Sauvignon, 26% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot. At present, the 2014 is aging in 75% new barrels.”

- **Vinous, Apr 2015** 90-93 points

### **Château Mouton-Rothschild - \$782.52 plus tax (\$899.90)**

“The Château Mouton-Rothschild 2014 contains more tannin than the 2010 according to winemaker Philippe Dhalluin, although he stressed that this does not imply that they were finer tannin. The blend is 81% Cabernet Sauvignon, 16% Merlot and 3% Cabernet Franc and it will of course, be matured in 100% new oak. The alcohol level just tops 13%, the first time since 2010. It has a classic Mouton nose, the slightly higher percentage of Merlot lending a little flamboyance and flair with scents of blackberry, warm gravel and cigar box scents. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, armed with powerful core of quite rich black fruit interlaced with tobacco and allspice. There is very good structure here, a fine edginess towards the white pepper infused finish. There is almost a nuttiness to this wine, to wit, a fascinating maze-like Mouton in the making and perhaps a more cerebral Mouton compared to recent vintages. Tasted twice, almost two weeks apart, with consistent notes.”



- **eRobertParker.com #218** 94-96 points

“Dark and enveloping to the core, the 2014 Mouton Rothschild opens with beguiling scents of violet, new leather, dark spice and plum. There is plenty of tannin lurking beneath, but the overall impression is of fleshiness and seamlessness, with the 100% new oak also beautifully balanced for such a young wine. Layers of flavor build to the effortless, concentrated finish in a sexy Mouton that is likely to reward consumers with many years of fine drinking. I very much like the sense of balance here.”

- **Vinous, Apr 2015** 93-96 points

“Mouton keeps getting better and better as less and less first growth wine is made. A deep, brooding wine, probably what the 1982 tasted like in its youth. This wine is massively structured with a tremendous amount of flavours and nuance. This wine will age for decades.”

- **John Clerides, Marquis Wine Cellars**

### **Château Pichon-Longueville Baron de Pichon-Longueville - \$191.22 plus tax (\$219.90)**

“The Château Pichon Baron 2014 is a blend of 80% Cabernet Sauvignon and 20% Merlot, almost the same as 2010. It was picked between late September and 16 October. It has a tightly wound bouquet at the moment, very "contained" and not as flamboyant as say, the 2009 or the 2010 at this early juncture. But there is remarkable precision here - an aristocratic nose with fleeting glimpses of cedar and pencil lead. The palate is medium-bodied. The acidity is quite noticeable although the pH is 3.8, higher than you would have expected. There is certainly a lot of body and structure (IPT came in at 91) with a precise, almost stoic, graphite finish. If the disappearance of Château Latour from en primeur is getting you down then this will fill that gap nicely.”



- **eRobertParker.com #218 92-94 points**

“Dark red cherry, plum, cedar, smoke and cinnamon are some of the notes that meld together in the 2014 Pichon-Longueville Baron. One of the rounder, more supple wines from this sector of the Médoc, today, the 2014 appears to be a wine that will drink well with only a handful of years in the cellar. The soft, seamless finish is quite striking, but there is plenty of tannin lurking beneath, it is just buried by the fruit. Technical Director Jean-René Matignon adds that the tannin levels are the same as 2010, although that would be nearly impossible to ascertain on taste and feel alone. In 2014, the blend is 80% Cabernet Sauvignon and 20% Merlot. Overall, this is a very stylish Pichon-Baron distinguished by the great purity of its fruit. Tasted twice.”

- **Vinous, Apr 2015 91-94 points**

### **Château Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande - \$186.87 plus tax (\$214.90)**

“The Château Pichon-Lalande 2014 is a blend of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc and 6% Petit Verdot picked over five weeks between 16 September and 20 October. It has a very pure and precise bouquet with a light marine influencing the black cherries and blueberry fruit. The palate is medium-bodied with a tense, graphite-tinged opening, a fine line of acidity (pH 3.72) and a silky smooth finish. The Cabernet Sauvignon is very expressive and dominates the Merlot at the moment, although the Merlot is essentially counterbalancing what might have been a much more austere Pichon-Lalande. Under Nicolas Glumineau, this Pauillac estate is really beginning to "motor" and this is an excellent wine, one within touching distance of the First Growths.”



- **eRobertParker.com #218 93-95 points**

“The 2014 Pichon-Longueville Comtesse de Lalande is a huge wine. Rich, powerful and dense, yet remarkably precise, the 2014 boasts extraordinary density and fabulous balance. Scents of black fruits, graphite, smoke, tobacco, grilled herbs and incense meld into a huge core of fruit. Hints of black cherry jam, wild flowers and mint add an attractive aromatic top register on the close. Explosive and virile in style, the 2014 appears to have the pedigree to age well for several decades. It is without question one of the wines of the year. The blend is 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc and 6% Petit Verdot.”

- **Vinous, Apr 2015 93-96 points**

“Admittedly I have been down on Pichon Lalande for quite some time. After they botched the final blend and bottling of the highly touted 2005 vintage, I lost my love for this property. Since then, this property was purchased by the owners of Roederer, a new GM hired and a state of the art winery built. The overall result has been a dramatic turnaround in the quality of the wines.”

- John Clerides, Marquis Wine Cellars

### Château Pontet-Canet - \$191.22 plus tax (\$219.90)

“The Château Pontet-Canet 2014 was picked between 29 September and 10 October. It is initially quite reticent, a little broody in the glass. However, it unfolds with each swirl revealing a very pure and I feel, a more contained and classic bouquet compared to the 2013: blackberry, graphite, minerals and a touch of incense. The palate is medium-bodied with fine, quite tensile tannin. The acidity is very well judged – crescendo of flavors that lead to a precise, lightly spiced, quite vivacious finish. What I like here is that it is very Pauillac, in the sense that I feel that recent vintages were flirting with deviating too far away from what a typical Pauillac ought to be. This is unmistakable in terms of where it comes from, but there it retains that sense of focus and mineralité that ensures this is a total success for the vintage. I find this more appealing than the 2013 last year and this 2014 should be a vintage that puts a smile on Jean-Michel Comme's face.”



- eRobertParker.com #218 93-95

“Deep and translucent to the core, the 2014 Pontet-Canet is one of the sexiest wines of the vintage. A host of violets, lavender, mint, spices, new leather and plums grace the palate in an utterly exquisite wine endowed with magnificent yet understated depth and crystalline purity. This is without question one of the highlights of the vintage. The 2014 isn't a big wine; rather it is a Pauillac built on a total sense of finesse. The 2014 was vinified in equal parts cement and oak, and is aging in a combination of 50% new oak, 35% amphora and 15% once used barrels. The blend is 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and 5% Petit Verdot. Personally, I can't wait to taste the 2014 from bottle.”

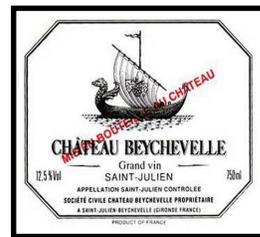
- Vinous, Apr 2015 93-96+ points

### St. Julien

Located just south of Pauillac, Saint-Julien is very uniform in terms of quality. Wines from this commune are classic, elegant and long lived with a lot of subtlety. Saint Julien is traditionally the bastion of decent Left Bank Bordeaux, the commune that makes up for its lack of First Growth with virtues of reliability, trust and steadfastness. In 2014, St. Julien produced wines that displayed the “quintessential claret” qualities that reflect their style and terroir. There was a bit more variation than normal and the overall quality of the wines compare with Pauillac as being the best of the vintage.

### Château Beychevelle - \$130.35 plus tax (\$149.90)

"The Château Beychevelle 2014 is a blend of 39% Cabernet Sauvignon, 51% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot and 5% Cabernet Franc. You might notice the high percentage of Merlot. This is because of the flowering, decisions made during blending and the low yield of the Cabernet Sauvignon. It was cropped at 38 hectoliters per hectare between 25 September and 14 October during what the estate recorded as the driest September since 1961. That Merlot governs the aromatics here, the fruit clearly towards the red side of the fruit spectrum: cranberry and wild strawberry, almost Right Bank in style. The palate is ripe and fleshy, nicely defined with tensile tannins. I appreciate the nascent harmony here, with fine precision and a long sustained finish with fine salinity. You could argue that pinning your hopes on Merlot when so many others proselytize Cabernet Sauvignon was a risk however, in this showing it was a risk that was worth taking. "Pomerol does Saint Julien" perhaps? It seems to work on what may be the most seductive Beychevelle for years."



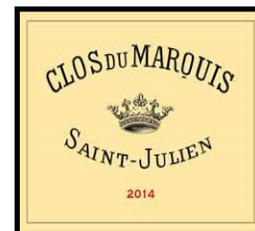
- eRobertParker.com #218 91-93 points

"A big, powerful wine for the year, the 2014 Beychevelle is going to need quite a bit of time to fully come together. Today, the 2014 is quite bold, with notable concentration and overall intensity. Lavender, mint, spices, cedar and new leather are all nicely delineated. It will be interesting to see if the 2014 fleshes out a bit more from here. Tasted two times."

- Vinous, Apr 2015 90-93 points

### Clos du Marquis - \$91.22 plus tax (\$104.90)

"The Clos du Marquis 2014 is a blend of 74% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot and 4% Cabernet Franc cropped at 33 hectoliter per hectare and matured in 50% new wood. Picked between 30 September and 13 October, it has a ripe, quite opulent bouquet with layers of blackberry, dark plum and incense, a touch of pencil lead with time. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, a little pinched at the moment but it will "relax". The alcohol level is one of the highest ever at 13.85% and yet it is counterbalanced by its freshness. In fact, the finish is quite classic in style and provides a pleasant juxtaposition with the more generous aromatics – it will be interesting to see how they develop during their élevage."



- eRobertParker.com #218 90-92 points

"The 2014 Clos du Marquis is quite pretty and expressive. Blue and purplish-hued fruit, sweet spices and mint all open up nicely in the glass. The 2014 is not a huge wine, rather it is distinguished by its energy, precision and overall nuance. Scents of violet, lavender, mint and sweet spices add complexity on the gracious, inviting finish. This is a lovely effort and a fabulous example of the vintage. The more feminine side of St. Julien comes through in spades. The blend is 74% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot and 4% Cabernet Franc."

- Vinous, Apr 2015 90-92 points

"Made by the same team as Léoville Las Cases. The vineyards are located across the D2 (Department Road) further west and are situated on one of the great terroirs of St Julien. When I first I tasted the wine I thought to myself how can this wine be this good and be so reasonably priced? The wine is simply stunning."

- John Clerides, Marquis Wine Cellars

**Château Ducru-Beaucaillou - \$226.00 plus tax (\$259.90)**

“The Château Ducru-Beaucaillou 2014 is a blend of 90% Cabernet Sauvignon and 10% Merlot that was picked between 25 September and 15 October and matured in 100% new oak as usual. The IPT is 81, the pH 3.81. Compared to recent vintages the nose is more backward, sultry and less explosive although there is still impressive concentration here. It's just "buttoned down" at present. (A second sample showed a little more sous-bois, more complexity than the first.) The palate is medium-bodied and masculine, a little chalky in the mouth with a firm backbone. Bruno Borie has overseen a more classic Ducru-Beaucaillou, one that I suspect will be less approachable than the last three vintages, boasting a Pauillac-like, graphite-infused finish that just needs to gain a little more persistence during its élevage. This is one wine that actually showed better on my second visit, demonstrating more élan and brio, but nuances notwithstanding, it is another magnificent Ducru-Beaucaillou to add to the roster.”



- eRobertParker.com #218 94-96 points

“The 2014 Ducru-Beaucaillou is one of the richest, most explosive wines of the year. Scents of blackberry jam, crème de cassis, graphite, pencil shavings, exotic spices and lavender meld into a plush core of super-ripe fruit in a decidedly opulent, full-throttle Ducru that is strikingly beautiful today. The 2014 is likely to require many years to drop some of its baby fat, but it is unquestionably stunning. Veins of saline-inflected minerality add a measure of freshness to the unctuous yet brooding finish. Readers who can find the 2014 should not hesitate, as it is truly magnificent. In 2014, the blend is 90% Cabernet Sauvignon and 10% Merlot.”

- Vinous, Apr 2015 94-97 points

“The team at this Château have been quietly improving their wines over the years. The 2014 is a monumental wine. In fact, for me, it surpasses the 2009 and 2010 vintages. It is one of the stars of the Médoc and certainly St Julien.”

- John Clerides, Marquis Wine Cellars

**Château Gloria - \$69.48 plus tax (\$79.90)**

“The Château Gloria 2014 has a focused, straight-laced bouquet with strict redcurrant and wild strawberry fruit, tightly wound at first but opening with aeration, tobacco and even flint emerging with time. The palate is medium-bodied with firm, dry tannin, a little chalkiness under those broody black fruit, the foundation of a classic, almost austere finish the nevertheless offers length and sustain. This actually harks back to the fine old Gloria's of the past, a little rustic perhaps, but a wine that I think will blossom in bottle. This will need to prove itself in bottle.”



- eRobertParker.com #218 89-91 points

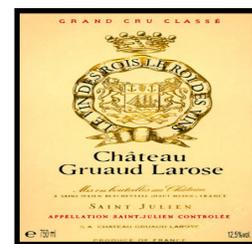
“The 2014 Gloria is ample, rich and beautifully resonant, with more than enough fruit to fill out its broad-shouldered frame. Red currant, blood orange, smoke, white pepper and iron build to the deeply satisfying finish. The combination of extroverted fruit, tannin and saline-inflected minerality dazzles from the very first taste. What a gorgeous wine this is.”

- Vinous, Apr 2015 91-94 points

### Château Gruaud Larose - \$121.65 plus tax (\$139.90)

“The 2014 Château Gruaud Larose is a blend of 61% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc and 3% Petit Verdot that was picked between September 24 and October 11. It was fermented in wooden and cement vats and is being aged in 40% new French oak. The bouquet unfolds nicely in the glass with blackberry, blueberry and cedar scents that are detailed and quite sensual. The new oak is a little more prominent than recent vintages but it is perfectly in sync with the fruit. The palate is medium-bodied, fresh and citrus-like on the entry, the tannin fine and lending this nascent Gruaud Larose fine precision and poise. This is a superb Saint Julien: fresh and with a satin-like texture. Everything is in place for a promising evolution.”

- eRobertParker.com #Interim – May 2015 91-93 points



### Château Langoa Barton - \$91.22 plus tax (\$104.90)

“The Château Langoa Barton 2014 is a blend of 54% Cabernet Sauvignon, 34% Merlot and 12% Cabernet Franc cropped between 25 September and 8 October and raised in 60% new barrels. It has a backward nose that is tightly buttoned down: hints of blackberry, briary and cedar developing with time. The palate is harmonious with fine tannins, good density here for a Langoa Barton with new oak beautifully interwoven and filling out the finish. This is an impressive Langoa Barton, one of the most under-rated crus in Saint Julien. It's one that will surprise a few people once in bottle.”

- eRobertParker.com #218 91-93 points



“The 2014 Langoa-Barton is very pretty. Nuanced and precise to the core, the 2014 shows the more refined side of St. Julien. Dark red cherry, plum, spice, mint and lavender caress the palate as the 2014 shows off its hugely appealing, open-knit personality. The flavors are finely-sculpted in a Langoa-Barton that should provide considerable near and medium-term appeal. All the elements are in the right place. A dollop of chalk and white pepper adds aromatic lift on the close. The blend is 54% Cabernet Sauvignon, 34% Merlot, 12% Cabernet Franc. Tasted two times.”

- Vinous, Apr 2015 90-92 points

“Many people think this is a second label of Léoville Barton. In fact it is not. Rather the grapes are part of the same plot of land, vinification techniques are the same and the difference between the two wines is attributed to terroir. The 2014 is rounder than normal, and what I call fleshier. Surprisingly soft and appealing at this youthful stage.”

- John Clerides, Marquis Wine Cellars

### Château Léoville Barton - \$130.35 plus tax (\$149.90)

“The Château Léoville-Barton 2014 is a blend of 83% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot and 2% Cabernet Franc picked between 25 September and 8 October and matured in 60% new oak. This is clearly richer and more opulent than the Langoa Barton with small dark cherries, a touch of boysenberry and cedar, more immediate than its “little sister”. The palate is sweet and sappy in the mouth with concentrated black fruit, hints of liquorice coming through on the finish that fans out with a bit of brio. It does not quite possess the clinical precision of Léoville Las-Cases, but there is certainly a lot of substance and length here. Lilian Barton can rightly be proud of this. Tasted on three occasions.”

- eRobertParker.com #218 92-94 points



“A fabulous wine from this venerable estate, the 2014 Léoville-Barton is super-impressive today. Dark red stone fruits, wild flowers, mint, spices and raspberry all show the inflections of invigorating freshness that are such a signature of the vintage. Hints of crème de cassis, blackberry jam, graphite, brioche, grilled herbs and spice add nuance on an inky finish that gains weight over time. Today, the 2014 is embryonic, but I won't be surprised if it grows considerably over the coming years. The blend is 83% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc. Tasted two times.”

- **Vinous, Apr 2015** 91-94 points

“Deeply coloured with a black, purple hue. Quite closed on the nose and a firm initial impact that then rounds out as seemingly only Barton can as it envelopes your palate. This is a classic.”

- **John Clerides, Marquis Wine Cellars**

### **Château Léoville Las Cases - \$273.83 plus tax (\$314.90)**

“The Château Léoville-Las-Cases 2014 is a blend of 79% Cabernet Sauvignon, 11% Cabernet Franc and 10% Merlot cropped at 33 hectoliter per hectare matured in 85% new oak. There is 6.8% vin de presse this year. Picked between 30 September and 13 October over 12 days, it has an intense, graphite-scented bouquet, one of the most Pauillac-like that I have encountered, extremely precise and perhaps less flamboyant than recent vintages. This is very controlled. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin, succinctly pitched acidity and an almost pixelated finish that lingers long and tenderly. I love the elegance here – this is an outstanding wine from Jean-Hubert Delon and his team and dare I say, equal to some of the First Growths.”



- **eRobertParker.com #218** 94-96 points

“The 2014 Léoville-las-Cases is striking, even if it is reticent. Crème de cassis, blueberry jam, pencil shavings, cloves and new leather are all woven together effortlessly. Today, the 2014 comes across as restrained and finessed, with less of the volume and energy that is common. It's hard to imagine the notoriously slow-to-mature Léoville-las-Cases won't blossom during its élevage, but at this stage the elements aren't fully put together. The blend is 79% Cabernet Sauvignon, 11% Cabernet Franc and 10% Merlot.”

- **Vinous, Apr 2015** 91-94 points

“Stunning, refined and elegant, yet with depth and complexity that only Léoville Las Cases can possess. My initial nosing only gave me an inkling of what the wine offered, the second smell I said to myself “yes the wine is getting better” while the third and fourth sent shivers up my spine. One of the great wines in 2014.”

- **John Clerides, Marquis Wine Cellars**

### **Château Léoville Poyferré - \$130.35 plus tax (\$149.90)**

“The Château Léoville-Poyferré 2014 is a blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot and 3% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot picked between 1 and 14 October, a little later than some of its Saint Julien neighbors. It has one of the most opulent set of aromatics of the appellation, with crème de cassis, boysenberry jam and macerated small dark cherries - an extravagant bouquet in the context of the growing season. The palate is full-bodied with great density and power. There is a lot of weight in this Saint Julien, spicy in the mouth with a healthy pinch of white pepper towards the finish that feels long in the mouth, although I would like to see more finesse coming through by the time of bottling. As usual, this is one of the most decadent Saint Julien wines, but one that is well-crafted by Didier Cuvelier. ”



- **eRobertParker.com #218** 91-93 points

“The 2014 Léoville Poyferré is impressive. A big, broad-shouldered St. Julien, the 2014 blossoms in the glass with superb depth and richness. Dark red cherry, plum, spice, menthol, crushed flowers, herbs and leather are some of the notes that burst onto the palate in an energetic, tightly wound Poyferré. The 2014 finishes with notable depth and huge, explosive intensity, all of which suggest it will require considerable cellaring. This is without question one of the stars of the vintage.”

- **Vinous, Apr 2015** 92-95 points

“Another stunning effort from the talented team at Léoville Poyferré. The wine is savoury, almost thirst quenching. Despite its youth, it is layered with bright fruit, hints of tobacco, coffee and other savory notes. A great example of St Julien.”

- **John Clerides, Marquis Wine Cellars**

### **Château Saint-Pierre - \$95.57 plus tax (\$109.90)**

“The Château Saint-Pierre 2014 is apparently under a new regime after consultant Stéphane Derenoncourt was hired for the 2014 vintage. There is some decent mulberry and fresh strawberry on the nose that is nicely defined. The palate is medium-bodied, toasty on the entry with good acidity, plenty of chocolaty new oak, although there will be only 60% in the final blend.”

- **eRobertParker.com #218** 85-87 points



“The 2014 Saint-Pierre is beautifully focused in the glass, with plenty of power and vibrancy in its sweet red stone fruit, wild flowers, new leather, rose petals and mint. I very much like the translucency allied to power here. The blend is 75% Merlot and 25% Cabernet Franc.”

- **Vinous, Apr 2015** 89-92 points

“For the most part Saint-Pierre is still one of the hidden gems within St. Julien, always offering stunning value. Sublime in true St Julien form.”

- **John Clerides, Marquis Wine Cellars**

### **Margaux**

Margaux is the southernmost commune appellation in Haut-Médoc. Wines here generally have a higher percentage of Merlot than more northern appellations. Always a difficult commune to judge due to its large size and wide variety of soils. In 2014 there is some inconsistency with the wines from this region. This is mostly due to higher rainfall during the year and the higher percentage of Merlot that is planted. The wines from Margaux in 2014 are overall charming and more accessible than their counterparts in St. Julien or Pauillac but they are not destined for extended time in the cellar.

### **Alter Ego de Palmer - \$117.30 plus tax (\$134.90)**

“The Alter Ego de Palmer 2014 is a blend of 52% Merlot, 35% Cabernet Sauvignon and 13% Petit Verdot. It has an opulent, glossy bouquet with layers of small dark cherries and plenty of glycerin. The palate is more reserved than the bouquet suggests: saturated tannins, a little chewiness on the entry but suppler towards the finish. It feels very linear in keeping with the style of the vintage, the finish a little sweet than its peers with a dab of licorice on the aftertaste.”

- **eRobertParker.com #218** 90-92 points



“A juicy, expressive wine, the 2014 Alter Ego is wonderfully open and expressive today, with radiant fruit, soft contours and gorgeous overall balance. Sweet red plum, raspberry, rose petal and French oak flow through to the soft, resonant finish. An exuberant floral note adds the last layer of complexity. The 2014 is 52% Merlot, 35% Cabernet Sauvignon and 13% Petit Verdot. Despite the relatively high percentage of Petit Verdot, that fruit comes from gravelly/sandy soils that confer perfume and aromatics, qualities winemaker Thomas Duroux brought out further with a short, gentle fermentation. This is a lovely second wine.”

- **Vinous, Apr 2015** 90-92 points

#### **Château Kirwan - \$73.83 plus tax (\$84.90)**

“The 2014 Château Kirwan, which was blended in mid-January and is being raised in around 40% new wood, has an intense bouquet. Tasting it alongside the '14 Gruaud Larose, it does not quite have the same detail, but what I appreciate here is that it is quintessentially "Margaux" those violets bursting from the glass flanked by crème de cassis and vanilla. The palate is medium-bodied with gently grippy tannin, the acidity nicely judged with a precise finish that is long in the mouth. There is more precision here compared to recent vintages and fine mineralité on the aftertaste. I look forward to re-tasting this when in bottle.”



- **eRobertParker.com #Interim – May 2015** 90-92 points

“The reinvestment in Kirwan’s vineyards and cellars has paid huge dividends. Their wine is now where it should be among the pantheon of classed growths. A silky, refined and elegant Margaux. The proverbial iron fist in a velvet glove comes to mind.”

- **John Clerides, Marquis Wine Cellars**

#### **Château Margaux - \$782.52 plus tax (\$899.90)**

“The Château Margaux 2014, represents 36% of the year’s total production and is a blend of 90% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot. It has a distinctly floral bouquet, those trademark wilted violet scents soaring from the glass flanked by small dark cherries and a hint of cassis. It gains intensity in the glass but never puts the pedal to the floor. The palate is full-bodied with firm and bold tannins, very good density and presence. No, compared to the top flight vintages from the estate, it is unlikely to become a Château Margaux of compelling precision or finesse. Unusually for 2014 this is a grand vin bestowed with power and dimension. There is still a little tightness here, especially on the Pauillac-like finish, but it will turn into a great if not the greatest Château Margaux.”



- **eRobertParker.com #218** 93-95 points

“The 2014 Margaux opens with a wonderfully aromatic, expressive bouquet. Gracious and medium in body, the 2014 is quite understated. Dark red cherry, plum, herbs, cedar, smoke and tobacco gradually come forward in a super-refined, totally polished wine. Today, the 2014 is holding back quite a bit of its potential, but the style is one of finesse rather than pure power.”

- **Vinous, Apr 2015** 93-96 points

### Château Marquis d'Alesme Becker - \$73.83 plus tax (\$84.90)

“The Château Marquis d'Alesme Becker 2014 is a blend of 57% Cabernet Sauvignon, 31% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc and 5% Petit Verdot, cropped at 30 hectoliters per hectare and matured in 50% new oak. It has a refined bouquet with blackberry, boysenberry and violet scents, fine precision here, understated at first but growing in intensity. The palate is medium-bodied with a saline, marine influenced entry. The tannins feel a little hard on the mid-palate, lending the finish a foursquare, slightly dusty mouthfeel. There is good concentration here but it needs to muster more precision on the finish. Maybe that will come during the élevage? If it does then it will merit a higher score.”



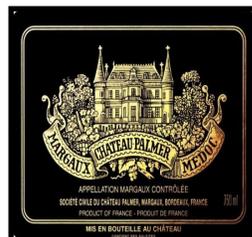
- eRobertParker.com #218 90-92 points

“Dark cherries, inky blue/purplish, smoke, licorice and tobacco race across the palate in the 2014 Marquis d'Alesme - Becker. Round and supple at the outset, with considerable new oak influence, the 2014 finds a bit more finesse on the finish, where veins of cool, refreshing minerality balance the wine's virility and overall intensity. Layers of fruit continue to flesh out in a distinctly powerful, huge Margaux loaded with personality. The 2014 saw about 5 days of cold soak then 26-28 days on the skins, followed by malolactic fermentations that were done 60% in oak and 40% in steel. The blend is 57% Cabernet Sauvignon, 31% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc and 5% Petit Verdot.”

- Vinous, Apr 2015 90-93 points

### Château Palmer - \$443.39 plus tax (\$509.90)

“The Château Palmer 2014 is a blend of 45% Merlot, 49% Cabernet Sauvignon and 6% Petit Verdot cropped at 33hl/ha between 22 September and 14 October. There is certainly more fruit intensity on the nose compared to the Alter Ego: more density, perhaps more opaqueness in tandem with more delineation. Dark plums, boysenberry jam and mineral abound. The palate is medium-bodied with fine, edgy tannin and crisp acidity (pH 3.6), a dash of cracked black pepper enlivening the back palate with a taut, quite grippy finish. This is a more masculine Palmer in prospect, one that will deserve five or six years time.”



- eRobertParker.com #218 93-95 points

“The 2014 Palmer is also quite silky and polished, especially for a young wine. Dense and concentrated, but with gorgeous textural finesse, the 2014 is already quite harmonious. Dark red cherry, plum, smoke, mocha, tobacco, menthol and licorice are all pushed forward in an opulent, forward Palmer that should offer a long window of very fine drinking. The blend is 49% Cabernet Sauvignon, 45% Merlot and 6% Petit Verdot.”

- Vinous, Apr 2015 91-94 points

“For the past decade Palmer has been going from strength to strength. The vineyard work has paid off. This is a sublime effort, quality, brilliant definition, seamless fruit and a long rich finish. A tour de force from the Palmer team.”

- John Clerides, Marquis Wine Cellars

### Château Prieure-Lichine - \$73.83 plus tax (\$84.90)

“The Château Prieuré-Lichine 2014 has a rather standoffish nose at first, but with a few swirls of the glass it opens up to reveal blackcurrant, raspberry and cassis scents with a light estuary influence just underneath (perhaps a whiff from the Gironde?) The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, lighter in style than other Margaux, but elegant and focused, the finish very harmonious with assiduously integrated new oak. Very fine. Tasted twice with consistent notes.”

- **eRobertParker.com** #218 90-92 points



“A wine of total finesse, the 2014 Prieuré-Lichine boasts striking purity in its fruit. The flavors are bright and floral throughout, with plenty of red currant, cherry and raspberry. There is virtually no sensation of tannin. Although perhaps not super-complex, the 2014 is impeccably balanced and harmonious from the very first taste. I imagine the 2014 will drink well with minimal cellaring, as it is already quite open-knit and expressive. This is a very strong showing from Prieuré-Lichine and consulting winemakers Stéphane Derenoncourt and Julien Lavenu. The blend is 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and 5% Petit Verdot. Tasted twice.”

- **Vinous, Apr 2015** 91-94 points

“Let me be frank: historically this has been an under-performing estate. For a fourth growth Bordeaux it was always a disappointment. However that changed in 2014. I was impressed with the quality of the ripe fruit, that is balanced with impeccable tannin structure and acid. Well done.”

- **John Clerides, Marquis Wine Cellars**

### RIGHT BANK

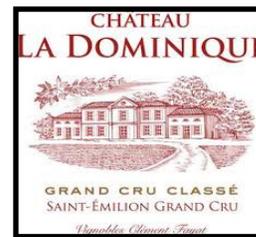
The Right Bank is on the east side of the Dordogne River. The two most important appellations are Pomerol and Saint-Émilion. The wines from the Right Bank range from 100% Merlot to blends dominated by Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Generally, there is much less Cabernet Sauvignon in these wines. The 2014 wines from the Right Bank are variable in quality. While some excellent wines were produced, the majority were below average due to the large majority of earlier ripening Merlot that is planted on this bank. The 2014's are pleasant to drink, but they don't have the density and substance that you normally expect from this region.

### Saint-Émilion

Home of the so-called “micro-châteaux”, Saint-Émilion's output is bigger than that of any other Right Bank appellation. The wines from this appellation are usually dominated by Merlot, with an important percentage of Cabernet Franc. Since Cabernet Sauvignon struggles to ripen in this area, it is only planted where there is an ideal microclimate and is relegated to a minor position in most wines. The wines from this area in 2014 are wide ranging in style. While some excellent wines were made, overall quality is low due to the high percentage of Merlot in the wines. Generally speaking wines with greater extraction and concentration are superior.

### Château La Dominique - \$78.17 plus tax (\$89.90)

“The Château La Dominique 2014 is a blend of 85% Merlot and 15% Cabernet Franc matured in 60% new oak. It has a little more composure on the nose compared to recent vintages: black cherries, iodine and floral notes developing, though I would still prefer to see more delineation. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannins, quite plush in the mouth with soft blackberry tinged with allspice and graphite on the finish. This is a structured La Dominique that just needs to muster a little more precision on the hard finish. Not bad, but this estate should aim for the very top of the pile given the brilliance of the wines produced back in the 1980s and early 1990s.”



- eRobertParker.com #218 89-91 points

“The 2014 Dominique is certainly not lacking in either intensity or personality. Super-ripe plums, blueberries, cloves, black cherries, new oak, menthol and smoke add complexity in a bold, explosive St.-Emilion built on fruit and suppleness. It will be interesting to see if the 2014 develops a bit more nuance during its aging. The blend is 85% Merlot and 15% Cabernet Franc. Tasted two times.”

- Vinous, Apr 2015 89-92 points

“A consistent performer in St. Émilion, I have always found that this wine properly reflects its sense of place. A refined, elegant wine with lovely structure and balance.”

- John Clerides, Marquis Wine Cellars

### Château Larcis-Ducasses - \$108.61 plus tax (\$124.90)

“The Château Larcis-Ducasses is a blend of 85% Merlot and 15% Cabernet Franc cropped at 37.5 hectoliter per hectare between 1 and 14 October. It has a strangely “distant” nose that is difficult to engage with at first, then a wave of super-ripe crème de cassis and blueberry fruit whose purity cannot be denied. The palate is full-bodied with soft ripe tannins, plush in the mouth with well-judged acidity, a touch of mineralité on the finish. Again, this is a modern style of Saint Emilion delivered with oodles of panache. This will be no more, no less than “delicious”.”



- eRobertParker.com #218 91-93 points

“An impressive wine, the 2014 Larcis Ducasse speaks to pedigree. Beautifully layered and exquisite in the glass, the 2014 stands out for its exceptional polish and finesse. Sweet red cherry, red currant, rose petal and cinnamon are all laced together in a highly expressive, silky St.-Emilion built on nuance and precision. Super-finessed, silky tannins contribute to the wine's overall feeling of total sophistication. Over time, the 2014 gains weight and breadth, pointing to a very bright future. There is so much to like here. The blend is 85% Merlot and 15% Cabernet Franc.”

- Vinous, Apr 2015 93-96 points

### Pomerol

Merlot is without a doubt the king of this 784 hectare appellation. Given the right weather conditions, it produces lush, rich and voluptuous wines that are very approachable in their youth but also have the ability to age. The quality of the 2014's from this region is dependent on the location of the vines and how much Cabernet Franc is incorporated into the wine. If the wines were situated in a prime location on the gravel plateau and had a very high percentage of Cabernet Franc, then the wines tended to be very good. If the above conditions were not met, then the wines produced were of moderate quality.

**Château Gazin - \$121.65 plus tax (\$139.90)**

“The Château Gazin 2014 is a blend of 95% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Franc picked between 19 September and 8 October. I like the freshness on the nose here: more black than red fruit, a little broody and introspective at the moment but well defined with mineral tones coming through. The palate is medium-bodied with ripe tannin and nicely judged acidity. There is a sense of nonchalance about this Gazin, nothing over-ambitious, something perhaps in keeping with the vintage, uninteresting in replicating the 2009 or 2010, happy in its own skin.”

- eRobertParker.com #218 91-93 points



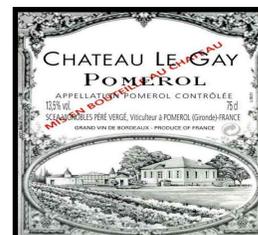
“There is a density and richness to this wine which made it stand out for me. I like the purity of flavours very much. Well done.”

- John Clerides, Marquis Wine Cellars

**Château Le Gay - \$173.83 plus tax (\$199.90)**

“The Château Le Gay 2014 has a tightly wound bouquet with subtle tertiary scents, woodland aromas infusing the red and black berry fruit. This is a more classic take of this Pomerol cru. The palate is very well balanced with fine, supple tannins and nicely judged acidity. It is a dialled back Le Gay compared to recent vintages, one that maintains satisfying balance, if not the peacock's tail that has adorned other vintages. It's no "2010", a wine that I consider a benchmark for the estate, but it will drink nicely over the next 10 to 15 years.”

- eRobertParker.com #218 90-92 points



“An inviting, sensual beauty, the 2014 Le Gay is all about texture. Silky tannins provide the backbone as this super-expressive, generous Pomerol opens up in the glass. Veins of bright acidity and a firm spine of tannin propel the finish. The 2014 is going to need a few years for the elements to fully come together, but there is more than enough density on the fruit to balance the acidity and tannins, both of which are a bit pronounced today.”

- Vinous, Apr 2015 91-94 points

# Terms & Conditions

Payment must be completed in full at time your order is confirmed. Payment can be made by credit card, cash, cheque or debit card.

We reserve the right **not** to accept your order, in which case we will have no further obligation to you.

We may accept the whole or part of your order, both in respect of the kinds of products ordered and the quantity of products ordered. The price will be adjusted accordingly.

Orders will be filled on a first-come, first-serve basis, except for those wines that have historically proven to generate demand far in excess of our ability to satisfy that demand. In the case of these wines, preference will be given to those customers who balance their orders of such “cherries” with other wines from this offering.

We will be deemed not to have accepted your order until payment for your order has been 100% completed. Even if we accept your order, there will not be any agreement between us if you are under the age of 19 years at the time you submit your order.

Confirmation of your order will be emailed to you.

No discounts of any kind are applicable.

Our total liability to you for non-delivery of any product is limited to the purchase price of the products.

Cancellation of order after being processed is subject to a \$50 fee per invoice.

Marquis Wine Cellars is not responsible for typographical errors.

Prices do not include taxes, bottle deposit to be added.

Delivery can be arranged throughout British Columbia. Delivery fees may apply.

Arrival of wines in store will be autumn of 2017. All wines will be held until all products have arrived for order consolidation.

