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2024 Bordeaux: A Challenging and Interesting Vintage

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2024 Bordeaux: An Introduction

PRICE, PRICE, PRICE.

Our team from The UK, USA and France spent the week of April 13th visiting and tasting all the top châteaux during the recent En Primeur Week. We tasted most of the wines several times in order to obtain broad and in-depth insights into the vintage and its wines.

This was my 40th En Primeur Campaign and I have struggled to find a comparison to any of the past 40 vintages.

When I first visited Bordeaux in the early eighties, wine making involved very different processes. Today, wine making technology has advanced so much that a vintage like 2024, if harvested in the early nineties, would have probably turned out like the poor 1992 or 1993 vintage. However, Bordeaux has been blessed with good fortune since the 1984 vintage, with only one truly bad “modern” vintage, the 2013.

Therefore what do we have in 2024? For reference, please see the attached growing report produced by the Institute of Vine & Wine Sciences Bordeaux University Enology Research Unit (available in full [here](#)).

Having read through the report, it is clear that Mother Nature threw everything difficult she possibly could at the region before and during the growing season. Those fortunate châteaux that had the money and workforce to deal with the very debilitating vicissitudes of nature have, to some degree, been able to save what 30 years ago would have been a very poor and diluted vintage.

To sum up the vintage, there are no exceptional wines! This is a vintage that lacks expression on the nose, the mid palate, and the finish. However, this can be a very useful vintage as it will be early drinking and, if, for once, the Bordelais get their pricing right, it will offer interest for the consumer both for investment-grade wines and drinking wines. This is a supermarket and restaurant vintage.

Where to go and what to buy:

This all depends on pricing! Most of the wines are pleasant but lacking any excitement, Therefore, until we know the pricing level of the wines, it would be inappropriate for us to make but a few recommendations.

There is one outstanding wine which actually stopped us in our tracks given the context of the vintage and it was **Vieux Château Certan**. The 2024 scored 96-98 points. The chateau, run by Alexandre Thienpont and his son, Guillaume, produced a wine I would have thought was from another more powerful vintage. It has everything you are looking for in a wine—great fruit, cassis and blueberry notes, with a very rich, succulent mid palate and a very long finish—Bravo!

Following closely on the heels of VCC was **Château Lafleur**, with a score of 95-97+. Another wonderful example of astute wine making and enormous work in the vineyard that paid off.

There are three other wines that merit a mention:

Leoville Poyferre: tasted at the chateau several barrel samples, and tasted final samples 4 times—very consistent. This is a beautiful rich ripe wine that defies the vintage, Given their reasonable pricing, highly recommended. 94-96.

Rauzan Segla: This property continues to go from strength to strength. We tasted from several barrels and final samples and it is a beautiful, balanced, fine wine. 93-95.

Canon: One of the best terroirs in St. Emilion, and now they are really producing top class wines. It's a lovely, balanced, silky wine with nice fresh tannins. 93-95.

CONCLUSION:

From the information we are getting, the major châteaux will be releasing their wines very early, starting this week.

INVESTORS:

This could be one of the best opportunities to buy the top wines at a considerable discount over previous vintages. How nice to have the chance to buy these great wines at a substantial discount and for far less than any other vintages on the market.

CONSUMERS:

There will be plenty of opportunity to buy your favorite chateau at a substantially discounted price, so stay tuned for the releases.

Caveat Emptor:

These notes are entirely mine and of course this is only one person's opinion, with 40 years experience tasting En Primeur Bordeaux.

Andy Lench - Bordeaux Wine Locators/Chateau Carignan



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We can provide all the top wines and are heavily-allocated in hard-to-find wines.

Please visit our 2024 Bordeaux EP landing page for our full list of 2024 Bordeaux updated daily as wines are released: grandvinwinemERCHANTS.co.uk/en-primeur

Thank you for your interest in 2024 Futures, and we look forward to supporting your pursuit of the world's finest wines with the latest vintage of Bordeaux!

Santé

The GVWM Team