



Bordeaux 2010
en primeur

THE CORKSCREW

Overview of Bordeaux 2010

I find it hard to imagine that I will ever again encounter such successful consecutive vintages in Bordeaux as 2009 and the infant 2010s I have just been tasting.

Jancis Robinson

2010 has produced another year of compelling Bordeaux. I have tasted enough wines from 2005, 2009 and 2010 to realise that these may be the three greatest Bordeaux vintages I have tasted in my career.

Robert Parker

We thought 2005 to be a landmark wine vintage, unlikely to be matched for a generation, then along came 2009 to rival and in some cases surpass it. A week of wine tasting in Bordeaux leads me to believe that 2010 may well overtake them both, and I cannot recall a more thrilling week's tasting in terms of the quality of the wines.

Alun Griffiths MW

2010 is a great vintage (arguably even better than 2009 if you like classic wines for the long haul).

Tim Atkin MW

Producers and critics are resisting saying 'best ever', but this focussed, serious, age-worthy vintage that is drawing comparisons to 1982 and even 1947/2010, the greatest Bordeaux vintage in modern times... until the next time.

Steven Spurrier, consultant editor Decanter magazine

Château Mouton Rothschild

PAUILLAC

The 2010 Mouton possesses the highest level of Cabernet Sauvignon (94%) of any wine this estate has produced.

Combined with 6% Merlot, the wine achieved 13.9% natural alcohol. Under director Philippe Dalhuin, the harvest was accomplished between September 28 and October 13, and only 49% of the crop made it into this powerful effort.

Reminiscent of the 1986, it is 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. In need of at least 15 years of cellaring, it will undoubtedly remain an infant at age 25 (as does the 1986).

Score: 97-100 Robert Parker, Wine Advocate

Availability: Only 6 cases

Case price (of 6 bottles): €4,450

“Le Petit Mouton” de Mouton Rothschild

PAUILLAC

A blend of 68% Cabernet Sauvignon and the rest primarily Merlot, this 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. Enjoy it over the next 10-15 years.

Score: 90-93 Robert Parker, Wine Advocate

Availability: Only 10 cases

Case price (of 6 bottles): €808

Château Cantemerle

HAUT MÉDOC

A quintessentially elegant style of Bordeaux, the opaque ruby/purple-tinged 2010 Cantemerle possesses elegant floral notes intermixed with hints of blueberries, raspberries, sweet red cherries and currants.

Medium-bodied with impressive purity, concentration and texture, it is not a heavyweight, but rather a well-proportioned, stylish red that should drink nicely for 15-20 years.

Score: 91-93 Robert Parker, Wine Advocate

Availability: Only 5 cases

Case price: €285

Château Leoville Barton

SAINT JULIEN

This is phenomenal, with dark fruit, with raspberries 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.

Score: 97-98 James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com

Availability: 1 case SOLD OUT

Case price: €985

Château Branaire Ducru

SAINT JULIEN

Proprietor Patrick Maroteaux has completed a decade of brilliant performances at this chateau across the Medoc's Route de Vin from Beychevelle and a stone's throw from Ducru Beaucaillou, St.-Pierre and Gloria.

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.

Score: 93-95 Robert Parker, Wine Advocate

Availability: 5 cases

Case price: €650

Château Lagrange

SAINT JULIEN

Tasted at the Château, the crop was picked between 29th September and 20th October, with much of the crop (the Cabernet) picked between 13th and 19th October. A blend of 75% Cabernet Sauvignon and 25% Merlot, this is a very tightly wound on the nose, the Cabernet Sauvignon imparting a strictness and tautness: blackberry, wild hedgerow, cedar and a touch of graphite.

The palate is medium-bodied with very fine tannins, a real sense of symmetry here with fine acidity. Very refined tannins and yet there is certainly great structure cloaked beneath that pure blackberry, cassis and cedar-infused fruit. Long in the mouth on the finish that is slightly drier than the 2009 when compared alongside.

This is an outstanding Saint Julien from one of its most consistent performers in recent years. Drink 2018- Tasted March 2011.

Score: 92-94 Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com

*Availability: **3 cases***

Case price: €539

Les Fiefs de Lagrange

SAINT JULIEN

Mid crimson. Intense and utterly correct. Quite subtle and very sweet. Easy for early drinking. Well made and very well balanced. Drink 2015-2021

16 points Jancis Robinson, jancisrobinson.com

Attractively cassis nose and has charm, elegance and depth, as usual a good second wine from Lagrange. Drink 2013-18.

16 points Steven Spurrier, decanter.com

Availability: ~~5 cases~~. **Only 3 cases left**

Case price: €210

Château Talbot

SAINT JULIEN

Abundant amounts of sweet, up-front fruit give this wine a precocious appeal compared to many of its brethren. It exhibits a dense plum/ruby/purple hue along with 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.

Score: 91-93 Robert Parker, Wine Advocate

Availability: Only 3 cases

Case price: €530

Clos du Marquis

SAINT JULIEN

Now essentially treated as a separate estate by Jean-Hubert Delon, and not as a second wine of Leoville Las Cases (whose second wine is now the newly introduced Le Petit Lion), Clos du Marquis has been a shrewd consumer's purchase for almost two decades.

Interestingly, the first vintage of Clos du Marquis was introduced in 1902! The 2010, which is an exceptional wine, was produced from the same parcel that always goes into this wine.

A blend of 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 17% Merlot and the rest Cabernet Franc, it is 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.

Score: 91-93 Robert Parker, Wine Advocate

Availability: 10 cases

Case price: €488

Château Lynch Bages

PAUILLAC

What incredible precision and clarity here. Currants, mineral, mint and lead pencil. Full body, with super refined tannins and a long, long finish. I am loving this young wine. It just builds on the palate. Goes so long.

79 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, 18 percent Merlot, 2 percent Cabernet Franc, and 1 percent Petit Verdot.

Score: 98-99 James Suckling, [JamesSuckling.com](https://www.jamesSuckling.com)

*Availability: ~~20 cases~~. **Now only 6 cases left.***

Case price: €1,498

Echo de Lynch Bages

PAUILLAC

A blend of 58% Cabernet Sauvignon, 33% Merlot and 9% Cabernet Franc, the second wine of Lynch Bages has blackberry, wild cherry and a touch of tobacco on the nose. Good definition.

The palate is medium-bodied with a ripe, succulent entry, powdery tannins with a fine blackberry, raspberry and cassis-tinged finish. Moderate length. Fine.

Score: 90-92 Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com

Availability: 0 cases, SOLD OUT

Case price: €342

Château D'Armailhac

PAUILLAC

A blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot, delivering 13.85% alcohol with close 3.74 pH. The nose is a little muted at the moment despite rigorous coaxing, quite Zen-like with crushed stone, traces of blackberry leaf and cassis, gaining momentum with aeration.

The palate is medium-bodied with slightly abrasive tannins on the entry although they will soften. This is a relatively masculine d'Armailhac without the glycerine you often find at this stage. More masculine, the Cabernet Sauvignon driving along to a stern but fresh finish.

Good potential, but it will require cellaring more than usual. Drink 2017

Score: 90-92 Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com

Availability: 20 cases

Case price: €465

Château Pontet Canet

PAUILLAC

Pontet-Canet's 2010 harvest took place between September 29 and October 17 (this vineyard is one of the few in Bordeaux that is fully certified as biodynamic) and the final blend was 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and the rest Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot that achieved nearly 15% natural alcohol.

A remarkable, full-bodied effort (as was the estate's 2009 and 2008), like so many recent vintages from proprietor Alfred Tesseron, 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.

On the downside, this 2010 will require a decade of cellaring and should evolve for 50+ years. It will be fascinating to drink it side by side with the 2009 and 2008.

Score: 96-100 Robert Parker, Wine Advocate

Availability: Only 1 case left

Case price: €1,511

Château Grand Puy Lacoste

PAUILLAC

A blend of 83% Cabernet Sauvignon and 17% Merlot, the Grand Puy Lacoste 2010 has 13.6% alcohol with a total acidity of around 3.5gms/L.

It has a very complex bouquet that I leave over 5 minutes to open, developing ripe blackberry, cassis, oyster shell and a faint tang of Japanese nori (seaweed.) Very good complexity. The palate is beautifully balanced, revelling in this vintage that countenances the Cabernet Sauvignon so much.

Very refined, powerful, beautifully focused with an unerring sense of symmetry.

This is a magnificent Pauillac...bravo Xavier. Drink 2020

Score: 97-99 Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com

Availability: 4 cases

Case price: €780

Château LaFon Rochet

SAINT-ESTÈPHE

Proprietor Basile Tesson may have produced his finest Lafon Rochet to date. The 2010's inky/blue/purple color is followed by a distinctive bouquet of spring flowers, blueberry pie, blackberry liqueur and crushed rocks.

Although a classified growth, this wine is an undeniable sleeper of the vintage as its price remains reasonable. The wine possesses terrific structure, ripe tannins and a voluminous, broad, deep impression on the palate. The fruit intensity, purity and richness suggest 4-5 years of cellaring will be required and the wine will last for 20+ years.

Score: 92-94 Robert Parker, Wine Advocate

Availability: Only 1 case left

Case price: €399

Château Les Ormes de Pez

SAINT-ESTÈPHE

Tasted at Lynch-Bages and the UGC, the vineyard suffered some hail damage and some parcels lost as much as 30-40% of the crop and the yield which is 44hl/ha. The Les Ormes de Pez is a blend of 57% Cabernet Sauvignon, 45% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot raised in 45% new oak.

It has a very sensual, very pure bouquet with dark cherries, boysenberry, wild hedgerow, mint and a touch of vanilla, much more feminine than the wines of the past.

The palate is medium-bodied with succulent tannins on the entry, very good ripeness here and the Cabernet Sauvignon is really in harmony with the ripe Merlot. Voluminous and silky smooth towards the finish, this is an outstanding Les Ormes de Pez. Drink 2015.

Score: 92-94 Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com

Availability: 5 cases

Case price: €274

Château Montrose

SAINT-ESTÈPHE

Jean Delmas believes this is one of the all-time great wines of Montrose, comparable to the 2009, 1990, 1989, 1959, 1947, 1945 and 1929. The 2010 harvest took place between September 27 and October 15, and the final blend is 54% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot that achieved 13.75% natural alcohol, a fraction above the 2009's 13.7%.

Somewhat reminiscent of the 1989, only even inkier and richer, the 2010 boasts a dense purple colour along with 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.

Score: 96-99+ Robert Parker, Wine Advocate

Availability: 5 cases

Case price: €1,900

Clos De L'Oratoire

SAINT-EMILION GRAND CRU

This has been a wonderfully consistent, satisfying wine since the estate was acquired by Stephan von Neipperg over a decade ago. The 2010 looks to be one of the most powerful and concentrated wines ever made here. Yields were a very modest 30 hectolitres per hectare, and the final blend 95% Merlot and 5% Cabernet France achieved a whopping 14.8% natural alcohol.

Huge notes of liquorice, incense, blackberry and cassis liqueur intermixed with smoke and toast are all present in this full-bodied, opulent, fleshy wine, which has an unctuous texture, super purity, and a long finish. This is a broad, juicy, and savoury St.-Emilion that will be drinkable early on and evolve for 12-15+ years.

Score: 92-94 Robert Parker, Wine Advocate

Availability: 2 cases

Case price: €399

Château Fontenil

FRONSAC

The home estate of Dany and Michel Rolland, Fontenil is consistently one of the best Fronsacs of the appellation.

The deep ruby 2010 Fontenil has aromas of violets, plums, blackberries and cedar, followed on the palate by succulent fruits with wonderful freshness and velvety tannins. This is a wonderful Fronsac, of good balance and depth, which will be a lovely near-term drink but will also keep well for the next ten years.

Score: 90-92 points

Availability: 3 cases

Case price: €205

Le Bon Pasteur

POMEROL

I love the crescendo to this wine. It starts up slowly and then builds and builds, with amazingly beautiful tannins and complex fruit and wood. Layered on the palate. Best ever from here?

Score: 95-96 James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com

Availability: 5 cases

Case price: €600

