

Villa Réaut, Merlot 2020 89

Bold and intense black fruit aromas. This is juicy with a lovely weight in the mouth. Blackcurrant, bramble at the fore followed by gentle spices and herbal nuances which give some grip and piquance to the palate. Lovely cooling, minty flavour throughout. Very approachable with precision and detail. Made in amphora so the freshness is retained. Drink 2023-2030 Alc 14.5%

CASTILLON
CÔTES DE BORDEAUX

Château Beynat, Cuvée Léonard 2020 91

Intense, dark-fruited nose. Good crisp and plentiful fruit on the palate, with creamy, appealing edges. Density and intensity here but well handled and controlled. Feels refined despite the power and concentration. Texture and weight are balanced by good drive from start to finish, still on the bold spectrum. A serious wine with wood spicing and liquorice tinges towards the finish. A blend of 60% Merlot and 40% Cabernet Sauvignon. Drink 2024-2030 Alc 14%

Château la Grande Maye 2020 90

Fragrant and high toned nose, with blackcurrant and red cherry aromas. Grippy tannins with a nice texture and mineral undertone, supporting the fruit. Wet stone and iron nuances marked alongside the blackcurrant and black cherry fruit. Concentrated and powerful but harmonious. A blend of 85% Merlot and 15% Cabernet Sauvignon from fifth generation winemakers. HVE. Drink 2023-2028 Alc 14.5%

Château La Mondette 2020 90

Red and black cherries on the nose. Precise and defined, this 50/50 Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon is charming with bright flavours of summer berries and blackcurrant leaf. A bit rustic around the edges, but there's also a nice creamy chalky aspect which is appealing and in the mouth. Great potential here. Certified organic in 2021. Drink 2022-2029 Alc 12.5%

Château Terrasson 2020 90

Nicely scented on the nose. Juicy and mouthfilling with bright red fruit flavours and supple tannins. This is on the lighter scale of the wines, less concentrated and overripe, - more delicate yet with nice energy and drive. A succulent, clear and

appealing blend of 80% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Cabernet Franc from Gérard and Alix Standley who took over the estate in 2020. Certified organic. Drink 2022-2025 Alc 12.5%

Château Beynat 2020 89

High toned, vibrant and lively on the palate. Nice quality and feel to the fruit with some appealing sweet elements. Tannins are well integrated and the overall feel is smooth and supple. An easy-drinking blend of 70% Merlot and 30% Cabernet Franc. Drink 2022-2026 Alc 14%

Château d'Anvichar 2020 89

Perfumed nose with blackcurrants and plums. A 100% Merlot with nice weight and texture. Tannins are smooth, plumping up the soft red cherry and strawberry fruit. Charming in a quiet way, delivering an approachable and enjoyable glass of wine. If the tannins are present, and there is a touch of austerity and wood spice to the finish which will harmonise with time. Drink 2023-2029 Alc 14.5%

Chateau La Fleur Fompeyre 2020 89

Fragrant cherry notes on the nose. Supple and lively with ample yet fine tannins, supporting the fruit which is quite high-toned at present. It is, however, fresh and well worked - just needs time for the wood to integrate and soften. A blend of 70% Merlot and 30% Cabernet Sauvignon with nice potential. Drink 2023-2028 Alc 14%

Château Le Peyrat 2020 89

Blackcurrant sweets on the intense nose. Liquorice is dominant, lacing and bracing the black fruits, and making this quite a savoury and serious wine. There is a juicy quality to it and the texture is smooth with a pleasant blend of 85% Merlot and 15% Cabernet Franc from fifth generation winemakers. HVE. Drink 2022-2029 Alc 14.5%

Château Le Rey, Les Argileuses 2020 89

Bramble, blackcurrant leaf on the nose with certain stinky and savoury aspects. Fully ripe and chewy fruit on the palate. Pronounced flavours with good depth, plenty of wet stone minerality and some touches of clove spice giving nuance. Long finish, with lift and freshness. Best decanted if drinking soon. A blend of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc. Drink 2022-2029 Alc 14.5%

**Château Moulin de Clotte, L'Authentique 2020 89**

High toned, powerful, with high tannins and intense flavours. The blackcurrant and cherry flavours are bold and at the fore as is the tannic frame. Confident, chewy and mouthfilling this needs time to soften but there's nice detail on show. A blend of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc. HVE3. Drink 2023-2029 Alc 14%

Château Picoron, Mon Nom 2020 89

Nice summer red berry feel to this 100% Merlot with good persistence and an appealing undertone of minerality. Smooth and supple with integrated tannins and freshness throughout. So appealing and enjoyable with a blood iron, mineral terroir-infused nuance that comes through strongly on the finish. In organic conversion since 2021. Drink 2022-2029 Alc 14%

Château Roque Le Mayne 2020 89

Ripe blackcurrants on the nose. Softly succulent and persistent, this has a nice quality to the fruit against prominent savoury tones of sweet black liquorice and cedar. Ample and charming blend of 80% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Malbec. In organic conversion. Drink 2022-2029 Alc 14.5%

Clos Louie 2020 89

Such an expressive and aromatic nose. Juicy and fully flavoured with a bright fruit and good acidity. Very approachable with just hints of wood spice which give overall frame. Tannins are still abundant and mouth-coating but as soon as these settle this wine

will be extremely pretty and appealing. A blend of 25% Malbec, 25% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Franc and 25% Cabernet Sauvignon. Drink 2022-2029 Alc 14.5%

Domaine d'Argilius, Les Truffards 2020 89

High toned and perfumed. Juicy and bright strawberry and red cherry fruit with a nice sense of joy and good persistence. Touches of vanilla, and caramel as well as blackcurrant leaf and some stinky nuances. Nice minty lift on the finish. Lots of potential and will benefit from further ageing. A blend of 95% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc and 2% Cabernet Sauvignon. Certified organic since 2021. Drink 2023-2027 Alc 13.5%

Faret Desgranges, Cuvée Prestige 2020 89

Fragrant yet heady, with blackcurrant liqueur touches. Lovely texture on the palate, with softly gripping tannins. Flavours range from freshly picked strawberries to super ripe cherries and blackcurrants, giving a combination of sweetness and savouriness. A bold, confident 100% Merlot. Open this in a few years for full enjoyment. A new technical and commercial team arrived in 2019, and new general manager Christophe Mangeart arrived in 2021. Drink 2022-2029 Alc 14.5%

FRANCS
CÔTES DE BORDEAUX

Château Lulan 2020 92

Dark cherries and chocolate on the nose with faint floral reflections. Lovely texture;

the fruit and giving the palate frame. A well presented and succulent blend of 65% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Cabernet Franc and 5% Malbec.. Salinity from the limestone terroir on show. In organic conversion. Drink 2024-2028 Alc 14%

Château Godard Bellevue 2020 89

Perfumed and rich on the nose, heady and ripe. Quite intense on the palate, namely on the attack. Blackcurrant and plum fruit coming through before an iron/mineral wave comes in, dominating the mid palate and finish. Tannins are chewy and abundant and there is a large aspect of sweet liquorice adding to the dark, savoury nature of this wine. Well worked blend of 75% merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, that needs time to settle and soften. Drink 2023-2029 Alc 14%

SAINTE-FOY
CÔTES DE BORDEAUX

Château Pré la Lande, Cuvée Diane 2020 90

Blackcurrant and brambles with liquorice on the nose, all of which continue on the palate. Ripe and juicy but also supremely tannic and quite savoury, the texture taking the fore with the flavours also quite concentrated. A bold wine with plenty going on. It will need some time to come around but feels quite polished. A blend of 50% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Cabernet Franc and 5% Malbec. Drink 2023-2035 Alc 14.5%

Château Trois Fonds 2020 90

Bright and expressive nose, perfumed and ripely fruited. Sweet red cherries, laced with vanilla, clove and cinnamon are supported by fine but abundant tannins. The wood is on show at the moment but there's a nice core of fruit. Powerful and hefty, bold and serious but extremely well presented. A great wine to age further. A blend of 40% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Franc and 30% Cabernet Sauvignon. HVE3. Drink 2023-2032 Alc 14%

Château L'Enclos, Cuvée Réserve 2020 89

Ripe and intense on the palate, with a concentrated core of black cherries and bramble. Tannins are grippy, plumping up the fruit and carrying the liquorice spice along to a long finish. A dark, ripe, savoury style - bold, confident and very likeable. A blend of 90% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Cabernet Franc. Drink 2022-2029 Alc 14%

the tannins, although grippy, have a really lovely chewy aspect to them, supporting the fruit and cushioning it along the palate. There is a chalkiness here which is a little drying but the fruit quality is excellent and this has real personality and poise. A blend of 60% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Cabernet Franc and 10% Malbec. Drink 2022-2029 Alc 14%

Château Pleyssac-Tayac 2020 90

Red cherry and strawberry notes on the nose - such purity from the 100% Merlot grapes. The Juiciness from the fresh acidity comes through straight away. Lots of cherry nuances, some ripe and sweet, others slightly sour, but all neatly wrapped up with gently gripping tannins and delivered in harmony. An enjoyable glass of wine. HVE1. Drink 2022-2027 Alc 13%

Domaine Haut Ventenac 2020 90

Ripe red cherry aromas. Gorgeous clarity on the palate, defined and refined with a lovely juicy quality to the fruit. Everything seems in balance with mineral, wet stone revealed on the mid palate and towards the finish. A blend of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc.

Nice potential to this new project started in 2019 by two friends aged 25 and 30, part of the 'new wave' of young Bordeaux winemakers. In organic conversion since 2021. Drink 2023-2028 Alc 14%

Château Cru Godard 2020 89

Freshly picked strawberries and raspberries on the nose. Coating yet fine tannins - not chewy, not dry, just very present, supporting