



2010 Bordeaux Post-Parker Scores

La Mission Haut-Brion 2010; Cru classé des Graves, Pessac-Léognan, RPJ: 98+ pts

“A strong candidate for a perfect score in about 15 years, the 2010 La Mission Haut-Brion could well turn out to be a modern-day version of their 1955. Sadly (or maybe fortunately) for me, I’m not old enough to have tasted the 1955 in 1958 from bottle, but this wine could also be an update on the more modern 2000 which, of course, I know well and actually own. This full-bodied, colossal giant of a wine is one of the goliaths of the vintage. It may well have the highest level of natural alcohol for any wine from the Left Bank of Bordeaux (15.1%) and has the definite potential to be a 50- to 75-year wine. Dense purple, it offers up notes of lead pencil shavings, charcoal embers, blueberry and blackberry liqueur along with massive concentration, a multi-dimensional mouthfeel and a monumental finish that goes well past a minute, which I think might be a record for a young Bordeaux. Keep in mind that the 2009, which I gave three digits, came in at 14.7%, but the pH of the 2010 is lower, giving the wine a freshness and precision that is remarkable. The final blend was 62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Merlot, and – unlike the Chapelle de la Mission, which has 26% Cabernet Franc – there’s only 1% Cabernet Franc in the 2010 La Mission Haut-Brion. This is a wine for those of you with youth on your side as well as patience. It will need a good decade of cellaring. An amazing wine. Anticipated maturity: 2024-2075+.” – Robert Parker Jnr

Analysis:

Scored at 98+pts, we do not expect this price to go anywhere quick in the short term. It is already quite expensive in comparison to other LMHB vintages but as Parker states is **“a strong candidate”** for the 3-digit crown in future. Having been scored at 100pts by James Suckling, this adds further gravitas to this wine and – if confirmed at 100pts from Parker in the future – could find itself amongst the most illustrious of LMHB vintages, ranging from £8,000-£12,000 per case. A wine that will likely produce solid returns over the next 5-10 years.

Price: £5,500 per case

Margaux 2010; 1er Grand Cru classé, Margaux, RPJ: 99 pts

“The 2010 is a brilliant Chateau Margaux, as one might expect in this vintage. The percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon in the final blend hit 90%, the balance Merlot and Cabernet Franc, and only 38% of the crop made it into the Chateau Margaux. Paul Pontallier, the administrator, told me that this wine has even higher levels of tannin than some other extraordinary vintages such as 2005, 2000, 1996, etc. Deep purple, pure and intense, with floral notes, tremendous opulence and palate presence, this is a wine of considerable nobility. With loads of blueberry, black currant and violet-infused fruit and a heady alcohol level above 13.5% (although that looks modest compared to several other first growths, particularly Chateau Latour and Chateau Haut-Brion), its beautifully sweet texture, ripe tannin, abundant depth and profound finish all make for another near-perfect wine that should age effortlessly for 30-40 years.” – Robert Parker Jnr



Analysis:

Despite not receiving 100 pts, this is not to be underestimated. Across the board, it was one of the best scored wines of the vintage, receiving perfect scores from Tim Atkin MW, James Suckling & Decanter – with Jancis Robinson MW, Neal Martin and Parker awarding near perfect 99pts and 19pts respectively. Another 100-point candidate in the future! Over the short term there may be a modest uplift in current pricing, but for stable returns it is a long term hold. Likely to be one of the all-time greats for this Château, so on current pricing it could see 30-50%+ returns over the long-term.

Price: £6,500 per case

Mouton Rothschild 2010; 1er Grand Cru classé, Pauillac, RPJ: 98+ pts

“Only 49% of the production made it into the 2010 Mouton Rothschild, which has a strikingly beautiful label by Jeffrey Koons. This is a truly great wine, with a very high percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon (94%) and the other 6% Merlot. At 13.9% natural alcohol, Mouton’s director, Philippe Dhalluin, has clearly produced another 50- to 60-year wine that has a chance at perfection in about 15 years time, when I suspect this wine will be rounding into drinking condition. It is dense, rich and full-bodied, with the classic Mouton creme de cassis, forest floor, licorice and floral notes, but also some blueberry and hints of subtle espresso and mulberry. The wine has more minerality and precision than the rich, extravagantly opulent 2009, and while that may please some, others will have their patience tested as they wait and wait for this compelling Mouton Rothschild to hit full maturity.” – Robert Parker Jnr

Analysis:

As with the other First Growths not to be scored 100 pts, Parker believes it has the potential to be a perfect wine in the future. But with current score and price per case, is unlikely to see an increase in pricing in the short-term. Over the long-term, it has potential when re-scored, but looking at comparative vintages it’s hard to make the case for the 2010 over others.

Price: £6,250 per case

Pontet Canet 2010; 5ème Grand Cru classé, Pauillac, RPJ: 100 pts

“An absolutely amazing wine, from grapes harvested between the end of September and October 17, this blend of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and the rest Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot has close to 15% natural alcohol. It comes from one of the few biodynamic vineyards in Bordeaux, but you are likely to see many more, given the success that Tesseron seems to be having at all levels, both in his vineyards and in his fermentation/winemaking. An astounding, compelling wine with the classic Pauillac nose more often associated with its cross-street neighbor, Mouton-Rothschild, creme de cassis, there are also some violets and other assorted



floral notes. The wine has off-the-charts massiveness and intensity but never comes across as heavy, overbearing or astringent. The freshness, laser-like precision, and full-bodied, massive richness and extract are simply remarkable to behold and experience. It is very easy, to become jaded tasting such great wines from a great vintage, but it is really a privilege to taste something as amazing as this. Unfortunately, it needs a good decade of cellaring, and that's assuming it doesn't close down over the next few years. This is a 50- to 75-year wine from one of the half-dozen or so most compulsive and obsessive proprietors in all of Bordeaux. Is there anything that proprietor Alfred Tesseron is not doing right? Talk about an estate that is on top of its game! Pontet-Canet's 2010 is a more structured, tannic and restrained version of their most recent perfect wine, the 2009. Kudos to Pontet-Canet!" – **Robert Parker Jnr**

Analysis:

One of the big successes of the 2010 vintage and receiving its second successive perfect score, Pontet Canet is cementing itself as one of the top estates in Bordeaux. It's hard to believe that prices for this wine will stay at current levels for long. Whilst both the 2009 and 2010 are the highest priced vintages of this wine, looking at prices of fellow 5th Growth and Pauillac neighbour Lynch Bages in great vintages (c.£2,500+ per case) provides an indication of where this has the potential of going.

Price: £1,650 per case

Petrus 2010; Pomerol, RPJ: 100 pts

"The harvest at Petrus took place between September 27 and October 12, and the 2010 finished at 14.1% natural alcohol, which is slightly lower than the 2009's 14.5%. The 2010 reminds me somewhat of the pre-1975 vintages of Petrus, a monster-in-the-making, with loads of mulberry, coffee, licorice and black cherry notes with an overlay of enormous amounts of glycerin and depth. Stunningly rich, full-bodied and more tannic and classic than the 2009, this is an awesome Petrus, but probably needs to be forgotten for 8-10 years. It should last at least another 50 or more.

"Someone told me recently that Petrus had a second wine, so I asked Olivier Berrouet, their young, talented administrator, whether that was true, and he flatly denied it, so if any Asian wine buyers are running across second wines of Petrus in Hong Kong or on mainland China, be warned – they are not genuine. Proprietor Jean Moueix, who I believe is in his late twenties, has taken over for his father, Jean-Francois, who has largely retired, and the younger Moueix has really pushed quality even higher at this renowned estate. Anyone visiting Pomerol would have undoubtedly noticed the renovations at Petrus, as it was once one of the most modest and humble buildings in the appellation. Moreover, I suspect that multi-millionaire/billionaire collectors will have about 50 years to debate over which vintage of Petrus turns out better, the 2009 or 2010. In a perfect world, most people would love to have a few bottles of each, or at least the opportunity to taste them once in a while, as they have become more of a myth than something real, but these wines do, in fact, exist!" – **Robert Parker Jnr**

Analysis:

Not a big surprise here and realistically the biggest issue will be sourcing this rare and elusive wine. Petrus has already forged a reputation as one of the highest priced commodities in the world of fine wine and going forward, the high price means the possibility for large percentage gains in the short to



medium-term are low in comparison to something like Pontet Canet. However, low risk:low volatile – long-term returns are almost guaranteed and in 10-20 years there is every chance the '10 could be worth £50-£100k.

Price: £28,000 per case

Vieux Château Certan 2010; Pomerol, RPJ: 99 pts

“What an amazing duo of wines from proprietor Alexandre Thienpont, who thinks his second wine, the La Gravette de Certan, is better in 2010 than many of the vintages of Vieux Chateau Certan produced in the 1970s - and I agree. It is a complex, relatively evolved style of wine that represents one-third of the production in 2010. An equal-part blend of Merlot and Cabernet Franc, it has a deep purple color and a wonderfully sweet nose of raspberries, black cherries, mulberries, licorice and foresty notes. Full-bodied and evolved, this wine has gorgeous texture and remarkable opulence. It can be drunk now or cellared for 10-15 years.

“Thienpont thinks he has produced three wines - 2008, 2009 and 2010 - that are the greatest trilogy in the history of Vieux Chateau Certan, rivalling what this estate did in 1947, 1948 and 1949.” – Robert Parker Jnr

Analysis:

Another wine, which – despite not receiving the coveted score from Parker – was highly acclaimed across the board from the major critics. Both James Suckling and Tim Atkin awarded 100 pts – whilst the Wine Spectator called it **“the most compelling wine from the Right Bank in 2010”**. Short-term, we have seen a slight pickup in demand and consequentially pricing and given the limited production (c.5,000 cases) combined with relatively low price compared to its neighbours (Le Pin, Petrus & Cheval Blanc), this should continue to perform well in the medium to long-term.

Price: £2,300 per case

Le Pin 2010; Pomerol, RPJ: 100 pts

“Made from 100% Merlot (one percent for each rating point I’ve assigned), this wine is explosively rich and compelling. Dense plum/purple, it boasts the remarkable delineation and freshness that are hallmarks of this vintage. From a much smaller production than normal because of Merlot’s poor flowering, the very hot, dry growing and harvest conditions, this is a super-endowed, very rich Le Pin with its exotic new oak largely buried behind its extravagant concentration, power and richness. I don’t know what its natural alcohol level is, but I suspect it is pushing 15% in 2010. Rich, tannic, but exceptionally well-endowed, this is a sublime example of Merlot at its very finest. Forget it for 5-7 years (which is somewhat unusual for Le Pin) and drink it over the following three decades.” – Robert Parker Jnr



Analysis:

With tiny production of c.550 cases, which was even lower in 2010 due to weather conditions in the growing season, the perfect Le Pin 2010 is one of the rarest wines in Bordeaux. Prices have already moved by 30-40% and it will undoubtedly sit alongside the 2009 (£26k+ per 12) in terms of price in its evolution. For those who hold this Merlot delicacy, the current price of the 1982 at £80,000 per 12 gives some indication of the long term potential!

Price: £25,000 per case

Angélus 2010; St.-Émilion 1er Grand Cru classé (A), St.-Émilion, RPJ: 98 pts

CW BUY RECOMMENDATION

"An absolutely spectacular wine from this estate, run with meticulous precision by Hubert de Bouard, the opaque bluish/purple 2010 Angelus offers up a beautifully sweet smorgasbord of aromas ranging from blueberry pie to espresso roast, white chocolate, creme de cassis, licorice, truffle and a touch of lead pencil shavings. There is even a floral underpinning to this extraordinary, highly-scented, full-bodied wine. Rich, layered and built like a skyscraper, this multi-dimensional Angelus has lavish concentration and moderately high tannin, but it is sweet and well-integrated, as is the oak. Just enough acidity provides focus and delineation to this exceptionally well-endowed wine, which should hit its prime in 7-10 years and last 30-40." – Robert Parker Jnr

Analysis:

Prices for Angélus across the board continue to rise since the estate's promotion to Saint-Émilion Premier Grand Cru classé (A), the appellation's highest possible status. Like fellow promotee Pavie, Angélus still trades at a fraction of the price of Cheval Blanc and Ausone, the only other two wines to have achieved the illustrious rank. 2009 (99pts) & 2005 (98pts) are both trading close to £3,000 per case with the 2000 (97pts) vintage trading over £3,600. Other Angélus back vintages have increased around 10% and the brand's promotion will lead to increased recognition and demand moving forward.

Price: £2,350 per case

Beauséjour Duffau-Lagarosse 2010; St.-Émilion 1er Grand Cru classé (B), St.-Émilion, RPJ: 100 pts

"The 2010 is a more structured, masculine and steely version of the utterly compelling 2009. Tasting like black raspberry confiture with subtle notes of graphite and crushed chalk along with enormous floral notes, the wine displays a slightly smoky character but a voluptuous attack, mid-palate and finish. Its is full-bodied and massively endowed, with every component perfectly etched in this extraordinary wine, which should be drinkable after 7-8 years of bottle age and last for a half-century or more. This is brilliant stuff. Composed of 73% Merlot, 23% Cabernet Franc and 4% Cabernet Sauvignon from yields of 21 hectoliters per hectare, the alcohol is the highest ever registered at Beausejour-Duffau, coming in at 15%, but remarkably, the pH is modest and the acids relatively



elevated, giving the wine an astonishing freshness and precision that is hard to believe in view of its power, density and length. Anticipated maturity: 2025-2055+.

“Anyone who has read this publication or visited St.-Emilion knows that this is a magical terroir capable of great things. It was only fully exploited in the past in the 1990 vintage, but has reached more consistently great heights over the last three or four years. Kudos to the duo of Nicolas Thienpont and Stephane Derenoncourt for what they have achieved over the last few years at Beausejour-Duffau.” – Robert Parker Jnr

Analysis:

One of 6 back-to-back 100-pointers from the 2009 & 2010 vintages, the Beauséjour Duffau have been on a roll in recent times. The consistency of scores have bought this low production under increased attention from the secondary market. With the '09 trading at close to £3,000 and the '90 upwards of £7,500, it is clear to see where the growth potential for this wine (along with the 2009 lies).

Price: £2,600 per case

Beychevelle 2010; 4ème Grand Cru classé, St.-Julien, RPJ: 94 pts

CW BUY RECOMMENDATION

“Showing better from bottle than it did from barrel, where it was also impressive, but not quite at this level, the 2010 Beychevelle displays sweet black currant, black cherry, foresty notes, medium to full-bodied texture with impressive purity and moderately high tannins (although they’ve softened considerably during the wine’s upbringing in barrel). Layered and rich for a Beychevelle, this wine should easily withstand three decades of cellaring. I would give it another 3-4 years of bottle age, but this is a fabulous effort from the first chateau one sees upon entering the appellation of St.-Julien.” – Robert Parker Jnr

Analysis:

94-points makes the 2010 the joint best ever scored Beychevelle, alongside the 1982, which is currently trading at £1,900 per 12. Taking into account the in-bottle score coupled with the large increase in demand this wine has experienced over the past few years, it would seem a very strong long-term hold.

Price: £650 per case

Carruades de Lafite 2010; Pauillac, RPJ: 94 pts

“Another brilliant second wine, the 2010 Carruades de Lafite (50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 42.5% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc and the rest Petit Verdot) is elegant and amazing for a second wine from Lafite. “Carruades de Lafite” is now engraved in the bottle to prevent unscrupulous sommeliers and merchants from trying to pass it off as Lafite Rothschild. The wine displays much of the same lead pencil, charcoal and black currant notes of its



bigger sister, although it is forward, precocious and far less structured than the grand vin. Nevertheless, this wine, which can be drunk now, will cellar beautifully for at least 20-25 more years.” – Robert Parker Jnr

Analysis:

A great vintage for the second wines, this is the best ever score for Lafite’s second label, surpassing 2009 & 2003 both 93pts, with the later trading at £2,300 per 12. This is certainly looking a strong long-term prospect.

Price: £1,900 per case

Clinet 2010; Pomerol, RPJ: 96+ pts

“The blend is largely dominated by 85% Merlot, with some Cabernet Sauvignon and a small amount of Cabernet Franc also included. Inky/purple-colored, the wine has an exceptionally full-bodied, layered, moderately tannic mouthfeel and impressive power. Loads of melted chocolate/fudge and black fruits galore along with some coffee bean, mocha, as well as some background oak are all present in this big, formidably endowed, masculine style of Pomerol that will take longer to shed its tannin than the 2009. I would give this wine 5-6 years of cellaring and drink it over the following 30+ years.

“The 2010 is another fabulous effort from this estate of just over 20 acres located in the sector named the same as the chateau, Clinet. Modest yields of 38 hectoliters per hectare produced a final blend that hit 14.4% natural alcohol.” – Robert Parker Jnr

Analysis:

2010 hasn’t reached the heady heights of 2009 with the perfect 100pts score but given time the 2010 could potentially rank alongside the 2009 & 1989. For the time being, the quality is more akin to the 1990 which is currently trading at £2,250 per 12. A very solid medium to long-term hold with the + indicating Parker’s feeling that this is a strong candidate for a positive rescore in the future.

Price: £1,250 per case

Clos Fournet 2010; St.-Émilion 1er Grand Cru classé (B), St.-Émilion, RPJ: 98 pts

CW BUY RECOMMENDATION

“The wine has an opaque blue/black color and abundant notes of forest floor, spring flowers, black raspberry and blueberry liqueur in the aromatics along with hints of espresso and white chocolate. The wine is dense, full, rich, unctuously textured and very full-bodied, with its extravagant glycerin, fruit and extract covering the wine’s somewhat tannic structure. This is a bigger, more restrained and structured wine than the outrageously flamboyant and prodigious 2009. Give it 5-8 years of cellaring and drink it over the following 30-40 years.

“This property has been on fire, qualitatively speaking, for well over a decade. Another compelling effort from the



Cuvelier family, the 2010 Clos Fourtet is a blend of 87% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon and 3% Cabernet Franc that came in at 14.5% alcohol. Yields were modest at 31 hectoliters per hectare. The harvest was late, starting at the very end of September and not finishing until the beginning of the third week of October.” – Robert Parker Jnr

Analysis:

Benefitting hugely from an in-bottle score of 98-points (up from 95-97 in-barrel) and currently priced less than half the price of the 2009 (100pts), Clos Fourtet 2010 looks a smart buy for a low production (c.5,000 cases) Right Bank estate at the top of its game.

Price: £995 per case

La Dame de Montrose; St.-Estèphe, RPJ: 94 pts

“One of the best second wines, and possibly the best since the 1990 is the 2010 La Dame de Montrose. This represents 36% of the production and is a blend of two grapes – 64% Cabernet Sauvignon and 36% Merlot. A superb second wine, opulent and substantively textured, it shares more in common with a flamboyant, exuberant year such as 2009 than most 2010s. Dense purple, its oodles of fruit, luxurious mouthfeel and terrific finish make it a sleeper of the vintage. It’s a wine to buy in abundant quantities and drink over the next 10-15+ years.

“Although Jean Delmas remains a consultant at Montrose, he has yielded his primary responsibilities over to a younger staff, but he still believes the 2010 Montrose is one of the all-time great wines ever produced at this estate, equaling or exceeding the quality of the 1929, 1945, 1959, 1961, 1989, 1990 or 2009.” – Robert Parker Jnr

Analysis:

Le Dame 2009 (91pts) trades slightly higher, 2000 (90pts) at £350 and the 1990 (90pts) at £1,200+. For those that struggle to resist the temptation, this looks like a great value drinking wine and – across a long-term hold – should appreciate in price.

Price: £330 per case

Duhart-Milon Rothschild; 4ème Grand Cru classé, Pauillac, RPJ: 96 pts

“Dense purple, with classic notes of cedar and lead pencil shavings as well as gobs of black currants and licorice, the wine has a full-bodied mouthfeel with fabulous precision and density. It also possesses a long, silky finish with moderately high tannins, but they are ripe and well-integrated. The wood is clearly pushed to the background in this dense, full-bodied Pauillac, which should drink beautifully for 30+ years.

“If you can’t afford Lafite-Rothschild (few can) or even their second wine, Carruades de Lafite, you still have Duhart Milon, which has become a profound wine over the last 5-7 years due to the extensive amount of



attention and investment the Rothschilds have pumped into this estate. This blend of 73% Cabernet Sauvignon and the rest Merlot is fabulous, a dead ringer for Lafite in a great vintage. (It is probably better than many of the Lafites of the 1960s and 1970s, and even some of the vintages in the 1980s.)” – **Robert Parker Jnr**

Analysis:

Ranking a solitary point below the 97pt 2009 vintage, both the '09 & '10 are great value buys when you consider the 2009 was trading upwards of £1,300 at the height of the market.

Price: £750 per case

Ducru-Beaucaillou; 2ème Grand Cru classé, St.-Julien, RPJ: 98+pts

“With loads of minerality, a terrific opaque purple color, and slightly more structure and tannin than either Poyferre or St.-Pierre (and that’s saying something), this is a blockbuster, fabulous Ducru Beaucaillou that should be at its best a good decade from now and last 40-50 years. The proprietor is not alone in thinking this is the finest Ducru Beaucaillou since the 1961. The classic wet rock, creme de cassis, subtle oak and gravelly stoniness of the vineyard come through in this spectacular, full-bodied, gorgeously pure and intense effort. This is wine for the ages that should be forgotten for at least a decade.

*“Proprietor Bruno Borie thinks this wine is as superb as their 2009. Slightly more structured and less flamboyant than its older sibling, it is a blend of 90% Cabernet Sauvignon and 10% Merlot from the very best parcels of the vineyard. This wine tips the scales at 14% natural alcohol but has a normal pH of 3.6, which is one of the characteristics of this vintage (high alcohol, normal pH), which thus accounts for the freshness and precision found in most 2010s.” – **Robert Parker Jnr***

Analysis:

An estate which has been producing '90 plus' wines consistently for decades, Ducru Beaucaillou '10 was another highly impressive effort from an appellation which really turned up the quality in 2010. Looking at other back-vintages, the '09 is trading at £2,100 per 12 and the 2010 could potentially be in the group of 6-8 wines that RPJ will eventually award 100pts. Suckling awarded the 2010 100pts & compared it to the legendary 1961 vintage, looking like a strong long-term prospect.

Price: £1,750 per case

La Fleur-Pétrus; Pomerol, RPJ: 97 pts

“This wine has a character similar to its cross-street neighbor, Petrus, displaying sweet mulberry and intense black fruit characteristics, with a hint of vanillin and loads of black cherry jam. Full-bodied, extravagantly luscious, with a skyscraper-like mid-palate and phenomenal length of close to 50 seconds, the wine has plenty of tannin, but the voluptuous fruit, power and overall glycerin and intensity tend to conceal much of it. Elegant but



compellingly rich and authoritative, the 2010 is a truly magnificent wine for this estate, which has one of the finest terroirs in all of Pomerol. Forget it for 5-7 years and drink it over the following 30-35.

"This 2010 is one of the most remarkable wines ever produced at this estate. The vineyard, about the same size as Petrus at 35 acres, is virtually all Merlot, but there is some Cabernet Franc in the final blend." – Robert Parker Jnr

Analysis:

Exactly the same score as the 2009 and trading at a similar price level, this well-known Pomerol is one of the highly sought after products of the Ets J.P. Moueix stable, which also owns Petrus and Trotanoy. The partial namesake of one of Bordeaux' most famous estates, coupled with very small production (less than 3,500 case p.a.) have had a profound effect on prices. With the quality of the wine becoming ever more consistent, demand is expected to continue in the right direction.

Price: £2,100 per case

Lynch-Bages 2010; 5ème Grand Cru classé, Pauillac, RPJ: 96 pts

"The 2010 Lynch Bages is an absolutely brilliant wine, and somewhat reminiscent at this stage in its development of the profound 1989. Jean-Charles Cazes, who took over for his father a number of years ago, has produced a magnificent wine with the classic creme de cassis note intermixed with smoke, graphite and spring flowers. It is a massive Lynch Bages, full-bodied and very 1989-ish, with notable power, loads of tannin, and extraordinary concentration and precision. This is not a Lynch Bages to drink in its exuberant youth, but one to hold on to for 5-6 years and drink over the following three decades." – Robert Parker Jnr

Analysis:

One of the best-known and most consistent Pauillac estates, Lynch produced yet another excellent offering in 2010. At 96-points, the '10 is not scored as highly as the '09 (98pts) which is trading at a similar level, but we expect both of these back to back stellar vintages to eventually surpass the current price level of the superb duo of 1989 (99+pts) & 1990 (99pts), trading at £2,700 & £2,600 respectively.

Price: £1,200 per case

Le Petit Mouton de Mouton Rothschild; Pauillac, RPJ: 91 pts

"It is a fabulous wine, but if you want to drink something reminiscent of Mouton Rothschild before 2025, it is probably worth taking a look at the 2010 Le Petit Mouton, which seems to be going from strength to strength at this estate. This wine has 14% natural alcohol because there is more Merlot in it. (Merlot is riper and ferments into slightly higher alcohol than Cabernet Sauvignon.) This wine represents 26% of the crop. The creme de cassis



character is also present, along with tobacco leaf, cedar, and a more evolved, chocolaty, spicy note. Opulent, fleshy and round, it should drink well for two decades.” – **Robert Parker Jnr**

Analysis:

Like many of the other second wines, this is the standout Petit Mouton vintage of all time, surpassing the 2009 (90pts). With a renaissance expected for the second wines of the First Growth’s, this is a great wine to hold for the long-term.

Price: £1,200 per case

Pavie 2010; St.-Émilion 1er Grand Cru classé (A), St.-Émilion, RPJ: 98+ pts

CW BUY RECOMMENDATION

“Painfully powerful, backward and super-concentrated, this 2010 is a blend of 70% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon cropped at 26 hectoliters per hectare. The harvest, as usual, was late by the standards of the appellation, occurring between October 12 and October 19. The alcohols are surprisingly modest by 2010 standards, 14.2%. As usual, this is one of the top wines of the vintage, but it needs a good decade of cellaring. It is much more backward and restrained than the 2009 was at the same stage, and seems even more tannic and structured than the 2005. It is a monumental wine for true connoisseurs who have the patience and discipline to cellar it for a good decade. Anticipated maturity: 2025-2060+.

*“This great terroir dominates the Cote Pavie, which is a combination of decomposed limestone and more gravelly soils at the bottom of the slope. Kudos to proprietors Chantal and Gerard Perse for continuing to push the envelope of quality and ignoring their jealous critics.” – **Robert Parker Jnr***

Analysis:

Like Angélu, since the promotion of Pavie to Premier Grand Cru classé (A) we have witnessed a positive trend for pricing, particularly for well scored vintages such as 2000 (100pts), 2005 (98+pts) & 2009 (100pts). Alongside the 2010, all these vintages look remarkably good value in comparison to equally scored vintages of Ausone or Cheval Blanc. With an average annual production of around 7,000 cases, the potential for the supply side to become strained as a result of this increase in brand demand is far greater.

Price: £2,400

Pape-Clément Rouge 2010; Cru classé des Graves, Pessac-Léognan, RPJ: 100 pts

CW BUY RECOMMENDATION

“I certainly underrated the 2010 Pape Clement from barrel, rating it only 93-95+. (Thank God I put a “plus” there!) Having tasted it four times in Bordeaux, and rating it perfect three times and 99 the fourth time, this final



blend of 51% Merlot, 47.5% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 1.5% Petit Verdot is perfection in a bottle. Tipping the scales at 14.5% natural alcohol, there are 8,000 cases of it. Its sublime elegance, the power, the medium to full-bodied texture, the silky tannins, the subtle notes of smoke, lead pencil shavings, black currants, charcoal, camphor, blueberry and cassis fruit are all remarkable. It is a rich, full-throttle wine, but the elegance and the great terroir of Pape Clement come through in abundance. It is slightly more developed and evolved than the 2005 was at a similar point in its evolution, but it certainly needs another 5-7 years to develop further nuances, which it surely will. This wine will last 30-40+ years. Kudos to proprietor Bernard Magrez, who has built an empire based on high quality more than any other characteristic.” – Robert Parker Jnr

Analysis:

The greatest ever vintage from the oldest Château in Bordeaux and one of the most surprising awards of 100pts we have ever witnessed. A remarkable 5-point increase from the in-barrel score of 93-95+ pts. One of the best value 2010s given the current market & with wine magnate Bernard Magrez steering the ship we expect this wine to move quickly. Less than 7,000 cases produced annually, a low production Left Bank estate benefiting from a growing reputation.

Price: £1,500 per case

Pavillon Rouge du Château Margaux 2010; Margaux, RPJ: 94 pts

“The second wine, the 2010 Pavillon Rouge (essentially two-thirds Cabernet Sauvignon and the rest mostly Merlot with small quantities and Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc) looks to be a wine to age for 20 or more years, but it is quite drinkable already. Soft, supple and luscious, with oodles of blue and black fruits, the floral character one expects, and not a trace of herbaceousness, oak or aggressiveness, this is a beautiful, round, generous wine to drink over the next 18-20 years.” – Robert Parker Jnr

Analysis:

Best ever scored Pavillon Rouge vintage, coming off 99pts for the Grand Vin & surpassing 2009 (93pts). The increase in scores for Pavillon Rouge can be attributed to Paul Pontallier and the reduction in volume of the Grand Vin and Second Wine by introducing a third wine in the best vintages. Looking like one of the best value Second Wines of the First Growths, Pavillon can certainly be expected to move up in price in the medium to long-term.

Price: £1,200 per case

Haut-Brion 2010; 1er Grand Cru classé, Pessac-Léognan, RPJ: 100 pts

“As for the 2010 Haut-Brion, it does not have the power of Latour’s 2010 or the intense lead pencil shavings and chocolaty component of Lafite-Rothschild, but it is extraordinary, perfect wine. It has a slightly lower pH than the 2009 (3.7 versus the 2009’s 3.8), and even higher alcohol than the 2009 (14.6%). The wine is ethereal. From its dense purple color to its incredibly subtle but striking aromatics that build incrementally, offering up a spectacular smorgasbord of aromas ranging from charcoal and camphor to black currant and blueberry liqueur



and spring flowers, this wine's finesse, elegant yet noble power and authority come through in a compelling fashion. It is full-bodied, but that's only apparent in the aftertaste, as the wine seems to float across the palate with remarkable sweetness, harmony, and the integration of all its component parts – alcohol, tannin, acidity, wood, etc. This prodigious Haut-Brion is hard to compare to another vintage, at least right now, but it should have 50 to 75 years of aging potential. Anticipated maturity: 2022-2065+.

"Kudos to the team at Haut-Brion and to the proprietors, the Dillon family, who are now represented admirably and meticulously by Prince Robert of Luxembourg. He has made some changes, and all of them seem to have resulted in dramatic improvements to what was already an astonishing group of wines." – Robert Parker Jnr

Analysis:

Alongside Latour, this was the only other First Growth to achieve the 100-points and was one of 6 wines to score back-to-back perfect scores in '09 & '10. The 1989 is also attained the coveted score and it trades upwards of £10,000 per 12, so expect the 2009 & 2010 to track their 100pt counterpart over the coming years.

Price: £7,000 per case

Latour 2010, 1er Grand Cru classé, Pauillac, RPJ: 100 pts

"One of the perfect wines of the vintage, Frederic Engerer challenged me when I tasted the 2010 Latour at the estate, asking, "If you rate the 2009 one hundred, then how can this not be higher?" Well, the scoring system stops at 100, (and has for 34 years,) and will continue for as long as I continue to write about wine. Nevertheless, this blend of 90.5% Cabernet Sauvignon, 9.5% Merlot, and .5% Petit Verdot hit 14.4% natural alcohol and represents a tiny 36% of their entire production. The pH is about 3.6, which is normal compared to the 3.8 pH of the 2009, that wine being slightly lower in alcohol, hence the combination that makes it more flamboyant and accessible. The 2010 is a liquid skyscraper in the mouth, building layers upon layers of extravagant, if not over-the-top richness with its hints of subtle charcoal, truffle, blackberry, cassis, espresso and notes of toast and graphite. Full-bodied, with wonderfully sweet tannin, it is a mind-boggling, prodigious achievement that should hit its prime in about 15 years, and last for 50 to 100.

"There is no denying the outrage and recriminations over the decision by the Pinault family and their administrator, Frederic Engerer, to pull Latour off the futures market next year. However, you can still buy these 2010s, although the first two wines are not likely to be released until they have more maturity, which makes sense from my perspective. Perhaps Latour may have offended a few loyal customers who were buying wines as futures, but they are trying to curtail all the interim speculation that occurs with great vintages of their wines (although only God knows what a great vintage of future Latour will bring at seven or eight years after the harvest). As a set of wines, the 2010s may be the Pinaults' and Engerer's greatest achievements to date. Of course, I suspect the other first-growth families won't want to hear that, nor will most of the negociants in Bordeaux, but it's just the way things are. Frederic Engerer, by no means the most modest of administrators at the first growths, thinks it would be virtually impossible to produce a wine better than this, and he may well be correct. If they gave out Academy Awards for great performances in wine, the Pinaults and Engerer would certainly fetch a few in 2010. P.S. Just so you don't worry, Engerer offered up the 2009 next to the 2010 to see if I thought it was still a 100-point wine, and yes, ladies and gentlemen, it still is." – Robert Parker Jnr



Analysis:

The tasting notes speak volumes for this Latour vintage – “...a liquid skyscraper in the mouth...” – an epic wine and potentially the wine of the vintage. Another back-to-back 100-point wine, prices for both the '09 & '10 vintages are tracking at close to £12,000 per case. Like the 1982, which is trading upwards of £16,000 this is a wine not to miss if you are a wine lover. Across the board this wine achieved remarkable scores, Suckling & Martin reaffirmed Parker's triple digit score with Decanter awarding it the perfect 20/20.

Price: £12,000 per case

Les Forts de Latour; Pauillac, RPJ: 97 pts

CW BUY RECOMMENDATION

“Bizarre as it may sound, the 2010 Les Forts de Latour is also the finest I have ever tasted from this selection, which comes from specific vineyards, not really so much a second wine as just another wine from estate holdings. A blend of 72.5% Cabernet Sauvignon and 27.5% Merlot that represents 40% of the production, this astonishing wine hit 14.3% natural alcohol. Extremely ripe and rich, it reminds me of the 1982 on steroids (and that wine is still drinking great 30 years after the vintage). Sensational notes of graphite, crushed rocks, black fruits, camphor and damp forest notes are present in this expansive, savory, full-throttle wine, which is better than many vintages of the great Latour itself from the past. (That may be a heretical statement, but it's the truth as I see it.) This wine needs a good 5-6 years of cellaring and should age for three decades at minimum, given the fact that the 1982 is in terrific form and wasn't this concentrated or prodigious.” – Robert Parker Jnr

Analysis:

At around a fifth of the cost of the Grand Vin, this looks like a great investment. Forts could really lend weight to the gathering momentum of the second wines. Comfortably the best ever Forts, outscoring a wealth of stunning classified growths in 2010. Production of around 11,000 cases (40% of the production) could make this a better pick than Latour in the short to medium-term.

Price: £1,950 per case

Lafite-Rothschild 2010; 1er Grand Cru classé, Pauillac, RPJ: 98 pts

“The 2010 Lafite Rothschild, a blend of 87% Cabernet Sauvignon and 13% Merlot (a 3% difference from the barrel sample shown two years ago), achieved relatively high alcohol of 13.32%, according to administrator Charles Chevalier. The wine is very impressive, not as fleshy, flamboyant and massive as the 2009, but nevertheless, a big, rich, full-throttle Lafite-Rothschild meant to age a half century or more. Deep purple, with notes of white chocolate, mocha, cedar and charcoal as well as hints of vanillin and creme de cassis, the wine is full-bodied yet has that ethereal lightness that makes it a Lafite. Rich, with good acidity, precision and freshness, this is a slightly



zestier version of the 2009 as well as more restrained and structured than that particular vintage. It will need at least 10-12 years of cellaring and keep for 50+ years.” – Robert Parker Jnr

Analysis:

A slightly disappointing score for Lafite 2010 & the 2009 looks like the better buy at a similar price level, scoring 99+pts. Lafite 2000 is similarly scored and is currently trading around £14,000 so there is no reason why the 2010 cannot reach that level over the next 5 years. For brands with the strength of Lafite, it would seem the Parker score is not as important as with other brands, when considering both that of 2000 and the historic 1982 (97+pts), which currently trades for £35,000 for in bond cases. Demand for Lafite in the secondary market has picked up since the start of the year and whilst the potential short-term growth has somewhat evaporated given Parker’s score of 98pts, this is a solid medium to long-term hold.

Price: £8,000 per case

Léoville-Barton 2010; 2ème Grand Cru classé, St.-Julien, RPJ: 96+ pts

CW BUY RECOMMENDATION

“A splendid showing, much stronger from bottle than it was from barrel, the Leoville Barton is one of the spectacular wines of the vintage. Inky purple to the rim, its huge tannin gives this wine real potential for 30-50 years of longevity. It is a classic, powerful Bordeaux made with no compromise. A superstar of the vintage, the wine has notes of pen ink and creme de cassis, good acidity, sweet, subtle oak, and massive extraction and concentration. I thought it was one of the most backward wines of the vintage two years ago, and nothing has changed in the ensuing upbringing of the wine in cask except that the wine now seems even richer, denser and fuller than I previously thought. The beautiful purity, symmetry, and huge finish of nearly a minute make this one of the all-time great classics from Leoville Barton. Anticipated maturity: 2028-2065+.” – Robert Parker Jnr

Analysis:

This Second Growth estate looks a great value buy given the price and score following the in-bottle upgrade to 96+ from 91-93+ in-barrel. The 2000 (95+) vintage is currently trading upwards of £1,000 per case and the 2010 looks sure to surpass the millennium vintage as the flagship wine of this estate.

Price: £825 per case

Montrose 2010, 2ème Grand Cru classé, St.-Estèphe, RPJ: 99 pts

“The 2010 Montrose is a fabulous wine, and I was leaning toward giving it a three-digit score, which it may ultimately merit after it resolves some of its very sweet tannin. It is not as soft or flamboyant as the 2009, but it is a great classic, coming in at 13.9% natural alcohol. Representing 64% of the total production, the final blend is 53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Merlot, 9% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot (which is one percent different than the barrel sample blends that were presented). Inky bluish/purple in color, with classic blueberry, black



currant, crushed rock and floral notes, hints of graphite, and lots of wild mountain berry fruit, this wine is extravagantly rich, has very sweet but noticeable tannin, laser-like precision, a massive, full-bodied mouthfeel and a finish of close to 50+ seconds. This remarkable wine will probably tighten up somewhat in the bottle, and need most of a decade to shed some tannin and its rather grapy, primary personality. The finish blew me away, and the overall power, richness and balance of this wine are virtually perfect. Look for it to drink well for half a century or more.

“Although Jean Delmas remains a consultant at Montrose, he has yielded his primary responsibilities over to a younger staff, but he still believes the 2010 Montrose is one of the all-time great wines ever produced at this estate, equaling or exceeding the quality of the 1929, 1945, 1959, 1961, 1989, 1990 or 2009.” – Robert Parker Jnr

Analysis:

Montrose fell just short of the 2009 but may emulate the perfect score in the future. The '09 is currently trading for over £2,300 per 12, while the 2010 still looks a great buy at £1,650 per case. In comparison to the 1989 (96pts) priced at £2,600 and the 1990 (100pts) changing hands at £5,000+, both the 2009 & 2010 have a long way to go.

Price: £1,650 per case

Pichon Baron 2010; 2ème Grand Cru classé, Pauillac, RPJ: 97+ pts

“Administrator Christian Seeley thinks the 2010 is the greatest Pichon Longueville Baron he has ever made, equaling some of the estate’s colossal wines from vintages such as 1989 and 1990. It was certainly showing well when I stopped by the chateau in January. Opaque purple, with loads of charcoal, licorice, incense and some exotic Asian spices along with abundant cassis liqueur, blackberry and hints of roasted coffee and spring flowers, it is full-bodied and opulent, with relatively high tannins, but they have sweetened up considerably and seem less aggressive than they did from barrel. The oak is clearly pushed to the background by the wine’s wealth of fruit, glycerin and full-bodied texture. This sensational Pichon Longueville Baron needs 5-6 years of cellaring, and should keep 30+ years.” – Robert Parker Jnr

Analysis:

The most surprising omission from Parker’s group of 2010 wines rated at 99-points or the perfect 100 was unquestionably Pichon Baron. From the initial tasting notes lauding **“one of the superstars of the vintage”** and **“a wine that must be bought En Primeur”**, the global wine trade were convinced that Pichon Baron 2010 would rank up there as one of the wines of the vintage. Alas, Parker’s score has positioned it as the 33rd best wine from the vintage, a far cry from a ‘superstar’. Nonetheless, the disappointment has only meant that the short-term growth potential for this wine has not materialised but as one of the greatest Pichon’s (alongside 2009) it will undeniably surpass the 1989 (95pts) & 1990 (97pts) vintages, which are both trading on the steep side of £2,200 per case.

Price: £1,500 per case



Saint-Pierre 2010; 4ème Grand Cru classé, St.-Julien, RPJ: 97 pts

"The final blend of 78% Cabernet Sauvignon and 22% Merlot has resulted in a wine of great power, stature, gravitas and density. The wine has a black purple color and a brilliant nose of scorched earth, creme de cassis, espresso roast, blackberries, truffles and licorice. Full-bodied, extremely powerful, yet with abundant sweet tannin, this stunning effort should prove sensational if given 7-10 years of cellaring. It should also last for 30-40 years.

"This is another brilliant wine from Jean-Louis Triaud, who is also responsible for the brilliant resurrection of the cru bourgeois, Gloria. This is one of the smallest estates in St.-Julien, with only about 6,000 cases produced, and even less were produced in 2010 than in 2009." – Robert Parker Jnr

Analysis:

With only 7,000 cases produced on average, production of this Saint-Julien offering is more akin to a Right Bank estate – something which is having a discerning effect on price. Much like the 2009 vintage, Saint Pierre 2010 has aged superbly in-barrel and at 97pts, falls only 1-point short of the previous vintage. The former is trading upwards of £750 per case and over the next 5 years, one can expect these two vintages to hit the four figure mark.

Price: £675 per case

Pichon Lalande 2010; 2ème Grand Cru classé, Pauillac, RPJ: 95+ pts

"The 2010 Pichon Lalande is performing extremely well and at the top of the range I predicted several years ago. A final blend dominated much more by Cabernet Sauvignon than usual (66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc and the rest Petit Verdot), the wine is a tighter, more tannic and structured version of this famed Pauillac, which often tends to have more of a St-Julien-like personality than most Pauillacs. Structured, backward and tannic, yet showing a fat mid-palate that is more savory, broader and more expansive than I remember from barrel, this wine is somewhat reminiscent of the 1986, given the Cabernet Sauvignon domination of the blend. Full-bodied, impressively endowed, and less sexy and velvety than normal, this is a somewhat different style of Pichon Lalande than most readers have been used to. Whether you like it more or less will depend on your point of view, but this wine, unlike most Pichon Lalandes, needs a good 5-7 years of cellaring and should keep for 30+ years." – Robert Parker Jnr

Analysis:

After an inconsistent barrel tasting, Parker has reaffirmed the quality of this wine in line with his peers and it now ranks alongside the 1996 & 2000 vintages, which trade anywhere from £1,600-£1,800 per 12. Those who were fortunate enough to take advantage of the price pre-Parker ratings have witnessed strong price development.

Price: £1,400 per case



Troplong-Mondot 2010; St.-Émilion 1er Grand Cru classé (B), St.-Émilion, RPJ: 99 pts

"Inky, bluish/black/purple, with notes of spring flowers, licorice, camphor, graphite, and a boatload of blueberry, black raspberry and blackberry fruit, this is a powerful, full-bodied Troplong Mondot. All the building components of acidity, tannin, wood and alcohol are judiciously and impressively integrated. It is a blend of 90% Merlot and the rest equal parts Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc made by Christine Valette and her husband Xavier Pariente with the consultancy help of Michel Rolland. I-m not sure what the heady alcohol level is in Troplong Mondot in 2010 (it certainly must be in the 15%+ range), but it is well-concealed behind the extravagant, richness, full-bodied power, and pure nobility of this majestic wine. Forget this for 5-7 years and drink it over the following three decades.

"An absolutely stunning wine from this estate, which seems to be on a mission to produce exquisite world-class wines with enormous aging potential, the 2010 is showing better from bottle than it even did from barrel." – Robert Parker Jnr

Analysis:

This is an estate that just can't quite get over that three figure line, with 99pts in 2010, 2009 and 2005 – quite remarkable! The 2005 is priced around £1,850 per case and naturally you would anticipate the 2009/2010 to reach that level within the next 3-years.

Price: £1,200 per case

*Please note all tasting notes have been taken from erobertparker.com