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2022 VINTAGE REPORT BY NICHOLAS JACKSON, MW

VINTAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Spring in Bordeaux brought optimism, this year, for myriad reasons. After a difficult vintage in 2021, the 2022 *en primeur* (Futures) campaign promised better wines and a wider audience. The final Covid restrictions were in the past, and the tastings were relaxed and cheerful, as old friends caught up, and visitors from around the world made their way to the region. The market appears, broadly speaking, strong; a receptive audience awaits a new vintage; and the wines are good.

The story is never, of course, as easy as all that. The 2022 vintage had huge challenges of its own; a summer of unrelenting heat and drought not the obvious source of great wines. Yet somehow it has produced many remarkable red wines, in a style all their own. This is a singular vintage, and drinkers will benefit from being apprised of the weather conditions and winemaking choices that gave them rise. But in the final analysis, 2022 may become a new benchmark for the region; a triumph of stunning wines emerging from a fiery summer.

THE WEATHER

Every vintage brings its own challenges, and those of 2022 were almost the opposite of the previous year. 2021 was a cool, damp vintage. 2022 was a hot, dry one. In fact, France experienced its hottest year since 1947 in 2022; an unrelenting summer heat from June onwards. In Bordeaux, every month from May to September experienced higher than average temperatures. A crucial saving grace for the vines were the fresh nights (unlike in 2003, to compare another famously hot year).

Frost affected some vineyards in the first week of April, but nothing on the scale of 2021. After a dry winter and spring (helpful for a successful flowering, but already causing water deficits), a heatwave prompted storms in the week of June 20. This led to hail and crop loss in some northern regions, including areas of St. Estèphe and the Médoc appellation, and some parts of the Right Bank. But the rain was heaven-sent for the rest of the vineyards, topping up soils prior to the subsequent two months of drought. The next appreciable rain would not be until late August and early September. This rain, shortly before harvest, raised yields by increasing the size of the berries.

Due to the summer heat, the grapes matured quickly, and virtually all estates finished harvesting by the end of September; an unusually early date. In spite of the late season rain, yields were considerably below average. A good year in the Médoc may yield 45hl/ha; in this vintage anything above 30hl could be considered successful. This was largely due to the drought-induced small berry size; up to 20% smaller than usual, and containing less juice.

THE WINES

The weather report makes the wines much easier to understand. The effect of the reduced yields is that the grapes were simply very concentrated; the vine putting all its energy into a smaller number of berries than usual. This in turn led to high sugars and, when fermented to dryness, high alcohols. The small berry size also means that the ratio of juice to the pips and skins (where the tannins are located) is lower than normal, so that the amount of tannin is proportionately high.

The most successful wines were the product of grapes grown on water-retaining soils. These are largely clay and limestone, explaining the success of wines from the plateaus of St. Emilion and Pomerol. Soils in which gravel and sand predominate were generally less successful in holding the water, and could lead to wines of excessive sweetness and weight. Note, however, that the best gravel terroirs in the Médoc lie over clay, so the deep-rooting vines there were nonetheless able to access water during the torrid summer. Irrigation is not permitted in Bordeaux, although there was an exceptional derogation for Pomerol in 2022.

The winemaking choices in this unusual vintage were also crucial to success. It is uncontroversial to propose that had this vintage occurred even a decade ago, the wines would be far inferior, so quickly has winemaking in the region improved. Earlier harvesting than usual has already been mentioned; Pétrus, for example, was finished by 7 September. Careful and limited extraction was also required to avoid excessive tannin. At Eglise-Clinet in Pomerol, most of the tannin extraction took place at 21 deg C; this rather cool temperature permitted extraction of the soft pip tannins, but not the sturdier tannins from the berry skins.

Another exceptional aspect of the vintage is the high proportion of press wine used, often as much as double the usual. Press wine can be excessively dry, but in 2022 the tannins were so ripe that this could be avoided. Including a large proportion of press wine (up to 17% at Château Lafite) contributed concentrated mid-palate fruit while reducing the need to extract heavily during alcoholic fermentation, and risk drying or bitter tannins.

WINE STYLE

At their best, the reds of 2022 are thrilling wines that represent a new level of achievement in Bordeaux. The top wines combine hedonistically rich but controlled fruit; powerful but ripe, velvety tannins; and long, complex, fresh finishes. These are wines of huge scope: massive concentration, tannins and high alcohol levels, yet all in harmony, and displaying ample terroir notes. And in spite of the sheer scale of these wines, the ripe tannins and soft fruit give the wines a shocking approachability; many will be enjoyable from the beginning of their lives, while paradoxically also promising a long life ahead thanks to the density of the tannins.

Predictably, the hot year did not encourage the retention of acidity in the berries, and indeed, the acidities are not a virtue of 2022. But the best sites on water-retaining soils managed to maintain a healthy pH value, meaning that the best wines do not taste sweet or syrupy. In addition, many wines feature some kind of dry, sapid, salty finish. Given the limited acidity, winemakers were at a loss to explain where this note comes from; perhaps a combination of tannins (fruit and oak), pH values, and even some kind of adaptation from the vines to the extreme conditions. This component also helps lend precision and definition to the fruit.

Château Haut-Bailly mooted the idea that the longstanding view of Bordeaux as an Atlantic wine may quickly be becoming redundant. Ever warmer, drier summers make a Mediterranean wine style a more appropriate analogy. In those terms, the 2022 vintage may represent a foretaste of ever warmer years to come. But it is nonetheless hard to resist looking back to make analogies with other vintages. The opulent, accessible fruit is reminiscent of 2009 – a vintage that has never shut down in bottle. But the tannins are far more powerful, even if they are ripe – perhaps rather more like 2010.

Whatever your comparison, 2022 stands alone as a vintage where the top châteaux were able to make brilliant wines in extreme conditions. These are the wines we choose to offer this year.

Less successful wines were too sweet, too alcoholic, too bitter; many the potential traps this year. Some extracted too little or too much tannin; some harvested too early or too late. In some wines on less propitious soils, the pH and alcohol levels are too high for comfort (or potentially for long term aging).

The warm conditions predictably did not yield the best conditions for outstanding white wines. Most lack acidity, and offer easy, generous fruit, but without the vibrancy and clarity of top years. Most should be drunk within five years of the vintage, while they retain their pleasant fruitiness. Sauternes and Barsac managed limited yields (typically around 10hl/ha) and made very good wines from the limited amount of botrytis rot that appeared very late in the season.

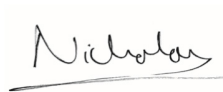
CONTEXT OF THE CAMPAIGN

As noted above, the sentiment in Bordeaux is positive in spring 2023. Given the small yields and high quality, there is no doubt that prices will be up on last year. Exchange rates are broadly similar to last year, meaning that a like for like comparison is easy. As such, expect price hikes of 10-20% on last year. It is not only the winemakers who are happy with the new crop; the all-important négociants (Bordeaux wholesalers) will happily buy the wines for stock, so there is little incentive to reduce or even hold prices from last year.

IN SUMMARY

2022 is an exciting year for red Bordeaux, where an extreme summer and modern winemaking techniques have coincided to produce an almost completely new style of Bordeaux vintage. The paradoxes abound: how do the wines have such accessibility while having such a tannic charge? How do they taste so fresh while having a paucity of acidity? How do the wines find precision while being so ripe?

Yet a simple truth remains: they may be hard to understand, but they will be a joy to drink. I can say this with confidence, because they already are. 2022 is a new benchmark for the region, and perhaps a new era too. Buying these wines as Futures represents your opportunity to acquire these wines at release price, in the bottle format of your choice, and to have them available for your enjoyment upon shipping to the US in 2025. We recommend you do so.



Nick Jackson, MW

IMAGE © CHÂTEAU LAFITE ROTHSCHILD



INSTRUCTIONS: Thank you for your interest in our 2022 En Primeur campaign. Please complete and return this form indicating below how you would like to participate in the 2022 campaign by choosing the Buy List, Wish List or General List, and by marking the wines you are interested in buying. This form does not guarantee that you will receive any or all of the wines that you request.

☐ **Buy List - First Priority:**

This is our highest priority list and the first list we use when allocating En Primeur that are limited in supply. This list gives you the opportunity to ask us to automatically purchase certain wines up to a maximum price. Clients who choose this option receive their allocations ahead of the Wish List and General List clients. Please be sure to indicate on the form the quantities you are interested in, as well as the price per bottle you are willing to pay for each wine (in either US\$ or HK\$).

☐ **Wish List - Second Priority:**

This is our second highest priority list and allows clients to indicate the number of cases of each wine they are interested in buying without making any commitment to buy. Once we have allocated the wines to clients who submitted a Buy List, we send emails to clients who have provided us with their Wish List indicating any quantities of wine that we can allocate for them.

☐ **General List - Third Priority:**

By signing up for this list, clients will receive our En Primeur offers for all wines that remain available after those have been offered first to the Buy List and then to the Wish List. You are only required to provide your contact information below.

Importation of Bordeaux En Primeur and Tax status: For all buyers, please be reminded that prices quoted are offered pre-taxes, duties and/or tariffs which will need to be paid at the time of importation. Wines are expected to be delivered in Fall 2025.

Name: _____

Work: _____

Address: _____

Cell: _____

Email: _____

Location: ☐ New York or ☐ Hong Kong

Please fill out and email to wine@sothebys.com

	Wine	Desired Quantity	Sotheby's	Nick Jackson MW	Jane Anson	William Kelley – Wine Advocate	Yohan Castaing – Wine Advocate	Antonio Galloni – Vinous	Neal Martin – Vinous	2021 Opening Price		Your Top Purchase Price	
										US\$ Per BT	HK\$ Per BT	US\$ Per BT	HK\$ Per BT
1	Angélus		94-96	93-95	97	96-98		93-95	95-97	\$345.00	\$2,600.00		
2	Armailhac		91-93	91-93	94	92-94				\$44.00			
3	Aromes de Pavie		90-92	91-92	93			90-92	89-91				
4	Ausone		96-98	96-98	98-100	94-96+		95-97	95-97.5	\$640.00	\$5,024.00		
5	Beauséjour (Duffau-Lagarosse)		94-96	93-95									
6	Bélair-Monange		94-96	94-96		94-95		95-97	96-98				
7	Beychevelle		92-94	92-94	93	92-94		94-96	95-97				
8	Branair-Ducru			92-94	96	95-97		94-96	95-97	\$45.00	\$350.00		
9	Brane-Cantenac		93-95	93-95		95-97		95-97	96-98				
10	Calon-Ségur		93-95	93-95	94	96-98		91-93	94-96	\$125.00	\$950.00		
11	Canon		94-96	94-96	98	99-100		96-99	96-98	\$120.00	\$900.00		
12	Canon-la-Gaffelière				94	94-96		94-96	93-95				
13	Carillon d'Angélus		91-93	91-93	94	91-93		91-93	91-93	\$105.00			
14	Carruades de Lafite		92-94	93-95	93	91-93		92-94	90-92	\$205.00			
15	Chapelle d'Ausone		92-94	92-94	95	91-93+		92-94	91-93	\$155.00			

	Wine	Desired Quantity	Sotheby's	Nick Jackson MW	Jane Anson	William Kelley – Wine Advocate	Yohan Castaing – Wine Advocate	Antonio Galloni – Vinous	Neal Martin – Vinous	2021 Opening Price		Your Top Purchase Price	
										US\$ Per BT	HK\$ Per BT	US\$ Per BT	HK\$ Per BT
16	Chapelle de la Mission Haut-Brion		90-92	91-92	92	90-92+		91-93	90-92	\$75.00	\$530.00		
17	Cheval Blanc		96-98	95-97	98-100	97-99+		98-100	98-100	\$530.00	\$3,840.00		
18	Clarence de Haut-Brion		91-93	91-93			91-93+	92-94	91-93	\$145.00	\$1,025.00		
19	Clarté de Haut-Brion		91-93	90-92			91-93	90-92	88-90	\$115.00	\$820.00		
20	Clerc Milon		94-96	93-95	95	93-95		91-93	91-93	\$75.00	\$580.00		
21	Clinet		92-94	92-94	96	94-96+		94-96	94-96				
22	Conseillante		96-98	94-96	97	97-100		96-98	97-99	\$205.00	\$1,609.25		
23	Cos d'Estournel		94-96	94-96		93-95		95-97	95-97	\$232.00	\$1,800.00		
24	Domaine de Chevalier Blanc		93-95	93-95	94		93-96	95-97	92-94	\$99.00	\$480.00		
25	Domaine de Chevalier Rouge		93-95	93-95	96		94-96	93-96	95-97	\$65.00	\$480.00		
26	Ducru-Beaucaillou		93-95	94-96	98	94-96		95-97	95-97	\$209.00	\$1,495.00		
27	Duhart-Milon		92-94	92-94		91-93		92-94	93-95	\$69.00			
28	Eglise-Clinet		96-98	95-97	98					\$278.00			
29	Figeac		94-96	94-96	98	98-100		96-99	97-99	\$242.00			
30	Fleur-Pétrus		94-96	93-95		94-96		94-96	93-95				
31	Forts de Latour		92-94	93-95	94	92-94		95-97	94-96				
32	Giscours		92-94	92-94	95	94-96+		95-97	95-97	\$54.95	\$430.00		
33	Grand-Puy-Lacoste		94-96	93-95	96	95-97		92-94.5	96-98	\$68.00	\$520.00		
34	Gruaud Larose		92-94	93-95	96	94-96+		93-95	95-97				
35	Haut-Bailly		93-95	94-96			94-96	93-96	96-98	\$121.00	\$920.00		
36	Haut-Brion		96-98	96-98			95-97	97-99	96-98	\$565.00	\$4,000.00		
37	Haut-Brion Blanc		93-95	93-95			93-95	94-96	92-94				
38	Hosanna		93-95	91-93	95	93-95		94-96	93-95				
39	Issan		92-94	92-94	95	93-95							
40	Lafite Rothschild		97-99	96-98	97	95-97+		96-96	96-98	\$603.00	\$4,750.00		
41	Lafleur		97-99	96-98	98-100	97-99		95-98	97-99	\$800.00	\$6,280.00		
42	Langoa Barton		92-94	92-94	94	93-95+		91-93	92-94	\$40.00	\$315.00		
43	Larcis Ducasse				96	94-95		96-98	95-97				
44	Latour		96-98	96-98	98-100	97-100		97-99	97-99				
45	Léoville Barton		93-95	93-95	96	96-97+		93-95	96-98	\$75.00	\$570.00		
46	Léoville-las-Cases		96-98	95-97	97	98-100		98-100	98-100				
47	L'if				93	93-95		93-95	93-95				
48	Lynch-Bages		94-96	94-96	97	93-96		95-97	95-97	\$120.00	\$920.00		
49	Malartic Lagraviere Blanc		91-93	91-93			90-92	91-93	91-93				
50	Malartic Lagraviere Rouge		92-94	92-94			91-93	94-96.5	93-95				
51	Malescot St.-Exupéry			92-94		93-95		92-94	93-95				
52	Margaux		95-97	95-97	98-100	96-97+		97-99	96-98	\$565.00	\$4,165.00		
53	Mission Haut-Brion		95-97	94-96			94-96+	97-99	97-99	\$300.00	\$2,125.00		

I am also interested in purchasing the following wines:

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Angélus | S: 94-96, NJ: 93-95, JA: 97, WK: 96-98, AG: 93-95, NM: 95-97

60% Merlot, 40% Cabernet Franc; A fascinating color, deep red tending towards dark purple and acts as a joyful invitation for the beautifully complex bouquet. Welcomed by exuberant strawberry, fresh black fruits, and paired with intense floral notes dominated by rose and violets. The attack is soft and medium bodied, a real tour de force in this hot vintage. The palate is clearly creamy, rich, suave, juicy but also delicate and precise. The wine is striking by its cleanness and the verticality provided by the Cabernet Franc. A wonderful Angélus, ready to be enjoyed in its infancy and could clearly age for decades. **Amayès Aouli**

There is huge depth of Cabernet Franc flavour on the nose immediately; immensely spicy and detailed; even some graphite notes present. This really is a showcase of Cabernet Franc! The new style of Angélus is on full display in this wine: only mid-weight, with good energy and direction, and eminently drinkable. Perhaps it just falls off a little on the finish. Really quite a classical St-Emilion style, with nice softness of fruit and fine grained tannins. A triumph to make such a graceful wine in a year like this. **Nick Jackson, MW**

Armailhac | S: 91-93, NJ: 91-93, JA: 94, WK: 92-94

Structured tannins hold a compact and concentrated core of blackberry, cassis, and crushed mint. Showing great depth and with much to promise in the future, it performs even now with a fine balance of richness and freshness." **Vanessa Conlin, MW**

This is a chunky, rich style, rather foursquare with powerful tannins. An unusually sturdy style of Armailhac, which can often be one of the lighter expressions of Pauillac. Quite tight knit at present, with ample density and fruit substance. This has a long life ahead as a classic, structured, rich Pauillac. **Nick Jackson, MW**

Aromes de Pavie | S: 90-92, NJ: 91-92, JA: 93, AG: 90-92, NM: 89-91

50% Merlot, 50% Cabernet Franc; Dark red. The nose is delicate and marked by notes of liquorice, flowers, black and red berries with delicate touches of chocolate. On the palate, the touch is subtle with refreshing tannins, impressive length, fullness and supple. Aromes de Pavie is not just the second wine of Pavie any longer but a full wine in its own right." **Amayès Aouli**

This is a concentrated, dry, savoury style, with nice lift from the Cabernet Franc (50% of the blend). Rich and powerful, and quite structured for a second wine. This will need 7-8 years before approaching it – unusual in the context of the vintage. Very dry - almost the opposite of the alleged Pavie style. But things have changed for the better here! **Nick Jackson, MW**

Ausone | S: 96-98, NJ: 96-98, JA: 98-100, WK: 94-96+, AG: 95-97, NM: 95-97.5

One of the stand-outs of those tasted, the wine is able at once to be gorgeously nuanced and elegant while also showing power and sinewy muscularity. Loads of black cherry, black currant, and black tea, with hints of orange pekoe tea and wet stone. Absolutely thrilling! **Vanessa Conlin, MW**

A fabulous, showy nose of spice and oak; a fantastic taste of orange, tobacco and milk chocolate. Wonderfully mouth-filling, with a sumptuous texture and incredibly fine-grained tannins. Fresh, and the detail of the Cabernet Franc is enhanced by the acidity, which is not generous, but is sufficient. So fragrant in the mouth! Already blooming, and should drink well from a young age, although with a huge capacity to age. Pretty thrilling wine, as usual from this address! **Nick Jackson, MW**

Beauséjour (Duffau-Lagarosse) | S: 94-96, NJ: 93-95

69% Merlot, 31% Cabernet Franc; A true success of 2022 where the winemaker, Jospehine Duffau-Lagarrosse, is fully expressing her immense talent. Intense and dark in color, it is showing a fruity, pure, subtle, floral nose. Full-bodied, the wine is vibrant and layered, with soft tannins and marked by an impressive depth. Wild berries, plums, rose are displaying on the attack. A balanced mouthfeel delivers a powerful aromatic concentration. **Amayès Aouli**

On the palate, a lovely, layered texture, with sweet, woody spices and high-toned raspberry fruit. You feel the alcohol (14.5%) but the wine remains well balanced; concentrated yet so pure, with some glorious chalky St-Emilion notes on the finish. Very impressive wine from this ever-improving estate. **Nick Jackson, MW**

Bélaire-Monange | S: 94-96, NJ: 94-96, WK: 94-95, AG: 95-97, NM: 96-98

Perfumed, with macerated cherry, blackberry compote, mint tea, and crushed rose petal. The tannins are concentrated and satiny, and support a long finish accented with freshness. **Vanessa Conlin, MW**

An almost liqueur-like texture and intensity of flavour; a deep pool of damson fruit and velvety tannins envelop the gums. This is a particularly hedonistic, emphatic expression, with stupendous texture and glorious depth of fruit. The tannins are on a large scale, but so fruit-wrapped as to be almost understated. But this will nonetheless benefit from a decade plus of ageing. A wine of huge scale; monumental. **Nick Jackson, MW**

Beychevelle | S: 92-94, NJ: 92-94, JA: 93, WK: 92-94, AG: 94-96, NM: 95-97

54% Cabernet Sauvignon, 42% Merlot, 4% Petit Verdot; Notes of Cassis and dark ripe berries fruit with hint of spices. A fresh and balanced wine, a classic Saint-Julien that will age gracefully. The wine will be enjoyable in his youth, and without a doubt it will evolve and develop additional complexities with time. **Victor Rabot**

A nose of dark wine gums candy. Rich, mouth-filling, succulent black fruits framed by an excellent dry tannin structure – very St-Julien. Really toothsome; sink your teeth into it. Very tight and young; this seems to me a modern classic – ample generous fruit, but so authentically St Julien with the high quality, focused, directional tannins, ensuring a long and happy life. **Nick Jackson, MW**

Branais-Ducru | NJ: 92-94, JA: 96, WK: 95-97, AG: 94-96, NM: 95-97

You really taste the pedigree here: this is so obviously an excellent wine. Layers of dark, spicy fruit; complex and rich. Real breed, with some toasty oak. Classic St-Julien in a ripe mode, with perfectly extracted tannins for a long life. A really excellent vintage for Branais. **Nick Jackson, MW**

Brane-Cantenac | S: 93-95, NJ: 93-95, WK: 95-97, AG: 95-97, NM: 96-98

Merlot 23%, Cabernet Franc 1, Cabernet Sauvignon 74% and 1% of Petit Verdot; Very impressive medium to full bodied wine with notes of dark fruit. Everything is here, fruits, tannins, freshness and concentration, the Lurton have made a captivating wine with power and finesse with a long and persistent finish. **Victor Rabot**

A great, rich, oak and dark fruit nose - very tempting! Then on the palate, immensely svelte, streamlined wine of great energy and persistence. Outstanding purity and detail; one of the wines that least betrays the vintage: such energy without any sense of fatness. But don't be mistaken: there is outstanding concentration here. This should be one of the great recent vintages of Brane. **Nick Jackson, MW**

Calon-Ségur | S: 93-95, NJ: 93-95, JA: 94, WK: 96-98, AG: 91-93, NM: 94-96

70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot; A powerful and concentrated wine with notes of blackberries, violets, and black fruits. The oak is well integrated (100% new oak). A dense wine with a strong tannic presence, lifted with a great acidity. **Victor Rabot**

A toasty nose (100% new oak is always used at Calon). Then a rich, all enveloping palate of macerated dark fruits and dark chocolate, framed by a huge tannin structure. The low yields (26hl/ha) are marked by the sheer concentration of fruit and high alcohol (15%). Very dry, dense, dark; a sort of epitome of St-Estèphe. The acidity keeps everything vibrant, however. A wine of great scope, and one that will last for years. **Nick Jackson, MW**

Canon | S: 94-96, NJ: 94-96, JA: 98, WK: 99-100, AG: 96-99, NM: 96-98

Finely-tuned and classic, with a completeness and excitement on the palate. The wine speaks volumes but in hushed tones of confidence, with black cherry, blueberry, clove and cedar. Lovely and gracious with a pleasant lift of acidity throughout the finish.

Vanessa Conlin, MW

A generous style here: considerable ripe fruit, modest but sufficient acidity, in a nice harmony with the supple tannins that lend shape and direction to the wine. The limestone soils at Canon have done a wonderful job in keeping this wine fresh and pure. Some complex fragrance on the palate too - sophisticated. Another excellent wine from Canon, and one which may easily end up in the upper part of the score bracket. **Nick Jackson, MW**

Carillon d'Angelus | S: 91-93, NJ: 91-93, JA: 94, WK: 91-93, AG: 91-93, NM: 91-93

90% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc; Intense nose, with pure and ripe fruit. Ample from the start, the profound aromatic of raspberry, red plum, cedar and truffle greet you in joy. It evolves deeply in a juicy, classy and velvety journey. Rounded tannins are coupled with a long and saline finish. Slightly on a lighter side than Angélus, Carillon is not just a second wine, but a true cuvée with its 25 hectares of dedicated vineyards. **Amayès Aouli**

Bright, supple, soft and pretty easy going, although note the rather firm tannins on the finish. A mid-weight style; no excessive extraction here. Quite pretty and an elegant style for this property. Very easy to enjoy already. **Nick Jackson, MW**

Carruades de Lafite | S: 92-94, NJ: 93-95, JA: 93, WK: 91-93, AG: 92-94, NM: 90-92

53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc, and 3% Petit Verdot; The light from the dark. Welcomed by a meditative dark color, Les Carruades de Lafite 2022 are showing an intense, noble and complex nose. The smell is clearly jumping from the glass. The wine is medium to full-bodied, bright and the palate is immediately aerial and aromatic, juicy, before taking on a slightly more structured tannic touch. Raspberries, cherries and berries intermixed with notes of cedar, cigar, spices, violets, and a fascinating bitterness in the tone of orange. **Amayès Aouli**

Really quite lifted, with a floral perfume. Outstanding concentration, with good, almost citrusy, freshness. Cedary, chalky, really quite dry. Particularly authentic. Very linear and bright, with a delicious lick of ripe dark fruits on the finish. So much finesse, precision and purity – all unusual in this vintage. This is incredibly tempting already, but in the traditional Lafite manner, it will improve for decades. **Nick Jackson, MW**

Chapelle d'Ausone | S: 92-94, NJ: 92-94, JA: 95, WK: 91-93+, AG: 92-94, NM: 91-93

Powerful in style, with drying tannins supporting dark, brooding dark fruit, mint, and pipe tobacco. Foursquare in structure, with more power at this stage than nuance, but a fine balance of acid backbone and firm finish. **Vanessa Conlin, MW**

Chapelle leads with intense black cherry aromas. Then on the palate, a powerful, dry structure, framing the wine; quite classical in its straight-laced structure and freshness, yet supple, tempting fruit covers everything. Very fresh and bright, and doesn't betray the vintage apart from a slight warmth on the finish. **Nick Jackson, MW**

Chapelle de la Mission Haut-Brion | S: 90-92, NJ: 91-92, JA: 92, K: 90-92+, AG: 91-93, NM: 90-92

55.9% Merlot, 35.4% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8.7% Cabernet Franc; A deeply colored wine with floral notes, violets and a hint of tobacco. A harmonious medium-bodied wine with a nice and fresh finish. **Victor Rabot**

Firm and dry, yet ripe. A lovely juicy, savoury, stony wine. Overtly Pessac, which one doesn't always find in a second wine – very tobacco-scented. This needs 5-6 years' age, but will be very good, authentic drinking. Chapelle always benefits from a ripe year and found it in 2022. There is even some glycerol richness on the finish, but overall, this is a restrained style, leaning towards classical elegance in spite of the year's warmth. **Nick Jackson, MW**

Cheval Blanc | S: 96-98, NJ: 95-97, JA: 98-100, WK: 97-99+, AG: 98-100, NM: 98-100

A youthful vigor of ripe blackberry, raspberry, and red plum fruit up front opens up to notes of rosehip, orange zest, five spice, and crushed violets. Dense and velvety on entry, it shows a seamless mid-palate held together by a tight tannic grip and plenty of underlying freshness, finishing ultra-long, with a complex array of lingering red fruit and spices. **Vanessa Conlin, MW**

A quiet horse today on the nose, but frisky on the palate! Full of energy and life, perhaps helped by the moderate 13.9% alcohol. Lots of tacky, gummy fruit with some powerful tannins in reserve. Quite embryonic at this stage: all coiled potential. The detailed Cabernet Franc graphite notes express themselves beautifully on the fragrant finish. The elevated pH (3.86) and succulent fruit will allow early drinking, but the tannins are mighty. A little difficult to read today, but all the elements are present for an outstanding Cheval. **Nick Jackson, MW**

Clarence de Haut-Brion | S: 91-93, NJ: 91-93, YC: 91-93+, AG: 92-94, NM: 91-93

61.2% Merlot, 21.9% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14.5% Cabernet Franc and 1.5% Petit Verdot; Medium to full-bodied, the tannins are refined and ripe with a nice acidity lifting up the wine. A nice bouquet of black and dark fruits with cedar's notes ending with long persistent finish. A great example of Clarence. **Victor Rabot**

The taste is immediately of red fruits, but then that deep core of cigar tobacco emerges: rich, full and mouth-coating. A structured wine with a classical savoury heart – not much in the way of concession to modernity here. But the fruit is so naturally generous, this remains a Catholic style. The firm tannins on the finish indicate that this will need longer than La Chapelle, and perhaps longer than normal – best after 10 years. **Nick Jackson, MW**

Clarté de Haut-Brion | S: 91-93, NJ: 90-92, YC: 91-93, AG: 90-92, NM: 88-90

53.7% Sauvignon Blanc and 46.3% Sémillon; Medium-bodied wine with notes of lemon and n, juicy grapefruit. A vibrant and harmonious wine with a good acidity level. **Victor Rabot**

Delightfully grassy nose, with a touch of grapefruit; very fresh and bright; mid-weight at most. Just a little creaminess from the Sémillon in terms of texture. Finishes on that wonderful grapefruit note again. **Nick Jackson, MW**

Clerc Milon | S: 94-96, NJ: 93-95, JA: 95, WK: 93-95, AG: 91-93, NM: 91-93

59% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc, 1% Carmenère; A beautiful dark red Château Clerc Milon 2022 with black tints. The nose is intense and precise, fine, fruity and pure. Aromas of cherry, raspberry, and plum delivered with soft tannins and a nice touch of saltiness. The palate is ample, fresh and profound. Vertical through the palate from start to finish. It displays an excellent length. This is a grand Clerc Millon. **Amayès Aouli**

This is a really beautifully tailored wine. Very elegant, sculpted shape, with lots of directional tannin, which are so mellifluous and graceful. Gorgeously constructed: succulent and tender. The Cabernet (59% of the blend) really comes into its own here. Really an outstanding year for Clerc Milon, which can sometimes be a bit of a bruiser. **Nick Jackson, MW**

Clinet | S: 92-94, NJ: 92-94, JA: 96, WK: 94-96+, AG: 94-96, NM: 94-96

Fruit and spice driven on the nose with a plethora of cassis, lavender, black cherry, and blueberry, accented with mint and sweet spice. Opulent and full, with creamy tannins and moderate acidity. A wine that will offer abundant pleasure in its youth. **Vanessa Conlin, MW**

Very ripe, generous fruit embraces the palate. Yet there is freshness, not least from the new oak (80%). Hedonistic, almost decadent ripeness; will drink beautifully young; creamy and succulent. Some pleasant fragrance too: pretty, even! **Nick Jackson, MW**

Conseillante | S: 96-98, NJ: 94-96, JA: 97, WK: 97-100, AG: 96-98, NM: 97-99

87% Merlot and 13% Cabernet Franc. Yields: 33 hectoliters per hectare; An outstanding wine, with a remarkable elegance and finesse. A harmonious wine with a lot of fruits: blackberries, strawberry with silky tannins. The balance and long finish of the wine is sensational. One of the wines of the vintage in my opinion. **Victor Rabot**

Pure, straight-laced Merlot fruit in a tailored frame; very defined and detailed. A very chalky taste, which doesn't make any sense for Pomerol, of course. And where does the linear energy come from in this vintage? Projected, direct, almost elemental Conseillante, albeit with a generous fruit profile. This will be a long aging wine, although will drink well young – perhaps deceptively so. There is just so much finesse here! Conseillante just goes from strength to strength, and this is outstanding. **Nick Jackson, MW**

Cos d'Estournel | S: 94-96, NJ: 94-96, WK: 93-95, AG: 95-97, NM: 95-97

61% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Merlot, 1% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot; A powerful yet refined wine with a great structure; aromas of black fruit with some floral nuances. Well-integrated velvety tannins provide a beautiful structure to the wine. An impressive and successful wine that will deliver great pleasure over the coming decades. **Victor Rabot**

This is a huge wine! Great, mouth-filling dimension; the Merlot (37% of the blend) supplies the joyful red fruits and orange notes in the mid palate, and the succulent, velvety texture. The Cabernet (61%) offers the tannin and the energy. Such fine, cedary tannins, albeit with huge amplitude. A good summary of the vintage: remarkably succulent, accessible fruit, but a super-charged tannin structure. A fascinating combination. Quite a dramatic, exciting wine, in keeping with the distinctiveness of vintages of old at this property.

Nick Jackson, MW

Domaine de Chevalier Blanc | S: 93-95, NJ: 93-95, JA: 94, YC: 93-96, AG: 95-97, NM: 92-94

Excitingly vibrant on the nose, with lemon blossom, flint, hay, and tangerine peel. Crunchy acid balances a creamy texture with spice and saline lingering on the finish. Irresistible. **Vanessa Conlin, MW**

A lovely, poised wine, full of energy and tension; quite balletic in its poise and subtle power. The team has done an excellent job here of preserving the freshness and energy. Complex, with great dimension of fruit. Well done, and perhaps second only to Pavillon Blanc in the vintage. **Nick Jackson, MW**

Domaine de Chevalier Rouge | S: 93-95, NJ: 93-95, JA: 96, YC: 94-96, AG: 93-96, NM: 95-97

65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 3% Petit Verdot, 2% Cabernet Franc; Domaine de Chevalier is displaying a special label commemorating Olivier Bernard's 40th vintage. Dark red in color with an intense, ripe nose. Domaine de Chevalier 2022 has a precise texture, a complete nose, class in the touch, the wine develops ascending and juicy between the middle and the finish. Slightly lighter than it shows. Deep nuances of black fruits. Full-bodied textured and elegant minty black fruits. Deep and noble length. **Amayès Aouli**

Quite a profound, concentrated style, while remaining tight knit and focused, with Cabernet to the fore (65% of the blend). Linear and pure, with a lovely tobacco taste already. Plenty of fruit, naturally, but really no excess here at all; so much restraint in the context of the year. Beautifully done in the trademark elegant style of this property. One of the most classic wines of the year. **Nick Jackson, MW**

Ducru-Beaucaillou | S: 93-95, NJ: 94-96, JA: 98, WK: 94-96, AG: 95-97, NM: 95-97

82% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Merlot; A powerful and vibrant wine with an impressive tannin's presence. Multiple layers of aromas with notes of dark fruit, with complex flavors of dark chocolate, spices and tobacco. The wine displays a great acidity, helping the overall balance of the wine. A remarkable smooth and long finish. **Victor Rabot**

This is a bright wine of excellent freshness and a resounding, immense tannin structure, contributing great linear tension and poise. The detail and purity of flavour expression is outstanding, and the finish is particularly high toned; almost floral, above the cedary notes. A classical purity here that is impressive, with impeccably clean, bright fruit. This really could be an outstanding Ducru in years to come, with a long life assured by the density of the tannins. **Nick Jackson, MW**

Duhart-Milon | S: 92-94, NJ: 92-94, WK: 91-93, AG: 92-94, NM: 93-95

78% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot; Black and intense color. Very aromatic nose, fine, fruity, subtle. Ample on the attack, mellow on the mid-palate, fragrant, Château Duhart-Milon 2022 has a fascinating fruitiness around the dark berries paired with cedar, earthy and spicy notes. It finishes on a fine, long, creamy touch. Medium to full-bodied. **Amayès Aouli**

Duhart shows a gorgeous cedary nose, so typical of its terroir. Quite fine-boned and dry; really quite a classical style in the context of the year (the alcohol is 13.6%). Elegant, fresh and pure. Lots of finesse and not particularly marked by the vintage. Very attractive, drinkable wine, already. **Nick Jackson, MW**

Eglise-Clinet | S: 96-98, NJ: 95-97, JA: 98

90% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc; Always unique in Pomerol, this 2022 Eglise Clinet is welcoming you by an artistic purple color. Fruity and pure, the complex nose is all about delicacy and freshness. Hints of cherry, black fruit, floral notes and an intriguing peppery mint. Delicate from the attack, with a meticulous texture in the middle, class in the touch and a juicy background of black fruits; the palate is noble, complex and long. On of the best of its appellation. **Amayès Aouli**

This is clearly a brilliant Eglise-Clinet and testifies to the visceral thrill Pomerol can present when on form. The lift and fragrance of this wine sets it apart from the rest in Pomerol: more akin to Lafleur than Pétrus. Supremely detailed, with the Cabernet Franc seemingly overplaying its hand, aromatically (it is only 10% of the blend). One experiences sensual, melting tannins; an effortless core of deep, plummy fruit and a remarkably perfumed finish. Eglise-Clinet just gets better and better, year on year. Outstanding. **Nick Jackson, MW**

Figeac | S: 94-96, NJ: 94-96, JA: 98, WK: 98-100, AG: 96-99, NM: 97-99

Classically sculpted, with loads of cassis, black raspberry, cacao, and cigar box. Tannins are supple and fine-grained, and the mouthfeel is sensual and silken with a lift of acid to freshen the finish. Beautiful and lithe with an exciting future ahead.

Vanessa Conlin, MW

Figeac shows remarkably vivid red fruits on the palate, in a super svelte, elegant package; excellent concentration, with very effortless, almost silky tannins. The energy and vibrancy are brilliant, and make the wine a pleasure to taste already. The finish is appropriately firm and dry, reminding one of the inherent classicism of the style, in spite of the generosity of fruit. This is classical Figeac in a ripe, modern idiom. Proper! **Nick Jackson, MW**

La Fleur Pétrus | S: 94-96, NJ: 93-95, WK: 94-96, AG: 94-96, NM: 93-95

Charming aromas of red cherry, wild strawberry, rose petal, and clove. Medium bodied, with pleasant balance and spice lingering at the finish. A lovely wine that will offer great pleasure on the early to mid-term. **Vanessa Conlin, MW**

Quite well sculpted; etched, detailed, fine. A tug of war with the ripeness, yes, but the resolution is peaceable. A long, lingering finish of orange zest and warm spice. Really enjoyable. **Nick Jackson, MW**

Forts de Latour | S: 92-94, NJ: 93-95, JA: 94, WK: 92-94, AG: 95-97, NM: 94-96

65.2% Cabernet Sauvignon, 33% Merlot, 0.8% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot; Very well-done medium-bodied wine. Intense aromas of dark fruit supported by hints of tobacco and graphite. A wine that is full of energy. **Victor Rabot**

Rich, powerful, layered; authoritative and classic Latour. Dry, cedary and velvety. Classic and large-scaled. All enveloping. A wonderful vintage here. **Nick Jackson, MW**

Giscours | S: 92-94, NJ: 92-94, JA: 95, WK: 94-96+, AG: 95-97, NM: 95-97

A great Giscours was produced in 2022, this Margaux property has seen an increase in quality years after year. A wine with a great concentration, with velvety tannins and layers of flavors: black berries, violets, spices... A remarkable finesse and elegance with a long and persistent length. **Victor Rabot**

Quite a powerful style for this property. Lots of ripe, plummy fruits, with a potent, chalky tannin structure. A real vin de garde here. Such sumptuous fruit, with layers of cedar, spice and red fruits; harmonious and perfumed. Really lovely wine and making the most of the vintage. **Nick Jackson, MW**

Grand-Puy-Lacoste | S: 94-96, NJ: 93-95, JA: 96, WK: 95-97, AG: 92-94.5, NM: 96-98

79% Cabernet Sauvignon, 21% Merlot; A Château Grand-Puy-Lacoste 2022 with a dark red and purple color. Intense, fine, fruity, subtle, complex, delicate and noble nose. The palate is smooth and melting, with a classy touch introducing you the purity of fruit. Medium to full-bodied, the full power emerges in the middle of the mouth. The finish is splendid, long and deep. A true success and a reassuring classic. **Amayès Aouli**

Rich, heady wine; full of velvety fruit, with a distinct salty, marine note and a cedary finish. The fruit is so irresistible, so tempting, so seductive; but the firm, cedary tannins frame the finish, and lend a direction and energy to the wine which is both necessary and delightful. Lovely juicy, glycerol finish. Very fine. **Nick Jackson, MW**

Gruaud Larose | S: 92-94, NJ: 93-95, JA: 96, WK: 94-96+, AG: 93-95, NM: 95-97

83% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc. Yields of 30hl/ha; An exciting and juicy wine, with plenty of dark ripe fruit with hints of cedar and spices. A wine with a great concentration and long and intense finish. A promising wine. **Victor Rabot**

This is a very good nose already, with cedary and cassis notes. Very concentrated, directional, linear fruit; pure wine, all the way through: such a naked expression of Cabernet. This is archetypal St-Julien! A putty-like quality to the fruit; tactile and bright. Effortlessly classic, which is a hard thing to do in this vintage. Well done. **Nick Jackson, MW**

Haut-Bailly | S: 93-95, NJ: 94-96, YC: 94-96, AG: 93-96, NM: 96-98

Aromas of black herbs, smoked herbs, graphite and sweet spice. The tannins are intense and need some time to integrate but do form a structural backbone that supports the ripeness of the fruit, with smoky herbs and cedar emerging on the finish. **Vanessa Conlin, MW**

Tons of attack and brightness on entry; full of energy. A deep core of cigar-y fruit. Very powerful tannins, but already supple and smooth. It's almost as if the whole wine has melted in the heat! No hard edges here. Very seductive and open; already gorgeous, but with so much potential for development, with such tight-knit tannins. Again, we experience the paradox of powerful tannins for aging and soft fruit for accessibility. Like 2009 in terms of its early accessibility, but with so much more tannin than that year. Fascinating, and unlike many other recent years here, when the wine has been tighter and less expressive at this stage. **Nick Jackson, MW**

Haut-Brion | S: 96-98, NJ: 96-98, YC: 95-97, AG: 97-99, NM: 96-98

35.4% Cabernet Sauvignon, 53.6% Merlot, 11% Cabernet Franc; A concentrated wine with an impressive length and persistence on the palate. It unveils through the tasting layered notes of black fruits, cedar, tobacco and spices. A harmonious wine that will age and last for decades. **Victor Rabot**

Immediate top notes of chocolate orange and graphite, with the bass comprised entirely of the deep tobacco scent so characteristic of this site. A massive tannic frame – perhaps not quite as immediately prominent, however, as in La Mission – all completely coated with the most opulent fruit. There is an excellent sapid quality here; a little bite from the tannins and the acid to balance the abundance. A big, voluminous wine, sweeping all before it, and trailing clouds of glory in its wake. A wine for eternity. **Nick Jackson, MW**

Haut-Brion Blanc | S: 93-95, NJ: 93-95, YC: 93-95, AG: 94-96, NM: 92-94

51.4% Semillon, 48.6 Sauvignon Blanc; The wine exhibits note of pear, lemon and citrus. Mineral driven, with a floral touch with a lively acidity. A nice and long vibrant finish. Haut-Brion Blanc is more opulent than Mission with creamy texture. **Victor Rabot**

Considerable fruity depths here, although the nose is rather quiet at present. So juicy, with a great creaminess on the finish. Rich, mouth-filling, tactile; a wine of beautiful composition and integrity. Impeccable balance and purity with an enormous intensity of smoky, citrus flavour. **Nick Jackson, MW**

Hosanna | S: 93-95, NJ: 91-93, JA: 95, WK: 93-95, AG: 94-96, NM: 93-95

75% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Franc; One of the many gems of the Moueix portfolio, this Hosanna 2022 is – once again – a full success. Deep garnet-purple color, Hosanna greets you by notes of berry fruit, plums, spices and vanilla. Well-structured and enveloping, full-bodied, the wine displays a fine aromatic characterized by its pure and refined nose. It has a class in the touch, the wine offers a savory licorice and persistent chocolaty character, dark red fruits and spice. The length is almost infinite and elegant. **Amayès Aouli**

Very sweet, rich and ripe. A full throttle Pomerol, and an emphatic experience all round, with powerful, velvety tannins and a deep pool of fruit. Some useful citrusy brightness keeping the generosity in check. **Nick Jackson, MW**

Issan | S: 92-94, NJ: 92-94, JA: 95, WK: 93-95

65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc, 2% Malbec and 1% Petit Verdot; In the glass, Issan 2022 unveils a balanced wine with bright and vibrant black fruit notes with hints of spices. Everything is to like in this very refined and elegant Issan with power and elegance. **Victor Rabot**

Very high toned, with the aromas just pouring out of the glass: typical Margaux. In the mouth, a great depth of cedary spice and sandalwood; such succulent plummy fruits with a long, perfumed finish. Only mid-weight. Absolutely classic, with great purity. Finesse with great intensity. **Nick Jackson, MW**

Lafite | S: 97-99, NJ: 96-98, JA: 97, WK: 95-97+, AG: 96-98, NM: 96-98

94% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Merlot, 1% Petit Verdot; A very dark Château Lafite Rothschild 2022. With its distinguished nose, it shows an intense, fine, fruity, subtle, noble and enveloping you in the full force of black fruits in freshness. Sophisticated and aristocratic, with grace in the touch, the palate is subtle and yet complex. Multi-dimensional. Concentrated but youthful, Powerful yet refined and saline finish. Pleasing young, it has the capacity to age for decades. One of the greatest wines of the vintage. **Amayès Aouli**

Not too much on the nose, but the palate opens in a remarkably rich and expansive manner, with huge dimension of deep, dark cherry fruit and stony profundities. This is Lafite at full volume; all the classic notes are there, but with an amplitude that is unusual. In a way, it's the Carruades that tastes more like Lafite at this age, and the Lafite is the distinctive experience! Mouth-coating milk chocolate, cedary flavours; huge intensity and with a such a streamlined finesse and grace (helped by the moderate 13.5% alcohol). Carries itself with a cool sophistication so unusual in this year. **Nick Jackson, MW**

Lafleur | S: 97-99, NJ: 96-98, JA: 98-100, WK: 97-99, AG: 95-98, NM: 97-99

51% Cabernet Franc, 49% Merlot; One the best wine of this vintage. Dark, deep and beautiful color. Intense nose, fine, fruity, pure, complex. Striking floral notes, nuances of blackberry, vanilla and a delicate orange zest. Lafleur 2022 slowly takes on an unprecedented power of great depth, unimaginable before it reaches the mouth. The aerial and subtle tannins is an amazing delivery for its precise power. A grandiose wine to cellar for many decades. The difficulty will be to resist in opening. **Amayès Aouli**

Dense and concentrated, with a jewel like texture; a huge wine for this property. Big walls of tannin with a dry, almost licorice core. There is such an intellectual, savoury heart to the wine - paradoxical given the layers of ripe fruit. Just embryonic at this stage, an almost elemental wine, as if carved from stone, with huge ambition and scope. All the elements are here for greatness. **Nick Jackson, MW**

Langoa Barton | S: 92-94, NJ: 92-94, JA: 94, WK: 93-95+, AG: 91-93, NM: 92-94

A little quiet on the nose to begin but opening up to fresh rose petal, mint tea, cassis, and blackberry. The tannins are polished and the texture has a singularity of focused energy, with freshness and finesse. Needs more time to fully express itself but indicating decades of aging potential. **Vanessa Conlin, MW**

Really ripe, succulent, generous, yet with a nice dry finish – very authentic St-Julien. Linear and racy, but with a great, concentrated, fruity core. Glycerol dark fruits. Lovely style, with plenty of fruit but without sacrificing any structure or freshness. Very good. **Nick Jackson, MW**

Latour | S: 96-98, NJ: 96-98, JA: 98-100, WK: 97-100, AG: 97-99, NM: 97-99

92.45% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7.4% Merlot, 0.15% Petit Verdot; Complex aromas of black fruits, cassis, with subtle notes of cedar and tobacco. Full-bodied wine made for long ageing. Latour 2022 is very perfectly in balance with round and fine tannins. Powerful but very elegant with great complexity. **Victor Rabot**

This is a particularly dense, focused style; an unusually deep core of dark fruits and cigar-y notes; a huge tannic frame, but all so ripe and smooth. Very backward for now, unusually in this vintage which is so giving; absolutely all potential and power. But the balance here is admirable; no excess of fruit or alcohol, and not sweet or hedonistic. Ultimately the site overwhelms the vintage; domains the ripeness; a triumph of controlled power. Rather magnificent. **Nick Jackson, MW**

Léoville Barton | S: 93-95, NJ: 93-95, JA: 96, WK: 96-97+, AG: 93-95, NM: 96-98

83% Cabernet Sauvignon, 11.5% Merlot, 5.5% Cabernet Franc; In a brand-new winery, the Château Léoville Barton 2022 offers a lot of joy. Welcomed by its dark, purple and black color, the nose is lively and deep. Medium to full-bodied, it shows nuances of black fruit, vanilla and cedar. Deep and layered palate, which is vibrant, pure and seamless, with classy tannins and a long, penetrating finish.

Amayès Aouli

A beautifully healthy, almost floral nose. On the palate, deep glycerol and black fruits, with excellent freshness. Again, that black light quality: luminous. Very fresh and authentic with a long, chewy finish. Modern classicism. Super. **Nick Jackson, MW**

Léoville-Las-Cases | S: 96-98, NJ: 95-97, JA: 97, WK: 98-100, AG: 98-100, NM: 98-100

Beautiful on the nose, with an array of damask rose, fresh blueberries, cassis, and spice. The wine exudes confidence, with a purity of expression that doesn't need to announce itself but draws one in with its subtle intensity. Tannins are fine-grained and silky, with dark fruits lingering. A stand-out. **Vanessa Conlin, MW**

A hugely intense cassis nose; deep and powerful. Mega focused, intense, dark fruits; yet with a great clarity and illumination of the black fruits; very much a 'black light' or 'dark essence' style. Remarkably and enjoyably classic here; no exaggeration, no betrayal; mouth-coating and sumptuous. This is the essence of Cabernet Sauvignon (83.5% of the blend), of St Julien and of Las Cases; wonderful, puckering tannin and freshness, with a glorious overlay of rich, dark fruits. A fantastic vintage here; sublime in its power and authority (one is reminded of the proximity of Latour here!), and producing a wine for eternity. **Nick Jackson, MW**

Lynch-Bages | S: 94-96, NJ: 94-96, JA: 97, WK: 93-96, AG: 95-97, NM: 95-97

Notes of ripe black fruits, plum, cassis with tobacco. This rich and powerful 2022 has enough acidity to support and keep some freshness to the wine. It is one of the more dense and concentrated wines of the vintage. It will need some time to soften up but will age gracefully for decades. **Victor Rabot**

One of the densest wines of the vintage, and even by the standards of Lynch Bages shows a vast tannic frame. Huge concentration, in a dry rather than a sweet style, with waves of deep, dark damson fruit. One of the biggest ever, with a great dry finish, offset by a massive glycerol richness. I don't know what other vintage could be like this...2010? Mega wine in a very particular style, and potentially a new benchmark for this great property. **Nick Jackson, MW**

Malartic Lagravière Blanc | S: 91-93, NJ: 91-93, YC: 90-92, AG: 91-93, NM: 91-93

Intensely aromatic, with pungent fresh citrus, white flowers, jasmine tea, and sweet hay. Crunchy acid leads the way, with cascading layers of grapefruit and tarragon to follow. Fresh, pretty, and vibrant. **Vanessa Conlin, MW**

A classic nose of citrus and cream. Energetic, creamy, with a good, rich texture. Nice concentration and pretty decent acid for the year. Very enjoyable, for short to mid-term drinking. **Nick Jackson, MW**

Malartic Lagravière Rouge | S: 92-94, NJ: 92-94, YC: 91-93, AG: 94-96.5, NM: 93-95

53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 43% Merlot, 2.5% Petit Verdot and 1.5% Cabernet Franc; Deep in colour, Malartic Lagravière 2022 is a true success and exhibits attractive aromas of blackberries and black cherries, violets, spices, rose and nuances of cherries, cedar, tobacco, blackcurrant, spices. On the palate, the attack is sincere and developed aromas of black cherry, blackberry, chocolate and minty notes, that are balanced by the length, freshness and creaminess of the finish. **Amayès Aouli**

This is a big, dense wine, framed by sturdy tannins and with a delightful sensation of glycerol-rich dark fruits and warm spices. A classic Malartic in its powerful structure, but with a bit more hedonistic richness of fruit than usual. Somehow both juicy and dry. Well done. **Nick Jackson, MW**

Malescot St-Exupéry | NJ: 92-94, WK: 93-95, AG: 92-94, NM: 93-95

A dark, spicy nose; very rich and bright, with great depth to the dark fruits. Like neighbouring Palmer and Rauzan-Ségla in style, with that pool of deep, dark fruits at the heart. The tannins are a bit firm on the finish, but this is a serious wine. Concentrated, mysterious, emphatic. Excellent. **Nick Jackson, MW**

Château Margaux | S: 95-97, NJ: 95-97, JA: 98-100, WK: 96-97+, AG: 97-99, NM: 96-98

A wine of infinite pleasure, the 2022 exudes compressed blackberries, black plums, mocha, graphite and tar. One of the most impressive and complete wines tasted, even at this early stage. Classic and rich, with lithesome tannins and freshness to match. **Vanessa Conlin, MW**

A huge, dense wine; broad in structure and great in depth. Profound layers of black fruits and succulent tannins. One of the most imposing Margaux vintages of recent memory; immense in stature with a lovely floral perfume on the finish. Gloriously rich and sumptuous. This will take longer than many wines in this vintage to be approachable, but when it does, it will endure for many decades. **Nick Jackson, MW**

La Mission Haut-Brion | S: 95-97, NJ: 94-96, YC: 94-96+, AG: 97-99, NM: 97-99

51.7% Cabernet Sauvignon, 43.2% Merlot, 5.1% Cabernet Franc; Quite reserved at the beginning but opened shortly in the glass. A great wine with a good concentration and ripe tannins, notes of spices, dark berries with a long and lovely finish. A well-crafted Mission Haut Brion that will provide plenty of joy with time. **Victor Rabot**

A huge orangey taste: the taste of effortless, sunny ripeness. Full of dark chocolate and sweet spice notes; a great dimension to the flavours here. A big but perfectly ripe structure; the tannins are as succulent as they are imposing. A wonderful interweaving of sweet and savoury notes; a complete wine, but one which demands patience as the components knit together. Something of the vast dimensions of 2018 here. **Nick Jackson, MW**

La Mission Haut-Brion Blanc | S: 92-94, NJ: 92-94, YC: 94-96, AG: 92-94, NM: 94-96

72% Semillon, 28% Sauvignon Blanc; Aromas of pear, citrus with a hint of smoke and white flower. This is an attractive Mission Haut Brion blanc with a nice long and floral finish supported by lively acidity. **Victor Rabot**

A mysterious, smoky nose that really lures you in. Papaya fruit and cream on the palate, with a salty freshness to the finish. Really sapid, bright, lively wine, with a mouth-coating texture. Already a savoury profile here; expect the fruit to recede rather quickly, and a serious, intellectual, dry wine to emerge. **Nick Jackson, MW**

Montrose | S: 95-97, NJ: 95-97, JA: 97, WK: 99-100, AG: 96-98, NM: 97-99

A bit closed at first, with air the aromas open to wild blackberry, crushed black cherries, gravel, and tobacco. The tannins are structured need time to integrate into what is a wine of profound power. **Vanessa Conlin MW**

On the palate, mouth-coating waves of dark, ebullient fruits; a gorgeous, dry, stony quality courses through the heart of the wine, and layers of fruit and spice fill the finish. This is a big-boned Montrose, not yet exhibiting its full complexity of flavour, but already the scale and dimensions of the wine are in clear view. It retains plenty of freshness in spite of the year, and offers a lively finish. The scope and ambition here are tremendous and well achieved; this is going to be another glorious Montrose from a hot year. A property on top form today. **Nick Jackson, MW**

Mouton Rothschild | S: 96-98, NJ: 96-98, JA: 98, WK: 96-99, AG: 96-98, NM: 96-98

92% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Merlot; A fascinating Château Mouton Rothschild 2022 with a black, purple and brilliant color. Intense, fine, fruity, pure and complex nose. A mixture of freshness and richness. Ample on the attack, rich in the mid-palate, complex, with a majestic power in the flavor, the wine is deep, long and noble. The finish is gently minty and peppery and never-ending. It's full-bodied, deep and concentrated, with a multi-dimensional approach, layered core of fruit. A meditative wine and clearly an immense success in this vintage. **Amayès Aouli**

Immensely seductive, with a remarkable textural richness and huge, endless depth of flavour. Immensely high-quality oak adding a gloss. Great depth, authority and power, harnessed by the powerful, well sculpted tannins; even some saltiness on the finish, which adds a great sapid benefit. Certainly, a Mouton on a large scale, with tannins for days, but with a ravishing fruit that demands drinking, even now. Purity of flavour too; difficult in the context of the year, but an elevating facet here. An outstanding Mouton of great scope and density, that will require at least 15 years to show its full colours, even if it is already dangerously tempting. **Nick Jackson, MW**

Palmer | S: 94-96, NJ: 95-97, JA: 96, WK: 95-97, AG: 96-98, NM: 96-98

51% Cabernet Sauvignon, 45% Merlot, 4% Petit Verdot; A dense and complex wine backed up with beautiful dark fruit with a touch of floral notes and spices. There is a great concentration in the wine with velvety and well-integrated tannins. A wine combining power and elegance. **Victor Rabot**

There is a wonderful floral component to the nose; hibiscus, perhaps, even a touch of violets. Then the deep black fruits surge forward, on a particularly luxuriant wave of glycerol texture. So much power here, all wrapped up in hedonistic fruit. A seamless, velvety texture which conceals the tannins so well, which in turn have a well-defined grain. Dark and mysterious; a brooding wine of enormous intensity and coiled power. No excess of acidity, certainly, but plenty enough freshness to carry through. An amazing violet finish. This is the kind of vintage where the shimmering purity of biodynamic fruit really shines through. Should have no problems aging here. This is surely one of the great Palmers of recent times. **Nick Jackson, MW**

Pavie | S: 93-95, NJ: 93-95, JA: 95, AG: 94-96, NM: 93-95

A robust, ripe and showy wine that is more opulent than subtle. Dark berries and blueberry preserves with hints of dark chocolate and espresso with tannins that are supple and a bit undefined, with soft acid and a voluminous mouthfeel. **Vanessa Conlin, MW**

A deep, heady nose of plummy fruits and warm spices. Rich, all enveloping, velvety texture. Fragrant in the mouth – lovely Cabernet Franc expression here (30% of the blend). Lots of finesse in a fresh style. A long, perfumed, chalky finish. Really quite an harmonious style; this is really what you want from this site. Very unforced, just perhaps lacking a little flair. **Nick Jackson, MW**

Pavillon Blanc du Château Margaux | S: 94-96, NJ: 95-97, JA: 96, WK: 93-94, AG: 92-94, NM: 90-92

100% Sauvignon Blanc; Here comes the sun! Nuances of lemon cake, tropical fruits, pear, vanilla, fresh white peach and pomelo. The wine is vertical in its freshness and enveloping in its aroma. The heat has provided a gently buttery accent which is paired a saline and vibrant finish. This wine will be a pleasure to drink in its infancy but could be ageing for decades. Very low quantities this year.

Amayès Aouli

A typical orangey, tropical nose; then on the palate, fine and elegant in a precise, pure style, which runs against the grain of the year. Quite piercingly intense at present, which bodes well. Shimmering with life and energy. Clearly the best white wine of the vintage, with a concentration and naked power that is rare in the context of this year. Gorgeously done, and the early harvest date (18 August) is amply rewarded. **Nick Jackson, MW**

Pavillon Rouge du Château Margaux | S: 92-94, NJ: 92-94, JA: 94, WK: 92-94, AG: 92-94, NM: 91-93

Deep ruby with lifted aromas of freshly cut roses, red and black cherry, and exotic spices. Very fine-grained tannins are perfectly situated to balance the volume on the midpalate, with plenty of freshness that follows. An impressive wine from start to finish with a seamless finish. **Vanessa Conlin, MW**

A pleasant, gentle perfume. Lots of ripe concentration and density here; very juicy fruit that you really sink your teeth into, with a very silky texture. Particularly fine and elegant, even in spite of the concentrated fruit and alcohol (14.8%). Sapid, salty, finish - will be cedary in time. This is a little unusual for Pavillon in terms of its density and powerful tannins, but it has nonetheless handled the vintage conditions well. **Nick Jackson, MW**

Pensées de Lafleur | S: 93-95, NJ: 94-96, JA: 94, WK: 94-96, AG: 91-93

57% Merlot, 43% Bouchet; 0.7ha of sandy-gravelly clay vineyard; A perfumed Pomerol with a good concentration, layers of complexity with notes of dark fruits. A great combination of fruits, ripe tannins and acidity. The wine has a great ageing potential. Very little wine is produced, around 4000 bottles on average. **Victor Rabot**

An ample, juicy entry, but the segue to a huge pool of minerality is startling! This is serious Pomerol. There is a lovely fragrance from the Bouschets (Cabernet Franc) and an incredible taffeta texture; it hides its tannins behind this effortless texture. And so perfumed on the finish. An outstanding Pensées. **Nick Jackson, MW**

Perrières de Lafleur | S: 92-94, NJ: 91-93, WK: 94-96

50% Cabernet Franc and 50% Merlot; As its relative, Les Perrières de Lafleur is particularly majestic in 2022. It offers a clean nose built on complex aromas of blackberry, raspberry, plum and subtle touches of cinnamon and rose. A true fragrance, that I have kept on smelling many times before discovering the palate. Medium-bodied and perfectly structured, it shows ample aromas of blueberry, red and black currants, black plum, lavender, violet, and chocolate. A strong minerality and complexity. **Amayès Aouli**

Brilliant, almost citrus brightness; a very dry style for the year. Very refreshing. Really lifted, not heavy; racy. Very pure and detailed. Super fine, and nothing else really like this from Fronsac; the closest thing would be one of the pure limestone St.-Emilions. The purity and definition is extremely impressive for such a hot year. **Nick Jackson, MW**

Petit Mouton | S: 92-94, NJ: 93-95, JA: 95, WK: 92-94, AG: 91-93, NM: 92-94

Aromas lead predominately with red-fruited character, accented with spice, floral notes, and toasted cocoa nib. A muscular wine with a breadth of palate, finishing with mouth-coating and substantial tannins. **Vanessa Conlin MW**

The aromas say: welcome to the world of Mouton! A thrilling embrace of deep spice and sandalwood. Immensely tender texture; velvety and welcoming. Really a remarkably open, generous wine, thrilling in its exuberance and loose knit expression. Lots of tannin, but so well hidden; a particularly large-scaled Petit Mouton; very serious and stern but paradoxically glittering and attention-grabbing. One of the best I remember. **Nick Jackson, MW**

Pétrus | S: 96-98, NJ: 96-98, JA: 97, WK: 96-98, AG: 96-98, NM: 96-98

In a word - GORGEOUS. Lithe and elegant but with serious power as well, it is a tour de force of wild berries, lavender, cocoa, savory herbs, and black tea. Such an exciting wine now, it will be thrilling in its evolution and one of the best wines tasted from the 2022 EP campaign. **Vanessa Conlin, MW**

Pétrus paradoxically features both plush fruit and a chiselled freshness and purity of expression. Totally seamless fruit, with great, defined detail; particularly spicy and emphatic, all with a bright clarity. Far less baroque than some vintages, and some hot years, but the early harvest (1-7 September) was a bold choice that has paid off handsomely. Quite a classical style in a non-classical vintage, and all the better for it. Pure, graceful elegance. Finesse! A stunning wine. **Nick Jackson, MW**

Pichon Baron | S: 95-97, NJ: 95-97, JA: 94, WK: 95-97, AG: 96-98, NM: 96-98

81% Cabernet Sauvignon and 19% Merlot; The 2022 is marked by a great concentration with firm tannins and intense aromas of black fruits. This is a spectacular Pichon Baron with exceptional ripeness and balance and a long and persistent length. **Victor Rabot**

A big, deep, booming wine of great dramatic dimension which makes a huge statement on the palate. Pure Pauillac in its fruity, rich, dimension. Massive concentration; stylistically, the comparison here is not so much to neighbouring Pichon Lalande, but to the brooding styles of Latour and Léoville-Las-Cases. I wonder if vintages like 1947 tasted like this? Really outstanding precision for the density of the fruit. Again, a little salty note on the finish, and indeed, the freshness is marked. Extremely imposing and impressive: a wine for the ages. **Nick Jackson, MW**

Pichon Comtesse de Lalande | S: 96-98, NJ: 95-97, WK: 97-99, AG: 96-99, NM: 96-98

A hauntingly beautiful wine with impeccable balance. It speaks of nuance over power, with cherry liqueur, graphite, wildflowers, and black olive notes. Satiny-smooth tannins carry the fruit throughout, with a mouth-watering lift of freshness. Infinitely appealing. **Vanessa Conlin, MW**

What an impressive fan of flavour here; so much cedary, spicy dimension on the palate. The fruit just rolls effortlessly over the palate, with a fragrant, floral inner mouth perfume and finish. Quite a slimline style in the context of the vintage; nothing fat or out of place here; everything contributes to the energy of the wine. A very intentional style: it would have been easier to be richer, softer, riper; but this wine possesses a self-conscious energy and finesse. Almost a throw-back style, which is quite a surprise this year. A dry, savoury, spicy finish, without, it would appear, any excess of tannin causing bitterness. Another exceptional vintage from a château on a roll. **Nick Jackson, MW**

Pontet-Canet | S: 94-96, NJ: 93-95, JA: 94, AG: 95-97, NM: 94-96

57% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc and 4% Petit Verdot; Deep purple with Aromas of blackcurrant, flowers, cedar and tobacco. The palate is balanced, with layers of blackberries and plums. A slight shyness which should disappear with the ageing. The wine is structured with a finish that combines concentration and elegance. The peppery, minty, spicy note is intriguing. **Amayès Aouli**

An immensely healthful nose of dark fruits; so pure and juicy. Amazingly juicy, bright and energetic, with a delightful dryness on the finish. As is so typical for this property, the emphasis here is on the great clarity of fruit, full of luminosity. The tannin structure is large and very powerful; but the wine as a whole remains accessible. Ripe but classically constructed: a good combination. **Nick Jackson, MW**

Quintus | S: 92-94, NJ: 92-94, JA: 94, YC: 92-94+, NM: 92-94

58.5% Merlot, 41.5% Cabernet Franc; A wonderful vintage for this Clarence Dillon domain. Dominated by black fruits, spice, and graphite. Very aromatic nose, fine, fruity, with a touch of well-balanced creaminess. The velvety tannins and the ample attack leave the room for a delicate mid-palate with notes of ripped blueberry, currants, cherry and warm spice notes. A stunning structure and impact. The wine has opulence and precision. **Amayès Aouli**

A very bright, vibrant wine, perhaps surprisingly; the fruit is rich but chalky and fresh. Pretty sumptuous fruit on the palate, combining with excellent freshness. This is pretty serious, structured wine, with excellent acid/fruit balance; just a concern about the alcohol remains (15.5%). There is a lovely, perfumed lift to the finish. It tastes great already! **Nick Jackson, MW**

Rauzan-Ségla | S: 94-96, NJ: 94-96, JA: 97, WK: 96-97, AG: 95-97, NM: 95-97

Black plums and wine blackberries lead the effusive nose, with notes of cedar, roses, and mint. There is a volume on the midpalate that the architectural tannins carry in perfect sync. A wine that is difficult to resist at this stage, indicating decades of enjoyment to follow. Lovely. **Vanessa Conlin, MW**

An immensely glossy, dark nose: very beautiful actually. A hugely juicy, buoyant taste, full of life and energy on the palate. Succulent, deep fruit; dark fruited but with a great elegance and finesse from the acidity. Lots of light in the wine; a polarity, indeed, between the darkness of the fruit and the illuminating acidity. Quite a stark, dramatic wine; sculpted, pure, vivacious. Another quite different style from this property, which in previous years has been a bit higher-toned, but the vintage dictates a darker style this year. Amazing purity of dark fruits, like a pool; great clarity and purity of diction. Pretty glorious. **Nick Jackson, MW**

Smith Haut Lafitte Blanc | S: 93-95, NJ: 92-94, YC: 93-95+, AG: 94-96, NM: 94-96

90% Sauvignon Blanc, 5% Semillon, 5% Sauvignon Gris; What a beauty! Intense, fine nose, with ripe and subtle fruitiness marked by a touch of joyfull bitterness. From a lemon curd start, the complex nose shows touch of orange, menthol and a full garden of blossoming white flowers, such as Jasmin. The palate is a palace where Sicilian lemon is interlinked with touches of tropical fruits, like mango and pineapple. The full experience is delivered with a splendid touch, an infinite length and its striking by its minerality and salinity finish. A success. **Amayès Aouli**

This is a big, rich wine of great dimension; full and emphatic. Nonetheless, there remains lots of energy. Large-scaled wine, but with ample freshness. Just a touch heavy on the finish. **Nick Jackson, MW**

Smith Haut Lafitte Rouge | S: 93-95, NJ: 92-94, YC: 94-95, AG: 95-97, NM: 95-97

64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot; A red Château Smith Haut Lafitte 2022 with a black color and purple highlights. Intense nose dominated by fresh blueberry, currants and kirsch, the nose develops delicate zest of orange, vanilla and oriental spices after aeration. Well-structured and enveloping, full-bodied, it has the exact doses of ripe, generously extracted fruit like raspberry and red cherry. Long finish where black chocolate, oriental spices are concluding in a complex and deep finish. **Amayès Aouli**

Really dense, powerful, concentrated wine; huge tannins and scope. Lots of everything: fruit, alcohol, body, tannins. Just a little dense and earthbound, with rather too much extraction of dry tannins, contrasting with the sweet fruit. **Nick Jackson, MW**

Talbot | S: 92-94, NJ: 92-94, JA: 94, WK: 93-95, AG: 92-94, NM: 92-94

70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot; A classic wine with a lot of finesse and elegance. Ripe black fruits, with hints of cedar and tobacco. The finish is long and persistent with firm yet velvety tannins. **Victor Rabot**

Taut, bright, linear, fresh and focused. Classical! A really pure expression of Cabernet (70% of the blend) and St Julien. Quite a distinctive style in the context of the year, with far less opulent fruit, and a much more restrained style than many (the alcohol is only 13.5%). Absolutely classic and satisfying, with enough fruit for anyone. This will endure for a long time and make lovers of classic Left Bank Bordeaux very happy. **Nick Jackson, MW**

Troplong Mondot | S: 95-97, NJ: 94-96, JA: 98, WK: 98-100, AG: 96-98, NM: 96-98

85% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Sauvignon, 2% Cabernet Franc; The 2022 exhibit power and elegance. An appealing nose of dark fruits, on the palate the wine opens with beautiful aromas of cherries, spices and cocoa. The tannins are well handled and integrated; all elements are perfectly harmonized. This is a great Troplong Mondot. **Victor Rabot**

This is a conspicuously classical style of St. Emilion, firmly structured, and with a most enticing high-toned raspberry fruit character. There is great precision and detail of flavour, and the fruit remains refreshing and supple. An almost diaphanous style; you can almost see through the wine, it is so clear and bright. Really a wonderful achievement in the context of this vintage to make such a pure, elegant style, with no excess fat at all. Perhaps this is due to the particularly healthy yields here (50hl/ha), which are sought to avoid excess density of fruit. Delicious, and a pleasure to taste among a sea of wines that are richer and denser this year. A notable success, and a wine unlike any other this year. The new era at Troplong has arrived in glorious fashion! **Nick Jackson, MW**

Trotanoy | S: 94-96, NJ: 94-96, JA: 97, WK: 94-95+, AG: 95-97, NM: 96-98

A wine that speaks immediately of robust dark fruit, anise, smoked herbs, unsweetened cocoa, and mint. The mid-palate has impressive density with freshness, and full yet pliable tannins. **Vanessa Conlin, MW**

This is a very complete wine. A huge tannin structure, but all coated by the most glorious, far-reaching damson and plum fruits. Plenty of everything here: fruit, body, alcohol, tannin; a long and resplendent life lies ahead. This is Pomerol in a particularly imposing yet sumptuous mode. It feels as if the vines reached deep to find their essence in this challenging year and responded with an immense core of pure Pomerol concentration and body. **Nick Jackson, MW**

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