Bordeaux 2018
En Primeur Opening Offer
JUNE 2019

The Wines
Bordeaux is a place where vinous miracles are created. Each year you hear either of a miraculous escape thanks to a change in the weather, or you hear of wonderful weather creating a miraculous vintage! 2018 is indeed a miracle. The problems faced are dealt with below suffice to say, this was a year that was made great by good, careful wine making.

This is a ‘big’ vintage, with plenty of concentration and structure with slightly higher alcohol than last year. Tannins are abundant. To achieve star quality, and plenty of châteaux have, they needed balance and to avoid over-extraction. We have tasted widely, and thoroughly, and can report that the châteaux we have followed, and you have bought from over the years, have made very fine wines. They are ripe, while feeling rich and generous. They are mostly made for the medium-term yet will last pretty well too. It is neither a Left nor a Right Bank year: Saint-Estèphe, Saint-Julien and Pomerol caught our eye but all regions have produced terrific wines at all price levels. Possibly a good dollop of Cabernet Franc improved matters, but well-handled, well-sorted grapes were the key. Winemakers had varying opinions on which vintage comparisons could be made, but all were convinced that 2018 will be talked of alongside 2009, 2010, 2015 and 2016 and high critics’ scores support this.

This offer deals with our recommendations for good drinking wines to stock your cellar for the next ten or so years. If you want the bigger, more glamorous classed growth names then please visit the En Primeur pages of our website.

Although good we have left out the dry whites which are early drinking and not really suitable to buy ‘en primeur’ this year, and the sweet wines which, despite some late botrytis, are made in a much lighter, fresher style. If you would like some recommendations, please give us a call.

The Weather
It was a tough year for the vignerons. A cold, wet spring gave way to a wet early summer with the vines ravaged by mildew. Calamitous for the biodynamic and organic growers who couldn’t spray, the non-organic majority were still affected and yields of healthy grapes were down. The heatwave then struck in the second week of July, which gradually forced many vineyards into ‘hydric stress’ when the vines shut down and grapes stop growing. Restricted grape size equally resulted in reduced yields. However the upside was that the remaining healthy grapes became very concentrated and the dry, ripening period became very extended. The harvest, when it arrived, was prolonged, allowing lots of time to pick perfectly ripe grapes and to sort the good from the bad. The day was saved: the vintage is a miracle!

En Primeur: What does it mean?
All the 2018 wines in this offer are offered ‘En Primeur Lying Abroad’. This means that you pay for the wine itself when you place your order and the duty (currently £2.23 ex VAT per 75cl bottle for mainland UK delivery) and VAT at the prevailing rates on the whole at the time of shipment and any other applicable tariffs. We anticipate shipping these wines in late 2020 and early 2021.

Storage
Wines purchased from Tanners by the case can be stored under bond.

More information - Fine Wine Team
Please ring John, Robin, Graham or Rachel on 01743 234455 for advice.
The Reds

Château Sauman, Côtes de Bourg  
DCR02618  12bts  £48
Well made, juicy with good definition and weight. There’s plenty of substance behind this little property in the rather forgotten part of Côtes de Bourg, well worth a punt for early drinking. 0-5 years.

Château Semonlon, Haut-Médoc  
DCR46818  12bts  £72
There’s a fresh bread aroma mingling with pretty dark fruit on the nose, supple tannin coming in on the palate but everything balanced and another lovely wine this year which is well worth buying. Classy for the money. 0-5 years.

Château Brisson, Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux  
DCR05818  12bts  £78
Fresh and quite crunchy fruit with textured oak, juicy and well structured. For a lesser château, Brisson habitually does well and yet again we picked it out for listing. 15% Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon broaden the flavour of the Merlot, and the whole is well-knit and complete. 0-5 years.

Château Roque de By, Médoc  
DCR48618  12bts  £84
Simple, straightforward but with a robust side and a ripe feel that reflects the vintage. Should develop into a rounded, quite broad claret in the early to mid-term bracket. A good ‘drinking’ wine. 0-5 years.

Château du Courlat, Lussac-St-Émilion  
DCR64918  12bts  £90
Soft and pretty, both on the nose and in the mouth. Good density, ripe fruit blending with a hint of spice. Full and rich in the finish, judicious oak keeping everything in balance. 0-5 years.

Château Montaiguillon, Montagne-Saint-Émilion  
DCR73018  12bts  £96
Dark fruit, black cherry coming through some firm tannins. Good balance, fine lines in the mouth and generous feel on the finish. Very worthy, not going to let you down and for early to mid-term drinking. 3-9 years.

Château Tour St Bonnet, Médoc  
DCR47718  12bts  £96
Fresh and fruity alongside quite muscular tannins. Big, plenty of presence and a generous ripe style that should develop well, a mid-term drinker. 5-15 years.

Château Cissac, Haut-Médoc  
DCR45018  12bts  £99
This is a year for big wines with richness and tannins aplenty; Cissac serves this up in spades but everything hangs together. Dark chocolate and damson flavours prevail, and there’s a lovely, supple core supporting what is a weighty wine. More approachable than in the past, this will make beautiful mid-term drinking. A cracking drop of claret from 2018 - and still amazingly affordable! 3-9 years.

Château La Prade, Francs Côtes de Bordeaux  
CDR03918  12bts  £102
A juicy wine from the Pavie-Macquin team, with weight, depth and big ripe tannins. Well-structured, plenty of bone which suggests a decent life ahead, one to drink mid-term but very affordable. 5-15 years.
Château Canon, Canon-Fronsac
DCR02218  12bts  £108
Totally fired up about this, straight out of the barrel, this wine is bang on target! A cracking new find from Fronsac, to the west of Libourne. It’s an attractive, soft, pretty area that perfectly reflects this wine. You’ll also find ripeness of fruit and good balance, a charming claret that will drink early yet has good structure and substance. A very approachable, affordable Château Canon! 3-9 years.

Château Puygueraud, Francs Côtes de Bordeaux
DCR04018  12bts  £108
Another cracking effort with super fruit and generous, rounded tannins. Stood up well at Pavie-Macquin, this wine is fast becoming a best seller and it should be. Terrific value, lovely wine punching above its weight. 3-9 years.

Château La Tour de By, Médoc
DCR45318  12bts  £114
Another super wine from Tour de By where they coped well with the heat and mildew to make a big, balanced wine with a powerful structure that is made to keep a bit. Less overt than Cissac, cooler fruit and a more savoury style. A good, mid-term option. 3-9 years.

Château Croix Chantecaille, grand cru Saint-Emilion
DCR78218  12bts  £120
La Dominique and Pétrus (no less) border this property which is under new management. Nice full-on fruit, fleshy and rich. A careful hand with the oak and quite silky tannins make this a pretty, mid-weight wine. 3-9 years.

Château du Courlat, Cuvée Jean Baptiste, Lussac-Saint-Emilion
DCR65418  12bts  £120
Pure Merlot that escaped the mildew, so there’s good, ripe, brambly fruit with some spice overlaying the palate. Soft and round to finish, it is a good, typical Right Bank claret at an excellent price that will reward you in the short to medium term. 0-5 years.

Château Lanessan, Haut-Médoc
DCR45218  12bts  £132
Simply delicious freshness and character this vintage, with a brilliant nose of toast and blackberry jelly, then blueberries on the palate (this is almost Douro in style!), firm tannins but a sweetness of fruit behind. Fresh finish, everything calm, a cracker that will drink early. 0-5 years.

Saintem, Denis Durantou, grand cru Saint-Emilion
DCR73918  12bts  £135
Bright, ripe with a mix of red and black fruits, nicely textured tannins, mid-weight and quite long on the finish. Needs a little time to come together, but well-crafted. 5-15 years.

Château Mauvesin-Barton, Moulis-en-Médoc
DCR49018  12bts  £138
Mauvesin-Barton has turned in an excellent wine in 2018. Freshness on the nose, even a touch of mint, followed by a good round feel. Substance but balance and nice harmony of flavour and fullness. Aniseed and blackberry jelly. Power but well under control. Excellent, must be worth considering at this price from the Barton stable. 3-9 years.
Château Les Hauts Conseillants, Lalande-de-Pomerol  
Superb, ripe, damson fruit with lovely spice which pulled this wine in front of its peers. Well-handled oak on a weighty, dense core backed up by chewy, ripe tannins which give it a superior feel too. A very good performance in 2018, and a star buy. 3-9 years.

Château Teyssier, grand cru Saint-Emilion  
Surprisingly light in colour with a spicy, cinnamon note. Ripe and curranty in the mouth, quite fleshy too with more intense, curranty fruit in the back palate. A warm note, almost Rhône-like in character, extremely soft and round with a toasty finish. Possibly the best, most concentrated Teyssier we have tasted for years, this is a knock-out! 3-9 years.

Château Pipeau, grand cru Saint-Emilion  
Pipeau does well in warmer vintages and this has a lot of the quality of 2015 about it. A touch more tannin perhaps but that lovely ripe, blackberry fruit and a well-formed, rounded core that ripples through to the finish. Delicious in 2018, recommended. 3-9 years.

Château Puy-Blanquet, grand cru Saint-Emilion  
A wine from the all-powerful Moueix stable, this is invariably a well-made wine and this year is no exception. Fits nicely into the mid-weight category, with ripe, spicy fruit and some breadth of flavour. An easy, early maturing Saint-Emilion with warmth and character. 0-5 years.

Château Montlandrie, Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux  
A lovely, pretty nose of violets and dark chocolate. Good concentration and softness, ending on a herby note on the palate. Ripe tannins and cool acidity, not so much oak behind it therefore the brilliant dark fruit character stands out. Delicious. 3-9 years.

Château Lilian Ladouys, Saint-Estèphe  
Linked to Château Pédesclaux which has come on in leaps and bounds, we loved the juicy, raspberry purity of Lilian which was backed up by a fleshy feel in the mouth, fine tannin and a juicy finish. The Saint-Estèphe stoney character comes through too, but with added richness. A good effort that will age nicely. Good value as usual. 3-9 years.

Château de Bel-Air, Lalande-de-Pomerol  
New to our list this year, a ‘Lalande’ property that reflects how well neighbouring Pomerol has done but at a fraction of the price. Juicy, pretty with generous fruit. A well-knit, medium weight claret that will reward in the short to mid-term. 0-5 years.
Château Pindefleurs, grand cru Saint-Emilion  
DCR73818  12bts  £192  
Gorgeous fruit muddled with fine tannin, this is a biggish mouthful of fine curranty fruit with a silky Saint-Emilion side to it. Well-made, this is a fine effort and will make an elegant, full-bodied claret for the mid-term. 3-9 years.

Château du Glana, Saint-Julien  
DCR32718  12bts  £198  
Quite a ripe, dried fruit nose which develops power and yet keeps a soft, supple edge. The finish is full-on with the richness pushing on through making for a rich but friendly style that should come round fairly soon. An improvement on previous vintages, this is a property on the up. 3-9 years.

Château La Gurgue, Margaux  
DCR30918  12bts  £198  
Gently spicy feel, quite vivacious and driven. Plenty of richness yet a streak of acidity which will give it backbone. Tannins in check, nice fresh finish which is the overall style here. Its poise reflects the Lurton biodynamic methods used. 3-9 years.

Château Lespault-Martillac, Pessac-Léognan  
DCR56918  12bts  £204  
Lots of big black fruit character but very fresh and very appealing. A good, bright, vibrant style at odds with some of the bruisers we encountered in Pessac, this has lovely acidity and length. Follows on from a terrific 2015, and made much the same way. 3-9 years.

Château Haut-Bages Monpelou, Pauillac  
DCR33618  12bts  £204  
Ripe fruit, with a herby, savoury note. There are classic Pauillac notes of slate and tobacco to be found on the palate. The tannins are a little chewy at the moment so it needs some time to fill out, but will be a very enjoyable wine. 5-15 years.

Château Les Cruzelles, Lalande-de-Pomerol  
DCR65318  12bts  £210  
Cruzelles is quite simple, soft and balanced this year, very approachable early yet persistent and showing a mineral edge. More weight than its stablemate, Saintem, with chewier tannin but great balance too, testament to very good wine-making. 3-9 years.

Sarget de Gruaud Larose, Saint-Julien  
DCR37518  12bts  £222  
This ever-dependable second wine has a core of black fruit, a ripe, blackberry and cinnamon palate and some supple tannins giving good backbone. Nice length, and very harmonious on the finish. 3-9 years.

Lacoste-Borie, Pauillac  
DCR38018  12bts  £228  
Château Grand-Puy-Lacoste has made brilliant wine yet again, and this ‘second’ wine is an excellent option. Very obvious oak at the moment, plenty of black fruit and needs to meld together – the tannins are quite forward. Looks like a mid-term proposition – but loads of quality. 3-9 years.

Château Lalande Borie, Saint-Julien  
DCR33018  12bts  £228  
You expect great wines from Ducru-Beaucaillou, which puts on a great tasting and this wine was showing beautifully: luscious sweet fruit, richness with very focused, controlled tannins and a core of dense black fruit. Excellent balance and length and a pure, fresh finish despite 14.5% alcohol. This made a big impression and has come out at an affordable price. 5-15 years.

Château Bonalgue, Pomerol  
DCR68518  12bts  £240  
100% Merlot. Very full-on, ripe mulberry nose. Supple, rounded with a soft texture, balance and lots of volume in the mouth. Smooth, generous with a silky structure. The best Bonalgue we’ve seen for years: power in a velvet glove, plenty to it yet made with restraint. Really impressive. 5-15 years.

Marquis de Calon, Saint-Estèphe  
DCR34418  12bts  £240  
Bright, curranty, very attractive nose. Supple tannins around a core of re currant and blackcurrant fruit with lovely freshness and typically generous feel to this. Smooth, well-integrated with a hint of dark chocolate and a soft, yet pure finish. A delicious glass of claret that will drink quite soon yet has a serious side to it. Excellent wine from a stable that is simply striding away in Saint-Estèphe – surely a must-buy. 3-9 years.

Château Cantemerle, 5me cru Haut-Médoc  
DCR27118  12bts  £246  
Quite ripe on the nose. Juicy, balanced, not a blockbuster but pretty good concentration and decent substance too. Lovely oak on the finish, some finesse. Cantemerle continues a great run of form. 5-15 years.

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For notes and availability of classed growths and more expensive clarets, please see www.tanners-wines.co.uk/enprimeur
Château Meyney, Saint-Estèphe   
DCR35018  12bts  £246
Next door to Château Montrose, Meyney continues to build in stature. This year’s wine is big, muscular and chock full of flavour. Dark chocolate, black fruit with a stoney edge - a very satisfying wine for the long term. 5-15 years.

Château Belgrave, 5me cru Haut-Médoc  
DCR27918  12bts  £252
Nathalie Navarre told us that their last Merlot, from cool clay soils, was picked on 10th October after all the Cabernet grapes, something that had never happened before. This fifth-growth was outstanding and is without doubt the bargain of the classed growths across the region. Very cool with brambly fruit, good balancing acidity on soft tannins, real depth and a super, textured oaky finish. As elegant as we have ever seen, it is beautifully framed. 5-15 years.

Château Angludet, Margaux  
DCR30018  12bts  £312
Tiny yields due to the mildew but… a fabulous wine. Much like Palmer, we felt Angludet’s quality was superb - a silky, effortless wine with cool fruit, easy tannin and very good length. Not a blockbuster like other Margaux, but has restraint and class. Feels like it will have a wide drinking window as it has the structure to last. 5-15+ years.

Left Bank
Six wines, six of each, 36 in all, at £310.50
- Château Semonlon, Haut-Médoc  x6
- Château Roque de By, Médoc  x6
- Château Tour St Bonnet, Médoc  x6
- Château Cissac, Haut-Médoc  x6
- Château Lanessan, Haut-Médoc  x6
- Château Mauvesin-Barton, Moulis-en-Médoc  x6

Right Bank
Six wines, six of each, 36 in all, at £294
- Château Brisson, Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux  x6
- Château Montaiguillon, Montagne-Saint-Emilion  x6
- Château Puygueraud, Francs Côtes de Bordeaux  x6
- Château Teysier, grand cru Saint-Emilion  x6
- Château du Courtat, Lussac-Saint-Emilion  x6
- Château Canon, Canon-Fronsac  x6

The 2018 Cellars

Bordeaux photographs from our trip this year including: Robert Boutflower with Xavier Borie; Cyrille Thienpont (centre); and Charles Sichel pouring at Angludet.