



2021 BORDEAUX EN PRIMEUR

Overview

For anyone who loves drinking good Bordeaux, there are great opportunities in the 2021 vintage. The harvest has given many superb wines, but it is far from a straight-forward vintage and prices needed to be sensible. You will notice that our range below is very carefully chosen, often eliminating even famous names, due to either lack of value or misjudged winemaking, sometimes both. The wines we do list, we recommend wholeheartedly. They offer lovely purity, freshness, elegance and style. These bottles will give immense pleasure when the time comes to pull the corks.

Notable Successes

The properties of two, family owners stood out for their excellent quality this vintage. Ets. Jean-Pierre Moueix, the great right-bank specialists (think Hosanna, Bélair-Monange, La Fleur-Pétrus) produced an extraordinary range. They completely nailed the style of 2021, with a range from top (La Fleur-Pétrus) to bottom (Peymouton) that displayed beautiful fruit purity, silky textures and immense charm – excellence to suit all budgets. We were also most impressed with the wines from the father and son team of Philippe and Frédéric Castéja (Batailley, Trotte Vieille, Domaine de l'Eglise). Once again, we found wines that were beautifully harmonious, nothing forced, combining intense, bright fruit characters and fine tannins. They also offer a great value option with the exceptional Pauillac, Château Haut-Bages-Monpelou.

Weather Conditions

The cool summer meant that natural sugars were lower than for the last three vintages, and natural acidities higher – so the style of the vintage is a return to classic Bordeaux, after a run of alcohol-rich, powerfully-structured years. The most successful properties in 2021, to our minds, have aimed to make wines which will be delicious while relatively youthful.

Most châteaux – though fortunately not all – were impacted by severe frosts on 6th, 7th and 8th April. This reduced potential yields for many, and also resulted in secondary shoots appearing, to compensate for those buds which had been frozen. This might seem beneficial, but it could set the stage for uneven ripening. Conscientious owners needed to commit to eliminating late-ripening grapes, by clipping and sorting, in both vineyard and winery.

There was more rain in May and June, and less sun in July, than the recent averages. Showers and sunshine meant that damage from mildew threatened, and over-took some vineyards, further reducing yields. Fortunately, however, August had plenty of sun. Evidently, this is a less successful vintage than those when summers are dry and hot. But excellent wines were achieved thanks to a good flowering period, fine weather during late September and the first half of October, and above all meticulous care in the vineyards. It was one of the third hottest Septembers since 2000, and Merlots came to ripeness as the month was ending. Many were harvested in excellent health, giving well-balanced, fruity freshness.

Wine-making and viticultural skills are now very high in Bordeaux. In 2021, many properties stuck to their guns towards the end of September, in spite of dire weather warnings, which predicted heavy rains. The best owners were determined not to pick while the grape skins might show vegetal aromas. Some gave in, as 70mm rain were forecast for the month-end – but the greatest properties held out, and the downpours did not occur. Exceptional sunshine and late harvesting allowed fully ripened, healthy Cabernet Francs and Cabernet Sauvignons to be picked at optimum ripeness, during a dry spell.

These wines are offered in bond UK, for delivery during 2024.

Key

12b 12 bottles6m 6 magnums

£ per case in UK Bond

Red Bordeaux

Château Peymouton, Saint-Emilion Grand Cru 2021

12b 135.00 6m 150.00

Owned by the same family as - and sharing management with - the Grand Cru Classé Château Laroque, this is a modestly-priced Saint-Emilion whose 2021 blend consists of 82% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc and 8% Cabernet Sauvignon. Harvesting took place late, from 4th to 18th October, to allow perfect levels of ripeness to be achieved. Colour is bright, ruby-purple, aromas open and ripe. Palate shows wide, sweet fruitiness, with fresh, agreeable aftertaste (for drinking 2024-2027+).



Château Picque-Caillou, Pessac-Léognan 2021

12b 168.00 6m 183.00

Paulin Calvet has made a great success at Château Picque-Caillou in 2021. Assembled from 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and 10% Petit Verdot, colour is deep, ruby purple, aromas being open, fresh and ripe. Palate shows rich fruitiness, with fine density and fresh, harmonious finish. Sensibly priced at £14 per bottle in bond, this is a great buy in 2021 (for drinking 2024-2032+).



Château Haut-Bages Monpelou, Pauillac 2021

12b 192.00

6m 207.00

This château's vines are superbly situated on the plateau of one of Pauillac's best sectors. It rubs shoulders with vineyards belonging to classed growths Batailley and Grand-Puy-Lacoste, and until 1948 formed part of the 4th Growth Château Duhart-Milon. The 2021 has been assembled from 71% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot and 2% Cabernet Franc. As in past years, this is a great value Pauillac, with fragrant aromas and dense fruitiness, for mid-term ageing (for drinking 2026-2032+).



Château Lagrange, Pomerol 2021

12b 250.00

6m 265.00

Château Lagrange has been in the Jean-Pierre Moueix stable since 1953, and today is one of their most lusciously charming Pomerols. It is 100% planted with Merlot vines, lying partly on gravels, partly on clay. Bright, purple-ruby of medium depth, its nose shows ripeness and freshness, with chocolate notes. Palate has vibrant fruitiness, intensity in the middle, lingering well, with lively aftertaste (for drinking 2024-2031+).



Château Latour-Martillac Rouge, Pessac-Léognan 2021

12b 252.00

6m 267.00

This property has been run passionately by the Kressman family for 3 generations. The 2021 assemblage consists of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and 10% Petit Verdot. The wine has complex fragrancy, powerful attack, broad structure and well-rounded, wraparound tannins which will need 4-5 years in bottle to soften (for drinking 2027-2035+).



Château Lafleur-Gazin, Pomerol 2021

12b 280.00 6m 295.00

The vines of Lafleur-Gazin lie on the edge of the clay-rich, central plateau of Pomerol, between two famous neighbours: Ch Gazin and Ch Lafleur. The vineyards have been managed by Ets. Jean-Pierre Moueix since 1973, on behalf of the owners. Merlot grapes make up 100% of the wine in 2021, which shows ruby-purple colour of medium depth. Nose is open, ripe and fresh, palate is densely fruity, clinging to the mouth attractively, without bitterness, finishing intensely, with lovely length (for drinking 2024 -2034+).



Domaine de l'Église, Pomerol 2021

6b 162.00 3m 169.50

Like many of the best Pomerols, this is a small estate, covering less than 7 hectares. Being under the same Castéja family ownership as Châteaux Batailley, it has been receiving the additional, tightly focused attention it deserves, with quality steadily climbing. The vines border famous names towards the north of Pomerol's central plateau, and now average around 30 years of age. 100% Merlot, from 60-70 year old vines, this is very deep purple colour. Aromas are fresh and open, palate is delicate, with mouth-coating fruitiness and elegant aftertaste (for drinking 2026-2036+).



Château Batailley, 5ème Cru Classé Pauillac 2021

6b 165.00

3m 172.50

Batailley has been on a streak of excellence, since the owners hired the brilliantly-talented Denis Dubourdieu (sadly no longer with us, but his advice and skills live on) to help. The assemblage in 2021 is 76% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, 2% each Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. Tasted four times, this consistently showed fresh, ripe fruitiness on the nose, with good attack, charming, dense fruit and generous length (for drinking 2026-2038+).



Château Bourgneuf, Pomerol 2021

12b 420.00 6m 435.00

This property has been in the Vayron family since 1840, for 8 generations. The vineyards are managed and the wine made by the talented Frédérique Vayron, who this year has assembled 15% Cabernet Franc with 85% Merlot to constitute the blend. Colour is rich, deep purple, aromas are open, clean and abundant. This has good structure, notable freshness with ample fruit and gentle tannins. An elegant, classically formed Pomerol (for drinking 2025-2036+).



Château Grand-Puy-Lacoste, 5ème Cru Classé Pauillac 2021

6b 300.00

3m 307.50

The vines of Grand-Puy-Lacoste lie on mounds of fast-draining gravels on the heights above Pauillac, perfectly exposed to sunshine and beneficial breezes. Average age of the vines, which lie all around the château, is 39 years. This 2021 is a classic example from the château, being 85% Cabernet Sauvignon with 25% Merlot. With 13% abv, it has bright, fine fruitiness and impeccable balance (for drinking 2027-2042+).



Château Trotte Vieille, Saint-Emilion Premier Grand Cru Classé 2021

6b 318.00

3m 325.50

Château Trotte Vieille Premier Grand Cru Classé is a superbly situated vineyard, near the walls and moat of Saint-Emilion; a warm site, which suffered no frost damage in 2021. The winery has recently been up-graded, allowing more focussed individual vinifications, plot by plot. The investments of its owners - the Castéja family, who also own Château Batailley - have been paying off, as this 2021 is one of the greatest success stories of the vintage. 55% Cabernet Franc, with 44% Merlot and 1% Cabernet Sauvignon, colour is deep purple. It has strikingly complex, chocolatey aromas and a beautiful, fleshy texture. Fresh all the way to the finish, it has elegance, harmony and impressive fruit intensity (for drinking 2026-2042+).



Château Léoville-Barton, 2ème Cru Classé Saint-Julien 2021

6b 334.50 3m 342.00

Château Léoville-Barton was one of the best 2021 Left Bank wines we tasted En Primeur. The property has been in the same family since 1826, when Hugh Barton purchased a quarter of the big Léoville estate, his part then becoming known as Léoville-Barton. The current proprietors are Anthony Barton's daughter Lilian Barton-Sartorius and her two children Mélanie, an oenologist, and Damien (representing the 8th Barton generation). The Bartons are one of only two families (the others being the Rothschilds) to have retained ownership of their properties, since the 1855 Classification.



A blend of 84% Cabernet Sauvignon, 11% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Franc, currently ageing in 60% new French barriques, colour is deep, ruby-purple, aromas being intense and black fruited. On the palate this has rich middle and lovely, balanced, gently tannic length (for drinking 2029-2045+).

Château Hosanna, Pomerol 2021

6b 480.00

3m 487.50

This 2021 Hosanna has been assembled from three lots of old Cabernet Franc vines (dating back to 1956), which account for 25% of the blend, with Merlot the balance. It is one of Pomerol's smallest properties (just over 4 hectares in production), the vines lying entirely on the plateau, surrounded by the vineyards of Lafleur, Vieux Château Certan, Certan de May and La Fleur-Pétrus. Colour is deep purple, aromas pungent and fresh. Palate combines concentrated fruitiness with the most charming of textures, finishing with fine, balanced tannins. This will develop into a sumptuous, gorgeously silky wine (for drinking 2025-2037+).



Château Certan de May, Pomerol 2021

6b 485.00 3m 492.50

This property is superbly situated, lying between two of Pomerol's greatest, rarest names, including Vieux Château Certan and Château Lafleur. This is at the heart of Pomerol's greatest sector, the siliceous-clay, central plateau. Certan de May is tiny, with just over 5 hectares of vineyard, and has benefitted from the consultancy input of Jean-Claude Berrouet (who made more than 40 vintages at Pétrus) since 2013. The introduction of a 2nd wine (from 2015 onwards) to include lighter structured productions, has contributed to this wine's pre-eminence amongst the greatest Pomerols. The blend is 60% Merlot with 30% Cabernet Franc and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, and this is again a Pomerol showing personality, with great potential for ageing. Colour is purple-ruby of medium depth, aromas are pungent, fresh and persistent. Palate has splendid structure, with good attack, rich



Château Canon, 1er Grand Cru Classé Saint-Emilion 2021

fleshiness and magnificently rounded tannins (for drinking 2028-2040+).

6b 540.00

3m 547.50

Since 2014, this property has re-established itself at the very front of the best properties in Saint-Emilion, and we are thrilled to offer it once again. It is entirely located on the historic, limestone-based Saint-Emilion plateau, near to the town. In 2021, Merlot makes up 71% of the blend, with Cabernet Franc the 29% balance, and the wine is destined to age 16-18 months in 50% new oak barrels. Colour is ruby-purple of medium depth, aromas showing beautiful, bright freshness. Palate is medium-bodied and intensely fruity, with delicate harmony and gentle tannins - a classic Château Canon of real beauty (for drinking 2028-2040+).



Château Bélair-Monange, Saint-Emilion 1er Grand Cru Classé 2021 6b 675.00

3m 682.50

The vineyards of Bélair-Monange occupy some of the choicest plots of the appellation, in three sectors - on the limestone plateau, on terraces adjoining it, and on south-facing, steep hillsides. After the Moueix family bought the château in 2008, substantial shoring up of the land was needed, as ancient galleries lie beneath the vineyards, created during centuries of stone quarrying. Replanting has taken place, but only the produce of the finest plots have gone into this Grand Vin, this 2021 being an assemblage of 99% Merlot with just 1% Cabernet Franc. The wine is ruby-purple of medium depth, with outstandingly beautiful, ripe fragrance. Palate is full, fleshy, luscious and complete, with excellent length, showing the outstanding elegance of which Saint-Emilion is capable. It is one of the greatest wines of the 2021 vintage, with a magnificent future (for drinking 2028-2040+).



Château Pichon Comtesse de Lalande, 2ème Cru Classé Pauillac 2021

6b 804.00

This 2021 Pichon Lalande is undoubtedly outstanding, the blend being 88% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Cabernet Franc with 2% Merlot. Ebulliently fresh, ripe fruitiness on the nose is followed by luscious fleshiness on the palate, with charming, impressively complex length (for drinking 2028-2045+).



Château La Fleur-Pétrus, Pomerol 2021

6b 910.00

3m 917.50

The vineyards of La Fleur-Pétrus lie in three sectors, all on the central Pomerol plateau. Partly they are close to Pétrus itself, partly they are from adjoining land, planted mainly with old Merlots, which was acquired in the mid-1990s. During the 2000s and in 2001, further vines were purchased, lying around Château Hosanna and between Trotanoy and Le Pin. 95% Merlot, with 4% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot make up the blend in 2021. This is the deepest-coloured wine of the Moueix family's range, with its nose recalling lively, black cherries, freshly fragrant. Palate is rich and broadly built, with exceptional fruit intensity, luscious texture and lovely length. It is undoubtedly one of the most complete, perfectly harmonious wines of the vintage (for drinking 2028-2040+).



Dry White Bordeaux

Château Picque Caillou Blanc, Pessac-Léognan 2021

6b 99.00

2021 is a super vintage for dry white Bordeaux. The summer allowed the white grapes to reach full maturity whilst retaining essential acidity and developing piercingly beautiful aromatics. Paulin Calvet has produced a splendid Picque Caillou blanc, which has richness, verve and vibrancy. A blend of 90% Sauvignon Blanc with 10% Semillon, colour is pale, green-golden, aromas being ripe and fresh. Palate is full-bodied, intense and rich, finishing lively and racy (for drinking 2024-2028+).



Supplements for Special Format Bottlings

Bottle Sizes	Units Per Case	£ per Case
Half bottles	24x37.5cl	25.00
Double Magnums	3x300cl	80.00
Imperial	1x600cl	45.00

Buying Wine In Bond

Prices in this offer are quoted 'in bond' per case as marked. Once shipped to the UK, they will incur duty and VAT upon release from bonded warehouse. Any wines not delivered by our own delivery vehicles will be subject to a carriage charge.

Transferring Wine Under Bond

We are able to arrange under bond transfers of all the wines in this offer, at no charge. If you would be interested in setting up a storage facility with Nexus Wine Collections, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

For further information or to place an order

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