

NEW LEASE OF LIFE FOR BORDEAUX'S WHITE AND ROSÉ WINES

A new generation of young, energetic and talented winemakers are bringing Bordeaux's whites and rosés back into the spotlight.

While the Bordeaux wine region is understandably well known around the world for its red wines, the quality of the whites and rosé has never been higher. The reputation of these wines has been improving steadily over the past few years thanks to a growing number of ambitious winemakers and a new generation at the helm ready to make their mark.

The appellations; Bordeaux Blanc and Bordeaux Rosé, comprise approximately 15.8% of the entire wine production of the region with 5,792 and 3,781 hectares under vine respectively. Though small in number, the two regions have produced a number of exceptional quality wines from the 2020 vintage - a combination of favourable weather conditions in some areas and precise winemaking both in the vineyards and cellars.

As the new president of the Bordeaux and Bordeaux Supérieur syndicat, Stéphane Gabard, explains: 'Bordeaux has to evolve and to be friendly and welcoming, so it's great that there is a mix of young winemakers and those changing careers coming here to make wine.'

Two such examples are Aymeric Combefreyroux from Vignobles

Combefreyroux, who joined his 20-hectare family estate after spending four years vinifying in four different New World countries, and Arthur Hermouet from Vignobles Hermouet who was born and raised into a family that has cultivated vines for generations. He now works alongside his father until a planned retirement in 2025 learning the trade from the inside out.

'Sometimes Bordeaux has an image problem' says Arthur 'but we don't want to lose our identity. Everything is evolving and people have so much more access to different wines now. We have to move with the market and have better communication with our consumers'.

A key point to convey is the flavour profile and drinkability of the region's Bordeaux Blancs. In general these dry wines are characterised by light, fruity and softly floral aromas with freshness and vibrancy on the palate. Growers have the option of using varying degrees of four main grapes; Sauvignon Blanc, which must comprise at least 25% of the total blend, for acidity and trademark grassy aromas, Sauvignon Gris for texture, Sémillon to give complexity and richness and Muscadelle to add florality.

Bordeaux Rosés showcase the freshness and drinkability of their white counterparts

offering light and delicate berry-fruited wines perfect for warm weather and alfresco dining. Wines can comprise Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot and Malbec and come in a range of pink hues offering floral, summer fruit and citrus flavours, some with hints of spice.

'Making wine is almost the easy part,' says Aymeric who produces three reds, a rosé and a crémant, 'the challenge is to combine tradition with innovation and to show that Bordeaux can make accessible, fruity, drinkable rosés and that they don't have to all be pale'.

It helps that these styles excel, offering immediate consumption with optimal drinking windows between one and three years. They also have wide versatility when it comes to food pairing making excellent apéritifs and matching seafood, white meats and summer salads excellently.

With a new generation of winemakers also comes new wine drinkers who are looking for wines that give immediate pleasure. 'People want nice wines they can open and share with friends straight away,' says Stéphane. Given the quality on show during this tasting there seems to be no better time than now to seek these wines out.

BORDEAUX BLANC AOC 2020

Château de Seguin, Sauvignon de Seguin 92 Nethergate Wines

Aromatic and interesting on the nose, peach and green apple. On the palate, it is lively and refreshing, juicy and immediately mouthwatering - like sucking a crisp green Granny Smith apple. Intense and vibrant, I really like this 90% Sauvignon Blanc 10% Sauvignon Gris blend, it's got a cheek-sucking texture which dries the cheeks in a good way, mouth filling, but really well balanced with good energy to it. Utterly delicious. **Drink** 2021-2025

Château La Loubière 92

Great freshness here, this is straight up juicy, fun and lively in the mouth. On the palate there is candied lemon with wet stone - the mineral elements combining to give an enjoyable glass of white wine. There's also a lemony sweetness that balances so well with the acidity meaning it's bright and vibrant in the glass alongside some lovely floral aspects too. Refreshing and tasty. One to recommend. **Drink** 2021-2025

Cap Royal, Blanc 91

Fresh nose of citrus and orchard fruits. The palate is wonderfully vibrant full of energy and lift, mouthwatering, but all well integrated and in balance. There's a succulence to the lemon, apple and nectarine fruits with apricot and peach flesh too. Tiny floral hints on the finish add interest. Made using the expertise of Jean-René Matignon, technical director of Château Pichon Baron. **Drink** 2021-2024

Château Beneyt, Sauvignon 91

A gentle and softly fragrant nose, floral and fruity. Pale lemon with gold flecks around the edges. This is more subdued on the palate, rich and opulent with less immediate mouthwatering freshness and instead more aromatic intensity with pears, red apples and apricot flavours. There's a chalky, florality to it too which adds interest. A completely different style to the others - one to seek out. **Drink** 2021-2024

Château Fourcas Dupré, Grand Vin blanc 91

A blend of 52% Sémillon and 48% Sauvignon Blanc from vines planted mostly of Pyrenean gravel, unique to the Médoc, which gives this wine a distinctive nose and palate. Lemon, green apple and white flowers alongside some toast and smoky notes on the nose. The palate follows with floral and fruit flavours alongside some wet stone mineral aspects and hints of its new oak barrel fermentation. It's clean and feels well made and well defined with good aromatic intensity from the nose to the finish. One with excellent ageing potential. **Drink** 2021-2024



Château Lamothe-Vincent, Héritage 91 The Real Wine Company

Pronounced and expressive on the nose with stone and citrus fruits. This is an unusual blend with a higher proportion of Sauvignon Gris to Sauvignon Blanc at 60:40 but is all the better for it. The palate is succulent and juicy, crisp but with a soft sweetness from the tropical fruit flavours, pineapple and passion fruit alongside and toasted pineapple and wood spice elements stemming from oak ageing. There are also some wet stone and mineral elements which clean the tongue and give a crisp palate. A lovely terroir wine. Some creamy aspects come in around the edges towards the long finish which gives lime zest and grapefruit pith notes. **Drink** 2021-2024

Château Roc Meynard 91 Wine Affairs

White flowers and grapefruit on the nose. This small-production 50/50 Sauvignon Blanc/Sémillon comes from only two hectares of white varieties grown at this estate. It has excellent vibrancy on the palate, succulent but with a soft, sweet juiciness to it. There are elements of nectarine, apricot and ripe peaches with some wet stone, mineral touches that come through too. It's great quality, easy to drink, and has nuance and aromatic interest. Pair with cheese, and white meats. **Drink** 2021-2024

Château de La Rivière, Le Blanc de Château de La Rivière 90

Pale lemon hue in the glass, this has a wonderful juicy crunchiness to it. Soft and delicately floral on the tongue with persistent lemon, lime and tropical flavours. There is a nice energy to this one, it would make a great apéritif and would work well with cheese or creamy dishes. There is a soft powdery peach and green apple lingering taste at the end. A blend of 67% Sauvignon Blanc and 33% Sauvignon Gris. **Drink** 2021-2024

Château Haut-Mondain 90

You really get the Sémillon (30%) florality on the nose here, this is fresh and vibrant, with a wonderful sucrosity but also such succulence giving a nice balance of candied citrus fruits, fleshy texture and bone dry finish (70% Sauvignon Blanc). This is really good quality, not so mouthwatering but this has good density. It's the weight and overall balance and texture that's so satisfying. A good apéritif wine. **Drink** 2021-2024

Château Lauduc, Classic 90

Grapefruit, lychee and peach on the nose. The palate is well defined, elegant and expressive, with juicy lychees again, nectarine and pink grapefruit flesh. Unusual flavour profile really, quite bitter but in a good way. Fresh and inviting. A good food wine to pair with creamy pasta dishes, cheese or salads. Overall excellent precision, tension and drive from 75% Sauvignon Blanc. **Drink** 2021-2024

Château Maison Noble, Cuvée Maurice 90

A strong, richly aromatic nose, creamy yellow in the glass. The palate is juicy and nicely balanced offering lemon zest with really enjoyable bitter orange and grapefruit rind touches which give texture and definition. It's a weightier, more textured wine but you can't feel the 14% alcohol, it's well integrated and would pair well with rich, creamy dishes. Good intensity here - stylish. 3,400 bottles produced. **Drink** 2021-2024

Château Peychaud 90

A welcoming nose of stone and citrus fruits. This has a really lovely texture, rich and fuller in the mouth than some others - a benefit of less ageing - it envelopes the mouth, with dense lemon, apricot, peach and grapefruit rind flavours. Good mouthwatering intensity and weight on the tongue. A more serious iteration which is seriously bone dry, very clean on the palate with subtle nuances of apple, pear, apricot. A success - and perfect food wine. **Drink** 2021-2024

Château Roquefort, Les Roches Blanches 90

Bright intense nose, lemon, wet stone and crisp green apple aromas immediately jump out the glass. A successful 100% Sauvignon Blanc here from some of the highest limestone terroirs which come through in the wine's stoney minerality underpinned by citrus flavours of lemon and grapefruit as well as tiny tropical touches of passion fruit. Mouthwatering with vibrant fruit and a long, bone dry finish. A delicious wine here. **Drink** 2021-2024

Château Thieuley 90

90 The Wine Society, Charles Taylor Wines Refined and aromatic on the nose with ►



delicate notes of lilac, peach and lime zest. A good weight on the palate, fresh and juicy with intensity of citrus and stone fruit flavours, even some wet stone, mineral notes. Nicely balanced with drive to the long finish with the Sauvignon Gris (15%) and Semillon (40%) adding aromatic interest and density. A satisfying lingering taste of apricot on the finish. **Drink** 2021-2024

Château Turcaud, Cuvée Majeure

90 Le Caveau, Ireland

A softly fragrant nose, floral and fruity. Pale lemon with gold flecks around the edges. More subdued on the palate, rich with less immediate mouthwatering freshness and instead more aromatic intensity with pears, red apples and apricot flavours. There's a chalky, florality to it too which adds interest. A completely different style to the others so far - elegant and complex. **Drink** 2021-2024

Dourthe, Dourthe N°1

90 The Wine Society
Fresh and fruity, cut grass, green apple and lemon on the nose - this shows aromatic complexity and is fully flavoured. Crystal clean on the palate, crisp with bite and bursting with freshness. Nicely rounded while still being light and refreshing. Not complex but this delivers an enjoyable glass of juicy, vibrant wine perfect to enjoy in the sunshine with a lifted, lemon-juice finish. A charming and enjoyable 100% Sauvignon Blanc. **Drink** 2021-2024

Château Grand Jean

90
Crisp green apple on the nose, this smells aromatic and refreshing. The palate is juicy, crisp, clean and clear - showing the freshness of the Sauvignon (30%) and roundness from the Semillon (70%). It's succulent with pineapple, passion fruit and grapefruit flavours underpinned by some lovely chalky, creamy touches which give texture and definition. This is juicy and moreish with plenty of life ahead. From the oldest estate of Vignobles Dulon who have been making wine for 250 years and own 150 hectares across four Bordeaux properties. **Drink** 2021-2024

Bordeaux Families, Sauv'Terre

89
From a group established in 1934 and now made up of 300 Bordeaux winemaking families representing nearly 5,000 hectares of vineyards. This has a fresh nose, light and welcoming. It is dry with racy acidity that makes the mouth instantly water. Clean and crisp with juicy green apple, ripe peach and citrus touches. I like the texture, almost sherbety on the tongue with a super clean and clear drive to the finish. Not trying too hard but everything in balance. **Drink** 2021-2024

Château de la Vieille Tour, Blanc

89
A wonderful tropical melange on the nose, brimming with pineapple, grapefruit and passion fruit notes. It smells sugary and

inviting. The texture is mouthfilling and rich, more rounded, smooth but with a density of fleshy fruit and citrus finish coming from a blend of four grapes; 50% Sauvignon Blanc 20%, Sauvignon Gris, 20% Semillon and 10% Muscadelle. Overall, very well balanced with a lemon freshness at the end. I like it and it will stand up to food. Organic. **Drink** 2021-2024

Château Franc Baudron, Verso (Recto-Verso)

89 Tiger Vines
An expressive nose, aromatic from a touch of Muscadelle joining young Sauvignon and old-vine Semillon, and more serious in definition with elements of tropical and stone fruit. The palate is nicely weighted and more richly textured with lemon rind and grapefruit pith at the fore. Less immediately fresh than some of the others but still mouthwatering with dense flavours which come from the alcohol though it's not apparent on the palate as it has been well integrated. A food wine with thick, creamy edges. Organic. **Drink** 2021-2024

Château La Rose Saint Germain

89
Unusual nose, nuanced and aromatic. This is an open and crisp wine, immediately mouthwatering with bright juicy, zippy lemon and green apple flavours. It has a seriously lively acidity and a fragrant aftertaste. A lovely wine that is great to drink now with a seriously dry, long finish. **Drink** 2021-2024

Château La Tour Saint Blaise

89 Eton Vintners

Freshly cut grass on the nose, very typical for a 100% Sauvignon Blanc wine, with apples, pears and orchard fruits. This has such a pleasing texture and there are definitely aromatic aspects on the palate of grass, perfume and white flowers, more pronounced than in some of the other 100% Sauvignons. Good interest here and nice balance. Less overt lemon juice, more lemon and grapefruit pith and rind. **Drink** 2021-2024



Château La Verrière

89 Jascots Wine
A fresh and inviting nose, softly floral with concentrated lemon notes - the aromas jump out the glass. Juicy and lifted from the first taste, this 100% Sauvignon is bright with direct citrus flavours and touches of lime zest and acacia aromatics. The palate is vibrant and rounded with good balance of flavour and acidity. A touch of creaminess round the sides. Overall enjoyable and easy drinking for now and the next few years. **Drink** 2021-2024

Château Les Reuilles

89
Bright yellow in the glass with touches of green around the edges. Fresh and fruity, this is full of citrus fruits, lemon, lime and green apple with touches of peach and passion fruit. There's a wonderful balance between the lively fruit and density on the palate, not too acidic or mouth watering but still with a clean, crisp texture. Great with salads and summer dishes. **Drink** 2021-2024

Château Recogne

89 Majestic
The nose, aromatic and interesting, floral and fruity coming from equal parts Sauvignon Blanc, Gris and Semillon The texture is weightier than some of the others, more dense, filled with mandarin, grapefruit, green apple and lemon alongside softly soapy/flowery notes. Vibrant, lively and lifted but with aromatic interest. Good to have as an apéritif to enjoy the nuance or with food as it is more structured and less lemon heavy. **Drink** 2021-2024

Château Le Bonalguet

89 Direct Wines
Nuanced and appealing nose. Soft pale lemon in the glass, the palate is so alive here, it has an almost spritz immediately on the tongue, sherbet-like but then settles with some enjoyable bitter notes appearing. Good lemon drive with appealing grapefruit rind edges giving texture on the tongue. **Drink** 2021-2024

BORDEAUX ROSÉ AOC 2020

Château de Lisennes, 7 Hectares Rosé

91
Salmon pink colour with grapefruit and strawberry notes on the nose. The palate is generously fruited, full of sweet strawberries, nectarine juice and citrusy lemon notes. This is a lovely style of rosé with enough mouthwatering acidity to keep it juicy and refreshing - wonderfully balanced. A good bottle to share as apéritif or with food. Organic. **Drink** 2021-2022

Envie d'été du Château Garrineau

91
Pink colour. Fruit forward and fully flavoured on the nose, aromatic and immediately inviting. Red cherries and raspberries. The palate is juicy, good acidity and good density of flavour. It also has a really nice texture, slightly weightier than some, good density of red fruits. Feels like a more serious rose, good for aperitifs or will stand up to food. Enjoyable drinking with a soft sweetness running through the wine giving interest. **Drink** 2021-2022

Vignobles André Lurton, Château Bonnet

90 Daniel Lambert Wines
Pale blush pink colour and a softly fragrant nose. This is nice and delicate, quite elegant and not too showy. It has soft strawberry and red cherry fruit flavours with touches of mint and a creamy finish. Generous acidity running through which keeps the palate fresh and tasty. Easy drinking and a great choice for alfresco dining. **Drink** 2021-2022

Château Landereau, La Vie en Rosé du Château Landereau

90 Eartes Wines
Light pink colour. This 50:50 Merlot and Cabernet Franc rosé has a herbal and fruity nose, red fruits with hints of vanilla and mint. The palate is succulent and mouthwatering with soft strawberry and raspberry fruit undercut by lemon juice and some grapefruit pith. It's good quality and easy to drink. The medicinal almost minty finish is also very pleasant. **Drink** 2021-2022

Château Lansade

90
Pale pink colour with a clean and refreshing nose - a faint hint of orange, nectarine and lemon with red cherries. The palate is supple and clean, not too over the top with ample acidity balancing the richness of the strawberry fruit. This 75% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Sauvignon seems well made and in focus. A nice-looking bottle too. Easy to recommend. **Drink** 2021-2022



Château Loudenne, Loudenne le Château

90
Pale pink colour with a fresh, red fruited nose. The palate is succulent and mouthwatering, full of summer berries and touches of cream. Also, touches of wood spice, but just the faintest hint giving structure. This should hold up nicely with food though can also be drunk on its own. Pleasant, easy drinking. **Drink** 2021-2022

Château Mousseyron

90
Light pink colour offering an aromatic nose of softly-scented strawberry fruit. This is made by the fifth generation of family winemakers with 28 hectares of AOC vineyards. It is nice and zippy on the palate, immediately arresting and full of life. The high acidity balances with bramble fruits and touches of hedgerow - a nice combination from the 50% Merlot, 50% Cabernet Sauvignon. It's nice and juicy with a sweet lemon strawberry ending. **Drink** 2021-2022

Château Puybarbe, Annabel de Château Puybarbe

90 Reserve Wines, Lea & Sandeman

Pink colour with summer fruits on the nose, fresh and fragrant. The palate is crisp and clean with a mineral and wet stone profile with red fruits and balanced acidity. This feels a little more structured than some likely from the 15% Malbec in the blend alongside Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon. It's well made with precision and all in harmony. HVE3. **Drink** 2021-2022

Château Sainte-Catherine

90
Light salmon pink colour, this smells of summer, red berries and cherries. The palate is nicely concentrated, good intensity and vibrancy without being too acidic. There is a nice plushness of fruit flavour, dense and almost chewy with a juicy, refreshing and lifted finish. **Drink** 2021-2022

Les Vignerons de Tutiac, Lion & The Lily

90 Bibendum
Blush pink colour. A 100% Merlot offering a delicately fragrant nose full of lemons and raspberries. This has lovely texture and drive, it's refreshing and citrusy with energy and vitality through to a long finish. Not as structured as some but so easy to drink on a hot summer's day with a soft sweet touch at the end. **Drink** 2021-2022

Maison Bertrand Ravache, L'Instant Bordeaux

90 Special Cases
Light pink colour with lemon, red summer berries and brambles on the nose. Perfumed and floral scented, nectarine juice and grapefruit with soft touches of jasmine. The palate is clean and crisp, juicy with strawberry sweetness. It's smooth and easy to drink, a great apéritif wine with good acidity keeping it lively and refreshing. Nice long length with the juiciness continuing. HVE3. **Drink** 2021-2022

Maison Delor, Villa des Dunes

90
Light salmon pink colour with a fragrant and aromatic nose. This new wine, which has a bottle base evoking the shape of sand dunes, is so fresh with good immediate zing of strawberry fruits. It has intensity and drive but is not too acidic. It feels weightier and has a satisfying texture, just gently coating the tongue on the long finish. Majors on red fruits, strawberries, raspberries and red cherries. A nice wine for sunny days but would also stand up to food. **Drink** 2021-2022

Maison Raymond, Les Hauts de Lagarde

90
Light pink colour. Fruity and floral on the nose with some subtle herbal spiced elements too. The palate is long and lively, with good intensity of strawberry fruit. It is mouthwatering and nicely integrated with a soft strawberry sweetness that lingers on the tongue. Enjoyable and easy drinking. Vegan and organic. From eight generations of winemakers from Entre-Deux-Mers. A blend of 50% Merlot, 40% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Cabernet Franc and 2% Malbec. **Drink** 2021-2022

Château de Chelivette, Bordeaux Rosé

90
Pink colour with a fragrant and fruity nose, the palate is juicy and full of life, with succulent strawberries and raspberries at the fore. Green apple and lemon too. It's nice and refreshing with texture and weight on the tongue. This would stand up to food and be great for a BBQ. Simple, easy drinking and crowd pleasing. **Drink** 2021-2022