



Handford

W I N E S



Handford Wines Bordeaux En Primeur 2018 Offer
“A Work of Art”

Introduction

You can't paint a picture of 2018; you need to put on a whole show. There's something for everyone. There are classics with distinction and detail; more free flowing works with twist of personality; vibrant colours, obscure genius and a few ultra contemporary pieces that test the imagination. There are no 'forgeries' but perhaps a few the artists might like to paint over completely.

The few tricky wines stem from a soggy start. A wet winter and a showery spring were capped by a hail storm on World Cup Final day (France won!). This was tough on the most organic of vineyards. Some never recovered. But, but, but from the end of June to the beginning of October conditions were quite superb. Temperatures were a degree higher than the average and rainfall significantly lower in August and September. For these statistics you need to go back to 1989 and 1982 (yes, 2003, but that was so extreme that the vines shut down for long periods).

Then it all came down to how the artist interpreted 2018. To pick early or late, care in fruit selection, maceration and blending were some of the key choices. The variation is only amplified by the effect of terroir and so there are, quite understandably, many vintage comparisons out there. I'm sticking my neck out here to say that a few wines remind me very much of the 1982s. My first en Primeur tasting trip was for the 1986s but I did get a chance to try a few 1982s soon after they were shipped over. I got the concentration and understood how much better they were than years either side. With a taste for the more elegant and expressive, with no en Primeur tasting stars on my uniform and with the business of en Primeur just recovering, I wouldn't have been the only one to choke down 1982 buying. Like many 2018s, they had juicy power and huge concentration though seemingly little tannin or fine acid to balance or age the wine. There was some structure there but, by and large, the wines were so huge that they didn't need it to keep the butler in business for 30 years.

2018 is too heterogeneous to make any direct comparison but do have a chat with us, or come along to taste. The cherries are ripe, ready and waiting this time around. You may find a masterpiece.

The Market

... is ever more tricky to read. Volumes are down a bit and, more importantly, quantities released are down. This is likely due to new markets showing less appetite for en Primeur. This does make it yet more of a punt; if wines show better after bottling in 2020 then a new and larger demand is very likely to make some wines more difficult to get. We work hard to select the best and so would hope to see old faithfuls like Cos d'Estournel, Lynch Bages, Leoville Barton, Leoville las Cases, Leoville Poyferre, Beychevelle and La Mission priced a little higher after bottling.

For the smaller wines it's often as good to pick them up now, especially if you have your own cellar. Our favourite little Pomerol, l'Ecuyer, will sell out en Primeur. Haut Breton Larigaudiere is a wine that we can't keep pace with as 2016 is all but finished. We pick the petits Chateaux very carefully; there are some great values there.

Above all the market and critics may have underestimated the absolute quality of the 2018 vintage.

James and Greg's Favourite Petits Chateaux

Chateau Clarke 2018 Lustrac Medoc @ £120.00 per 6 IB

One for the Merlot fans this. Succulent, dark chocolate, velvet prune and plum that is balanced with some tense, cherry skin and ripe tannins. There is a feeling of Cabernet on the finish and so no doubt this will evolve in 3 to 6 years. This is the private house and spectacular garden of Baroness Lafite Rothschild and very wonderful it is too. 2022 to 2029



Chateau L'Ecuyer 2018 Pomerol @ £175.00 per 6 IB

From a tiny estate just beyond Petrus and Gazin this never ceases to amaze. There is great concentration, yet with poise and refinement. No hard edges and so enjoy after 5 years, though will go a lot longer. There's a generous saving on retail down the line; this is £38 per bottle equivalent. 2014 and 2015 are £65. 2024 to 2034

Chateau Haut Breton Larigaudiere 2018 Margaux @ £99.00 per 6 IB

We spotted this a while back. It's one of those great calls where the wine maker, Jean Michel, has done a fantastic job to bring us a pure, Cabernet dominant Margaux that retains hints of that lacy, silk fruit that we always expected of the best Margaux. 2024 to 2036

Chateau La Croizille 2018 St Emilion Grand Cru @ £185 per 6 IB



The neighbour of Francois Mitjavile's Chateau Tertre Roteboeuf, La Croizille is a blend of 70% Merlot and 30% Cabernet Sauvignon. As at Roteboeuf the emphasis is on expression of terroir. Merlot dominates the blend but not so much the style of the wine. In 2018 the incredible ripeness of Cabernet is celebrated in a multilayered, profound red that never feels overweight or undercooked. This is very fine indeed. 2024 to 2036

Ch Haut Breton Larigaudiere 'Le Createur' 2018 Margaux @ £195.00 per 6 IB

... and this is his tour de force. It's a selection of the best Cabernets with just a few barrels made. Createur never fails to please when we crack a bottle open and the 2017 has just picked up a gold medal at the Decanter Awards. 2025 to 2039

Chateau la Tour Baladoz 2018 St Emilion Grand Cru @ £95 per 6 IB

A beautiful vineyard worth having a look at if you are there. there are a few pre-phyloxera vines, a collection of varieties and spectacular limestone caves with vine roots hanging from the ceiling. The wine is a good old fashioned fulsome glass that has made full use of the great ripening conditions in 2018. 2021 to 2027

Bordeaux 2018 remaining

Prices are quoted per case of 6 (unless stated) in bond. If you are interested in other Chateaux please do ask.

Chateau Beaumont 2018 Haut Medoc	£60.00
Chateau Potensac 2018 Haut Medoc	£115.00
Chateau Poujeaux 2018 Moulis	£135.00
Chateau Capbern 2018 Saint Estephe (Calon Segur)	£99.00
Pagodes de Cos 2018 Saint Estephe (2 nd Wine)	£199.00
Chateau Cos d'Estournel 2018 Saint Estephe	£895.00
Chateau Lafon Rochet 2018 Saint Estephe	£215.00
Chateau Montrose 2018 Saint Estephe	£795.00
Chateau Grand Puy Lacoste 2018 Pauillac	£335.00
Chateau Lynch Bages 2018 Pauillac	£595.00
Chateau Lacoste Borie 2018 Saint Julien	£125.00
Chateau Talbot 2018 Saint Julien	£250.00
Chateau Langoa Barton 2018 Saint Julien	£225.00
Chateau Leoville Barton 2018 Saint Julien	£375.00
Chateau Leoville Poyferre 2018 Saint Julien	£405.00
Chateau Beychevelle 2018 Saint Julien	£375.00
Chateau Leoville Las Cases 2018 Saint Julien	£1125.00
Blason d'Issan 2018 Margaux (2 nd Wine)	£115.00
Chateau d'Issan 2018 Margaux	£275.00
Chateau La Mission Haut Brion 2018 Pessac Leognan	£1595.00
Chateau Haut Brion 2018 Pessac Leognan	£2595.00
Domaine de Cambes 2018 Bordeaux	£185.00
Chateau Tournefeuille 2018 Lalande de Pomerol	£80.00
Chateau Berliquet 2018 Saint Emilion Grand Cru	£195.00
Chateau Coutet 2018 Sauternes	£180.00

Sold Out/Allocated: Calon Segur, Pontet Canet, Duhart Milon, Rauzan Segla, Palmer, Canon, Tertre Roteboeuf, Roc de Cambes, Trotanoy, Hosanna, Eglise Clinet, Vieux Chateau Certan, Le Pin.

How the Offer Works

Prices are quoted per case of 6 (unless stated) in bond (i.e. duty free) at London City Bond. Wines may be stored by us or transferred in bond. Most wines will be shipped in the spring or autumn of 2021 for onward delivery. When you choose to receive wines the duty (currently £13.39 per case of 6 bottles) and V.A.T. on the total value (including duty) must be paid prior to delivery.

Transfer under bond and delivery to the UK mainland are free for deliveries over £500 (in bond value). Otherwise delivery charged at £20.00 per delivery/address. Wines may be collected from 105 Old Brompton Road. Storage with us at LCB is £0.80 per case per month ex-VAT.

Drinking dates give an idea of when the wines will be ready. There are never fixed rules and wines should be enjoyed at as many stages of their life as possible. Orders will be invoiced for payment by return.

All wines offered subject to availability and subject to Handford Wines standard En-Primeur terms & conditions of sale. Many wines are subject to allocation.

Wines will be shipped to arrive Under Bond UK Spring/Autumn 2021.

Free onward delivery or transfer (IB) for deliveries over £500.

Contact James Handford MW or Greg Sherwood MW

to discuss your portfolio requirements –

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