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SHIP TO ALL STATES.

2009 *Red Bordeaux Futures* What the industry critics are saying so far...

ROBERT PARKER

"First, and most importantly, for some Médocs and Graves, 2009 may turn out to be the finest vintage I have tasted in 32 years of covering Bordeaux. From top to bottom, 2009 is not as consistent as 2005, but the peaks of quality in 2009 may turn out to be historic. In broad, rather simplistic terms, 2009 is at its greatest in the Médoc and Graves, where it can often eclipse 2005 and 2000."

"The vintage displays many of the characteristics of such creamy-textured, opulent, fat, succulent years as 1959, 1982, 1990 and some of the northern Medocs of 2003. Yet, the 2009's also have the structure, freshness, acid levels as well as vibrancy and precision of such cooler years as 1986, 1996, and 2000. In that sense, this is the glory of the 2009s. For as big and rich as well as high in alcohol as they are, they are also remarkably delicate, fresh and pure. This paradox, albeit a wonderful one, is unprecedented in the three plus decades I have been tasting Bordeaux barrel samples."

"I have never tasted such powerful and concentrated Médocs. This is where the Cabernet Sauvignons shine. In the Médoc, the index of polyphenols, tannin levels, and extract set all time records for many châteaux. That is important because when the wines are tasted, the sweetness of the tannins is very apparent. Moreover, the overall style of this vintage is one of opulent, voluptuous textures with abundant fatness and succulence."

An asterisk (*) after some wine scores signifies when Parker thought a wine had the finest potential of all the offerings he had ever tasted from that estate in nearly 32 years of barrel tasting samples in Bordeaux.

WINE SPECTATOR'S JAMES SUCKLING

"What strikes me the most about the 2009s is the intensity of tannins and alcohol, yet at the same time the best wines are not overdone, or made in that blockbuster style that you get from so many other wine areas outside of Bordeaux. The wines are still reserved even though they are some of the most structured I've ever seen."

JANCIS ROBINSON M.W.

"The 2009 vintage was the ripest Bordeaux has ever known. Overall this vintage can offer more sheer pleasure than any I can remember and may well provide delicious drinking throughout its life while we wait for the 2005s to emerge from their tannic corsets. I have never given so many really high scores when tasting en primeur anywhere...There are some truly stupendous wines."

STEVEN SPURRIER OF
DECANTER MAGAZINE

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“The best vintage of my lifetime. Comparisons with 2005 are inevitable, with general agreement that while the latter was a more structured vintage, 2009 has more fruit, the higher alcohols are balanced by an overall freshness from natural acidity, and ageing potential is guaranteed by the highest levels of tannin ever recorded in Bordeaux.”

BILL BLATCH ON 2009 SAUTERNES

“... this is indeed a great vintage: The extreme richness is nicely balanced by acidity, with final blends typically at 14° alc, 7 to 9° of residual and a refreshing 3.8 or so g/l total acidity. This suggests a very different kind of wine to the fatter, softer but similarly very sweet vintages like 2005, 2003, 1990, 1976, and (I am told) 1947, 1929 and 1921, and a similar style of wine to the more vibrant but just-as-sweet and complex wines of 2001, 1989, 1975, 1959, and I am told, 1858 and 1847...”

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BORDEAUX A.O.C.**TIRE PE LA COTE • \$13.99**

“One of my favorite low level Bordeaux, this exceptionally well made wine displays a dense purple color in addition to abundant blackberry and blueberry fruit intertwined with notions of licorice and incense. Fleshy, full-bodied, and ripe, this delicious Bordeaux coats the palate. It should drink beautifully for 3-4 years. (Tasted once.) Drink 2010 – 2014” (88-90) Robert Parker.

BORDEAUX SUPERIEUR**CROIX MOUTON • \$12.99**

One couldn't ask for a more serious owner than Jean-Philippe Janoueix, who has done such a terrific job at La Confession in St-Emilion and La Croix St-Georges in Pomerol. Tiny yields of 31 hectoliters per hectare as well as super attention to detail in both the vineyard and winemaking has resulted in a wine that is a final blend of 87% Merlot, 12% Cabernet Franc, and the rest Petit Verdot coming in at 14.1% alcohol. The wine is stunning, dense purple in color, with notes of chocolate, espresso roast, pain grille, blackberries, and cherries. It is a hedonistic mouthful of wine to drink over the next 4-5 years. (Tasted two times.) Drink 2010 – 2015” (89-91) Robert Parker.

FERET-LAMBERT • \$13.99

“Wow! What a big time sleeper of the vintage. This delicious, full-bodied wine behaves more like a classified growth than a generic Bordeaux Superieur. It possesses a dense purple color as well as notes of black raspberries, licorice, graphite, and cassis, wonderful intensity, purity, richness, and overall balance, and a stunning finish. Drink it over the next 5-6 years. (Tasted once.) Drink 2010 – 2016” (89-91) Robert Parker.

PREMIERES COTES DE BORDEAUX**REYNON • \$15.99**

“Made by the head of the faculty of the Bordeaux School of Oenology, Professor Denis Dubourdieu, the 2009 Reynon exhibits a deep ruby/purple color along with beautiful notes of kirsch and flowers. It is the finest example I have ever tasted of Reynon, a supple, hedonistic wine with lots of character. Enjoy it over the next 4-5 years. (Tasted once.) Drink 2010 – 2015” (88-89) Robert Parker.*

MEDOC**GOULEE • \$28.99**

Made by Cos d'Estournel's Jean-Guillaume Prats and owner Michel Reybier, Goulee is meant to offer an introduction to a top-flight Bordeaux. Composed of 80% Cabernet Sauvignon and 20% Merlot, it exhibits a sexy, upfront nose of sweet black currant fruit, cassis, blackberries, forest floor, and underbrush. Dense purple-colored and fleshy with abundant glycerin, this pure,

deep, chewy wine will be delicious young and age nicely for 7-8 years. (Tasted once.) Drink 2010 – 2018” (89-91) Robert Parker.

LES GRAND CHENES • \$23.99

“Proprietor Bernard Magrez has fashioned a big time sleeper of the vintage composed of 58% Merlot and 42% Cabernet Sauvignon. It reveals a dense purple color as well as a powerful nose of black currants, licorice, and camphor, full body, and 6-8 years of drinkability. (Tasted once.) Drink 2010 - 2018 (90-92)” Robert Parker*

POTENSAC • \$26.99

“A sleeper of the vintage, the 2009 is probably the finest Potensac ever made, eclipsing even the stunning 1982. This blend, dominated by both Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon, hit 13.9% alcohol, but the pH is a normal 3.58. Dense, rich, and full-bodied with lots of freshness, the wine reveals abundant red and black currant fruit, a distinctive minerality, and a plush, full-bodied mouthfeel. It should drink well for 10-15+ years. (Tasted once.) Drink 2010 – 2025” (89-91) Robert Parker.*

ROLLAN DE BY • \$21.99

“Proprietor Jean Guyon and consultant Dr. Alain Raynaud continue to produce a wine that over-performs its humble pedigree. The dense blue/purple-tinged 2009 boasts abundant amounts of blueberry and black currant fruit intermixed with graphite and forest floor notes. Full-bodied, rich, and pure, it is ideal for drinking during its first decade or life. (Tasted once.) Drink 2010 – 2020” (90-92) Robert Parker.

HAUT-MEDOC**BELLE-VUE • \$19.99**

“Not to be confused with St-Emilion's Bellevue, this has been one of the most consistent Medoc cru bourgeois over a number of years, and the 2009 may reach new quality heights. A big-time sleeper of the vintage, this blend of 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, and 20% Petit Verdot boasts a dense purple color as well as notes of creme de cassis and spring flowers, terrific fruit, sweet but noticeable tannin, and medium to full body. It can be drunk young or cellared for 8-10 years. (Tasted once.) Drink 2010 – 2020” (90-92) Robert Parker.*

CAMBON LA PELOUSE • \$18.99

“Pretty aromas of currant and berries, with a mineral undertone. Medium-bodied, with firm tannins and a fruity finish. Nice wood under it all. Well-crafted young red. Could be best ever from here.” 88-91 James Suckling, Wine Spectator

CANTEMERLE • \$34.99

This blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot, with the Cabernet dominating, looks to be the best they have

ever produced, even eclipsing the 2005. Dense purple in color, with extraordinarily elegant floral notes intermixed with raspberry, black currant, cherry, and spice box, it is medium to full-bodied, not massive, but again, very seamless, with beautiful precision, sweet tannins, and an endearing fleshiness and depth of flavor that are neither heavy nor fatiguing. This wine will be relatively approachable in 3-5 years and drink well for 25-30. (Tasted two times.) Drink 2010 – 2040” (92-94*) Robert Parker.

CHARMAIL • \$20.99

“This classic over-performer has turned out another super-attractive, supple-textured, dark ruby/purple-colored wine displaying notes of flowers, licorice, spice, and background oak. It should drink nicely for a decade or more. (Tasted two times.) Drink 2010 – 2020” (89-91) Robert Parker.

D’AURILHAC • \$16.99

“Long-time readers know d’Aurilhac is one of my favorite under-the-radar Bordeaux in top vintages. This impressively made Medoc offers a lot of quality for its price. The 2009 reveals copious black cherry, black currant, earth, and spice notes intertwined with a hint of background oak. A luscious texture, a succulent style, and a juicy, long finish suggest it will drink well for 5-7 years. (Tasted once.) Drink 2010 – 2017” (87-89) Robert Parker.

GIRONVILLE • \$14.99

The 2009 Gironville is the best wine I have ever tasted from this estate in the southern Medoc. A blend of 50% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 20% Petit Verdot that achieved 14% natural alcohol, this sleeper of the vintage exhibits a dark purple color in addition to beautiful notes of graphite, blueberries, flowers, and cassis, and a long, layered mouthfeel. A sensational value, the 2009 should drink well for a decade. (Tasted once.) Drink 2010 – 2020” (89-91*) Robert Parker.

LA BERNADOTTE • \$22.99

“The finest La Bernadotte made to date, this 2009 is an undeniable sleeper of the vintage. Composed of 47% Cabernet Sauvignon, 47% Merlot, and the rest Petit Verdot, it reveals a dense purple color along with a big, sweet kiss of black cherries, black currants, charcoal, and spice. With layers of fruit, decent acidity, freshness, and precision, and an opulent, fleshy, succulent style, it should drink easily for a decade or more. (Tasted once.) Drink 2010 – 2020” (90-92*) Robert Parker.

LA LAGUNE • \$56.99

“I don’t think anyone could possibly rate this higher than the 2005, which is certainly the greatest wine made at this estate since 1982. However, this is another blockbuster, gorgeously aromatic, with notes of subtle oak interwoven with perfumed black, blue, and red fruits. Its opaque purple color, the gorgeous elegance allied to compelling intensity of flavor, and its full-bodied opulence make for

the quintessential expression of this terroir. This is beauty that will be relatively approachable in 3-4 years and evolve for 20 or more years. (Tasted three times.) Drink 2013 – 2033” (94-96) Robert Parker.

SENEJAC • \$17.99

“Run by the Cordier family, with the vineyard managed by Alfred Tesseron’s team at Pontet-Canet, this is the first vintage from their biodynamically farmed estate, and it is certainly the best wine I have ever tasted from Senejac. A blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, and the rest Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot, oodles of black currant fruit are intermixed with some licorice, underbrush, and foresty notes. Great fruit, a sumptuous, fleshy texture, and plenty of succulence and length make for a big, rich, nicely textured wine to drink over the next decade. (Tasted two times.) Drink 2010 – 2020” (89-91*) Robert Parker.

MOULIS

SOCIANDO-MALLET • \$42.99

“Ferocious tannins are not unusual for Sociando Mallet, but I was surprised that in a vintage that produced exceptionally tannic, but ripe wines, the Sociando Mallet tannins were atypically austere. Nevertheless, the wine boasts huge concentration along with an inky/purple color, a full-bodied, powerful palate, and a long finish. Excellent purity, density, and minerality are present in this cuvee, and it is capable of lasting 30-40 years. This estate is situated on some of the finest terroir of the Haut-Medoc, near Calon-Segur in St.-Estephe. (Tasted two times.) Drink 2010 – 2050” (90-92+) Robert Parker.

POUJEAUX • \$31.99

“The Cuvelier family that has done so much to resurrect Clos Fourtet purchased this estate that had long been the pride and joy of the Theil family. A large vineyard, and certainly the finest wine of the somewhat forgotten appellation of Moulis, the yields in 2009 were 40 hectoliters per hectare, and the wine is a blend of 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, and the rest Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. Soft, fleshy, and opulent, with lots of black currant and black cherry fruit intermixed with hints of cedar and spice box, and an enticing texture result in a wine to drink now and over the next 10-12 years. It is a sleeper of the vintage. (Tasted once.) Drink 2010 – 2022” (90-93*) Robert Parker.

COTES DE BOURG

EPICUREA DE CHATEAU MARTINAT • \$18.99

“The finest example of this wine I have ever tasted, the 2009 Epicurea de Chateau Martinat (80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Sauvignon) was cropped at 25 hectoliters per hectare. Aromas of flowers, licorice, smoke, red and black fruits, and subtle wood are followed by a broadly flavored, savory, opulently-

textured wine displaying terrific fruit intensity, purity, and length. It is well above its humble pedigree, and should drink nicely for a decade or more. (Tasted two times.) Drink 2010 – 2020” (89-91) Robert Parker.*

FOUGAS MALDOROR • \$18.99

“This over-achieving sleeper of the vintage boasts a dense ruby/purple color as well as plenty of black cherry, asphalt, and earth notes in its dense, packed and stacked personality. Lots of glycerin, heady alcohol, and a long, supple finish suggest it will drink nicely for 6-8 years. (Tasted once.) Drink 2010 – 2018” (88-90) Robert Parker.

CANON-FRON SAC

VRAI CANON BOUCHE • \$26.99

“One of the stars of Canon-Fronsac, this 30-acre vineyard is making some great wine, and the 2009 appears to be the finest they have yet produced. The Dutch owners brought in Stephane Derenoncourt as consultant, and the 2009 (98% Merlot and 2% Malbec) tips the scales at 14.5% natural alcohol. Full-bodied with an inky/blue/purple color it represents the essence of blackberries, black raspberries, cassis, licorice, crushed rocks, and subtle oak. The high alcohol and all evidence of oak aging are completely buried under the sheer concentration (in this case coming from low yields of 20 hectoliters per hectare). A big time sleeper of the vintage, it should age effortlessly for 25-30 years. (Tasted two times.) Drink 2010 – 2040” (91-93) Robert Parker.*

FRONSAC

FONTENIL • \$27.99

“The 2009 Fontenil (95% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon) displays a deep opaque purple color as well as notes of black raspberries, spring flowers, blueberries, and a hint of blackberries. Rich and full-bodied with admirable definition and precision, sweet tannin, and a long finish of over 35 seconds, it is a super effort as well as a big time sleeper of the vintage in 2009. Enjoy it over the next 10-15 years. (Tasted once.) These appear to be the finest wines the brilliant oenologists Dany and Michel Rolland have produced at Fontenil, their home estate. Drink 2010 – 2025” (91-93) Robert Parker.*

LA VIEILLE CURE • \$24.99

“This is typically one of the finest offerings of Fronsac, but I am not convinced the 2009 will eclipse their magnificent 2005, although it will certainly give the latter wine a run for its money. The opaque purple-hued 2009 offers a beautiful aromatic display of camphor, blueberries, acacia flowers, raspberries, and crushed rocks. Full-bodied and pure with a nicely layered texture, the vintage’s unctuousness and thickness as well as freshness and definition, this sleeper of the vintage is another beauty from La Vieille Cure. It should drink well for 15+ years. (Tasted once.) Drink 2010 – 2025” (90-93) Robert Parker.

COTES DE CASTILLON

CAP DE FAUGERES • \$17.99

“The relatively new proprietor, Silvio Denz, has made his finest wine to date from this Cotes de Castillon property. A blend of 85% Merlot and the rest Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon that came in at 14% natural alcohol, it is a full-bodied, super-concentrated effort displaying excellent purity as well as lots of minerality and floral notes imbedded in black and blue fruits. The oak is totally masked, the tannins are prominent but sweet, and the wine is fresh and precise. A sleeper of the vintage, this beauty should drink well for 10-12 years. (Tasted four times.) Drink 2010 – 2022” (90-92) Robert Parker.*

CLOS LES LUNELLES • \$29.99

“This 20+-acre vineyard, acquired by Gerard and Chantal Perse in 2001, is planted on a clay and limestone plateau. The 2009, a blend of 80% Merlot and the rest Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc, was cropped at 22 hectoliters per hectare, and possesses 14.2% alcohol. One of the top wines of the Cotes de Castillon, it boasts an inky/purple color as well as tremendous opulence, body, purity, and density, plenty of sweet boysenberry and blackberry fruit, noticeable, but subdued wood, full body, and an unctuous texture. It should drink well for 12-15+ years. (Tasted four times.) Drink 2010 – 2025” (92-94) Robert Parker.

D’AIGUILHE • \$27.99

“Tiny yields of 20 hectoliters per hectare have produced a wine with terrific fruit intensity, a moderately tannic structure, and hints of chocolate, cedar, spice box, and earth. Although not as big as I expected given the vintage, it is well-made and impressively endowed. Enjoy it over the next 12 years. (Tasted four times.)” (90-92) Robert Parker.

JOANIN BECOT • \$25.99

“Another excellent effort from this Cotes de Castillon estate, this 2009 from Juliette Becot is a blend of 75% Merlot and 25% Cabernet Franc that tips the scales at 15.5% alcohol (the highest I tasted). The high alcohol is totally hidden because of the tiny yields (25.5 hectoliters per hectare) as well as the vintage character, which is one of great delicacy and freshness juxtaposed with unprecedented power and richness. A sleeper of the vintage, the 2009 Joanin-Becot possesses terrific opulence and layers of fruit and glycerin. This beauty should drink nicely for 10-15 years. Bravo! (Tasted four times.) Drink 2010 – 2025” (91-93) Robert Parker.

LA FLEUR DE BOUARD • \$34.99

“The 2009 La Fleur de Bouard (made from yields of 45 hectoliters per hectare; 13.5% alcohol) is a Merlot-based wine with brilliant purity, abundant black cherry, plum, and boysenberry fruit, extraordinary density, decent acids, and high tannins. This full-

bodied, concentrated, impressively endowed 2009 should age nicely for 10-15 years. At a recent tasting of the 2000 vintage, I was reminded of how great this estate's luxury cuvee can be. It was off the charts in terms of richness and personality. (Tasted three times.) Unquestionably a star of Lalande de Pomerol is the 50-acre estate of Hubert and Corinne de Bouard, who produce wines that fly well above their pedigree. Tasting through older vintages proves that these are the "real deal," as they age quite well. One can even argue that the luxury cuvee, La Plus de la Fleur de Bouard, is one of the top twenty wines being produced in Bordeaux - a remarkable achievement given the appellation's lack of status. Drink 2010 - 2025" (91-93) Robert Parker.

SIAURAC • \$17.99

"A sleeper of the vintage, this is the best wine I have ever tasted from this property. A dense purple color is followed by abundant meaty, black currant, black cherry, licorice, underbrush, and forest floor characteristics. Full-bodied, powerful, rich, and silky-textured, it will provide plenty of pleasure over the next decade. (Tasted once.) Drink 2010 - 2010" (89-91*) Robert Parker.

MARGAUX

ALTER EGO DE CHATEAU PALMER • \$56.99

"The delicious 2009 Alter Ego de Palmer (an equal part blend of Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon) could have been drunk when I tasted it. A dense ruby/purple color is accompanied by smoky blackberry and black currant fruit notes, and a silky smooth, expansive, hedonistic, pleasure-filled wine that should drink well for a decade. (Tasted once.) Drink 2010 - 2020" (89-92) Robert Parker.

BLASON D'ISSAN • \$25.99

Second wine of Château d'Issan, this is 62% Cabernet Sauvignon and 38% Merlot, 48%.

BRANE-CANTENAC • \$71.99

"Only 37% of the production made it in to the 2009 Brane Cantenac (slightly lower than most properties because the fruit was so good). This is a blend of 53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, and 7% Cabernet Franc, with a pH of 3.87 and finished alcohol of 13.2%. It is another offering that reveals no evidence of wood even though 70% new oak barrels were utilized. A dense plum/purple color is followed by a lovely perfume of flowers, boysenberries, black cherries, and black currants. Seamless in the mouth with stunning concentration, a seductive style, an exquisite Margaux delicacy, and levels of richness and intensity I have never before seen in Brane Cantenac, it should drink effortlessly for 30+ years. (Tasted four times.) Drink 2010 - 2040" (93-95) Robert Parker.

D'ISSAN • \$67.99

"Following the lustrous 2000 and 2005, the 2009 is another terrific effort from proprietor Emmanuel Cruse. Tiny yields of 18 hectoliters per hectare, 13.7% natural

alcohol, and a blend of 62% Cabernet Sauvignon and 38% Merlot have resulted in a wine boasting stunning minerality along with notes of flowers, blueberries, and black currants. Full-bodied with silky tannin, a tremendous opulence, and levels of density and richness never before seen at this estate, this brilliant d'Issan should age for three decades or more. (Tasted two times.) Drink 2010 - 2040" (93-95) Robert Parker.

DU TERTRE • \$39.99

"A very sexy, seductive style of wine has been produced by Du Tertre in 2009. A dense ruby/purple color is accompanied by ripe notes of red and black fruits intermixed with subtle smoke, ink, and damp earth. The lusciousness continues on the palate with an opulent, layered, rich mouthfeel. Medium to full-bodied with not a hard edge to be found, but plenty of ripe tannins, the overall impression is one of a hedonistic and intellectually pleasing claret that should drink beautifully for 20+ years. This is a sleeper of the vintage among the classified-growths. (Tasted two times.) Drink 2010 - 2030" (90-92) Robert Parker.

GISCOURS • \$59.99

"This is the finest Giscours I have tasted in my professional career. Succulent and sexy with an inky/purple color, it offers sweet aromas of subtle barbecue smoke, graphite, blackberries, blueberries, and spring flowers. The tannins are remarkably sweet, substantial, and well-integrated, and the wine is full-bodied as well as voluptuously textured. It is a head-turning, exuberant, flashy effort that should drink well for 20-25 years. Bravo! (Tasted three times.) Drink 2010 - 2035" (91-93*) Robert Parker.

LA TOUR DE BESSAN • \$19.99

"Blueberry and floral aromas follow through to a full body, with superfine tannins and a long, flavorful finish. But very refined and subtle. Love the texture." 91-94 Wine Spectator

LASCOMBES • \$95.99

"Midnight oil? Dense black purple to the rim, the 2009 Lascombes has enormous concentration, with loads of graphite, blackberry, and blueberry notes as well as hints of pen ink and truffle. The wine is super-intense, full-bodied, fleshy, and rich. This is another wine that will compete with the 2005, which is certainly the best Lascombes I have ever tasted. (Tasted three times.) (94-96+) Robert Parker.

PRIEURE-LICHINE • \$49.99

"Beautiful floral-infused black fruits jump from the glass of this opaque ruby/purple-colored wine. Possibly richer, denser, and even more complete than the brilliant 2005 (although it is still too early to say that definitively), this is certainly a more opulent, succulent style of wine than even the 2005, which had surprising flesh for a wine from that vintage. The Right Bank consultant Stephane Derenoncourt has performed

some magic here, as recent vintages attest, and the wines are often fairly priced as well. This full-bodied Prieure-Lichine should drink well for 20-25 years. (Tasted two times.) Drink 2010 – 2035” (91-93) Robert Parker.

RAUZAN-SEGLA • \$95.99

“Composed of 58% Cabernet Sauvignon and 42% Merlot, this large estate appears to have produced their greatest wine since the 1986. The alcohols came in at 13.9%, and the wine reveals extraordinary density, power, and richness as well as explosive fruit, and terrific acidity, intensity, and power. Yet it tastes like a crisp, delicate Margaux. Yields were 40 hectoliters per hectare. This outstanding 2009 should age nicely for 35-40+ years. (Tasted two times.) Drink 2010 – 2050” (92-95) Robert Parker.

PALMER • \$319.99

“The black/purple-colored 2009 Palmer exhibits a level of tannin that exceeds anything they have previously produced. The final blend is 52% Merlot, 41% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 7% Petit Verdot, and the finished alcohol is 13.9%. It is hard to say this 2009 will turn out better than Palmer’s extraordinary 2005, but it certainly will be different in style given the alcohol level and power of this vintage. Pure blackberry and black currant fruit notes intermixed with hints of incense, graphite, and wood are followed by an opulent, thick, juicy wine with plenty of structure, and enormous concentration, mass, and length. Four to five years of patience is required, but this beauty should last for three decades or more. (Tasted once.) Drink 2010 – 2040” (94-96) Robert Parker.

SAINT JULIEN

BRANAIRE-DUCRU • \$73.99

“Only time will tell whether the 2009, another great effort from Branaire, will eclipse the 2005 and 2003. Certainly at 13.6% alcohol it is the most powerful Branaire ever made, and the final blend of 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot, and the rest Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot showcases what a great vintage 2009 is for Cabernet Sauvignon. An inky/blue/purple color is followed by raspberry, boysenberry, crushed rock, graphite, and floral notes, and an opaque, broad, dense, substantial, impressively structured wine without any hardness. It requires 4-5 years of cellaring, and should last four decades or more. (Tasted two times.) Drink 2014 – 2054” (92-95) Robert Parker.

CLOS DU MARQUIS • \$56.99

“Clos du Marquis is being positioned by Jean-Hubert Delon as a separate single vineyard wine rather than Leoville Las Cases’ second wine. The logic is simple. It has come from the same vineyard for over twenty years, and is not a true second wine in the sense that it is not made from Las Cases’ discarded cuvees. The 2009 Clos du Marquis (70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, and the rest Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot) came in at 13.75% alcohol. It exhibits a deep ruby/purple hue along with

sweet notes of creme de cassis, great purity, a full-bodied mouthfeel, and terrific texture as well as length. It should evolve for 20-25 years. (Tasted once.) Drink 2010 – 2035” (91-93) Robert Parker.

UCRU BEAUCAILLOU • \$274.99

“Can the 2009 Ducru Beaucaillou be better than the brilliant 2000 and extraordinary 2003 and 2005? Purchasers will have to decide for themselves, but this compelling effort is one of the all-time great Ducru Beaucaillous. It is a blend of 85% Cabernet Sauvignon and 15% Merlot that achieved 13.5% natural alcohol, and, remarkably, despite the fact that 90% new oak was utilized, not a hint of wood can be found in either the aromatics or flavors. This inky/purple-hued, unctuously textured 2009 reveals layers and layers of blue, red, and black fruits, and hints of licorice and spice box. Despite its substantial, massive size, it retains an elegant style, but will need 3-5 years of cellaring. It should last for 40+ years. (Tasted once.) Drink 2013 – 2053” (96-98+) Robert Parker.

GLORIA • \$39.99

“There have been many great Glorias over the years as this property consistently over-performs. The 2009 may be the finest yet produced. Loaded with notes of Christmas fruitcake intermixed with red and black currants, licorice, spice box, and blackberries, this inky/purple-colored wine is atypically full-bodied with a viscous texture, and loads of tannin, extract, and richness. Deep and layered, it will offer thrilling sipping over the next 25+ years. (Bottles of the 1982 I own are fully mature, but are not close to falling apart.) (Tasted two times.) Drink 2010 - 2035” (91-93*) Robert Parker.

GRUAUD LAROSE • \$65.99

“This is the finest Gruaud Larose since the 1990. Without a hint of brett in the 2009, it exhibits an opaque purple color along with a big, sweet nose of creme de cassis, new saddle leather, spice box, and boysenberries. Made in a rich, broad, savory, juicy style with lots of succulence, but none of the masculinity and ruggedness often found in this offering, this wine is loaded with concentration and extract. The tannins are largely concealed by the remarkable intensity of fruit and density. It should be drinkable in 7-8 years, and last for 30-40. (Tasted two times.) Drink 2017 – 2057” (92-94+) Robert Parker.

LALANDE BORIE • \$26.99

“The finest wine I have ever tasted from Lalande Borie, the 2009 (50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, and 10% Cabernet Franc) displays lots of purity along with a boatload of black currant, raspberry, and black cherry fruit, no evidence of wood, broad, rich, deep flavors, and a velvety texture. It should drink well for a decade or more. (Tasted once.) Drink 2010 – 2020” (88-90*) Robert Parker.

LEOVILLE-LAS CASES • \$339.99

“The 2009 is one of the greatest Leoville Las Cases I have ever tasted, which is saying something given the many compelling wines that have been made at this estate. A final blend of 76% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot, and 9% Cabernet Franc has resulted in a wine that appears to be a hypothetical blend of the 1982, 1986, and 1996. Its 13.8% alcohol is perhaps the only thing that sets it apart from those vintages, which had nearly a full percentage point less. The high alcohol is barely noticeable in this 2009, which boasts an inky/purple color, monumental concentration, and great clarity and purity of creme de cassis, black cherry, spice box, graphite, and wet rock characteristics. Extremely full-bodied with a boatload of sweet tannin nearly concealed by the wine’s power, glycerin, and awesome fruit concentration, this intense effort never tastes heavy or tiring. This remarkable St.-Julien should be accessible in 3-4 years, and will evolve for 40-50. (Tasted once.) Drink 2013 – 2063” (96-100) Robert Parker.

TALBOT • \$59.99

“This is the most impressive Talbot since the 1982 and 1986. It reveals an opaque plum/garnet/purple color as well as knock-out aromas of black fruits, cedar, incense, licorice, and a Provencal garrigue-like character. Substantial, sexy, and seductive, it is almost slutty in its exuberance and ostentatiousness. It was a thrill to drink this loaded St.-Julien. It should offer irresistible drinking over the next 20-25 years. (Tasted two times.) Drink 2010 – 2035” (92-94) Robert Parker.

PAUILLAC

CLERC-MILON • \$59.99

“Despite the fact there is 44% Merlot in this wine (blended with 50% Cabernet Sauvignon and 6% Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot, and Carmenere), this is a tannic, structured, backward Clerc Milon, which is atypical for this estate. Perhaps I just caught it at a time when the structure was dominating. It is a deep ruby/purple-hued, concentrated, impressively endowed effort that requires serious cellar age, 4-5 years minimum. It should last for 20-25 years. (Tasted two times.) Drink: 2014 – 2039” (90-92+) Robert Parker.

D’ARMAILHAC • \$45.99

“This may be the finest d’Armailhac I have ever tasted. Made in a textured, full-bodied, sumptuous style, it is a blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot, and the balance primarily Cabernet Franc with a tiny dosage of Petit Verdot. It exhibits a deep ruby/purple hue along with floral, red and black currant, cedar, and spice characteristics. Deep, medium to full-bodied, and impressively pure as well as long, it should drink well for 25 years. (Tasted three times.) Drink 2010 – 2035” (90-93) Robert Parker.*

GRAND-PUY-DUCASSE • \$39.99

“Possibly the finest wine yet produced at this estate, the 2009 is even fatter, richer, and more unctuously textured than the 2005 (which I loved). It boasts an opaque purple color, thrilling levels of sweet creme de cassis and blackberries along with hints of underbrush as well as forest floor, silky tannins, full body, and a plush, heady, opulent personality. This stunning wine should drink well for two decades. (Tasted three times.) Drink 2010 – 2030” (90-93) Robert Parker.*

GRAND-PUY-LACOSTE • \$79.99

“I was surprised that this wine was not more concentrated given the overall character of the vintage, and I would rate it behind the 2005, 2000, 1990, and 1982. Nevertheless, it boasts this estate’s classic creme de cassis character as well as a soft, round, medium to full-bodied mouthfeel, pure fruit, and silky tannins, but not the weight, depth, or profound concentration of the top 2009 Pauillacs. Still, this cuvee will be approachable young, and should evolve easily for two decades. (Tasted two times.) Drink 2010 – 2030” (91-93) Robert Parker.

HAUT BATAILLEY • \$39.99

“Even though Haut-Batailley is usually a finesse-styled Pauillac, the 2009 is somewhat light for the vintage. However, it exhibits lovely, round, berry fruit, a hint of loamy soil, medium body, soft tannins, and a pretty, elegant style. It should drink nicely for 15+ years. (Tasted two times.) Drink 2010 – 2025” (88-90) Robert Parker.

MOUTON-ROTHSCHILD • \$829.99

“This is the most backward and unevolved of all the Left Bank (Medoc) first-growths. In 10-20 years, the 2009 Mouton Rothschild should rank alongside the greatest vintages of the last three decades (1986 and 1982). Yields were a small 30 hectoliters per hectare, the final blend is 88% Cabernet Sauvignon and 12% Merlot, and the finished alcohol is 13.2% (not particularly high in this vintage). The pH is 3.81, and the index of tannins, the highest ever measured, a whopping 20% higher than the next highest vintage. The tannins, while present, are silky and well-integrated, one of the hallmarks of the 2009 vintage. An inky/purple color is accompanied by classic aromas of creme de cassis, violets, and hints of graphite and background oak. The overwhelming impression is one of layer upon layer of fruit, full-bodied opulence, and good structure. It tastes as if it were 2-3 months old rather than a post-malolactic, fully assembled barrel sample ... it’s that young, but so incredibly promising. A 50- to 100-year wine? Probably. (Tasted once.)” (96-98+) Robert Parker.

LE PETIT MOUTON • \$96.99

“The second wine of Mouton Rothschild, the 2009 Le Petit Mouton, is the finest second wine they have ever made. Aromas of black currants, flowers, mocha, and

earth jump from the glass of this fleshy, heady, full-bodied wine. The final blend is 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot, and the rest Cabernet Franc, and the alcohol level is slightly higher than the Mouton's. It should drink well for 15+ years. (Tasted once.) Drink 2010 – 2025” (90-92) Robert Parker.*

PICHON-LONGUEVILLE BARON • \$139.99

“An inky/blue/purple color is followed by aromas and flavors of incense, flowery black currants, and subtle smoke and oak. This full-bodied 2009, which exhibits wonderful intensity, purity, and length, is an exceptional effort, but in this vintage, it must take a back seat to some of its peers, such as Pichon Lalande, Pontet-Canet and Lynch-Bages, not to mention all the first-growths. Nevertheless, it is a beautiful wine that should drink well for 30+ years. (Tasted three times.) Drink 2010 – 2040” (93-95) Robert Parker.

**PICHON-LONGUEVILLE COMTESSE DE
LALANDE • \$199.00**

“The blend for the 2009 Pichon Lalande is dominated by Cabernet Sauvignon, somewhat unusual at this estate which usually has more Merlot in the blend. As stated previously, the Cabernet Sauvignon reached levels of ripeness and intensity of flavor in 2009 never seen before in Bordeaux! The final blend of 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, and 5% Petit Verdot and a pH of 3.8 combines the best of a vintage such as 1996, in terms of structure, freshness, and precision, with the best of 1982, in terms of opulence, power, unctuousness, and thickness. The opaque purple-colored 2009 exhibits an intoxicatingly intense nose of red and black fruits, subtle smoke, charcoal, forest floor, and a hint of flowers. Unusually full-bodied for a wine from this estate as well as unctuously textured, voluptuous, and incredibly pure and precise, this dazzling wine should be drinkable at an early age, and evolve for 30+ years. (Tasted once.) Like most Medoc chateaux, Pichon Lalande began their harvest on September 22, and finished on October 7. Drink 2010 – 2040” (96-98) Robert Parker.

PONTET-CANET • \$139.99

“It's no surprise that proprietor Alfred Tesseron has produced a possibly perfect 2009. He's been on a roll since 1994, and no other producer has done more work in the vineyard than Tesseron, who has moved to 100% biodynamic farming, reduced yields drastically, and instituted a draconian selection process. This vineyard, which sits on the high plateau of Pauillac adjacent to Mouton Rothschild, has produced a 2009 of extraordinary intensity and purity. It is outrageously concentrated, with silky tannin (the sweetest I have ever tasted in a Pontet-Canet as well as the highest measured), an opaque purple color, and copious notes of graphite, cassis, licorice, and subtle smoke and forest floor. Full-bodied and unctuously textured with striking purity and definition, it is a wine of colossal weight as well as elegance (in itself a poster boy for this paradox in 2009).

This brilliant Pauillac requires a decade of cellaring despite its voluptuous texture. (Tasted four times.)” (97-100) Robert Parker.

RESERVE DE COMTESSE DE LALANDE • \$44.99

“The finest second wine they have made (Pichon-Lalande), the 2009 Reserve de Comtesse is composed of 53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 38% Merlot, and the rest Cabernet Franc. Flavorful and full-bodied with loads of texture and opulence, it offers up aromas of forest floor and black fruits. The surprisingly high tannin level is barely noticeable given the sweetness of the fruit and abundant glycerin. Nevertheless, the 13% alcohol is right in line with that of the Pichon Lalande. Drink the Reserve de Comtesse over the next 10-15 years. (Tasted once.) Like most Medoc chateaux, Pichon Lalande began their harvest on September 22, and finished on October 7. Drink 2010 – 2025” (91-93) Robert Parker.*

SAINT-ESTEPHE

COS D'ESTOURNEL • \$319.99

“The 2009 Cos d'Estournel is one of the greatest young wines I have ever tasted ... in the world! An extraordinary effort I tasted on two separate occasions, this blend of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon and the rest primarily Merlot with a dollop of Cabernet Franc has a whopping 14.5% alcohol, but a remarkably normal pH of 3.69. Kudos to Jean-Guillaume Prats and owner Michel Reybier for this amazing wine made from yields of 33 hectoliters per hectare. It will be a legendary claret that should last for 50-60 years. A black/purple color is accompanied by aromas of graphite, ink, creme de cassis, blackberries, cedar, and incense. Full-bodied and unctuously textured, with an ethereal personality, tons of nuances, and a burgeoning complexity, it is an enormously well-endowed, fresh, perfectly balanced tour de force in winemaking. As mentioned above, it should drink well for 50-60 years. This wine possesses this vintage's classic characteristics of enormous power, massive fruit, and extraordinary freshness and precision - largely unprecedented, particularly for Cabernet-based wines in the Medoc. (Tasted two times.) Drink 2010 – 2070” (98-100) Robert Parker.*

LAFON ROCHET • \$49.99

“Perhaps the finest Lafon Rochet ever made, the purity, freshness, and sweet, rich, blueberry and boysenberry fruit and hint of pen ink that are found in this opaque purple-colored wine are impressive. Massive in the mouth, with freshness, delineation, and sweet tannin, it is a major sleeper of the vintage that should last for 25+ years. (Tasted two times.) Drink 2010 – 2035” (91-93) Robert Parker.*

LES ORMES DE PEZ • \$35.99

“A sleeper of the vintage and the best Les Ormes de Pez made in decades, this opaque purple-hued 2009 offers up pure creme de cassis fruit intermixed with hints of charcoal, smoke, and crushed rocks. Medium to full-

bodied and pure with good freshness as well as a soft, layered mouthfeel, it will offer delicious drinking over the next 10-15 years. (Tasted three times.) Drink 2010 – 2025” (88-90) Robert Parker.

LES PAGODES DE COS • \$59.99

“The 2009 Les Pagodes de Cos is also a remarkable offering. Composed of 69% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, and 1% Petit Verdot, it tips the scales at 14.5% alcohol, and is better than most Cos d’Estournel vintages produced in the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s. It is a full-bodied, opulently concentrated wine of amazing richness, density, and intensity. As with the grand vin, the harvest began on September 26 and finished on October 10. This wine possesses this vintage’s classic characteristics of enormous power, massive fruit, and extraordinary freshness and precision - largely unprecedented, particularly for Cabernet-based wines in the Medoc. (Tasted once.)” (91-94*) Robert Parker.

PHELAN-SEGUR • \$39.99

“Like many of the top 2009s, Phelan-Segur is a huge, full-bodied effort with massive fruit as well as good freshness, precision, and elegance. This is all rather paradoxical given previous great vintages that either lean toward cooler vintage characteristics or hot ones. This 2009 possesses both styles. It exhibits lots of mulberry, boysenberry, and crushed, jammy black fruits, abundant tannin, medium to full body, an opulent mouthfeel, and enough structure to evolve for two decades or more. This is a sleeper of the vintage. (Tasted two times.) Drink 2010 – 2030” (90-92) Robert Parker.

PESSAC-LEOGNAN

LA CHAPELLE DE LA MISSION HAUT BRION • \$99.99

“There are approximately 2,000 cases of the 2009 La Chapelle de La Mission, the best one I have ever tasted. A blend of nearly equal parts Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon with 10% Cabernet Franc added in, it achieved 14.2% natural alcohol. The wine is a remarkable effort, with amazing density, extraordinary fruit quality, dense purple color with meaty notes alongside subtle barbecue smoke, camphor, black currant, sweet cherry, and blackberry. It has a lush, opulent texture, loads of glycerin, and admirable purity and length. I could have drunk a bottle or two just tasting it from the barrel! It should evolve for 10-15 or more years. (Tasted two times.) Harvest started around September 9 at La Mission Haut-Brion, and finished almost a month later, on October 6. To get an idea of just how extraordinary all the wines from the Dillon family are in 2009, just consider how phenomenal the second wines are. Drink 2010 – 2025” (91-94*) Robert Parker.

DOMAINE DE CHEVALIER ROUGE • \$75.99

“The finest wine I have tasted from this estate in my 30+ - year career, the 2009 (64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, and 6% Petit Verdot) from this hallowed vineyard in Leognan was cropped at 45 hectoliters per

hectare and came in at 13% alcohol. It reveals an extraordinary, intense, pure, quintessential Domaine de Chevalier style, including silky tannin, dense plum, black currant, black cherry, floral, and graphite notes, terrific acidity, sweet tannin, and a full-bodied mouthfeel with no weight, but admirable precision and freshness. Consultant Stephane Derenoncourt has coaxed out all the elegance and complexity at this great site. A future legend in the making, this could be the best Domaine de Chevalier produced over the last half century. It should drink well for 35-40 years. (Tasted four times.) Drink 2010 – 2050”(94-96*) Robert Parker.

HAUT BERGEY • \$32.99

“One of the best over-achieving, value-priced wines in Pessac-Leognan, Haut-Bergey’s vineyard enjoys a superb location near Malartic-Lagraviere and Domaine de Chevalier. Composed of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon and the rest primarily Cabernet Franc and a dollop of Petit Verdot, the opaque purple-hued 2009 reveals a big, exuberant nose of charcoal, black currants, sweet cherries, and graphite. Dense and full-bodied, with beautiful purity, texture, and length, it should drink well for 20+ years. (Tasted two times.) Drink 2010 – 2030” (92-94) Robert Parker.

LA MISSION HAUT BRION • \$829.99

“La Mission Haut-Brion has made so many great wines over the last 100 years, it would be stupid to say the 2009 somehow exceeds this estate’s great classics, such as 1929, 1945, 1949, 1953, 1955, 1959, 1961, 1982, 1989, 1990, 1998, 2000, or 2005. Certainly it will take its place in the pantheon of all the great La Mission Haut-Brions ever made. There are 6,000 cases of it, made from a blend of 47% Cabernet Sauvignon, 47% Merlot, and 6% Cabernet Franc. The natural alcohol hit 14.7%, which far exceeds the perfect wines of 1982, 1989 and 1990. Opaque purple in color, with an extraordinary nose of blueberry liqueur intermixed with camphor, charcoal, hints of burning embers and truffles, and loads of black berry and black currant fruit, the wine has sublime concentration and purity, a finish that goes well past 60 seconds, and not a hard edge to be found in this sumptuous, almost over-the-top, full-bodied wine of enormous power and massive density and richness. An immortal effort, it should drink well for 50-100 years! (Tasted once.) Harvest started around September 9 at La Mission Haut-Brion, and finished almost a month later, on October 6. To get an idea of just how extraordinary all the wines from the Dillon family are in 2009, just consider how phenomenal the second wines are. Drink 2010 – 2110” (98-100) Robert Parker.

LA TOUR MARTILLAC ROUGE • \$31.99

“The best wine I have ever tasted from this estate, the oak seems to have been subdued, or maybe it is just that the fruit level is kicked up so high that the oak is

not noticeable. That is certainly a characteristic of 2009. Dense purple in color, with hints of graphite, cigar box, creme de cassis, and subtle barbecue smoke, the wine is loaded, rich, opulent, medium to full-bodied, and a beautiful model of a wine that makes a few concessions to the modern style of Bordeaux but retains its Graves personality totally intact. It should drink well for 20-25 years. (Tasted two times.) Drink 2010 – 2035” (90-92*) Robert Parker.

GRAVES

CLOS FLORIDENE • \$16.99

“The finest red wine I have ever tasted from this estate (I have long loved their whites), this sleeper of the vintage offers terrific fruit intensity, plenty of cassis, black cherry, loamy soil, graphite, and spice box notes, a fleshy, dense, unctuous style, and a long, heady finish with no hard edges. It should drink well for a decade. (Tasted once.) Drink 2010 – 2020” (88-90*) Robert Parker.

MONTAGNE SAINT-EMILION

FAIZEAU VIEILLES VIGNES • \$18.99

“Another winner from these old vines (mostly Merlot), this sleeper of the vintage from the Raynaud family that owns La Croix de Gay and La Fleur de Gay in Pomerol exhibits a dense ruby/purple color as well as wonderful mocha and black cherry jam notes. Fleshy and full-bodied with outstanding purity and a heady, potent finish (the alcohol must exceed 14%), it should drink nicely for a decade or more. (Tasted once.) Drink 2010 – 2020” (90-92) Robert Parker.

SAINT-EMILION

ANGELUS • \$330.00

“I tasted this three separate times, and on two occasions I thought it had the potential to be a perfect wine. The home estate of Hubert de Bouard, this 62+ acre vineyard produced a 60% Merlot and 40% Cabernet Franc blend in 2009, with yields of 20 hectoliters per hectare, and a whopping alcohol degree of 14.5%. Of course, the latter component is not even noticeable, as that is one of the erroneous myths about high alcohol in some 2009 Bordeaux. It just doesn’t show, thanks to the wine’s extraordinary concentration. This is a fabulous wine, with that tell-tale, dense, inky blue color that Angelus always seems to achieve. It displays an extraordinary nose of acacia flowers (or is it violets?) intermixed with blueberry liqueur, black raspberries, cassis, licorice, incense, and graphite. Full-bodied, viscous, with great intensity, vibrancy, and transparency, this is one of the all-time great wines from Angelus and a 21st century version of their 1989 and 1990. It should drink well for 20+ years – at the very minimum. (Tasted three times.) Drink 2010 – 2030” (96-100) Robert Parker.

L’ARROSEE • \$46.99

“This outstanding l’Arrosee is consistent with the Burgundian style that this terroir routinely produces.

Never massive, at its best it offers intense flavors of kirsch, raspberry, crushed rock, and spice box. The full-bodied flavors are ethereal in their delicacy. Full, but stylish, precise, intense, and never heavy, this beauty can be drunk early or cellared for two decades or more. (Tasted three times.)” (92-94) Robert Parker.

BARDE-HAUT • \$36.99

“A tiny crop of 18 hectoliters per hectare (the result of the mid-May hail damage) lead to an opaque purple-colored, richest, most concentrated, biggest Barde-Haut made to date. A blend of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc, the 2009 possesses an intense bouquet of mulberries, boysenberries, charcoal, toast, and graphite. Extremely full-bodied, thick, and viscous with good freshness and definition as well as sweet, but high tannins, this beauty can be enjoyed over the next two decades. (Tasted two times.) Drink 2010 – 2030” (93-95*) Robert Parker.

BEAU-SEJOUR-BECOT • \$69.99

“A great effort from the Becot family and their consultant, Jean Philippe Fort, the 2009 is a blend of 70% Merlot and the rest equal parts Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon. This is one of the highest-octane wines of St.-Emilion at 15% alcohol. Yields were very small (27 hectoliters per hectare) with the harvest taking place between October 10 and 14. The wine has an inky bluish/purple color and a big, powerful nose of raspberry confiture intermixed with crushed rock, licorice, and a very subtle hint of wood. A wine of enormous density, power, full-bodied richness and viscosity, it has good vibrancy and a boatload of tannin, but it is all seamlessly integrated in this colossal effort. Give it 3-5 years of cellaring and drink it over the following 30+ years. (Tasted four times.) Drink 2013 – 2043” (93-95) Robert Parker.

BELLEVUE • \$69.99

“A blend of 91% Merlot and 9% Cabernet Franc, this wine, which is made under the administration of Hubert de Bouard, tips the scales at 14.5% alcohol. Loads of chalky minerality from limestone soils are obviously present in this wine, which has a dense purple color, a viscous, full-bodied mouthfeel, huge fruit concentration, power, and structure. From yields of 28 hectoliters per hectare, the wine is rather massive and backward in the mouth. It looks terrific and could turn out to be superior to their great 2000. However, patience will be required, as this wine needs 5-7 years of cellaring, but should last three decades. (Tasted four times.) Drink 2015 – 2045” (92-94) Robert Parker.

CLOS DE L’ORATOIRE • \$43.99

“The 2009 Clos de l’Oratoire, a blend of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc that achieved 13.5% natural alcohol, exhibits an inky/ruby/purple color along with a big, sweet nose of incense, blackberries, blueberries, cedar, and spice box. Rich, opulent, and full-bodied, this offering is a complete turn-on that should provide

enormous pleasure over the next 10-15 years. (Tasted four times.) Stefan von Neipperg's 25-acre St.-Emilion estate (planted in clay and limestone) had slight hail damage, which resulted in somewhat smaller yields (28 hectoliters per hectare). Drink 2010 – 2025" (91-93) Robert Parker.

CLOS DES PRINCE • \$27.99

"Sweet berry and currant on the nose turn to flowers. Solid core of fruit and superpolished tannins. Really fine. Really serious. Yummy. Vineyards next door to Monbousquet." 91-94 –James Suckling, Wines Spectator

LA CONFESSION • \$36.99

"This is the well-run St.-Emilion property of the talented Jean-Philippe Janoueix, who does such a great job with his generic Bordeaux, Croix Mouton, and Pomerol's La Croix St.-Georges. Yields were cropped at 32 hectoliters per hectare, and the final blend is 68% Merlot and 32% Cabernet Franc coming in at a whopping 14.8% alcohol. I had it four separate times, three of which were very consistent, and once slightly less evolved, but that was on the first day I was in Bordeaux rather than the 12th day, and wines made like this – aged sur-lie with a "hands off" philosophy – were often coming off their post-malolactic lees. Dense purple in color with a beautifully sweet nose of charcoal, red, blue, and black fruits, licorice, and a hint of toasty oak, this opaque wine has tremendous density, thick, juicy, fruit, and unctuous texture, and a long, long, finish. It should be relatively approachable in its youth, since the tannin, alcohol, and wood are largely concealed by the overwhelming density of the wine, and last for up to 20 or more years. (Tasted four times.) Drink 2010 – 2030" (90-93) Robert Parker.

DESTIEUX • \$45.99

"A superb effort from Destieux, which has been on a relatively hot streak over recent vintages, the opaque blue/purple 2009 reveals an exquisite nose of incense, spring flowers, blueberries, black raspberries, charcoal, and background oak. Dense, corpulent, and full-bodied with abundant power as well as a skyscraper-like textural impression as well as lots of silkiness, glycerin, and richness, this big, powerful, quasi-modern-styled St.-Emilion can be drunk over the next 15-20 years. (Tasted three times.) Drink 2010 – 2030" (91-94*) Robert Parker.

LA DOMINIQUE • \$45.99

"The greatest La Dominique since the 1989 and 1990, the 2009 was fashioned by the brilliant duo of Jean-Philippe Fort (Michel Rolland's top lieutenant) and Jean-Luc Thunevin (the bad boy of St.-Emilion). Made from 100% Merlot (which must be a "first" for this estate), and with 14.3% alcohol, this will be a thrilling wine to drink over the next 20-25 years. Dense purple-hued with loads of black raspberries, black cherries, truffles, earth, and spice, it is an opulent, viscous effort with extraordinary intensity, purity, and richness, and a superb finish of nearly 45 seconds. It will be drinkable young, yet is capable of lasting a long time. Bravo! P.S. It is good to see

this 58-acre vineyard return to form after a somewhat listless period of performances. (Tasted three times.) (92-94) Robert Parker.

FAUGERES • \$37.99

"Two powerful efforts from proprietor Silvio Denz, the 2009 Faugeres may turn out to be one of the two or three finest examples of this cuvee. Fresh, with bright acids, a dense opaque purple color, and notes of graphite, blueberries, black currants, smoke, and charcoal, this full-bodied, intense, textured, rich 2009 is a blend of 85% Merlot and the rest primarily Cabernet Franc with a touch of Cabernet Sauvignon. Amazingly, it achieved 14.5% natural alcohol, and should drink well for 15+ years. Faugeres' brain trust of consultants includes Michel Rolland and Stefan von Neipperg. (Tasted three times.) Drink 2010 – 2025" (90-93) Robert Parker.

FONROQUE • \$31.99

"I agree with Alain Moueix that this is the greatest Fonroque he has ever made. From one of the few biodynamically farmed vineyards in St.-Emilion, this 2009 exhibits a dense ruby/purple color as well as a big, crisp, precise nose of forest floor, black and red fruits, crushed rocks, and earth. Dense, muscular, and masculine, this rich, full-bodied, deep, impressively endowed effort will benefit from 5-7 years of cellaring, and should drink well for 25+. (Tasted once.) Drink 2015 – 2040" (91-93*) Robert Parker.

GRAND-PONTET • \$38.99

"Sylvie Pourquet owns this property and has produced a wine of 70% Merlot and the rest equal parts Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc. Michel Rolland's top assistant, Jean Philippe Fort, is the consultant. Alcohol here hit 14.5%, which seems to be a target for many St.-Emilions in 2009. This wine has a dense purple color, a sweet nose of red and black currants intermixed with incense, subtle background oak, fleshy, open-knit, light, opulent flavors, silky tannins, and a long, exuberant, even flamboyant finish, with terrific purity and overall balance. It should drink well for 15 or more years. (Tasted two times.) Drink 2010 – 2025" (91-93) Robert Parker

LA TOUR DU PIN • \$42.99

"Pierre Lurton, the director of Cheval Blanc, has completely resurrected this estate since it was acquired by the owners of Cheval Blanc. A blend of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc grown in clay and gravel soils, the 2009 La Tour du Pin is the finest wine I have ever tasted from this property. It reveals terrific fruit intensity along with a full-bodied unctuousity, great purity, sweet tannins, and a heady, long finish. The alcohol level must be more than 14% given the glycerin content and the wine's thickness. It should drink well for 15+ years. (Tasted once.) Drink 2010 – 2025" (92-94*) Robert Parker.

LA TOUR FIGEAC • \$37.99

“Stephane Derenoncourt consults and his wife Christine direct this property, which is a 35-acre vineyard not far from Cheval Blanc near the Pomerol side of the St.-Emilion appellation. As far as the technical information, yields were 32 hectoliters per hectare, and the wine hit 14% natural alcohol in the final blend of 78% Merlot and 22% Cabernet Franc. This is certainly one of the top two or three wines I have ever tasted from this estate. Dense blue/plum-colored, with notes of blueberry, black raspberry, cherry, and currants, the wine displays some graphite, charcoal, and incense in a full-bodied, rich, silky, even voluptuous style, with oodles of fruit, concentration, and power, but wonderful freshness, which is again the paradoxical aspect of this vintage – massive concentration, but impressive freshness and elegance. (Tasted two times.)” (91-93) Robert Parker.

LUSSEAU • \$27.99

“Not much wine is made from Mr. Lusseau-s five-acre vineyard. He is also the regisseur of all Gerard Perse-s properties, so there is no doubt he knows how to turn out exceptionally concentrated, rich, flavorful, and soulful wines. Here the alcohol hit 13.9%, and the blend is mostly Merlot (80%) and the rest Cabernet Franc. An opulent, in-your-face style of St.-Emilion, with a dense ruby/purple color, chewy, meaty flavors, and plenty of floral notes intermixed with blackberry, licorice, smoke, and fruit, this totally seamless, opulent, fleshy wine is a total hedonistic turn-on that should drink well for 10-15 years. (Tasted two times.) Drink 2010 – 2025” (90-92) Robert Parker.

MONBOUSQUET • \$46.99

“One of the most satisfying and popular wines among wine consumers in all of Bordeaux is Monbousquet, and even though it is not the best terroir, what Gerard and Chantal Perse have done with this property, which used to make wines that tasted like vegetal, watered-down Beaujolais, is remarkable. Yields in 2009 were 28 hectoliters per hectare, and the final blend of 70% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc, and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon (the traditional blend here) tips the scales at 14.2% alcohol. Absolutely no new oak is showing, which is unusual for this wine, but that tells you how concentrated and textured the fruit is in this vintage. Dense ruby/purple to the rim, with plenty of exotic black fruits, jammy red fruits, some truffle, roasted herbs, and incense, the wine is full-bodied, luscious, exuberant, and opulent. It will be impossible to resist in its youth. This wine should drink well for 10-15 or more years, given the fact that a recently tasted 2000 was still an adolescent. (Tasted five times.) Drink 2010 – 2025” (92-94) Robert Parker.

PAVIE • \$299.99

“Another brilliant effort from Gerard Perse, this great vineyard (now just over 90 acres in size with the average age of the vines 45 years) was cropped at 28 hectoliters per hectare. It obviously missed all the damaging hail in

mid-May of 2009, and was harvested between October 5 and 15. Everything here is done with extraordinary gentleness and precision. The result is a powerful, full-bodied, remarkably intense wine that is black/purple in color. It will require considerable patience, much like 2000 and 2005. It displays enormous creme de cassis and boysenberry fruit with some cherries, spice box, and crushed rock in the background. It is intense, with loads of minerality, huge extraction, massive power, yet again, the vintage character seems to have given it a freshness and vibrancy despite the wine’s obvious viscosity. The minimum patience required is at least a decade, as this is another 40-year wine from Gerard Perse. (Tasted five times.) Drink 2020 – 2060” (96-100)

QUINAULT L’ENCLOS • \$32.99

“Now owned by the proprietors of Cheval Blanc, the 2009 Quinault l’Enclos (composed of 70% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc, and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon) exhibits an opaque purple color, notes of licorice, incense, raspberries, and black cherries, medium body, elegant, stylish flavors, and no hint of oak. This is a beautifully made, pure, deep wine that continues to confirm what Dr. Alain Raynaud suspected when he bought this property in 1997. The naysayers all said this terroir was suspect, but that has been proven wrong by the wines that have been produced. This 2009 should drink well for 10-20 years. (Tasted once.) Drink 2010 – 2030” (90-92) Robert Parker.

POMEROL

LA CROIX DE GAY • \$34.99

“One of the finest efforts I have ever tasted from La Croix de Gay, this dark ruby/purple-tinged 2009 offers up aromas of crushed raspberries, black cherries, vanillin, truffles, and caramel. Deep, richly fruity, and medium to full-bodied, with more substance and generosity than most vintages possess, the tannins are sweet and the finish is impressive as well as long. There is not a hard edge to be found in this 2009. It should drink well for 15-25 years. (Tasted two times.) Drink 2010 – 2035” (91-93*) Robert Parker.

LA CROIX DU CASSE • \$32.99

“A very strong effort, this attractive Pomerol offers up plenty of jammy black fruits intertwined with herbs, spice, and oak. Medium to full-bodied with no hard edges and a lush finish, it should be enjoyed over the next decade. (Tasted once.) Drink 2010 – 2020” (88-90) Robert Parker.

FAYAT • \$33.99

This sleeper of the vintage was fashioned by consultant Jean-Luc Thunevin from the vineyard that used to be called Prieurs de Commanderies. A blend of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc, it possesses a full-bodied texture, a thick, unctuous mouthfeel, and lots of plum, mulberry, cherry, forest floor, earth, and subtle

background oak. It should drink well for 10-15 years. (Tasted two times.) Drink 2010 – 2025” (90-92) Robert Parker.

NENIN • \$63.99

“A blend of 80% Cabernet Sauvignon and 20% Cabernet Franc that achieved nearly 14% natural alcohol, the 2009 Nenin is the finest wine I have tasted since the estate was acquired by Jean-Hubert Delon (the family that also owns Leoville Las Cases). The full-bodied Nenin exhibits lots of cranberry and boysenberry fruit, a hefty, rich mouthfeel, and a fresh, lively, long, rich style. It can be drunk young or cellared for three decades. (Tasted once.)” (91-93*) Robert Parker.

ROUGET • \$45.99

“The best Rouget I have ever tasted, the 2009 displays terrific aromas of kirsch liqueur and loamy soil as well as a plump, fat, luscious personality. With sensational concentration and purity, a full-bodied mouthfeel, and an enormous fruit character, this beauty should drink well for 15 or more years. (Tasted three times.) Drink 2010 – 2025” (91-93*) Robert Parker.

SAUTERNES

CANTEGRIL BARSAC (375ML) • \$14.99

“This has a lifted, voluminous nose that is lacking a little complexity. Very primal, developing scents of white flower with aeration. The palate is vibrant and really packs a punch on the entry. overly citrus orange peel notes inflect the honeyed fruit, taut and precise towards the finish. If the aromatics develop in barrel, this will be excellent.” (89-91+) Neal Martin

“Very similar to the ultra sweet but so fresh-styled Doisy Daene, this other property of Denis Dubourdieu is almost identical at half the price. Maybe just a point more acidity and a slightly softer middle.” (*****) Bill Blatch.

CLIMENS (375ML) • \$59.99

“Picked in just two tries, 90% picked in one try, tasting through 13 separate lots, the core components of a great Climens appear to be in place. Paying particular attention to the lots that constitute a large percentage of the blend (usually around 15%) the common themes are ones of great purity, persistency and precision. The aromatics display pure honey, minerals, occasionally a faint scent of spearmint and white peach, most with spellbinding precision. On the palate, Berenice Lurton has some stupendous lots at her disposal, with ample botrytis, ethereal definition, one or two more powerful, quite spicy lots and others that are shorter and will undoubtedly lend the blend an acidic cut. It will be a joy to taste this after bottling.” (96-98) Neal Martin

CLOS HAUT PEYRAGUEY (375ML) • \$27.99

“The nose is surprisingly taciturn at the moment, taking time to unfurl and reluctantly offering some light honeyed, white flower aromas. The palate is medium-bodied, very well defined, quite minerally with dried

apricot, honey, nectarine and a touch of lemon curd. It would benefit from more weight and intensity towards the finish, but it has good length and finesse, gaining weight all the time with aeration.” (91-93) Neal Martin

COUTET (375ML) • \$39.99

“The Coutet 2009 is a sensational effort from Philippe Baly and his team. It has a fragrant nose of honey, vervain tea, pineapple, frangipane and apple-blossom, well defined if needing a little more vigour at the moment. The palate is vibrant on the entry, informed by touches of apricot and orange peel, very focused and tensile towards the long, sensuous, viscous finish. It has the same minerality exuded by Doisy-Daene and reminds me of a stellar ‘62 tasted just a few weeks previously. A magnificent Coutet. (96-98)” Neal Martin

DOISY DAENE L’EXTRAVAGANT (375ML) • \$229.99

“There are probably around seven casks of the 2009 L’Extravagant de Doisy-Daene, although that may decrease a little after racking. An equal blend of Semillon and Sauvignon, it delivers a record 220gms residual sugar and yet still exudes astounding minerality and precision, with touches of clear honey, frangipane and cold wet stones. The palate is full-bodied with a mellifluous texture, perfect acidity to slice through that rich botrytized fruit, stunning balance, citrus peel, apricot, Clementine, lemon curd and a hint of ginger. With awesome length, leaving that tingling sensation akin to Szechuan pepper, this wine truly lives up to its name. (98-100)” Neal Martin

DOISY-VEDRINES (375ML) • \$18.99

“This is comparatively timid on the nose, giving very little away at the moment despite rigorous coaxing. But the palate is very promising, very well balanced, very focused with a fine citrus attack on the entry, fanning out towards an apricot, white peach and lime tinged finish that shows a great deal of unctuous honeyed fruit on the finish. This is an exuberant Doisy-Vedrine that yearns to offer pleasure. (92-94)” Neal Martin

DE FARGUES (375ML) • \$74.99

“The nose is rather taciturn at first, unfurling with tantalizing slowness: clear honey, pear, orange-blossom and apricot. Wonderful definition. The palate is not as powerful as others, but there is a tangible sense of minerality underlying the honeyed fruit, very focused and endowed with breathtaking definition and tension towards the vibrant finish.” (95-97) Neal Martin

GUIRAUD (375ML) • \$28.99

“The 2009 Guiraud is very tight on the nose, taking time to unfurl, with notes of apricot, peach, a touch of honeysuckle and quince. Good definition. The palate is impressive: tightly coiled, honeyed fruit, very fine acidity, linear at first then fanning out across the finish with notes of dried apricot, nectarine, a touch of

almond and a faint hint of spice. With good length and unctuous on the finish, this Guiraud is impossible to ignore.” (94-96) Neal Martin

MYRAT (375ML) • \$17.99

“Very tight and taciturn on the nose at the moment, but the palate is very well balanced with vibrant acidity, real clarity of fruit here with a superb, tense, citrus finish that just slices through that pure, heavenly botrytized fruit. This is very elegant, almost understated, but the purity is utterly charming.” (91-93) Neal Martin

RABAUD-PROMIS (375ML) • \$22.99

This is initially very muted on the nose, but it unfurls seductively with subtle, perfumed aromas of lime leaf, white peach, fresh apricot and touches of white flowers: very pretty and well defined. The palate is beautifully balanced, so pure and succinct with wonderful precision towards the vibrant, white peach and apricot finish. This is a wonderful Sauternes and one of their best wines in recent years.”(94-96) Neal Martin

RAYMOND-LAFON (375ML) • \$22.99

“There is a little SO2 on the nose at the moment. The palate is well balanced with a citric entry, touches of apricot and lime, tightly coiled towards the finish with the acidity slicing through the viscous honey fruit with a touch of Tropicana. Again, this is a very focused, tensile Sauternes with beguiling clarity.” (92-94) Neal Martin

RAYNE-VIGNEAU (375ML) • \$24.99

“The 2009 Rayne-Vigneau is one of the stars of the vintage. It has a very well defined, almost understated nose with white peach, apricot and lime leaf: very pretty and succinct. The palate is very well balanced, beautifully defined with real minerality showing through the viscous, botrytized fruit. Great tension here, effortlessly

counterbalancing the richness to perfection.” (94-96) Neal Martin

RIEUSSEC (375ML) • \$44.99

“The minerality and stoniness really comes through on the nose of this Rieussec, more than the 2007. The palate is very well balanced with superb acidity, real tension, steely with great precision with notes of apricot, white peach and honey on the beautifully defined finish. Probably the best Rieussec since the astounding 2001.” (95-97) Neal Martin

SIGALAS RABAUD (375ML) • \$25.99

“The Sigalas-Rabaud has a well defined nose: grapefruit, nectarine, honey and lime, much more primal than some of the other 2009s. The palate is very well balanced with excellent acidity: apricot, honeysuckle, a touch of orange zest and then vibrant white peach bursting across the finish with lime flower and lemongrass on the aftertaste. Wonderful persistency, power and freshness. Without question: the 2009 is the best Sigalas-Rabaud that I have tasted and this nectar comes highly recommended.” (95-97) Neal Martin

SUDUIRAUT (375ML) • \$45.99

“One of the outstanding successes of the 2009 vintage, this may surpass the superlative 2007. It has a more understated nose at the moment, but is very well defined with honey, white peach, orange peel and crushed stones. The palate has a viscous entry, is very well balanced, very powerful with great depth and effervescent minerality. Layers of botrytis layer across the mellifluous finish that is beautifully defined and sensuous. Fabulous.” (97-99) Neal Martin