

# The Successful Collector – By Julian Hitner 1

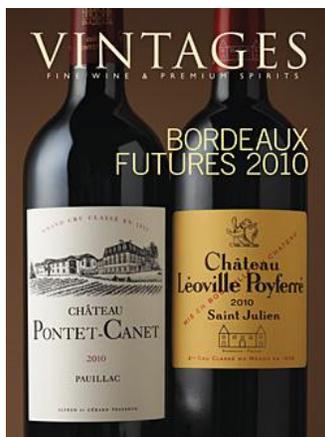
~ Wine education for us all – Bordeaux prices explained ~  
Saturday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013

## Justifying costs:

As the cost of premium claret continues to skyrocket, many collectors are increasingly asking why once-affordable estates are now habitually so prohibitive. Is it unprecedented demand? Increasing costs of production? Or is it simply good old-fashioned extortion at work?



Whatever the reason, the need to justify such exorbitant prices has never been greater. On the part of the Classed Growths and even non-classified estates, voracity is but one excuse. For those in the business, few would deny that the cost of crafting a bottle of Fourth Growth Branaire-Ducru would be higher than a bottle of Cru Bourgeois Larose-Trintaudon. From the number of employed workers and the procurement of the finest equipment to harvesting at much lower yields and engaging in far stricter gape/parcel selection, Classed Growths will almost always be more dependent on higher revenues to live up to their reputations than their less eminent counterparts. But how much is enough to cover costs and make a reasonable profit? What is the fine line between Branaire-Ducru owner Patrick Maroteau's overheads and a respectable return?



On the other hand, there are those who would argue that Maroteau's prices are merely a reflection of what the market will bear. Take away the romance and the glamour, and estates like Branaire-Ducru (a favourite of mine) are essentially glorified businesses, operated with the sole aim of exacting as much money from the purchasing public as possible. What fault of is it of Maroteau's if wine lovers are willing to pay over one hundred dollars for his stunning '10? So long as people are willing to pay, owners might as well set their prices as high as they choose.

And why not? There are nowadays more willing customers than ever. For the past several years, new markets, particularly in Asia, have fomented greater demand for top-end Bordeaux

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than pundits could have ever predicted. With each passing year, buyers in Hong Kong and elsewhere along the Pacific Rim have been increasingly on the lookout for the best estates/finest vintages wherever possible; and estate owners have responded with unheralded prices.



But wine lovers should remember that they have more power than they think—and more astute estate owners should know this. Should prices rise too swiftly, or remain high for particularly mediocre vintages (such as in 2011 and 2012), many claret collectors will simply stop buying. This even includes markets in Asia, where local merchants began experiencing backlash

shortly after initial release prices of the 2010s were deemed too excessive. Estates such as Second Growths Châteaux Lascombes and Rauzan-Ségla learned this the hard way, and have since lowered their costs to more palatable levels. At least in principle, serious collectors and casual wine enthusiasts should always have the final word.

## A few gems for collectors:

### White Wines:

**Louis Latour 2007, Corton-Charlemagne Grand Cru AOC, Burgundy, France:** Tasted multiple times over several days (from different bottles), the potentially stunning 2007 Corton-Charlemagne is just beginning to come out of its shell. Pale lime in colour with a touch of straw, the wine showcases brilliant scents of dried pears and lemony overtones; giving way to citrus oils, hazelnuts, white flowers, acacia, 'icy' minerals, and a hint of quince and spice. Very complex, featuring superbly elegant fruit, balanced acidity, and a fabulous hint of lemon, pears, and hazelnuts (all wonderfully minerally) on the finish. Very young, stylish, and gorgeously assembled. Now-2022++. (Julian Hitner, *The Successful Collector*, November 2012)

**93+ \$68.66 (Private Order) Sherry-Lehman (USA)**

**Nicolas Joly 2009 Les Vieux Clos, Savennières AOC, Loire, France:** Nicolas Joly's obsession with biodynamic/holistic winegrowing is well known, for which the weird and wonderful 2009 Les Vieux Clos serves as testament. Light-medium yellow-lime in colour (plus a little haze), it reveals entirely idiosyncratic scents of baked Granny Smith and Golden Delicious apples (both in pie format); switching to cinnamon, apple cider/strudel, smoke, and alternate bruised fruits. Very complex, with beautiful fruit, balanced acidity, and a wholly original, endearing hint of baked apples (in cider- and pie-like format) on the finish. Excellent job, the planets must have really been in sync when this wine was produced. Now-2016++. (Julian Hitner, *The Successful Collector*, October 2012)

**92 \$37.00 (#62638) Vintages Shop Online**

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**M. Chapoutier 2010 Invitare, Condrieu AOC, Rhône, France:** Matured for eight months on the lees to preserve freshness and character, Michel Chapoutier's 2010 Invitare is a first-rate, evocative Condrieu. Pale straw in colour, it reveals strictly beautiful scents of dried lemony apricots, mild honeysuckle, white flowers, and a hint of starfruit, minerals, and spice. Complex, retaining stylish, remarkably finesse-driven fruit, balanced acidity, and a refined, outgoing hint of dried apricots, lemon citrus, and slightly minerally honeysuckle nuances on the finish. Superlative grace, balance, and harmony. Now-2014. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**91++** **Currently Unavailable** **Philippe Dandurand (Private Order)**

**Louis Latour 2008, Puligny-Montrachet Premier Cru Les Truffières AOC, Burgundy, France:** Situated high up on the slopes next to the commune of Blagny, the superbly ethereal 2008 Les Truffières represents my only note from this 2.5-ha site to date. Pale straw-lime in colour, it reveals exquisite scents of discreetly hazelnutted pears and citrus fruits; switching to dried apricots, lemon meringue, acacia, and minerals. Very complex, with extremely fine, delicate fruit, balanced acidity, and a refined hint of pears and lemon citrus on the finish. Remarkable character, finesse, and balance. Now-2019+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**91++** **\$71.39 (Private Order)** **Excel Wines (UK)**

**Poderi Aldo Conterno 2009 Bussiator, Langhe DOC, Piedmont, Italy:** 100% Chardonnay sourced from multiple Bussia-based vineyards, Aldo Conterno's 2009 Bussiator is noticeably crafted along pseudo-Burgundian lines. Pale-light straw-lime in colour, it reveals bright, innately beautiful scents of fresh lemon citrus and pears (laced with gentle hazelnuts); switching to dried caramel, minerals, and a hint of green fruits. Complex, with great fruit, balanced acidity, and a very lovely hint of pears and delicate toasted oak on the finish. Tight at present, this certainly has terrific potential. Now-2016++. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**91+** **Currently Unavailable** **Trialto Wine Group (Private Order)**

**Giesen 2010 The August Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough, South Island, New Zealand:** Top-notch Sauvignon Blanc crafted via total barrel fermentation and aging on the lees, I must admit the 2010 August took me by surprise. Pale-light lime in colour, this beauty exhibits excellent, enticing scents of pure citrus oils and pears; switching to white grapefruit, kiwi, white peaches, mild lanolin traces, and minerals. Complex, retaining superb, vibrantly textured fruit, balanced acidity, and a terrific hint of pure lemon citrus and minerals on the finish. Wonderful vitality, balance, and harmony. Screwcap closure. Now-2017. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, May 2012)

**91+** **\$39.95 (Private Order)** **Michael Andrew Brands**

**La Crema 2010 Chardonnay, Russian River Valley (Sonoma County), California:** With virtually no notes on the Russian River label (La Crema produces a lot of different whites), the 2010 Chardonnay came as a significant surprise when examined. Pale-light lime in colour, the wine features beautiful, finely 'cut' scents of pears, butterscotch, apricots, delicate orange zest, hazelnuts, and a hint of vanilla and minerals. Complex, boasting excellent fruit, near-balanced acidity, and a lingering, rather indulgent hint of pears and butterscotch/caramel on the finish. Fulsome, balanced, and first-rate for the style. Now-2018+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, January 2013)

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**91** \$37.95 (#67231) **Vintages 2 February 2013 Release**

**Domaines Schlumberger 2007 Pinot Gris, Alsace Grand Cru Kitterlé AOC, Alsace, France:** Delivering immense character and varietal purity, the 2007 Kitterlé Pinot Gris is a standout selection. Light golden-straw in colour, the wine presents exquisite scents of lemon blossom, peaches, honeycomb, orange zest, mild Asian spices, and the slightest trace of lychees and almonds. Complex, boasting incredibly beautiful fruit, balanced acidity, and an elegant, suitably dry hint of lemon blossom, dried peaches, and lychee traces on the finish. Excellent bottling, Domaines Schlumberger is fortunate to own 20 out of a possible 26ha of this fabulous vineyard. Now-2017. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**91** \$47.27 (Private Order) **Fortnum & Mason (UK)**

**Dutton Estate 2010 Dutton Palms Vineyard Chardonnay, Russian River Valley (Sonoma County), California:** Top Chardonnay of the estate, winemaker Terry Adams' 2010 Dutton Palms Vineyard is beautiful now but may even improve further in a few years. Pale-light lime in colour, it reveals inviting, tightly integrated scents of dried green fruits, pears, lemon, orange peel, nutted elements, and just a hint of lime. Complex, with beautiful fruit, balanced acidity, and an elegant, 'agile' hint of pears, nuts, and delicate toasted oak on the finish. Delicious, full-bodied, and definitely enticing. Now-2018+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, January 2013)

**90+** \$53.95 (#234856) **Vintages 2 February 2013 Release**

**Bischöfliche Weingüter Trier 2011 Riesling Spätlese, QmP Scharzhofberger, Mosel-Saar-Ruwer, Germany:** Sourced from the famed Scharzhofberger vineyard in the Saar, the 2011 Riesling Spätlese represents a leaner approach than some might prefer; yet the whole concept remains remarkably harmonious and styled. Pale lime in colour, it offers delightful scents of crisp green fruits, lemon, dried white peaches, and a hint of honeysuckle and spice. Complex, with very fine fruit, balanced acidity, and a stylish, slightly luscious hint of off-dry lemon citrus and white peaches on the finish. First-rate individualism, balance, and breed. Now-2018+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**90** **Price Unavailable** **Private Collection**

**Château de Fontaine-Audon 2011, Sancerre AOC, Loire, France:** Sourced from a 15-ha site in St-Gemme, the 2011 Château de Fontaine-Audon delivers great vibrancy and finesse. Very pale lime in colour, it reveals extremely delicate, elegant scents of mineral-laced lemon citrus, white grapefruit, gooseberries, flint, and a trace of green fruits and herbs. Complex, possessing beautiful nervy fruit, balanced acidity, and a superb hint of pure lemon citrus and minerals on the finish. Excellent outing, capable of medium-term keeping. Now-2017. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, January 2013)

**90** \$27.95 (#745893) **Vintages 2 February 2013 Release**

**Domaine Machard de Gramont 2007 Les Creux Fraîche-Eau, Nuits-St-Georges AOC, Burgundy, France:** Pale lime in colour, the 2007 Les Creux Fraîche-Eau is very delicately toasted, revealing beautiful scents of pears and quince; switching to subtle green apples, nuts, and a hint of cream and spice. Complex, with very fine, elegant fruit, balanced acidity, and a splendid hint of creamy green apples on the finish. Interesting,

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delicately styled white Nuits-St-Georges, possibly the only note of its kind I currently possess. Now-2015+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2010)

**90** \$46.85 (Private Order) Nokhrin Wines

**Planeta 2008 Cometa, IGT Sicilia, Sicily, Italy:** Crafted from 100% Fiano, the 2008 Cometa is easily one of its best in kind in Sicily, perhaps even all of Italy. Light lime in colour, it delivers strictly splendid scents of delicate waxy apricots, lemon blossom, pears, green apples, and a hint of herbs and spice. Complex, retaining marvellous fruit, balanced acidity, and an elegant, engaging hint of 'ethereal' lemony apricots and green apples on the finish. Superbly executed—so delicate, original, and fresh. Now-2012+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, March 2010)

**90** \$35.00 (#31047) Vintages Shop Online

**Rock Ferry 2008 Chardonnay, Rapaura (Marlborough), South Island, New Zealand:**

One of many barrel-fermented Chardonnays coming out of Marlborough nowadays, the Rapaura-sourced 2008 Rock Ferry is a delicious, definite charmer. Pale lime in colour, the wine reveals beautiful, engaging scents of pears, butterscotch, green apples, quince, citrus elements, orange zest, and minerals. Complex, with full-bodied, terrifically polished fruit, balanced acidity, and a marvellous hint of butterscotch and pears on the finish. A little on the oaky side, still totally harmonious, balanced, and poised. Screwcap closure. Now-2016+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, May 2012)

**90** \$29.95 (Private Order) The Living Vine

**Rock Ferry 2009 Pinot Gris, Bendigo (Central Otago), South Island, New Zealand:**

Pale lime in colour, winemaker Allan McWilliams' 2009 Pinot Gris offers delightful, almost Alsatian scents of peach- and lime-infused gingerroot, lemon, mango, and spice. Complex, boasting beautiful crisp fruit, balanced acidity, and an adorable hint of peaches and pears (slightly off-dry) on the finish. Impressive, fuller-styled, and very fresh—ambitious outing. Screwcap closure. Now-2015+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, May 2012)

**89+** \$26.95 (Private Order) The Living Vine

**Te Mata Estate 2010 Woodthorpe Vineyard Chardonnay, Hawkes Bay, North Island, New Zealand:**

From one of the finest estates in New Zealand, the 2010 Woodthorpe Vineyard Chardonnay is a winner. Pale-light lime in colour, it features lovely scents of pears, quince, delicate hazelnuts, apricots, dried butterscotch, and a hint of lemon and mineral traces. Complex, retaining fine fruit, balanced acidity, and a round, satisfying hint of pears and slightly nutted butterscotch on the finish. Splendid flavour, balance, and freshness. Screwcap closure. Now-2016+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, January 2013)

**89** \$22.95 (#295246) Vintages 2 February 2013 Release

**Firriato 2010 Cavanera Ripa di Scorciavacca, Etna Bianco DOC, Sicily, Italy:**

Pale lime in colour, the 2010 Ripa di Scorciavacca reveals delicate notes of lemon, green apples, herbs, and a hint of wet stones. On the palate: pleasantly fresh, crisp fruit showing, with balanced acidity, and a nervy hint of lemony green apples on the finish. Lovely effort, balance, and freshness. Now-2011+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, April 2011)

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**88** **Currently Unavailable** **Vintage Trade Wines (Private Order)**

**Masseria del Feudo 2009 Haermosa, IGT Sicilia, Sicily, Italy:** Pale lime in colour, the 2009 Haermosa is lightly toasted, offering appealing notes of nitted pears, green apples, moderate caramel, and a hint of dried apricots and spice. On the palate: decently styled fruit showing, with balanced acidity, and a hint of pears and green apples on the finish. Neatly polished and balanced. 100% Chardonnay. Now-2013. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, April 2011)

**88** **\$26.95 (Private Order)** **Ex-Cellars Wine Services**

**Te Mara 2011 Ata Mara Pinot Gris, Central Otago, South Island, New Zealand:** Pale lime in colour, the 2011 Ata Mara Pinot Gris displays slightly creamy notes of peaches, pears, apricots, lemon, and wet stones. On the palate: lovely fruit showing, with balanced acidity, and a refreshing hint of peaches and pears on the finish. Splendid balance and freshness. Screwcap closure. Now-2014. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, May 2012)

**88** **\$19.95 (Private Order)** **Hobbs Wines**

**Feudo Arancio 2009 Inzolia, IGT Sicilia, Sicily, Italy:** Light straw-lime in colour, the 2009 Inzolia reveals pleasant notes of baked lemon/lime, pears, green apples, and a hint of leafy herbs. On the palate: mild refreshing fruit showing, with balanced acidity, and a hint of green apples and pears on the finish. Nice and fresh. Now-2010. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, March 2010)

**87** **Currently Unavailable** **Dionysus Wines & Spirits (Private Order)**

**Caruso & Minini 2010 Cusora Chardonnay/Viognier, IGT Sicilia, Sicily, Italy:** Pale-light straw-lime in colour, the 2010 Cusora Chardonnay/Viognier reveals notes of subtle peaches and ripe apricots; giving way to yellow plums and a hint of Golden Delicious apples. Palate: fresh crisp fruit showing, with balanced acidity, and a hint of apricots and yellow plums on the finish. Decent balance and focus. Now-2011+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, April 2011)

**87** **Currently Unavailable** **Lamprecht International (Private Order)**

**Caruso & Minini 2010 Terre di Giumara Inzolia, IGT Sicilia, Sicily, Italy:** Pale straw-lime in colour, the 2010 Terre di Giumara Inzolia displays notes of subtle lemony white peaches; switching to green apples, straw, and wet stones. Palate: nice fruit showing, with balanced acidity, and a hint of lemony green apples on the finish. Straightforward, cheerful, and fresh. Now-2011. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, April 2011)

**87** **Currently Unavailable** **Lamprecht International (Private Order)**

**O'Rosal 2010 Valmiñor Albariño, Rías Baixas DO, Spain:** Pale-light straw in colour, the 2010 Valmiñor Albariño offers intense notes of lemony seasalt; switching to dried yellow plums, Golden Delicious apples, and minerals. On the palate: crisp dry fruit showing, with balanced acidity, and a hint of lemony seasalt and delicate Fino influences on the finish. Solid and balanced. Screwcap closure. Now-2012. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, January 2012)

**86++** **\$15.95 (#266924)** **Vintages 18 February 2012 Release**

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## Red Wines:

**Château Figeac 2010, St-Emilion AOC Premier Grand Cru Classé AOC, Bordeaux, France:** When the most recent revisions to the St-Emilion Classification (now more controversial than ever) were announced in September 2012, it was something of shock that Angélus and Pavie both got the nod to 'A' rank while Eric d'Aramon's beloved Château Figeac did not. Consider the near-perfect '10 vintage. Opaque ruby in colour, the wine exhibits exhilarating, masterful aromas of dark mocha, currants, crème de cassis, dark cherries, kirsch liqueur, slightly sinewy black fruits, spring flowers, crushed rocks, vanilla, and spice. Extremely complex, dispensing multilayered, fantastical fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a finesse-filled, wondrous hint of concentrated black fruits, dark mocha, and charcoal on the finish. Astonishing pedigree, balance, harmony, and breed; why this estate wasn't promoted shall forever confound me. 35% Cabernet Franc, 35% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 30% Merlot. Now-2050++. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**98 \$425.00 (#322461) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

**Château La Conseillante 2010, Pomerol AOC, Bordeaux, France:** Along with the near-perfect '09, the 2010 Château La Conseillante is a legend in the making—harmonious, supple, and unbelievably addictive. Extremely dense black-ruby in colour, this magnificent claret delivers dazzling, entirely unencumbered aromas of espresso, crème de cassis, plummy currants, dark mocha, asphalt/charcoal, licorice, cherry and blackberry compote (non-excessive), vanilla, and spice. Incredibly complex, wielding prodigiously elegant, full-bodied chewy fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a fabulous, gorgeously interwoven hint of espresso, blackberry treacle/plummy currants, and minerals traces on the finish. With abundant energy, pedigree, and finesse, this is one bottling every serious collector must somehow obtain in profusion. According to one source: 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc. Now-2050++. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**97 \$379.00 (#165498) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

**Poderi Aldo Conterno 2005 Granbussia Riserva, Barolo DOCG, Piedmont, Italy:** Crafted when circumstances will permit and only released to the public seven years after the vintage, Aldo Conterno's Granbussia Riserva is sourced from the finest sections of the estate's three single vineyards (Colonnello, Cicala, and Romirasco). Medium-dark red currant in colour, the astounding '05 showcases incredibly elegant, multifaceted aromas of dried red cherries and alternate red fruits (intermixed with delicate truffles), tealeaves, rose petals, tar, licorice, underbrush, gentle cedarwood, cookie crumble, tobacco traces, vanilla, and spice. Ridiculously complex, sporting spectacular fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a glorious, finesse-driven hint of dried red fruits, subtle truffles, and tar on the finish. Unbelievable finesse, structure, and layering; a rare treat to examine. Now-2039+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**96++ Currently Unavailable Tialto Wine Group (Private Order)**

**Château Léoville Barton 2010, St-Julien AOC, Bordeaux, France:** While I have yet to taste the Ducru-Beaucaillou or Léoville-Las Cases, for the moment at least the 2010 Château Léoville Barton ranks as the greatest St-Julien produced from this fabulous vintage—not to mention one of the finest wines the Barton family has ever created.

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Opaque ruby in colour, it discloses substantially elegant, enticing aromas of currants, blackberries, dried blueberries, licorice, spring flowers, delicate espresso, forest floor, minerals, vanilla wafers, and spice. Extremely complex, featuring robust, seamlessly attuned fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a magnificent hint of currants, blackberries, and mineral elements on the finish. Luminous, characterful, and totally harmonious; a wine like this one reminds me of why I got into this business in the first place. 77% Cabernet Sauvignon, 21% Merlot, and 2% Cabernet Franc. Now-2046+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**96++ \$169.00 (#260042) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

**Château Lynch Bages 2010, Pauillac AOC, Bordeaux, France:** Though the wines of Lynch Bages have always been stellar (even in average vintages), the 2010 may very well go down in the estate's history as the unbeatable outing, surpassing even the colossal '09, the resplendent '05, and the already-legendary '00. Opaque ruby in colour, it demonstrates wondrous aromas of crème de cassis and alternate black fruits; making way for dark cherries, kirsch, Oreo Cookies®, mocha, licorice, spring flowers, graphite, charcoal, vanilla, and spice. Incredibly complex, delivering well-structured, near-perfect fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a classic, impactful hint of black cherried currants, spring flowers, and crushed rocks on the finish. Magnificently textured, conveying incredible finesse, dimension, and harmony; easily a thirty-year proposition. 79% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc, and 1% Petit Verdot. Now-2045++. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**96++ \$229.00 (#260661) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

**Château Haut-Bailly 2010, Pessac-Léognan AOC, Bordeaux, France:** At this stage of the game, the magnificent 2010 Haut-Bailly, while hardly difficult to analyse, may very well grow to greater heights of (youthful) prowess over the next year or so. Opaque ruby in colour with a touch of purple, it delivers captivating, whimsical aromas of 'crunchy' black briary fruits, currants, and charcoal; switching to licorice, mocha/espresso, forest floor, smoke, minerals, vanilla, and spice. Incredibly complex, delivering sensational multilayered fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and an awesomely textured, lingering hint of currants, espresso, and asphalt on the finish. Exquisite substance, style, character, and breed—probably one of the most long-lasting reds of the appellation. 62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36% Merlot, and 2% Cabernet Franc. Now-2049++. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**96+ \$209.00 (#260471) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

**Château Pichon-Longueville Comtesse de Lalande 2010, Pauillac AOC, Bordeaux, France:** Compared to the spellbinding '09, the 2010 Pichon-Longueville Comtesse de Lalande may be considered every bit its equal; though from a standpoint of stylization the wines could not be more different, the former almost Burgundian, the latter truer to its appellational roots. Opaque ruby in colour, the '10 offers astounding, finely fragranced aromas of dark mocha, crème de cassis, subtle spring flowers, graphite, licorice, pain grille, forest floor, underbrush, vanilla, and spice. Immensely complex, featuring stunning, slightly silky fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and an elegant yet almost immodest hint of abundant floral currants, blackberries, minerals, and 'forested' elements on the finish. Wondrous finesse, structure, style, and breed—the epitome of great claret. 66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc, and 3% Petit Verdot. Now-2044++. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

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**96+ \$329.00 (#322941) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

**Château Smith Haut Lafitte 2010, Pessac-Léognan AOC, Bordeaux, France:** As hard as it is to believe, the 2010 Smith Haut Lafite is even better than the breathtaking '09—more graceful, tactile, and wondrously interwoven. Opaque ruby in colour, this must-have offers abundant, extraordinarily layered aromas of espresso, crème de cassis, blackberry compote, kirsch/cherries jubilee, minerals, forest floor, vanilla, and spice. Extremely complex, wielding pristine multilayered fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a lingering, totally harmonious hint of crème de cassis, black mocha, and graphite traces on the finish. Astoundingly structured, balanced, and elegant; this will keep for well over thirty-five years. 64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc, and 1% Petit Verdot. Now-2048+. (Julian Hitner, *The Successful Collector*, November 2012)

**96+ \$179.00 (#259960) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

**Château Clinet 2010, Pomerol AOC, Bordeaux, France:** Just a pinch below the best-ever '09 (though this could very well change in a few years), the Laborde family's 2010 Château Clinet is a magnificent creation. Opaque ruby in colour, it delivers stellar, abundantly elegant aromas of mocha extract, plums, blackberry compote, kirsch, smoke, bacon fat, forest floor, and a glorious hint of tobacco, vanilla, and spice. Extremely complex, featuring prodigious, heavenly fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a wonderfully textured hint of chewy black fruits, mocha, and strawberry/raspberry parfait on the finish. Tremendously structured, stylized, and layered. A remarkable achievement no matter which way you look at it; this will keep for over thirty-five years. 85% Merlot, 12% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 3% Cabernet Franc. Now-2048++. (Julian Hitner, *The Successful Collector*, November 2012)

**96 \$199.00 (#260653) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

**Clos Fourtet 2010, St-Emilion AOC Premier Grand Cru Classé AOC, Bordeaux, France:** Matching the colossal '09 in more ways imaginable, the 2010 Clos Fourtet is a fiercely sumptuous endeavour. Dense black-ruby in colour, it details rich, opulent aromas of crème de cassis, dark mocha, blackberry treacle, blueberries, licorice, pain grille, mild woodsmoke, vanilla, and spice. Immensely complex, delivering magnificent, extremely sumptuous fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and an exciting, ultra-abundant hint of black fruits, crème de cassis, and asphalt on the finish. Incredibly decadent, robust, and lengthy, what I find so endearing about this claret is its sheer level of cohesion and balance in the face of so much concentration and extract—Parkerized winemaking truly at its finest. 85% Merlot, the rest Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc. Now-2044++. (Julian Hitner, *The Successful Collector*, November 2012)

**96 \$169.00 (#260125) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

**Château Pape Clément 2010, Pessac-Léognan AOC, Bordeaux, France:** The spitting image of the '09 (only perhaps a shade more elegant), the mesmerizing 2010 Pape Clément is certainly one of the richest vintages ever produced at this legendary establishment. Opaque ruby in colour, it offers startling aromas of espresso-infused black currants, crème de cassis, black cherries, wild game elements, forest floor, crushed rocks, vanilla, and spice. Amazingly complex, retaining magnificent, fairly chewy fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a forthright, decadent hint of crème de cassis, espresso (a little chocolate), and minerals on the finish. Extremely luxurious,

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exuding excellent structure, layering, and harmony. 62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Merlot, and 1% Cabernet Franc. Now-2045+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**96 \$225.00 (#322388) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

**Château Rauzan-Ségla 2010, Margaux AOC, Bordeaux, France:** A new plain of excellence for this fast-improving estate, the 2010 Rauzan-Ségla is not just the greatest wine this estate has ever produced; it is also one of the finest wines of the vintage for the Margaux appellation. Opaque ruby in colour, this intoxicating claret displays exemplary aromas of fragrant raspberries, currants, and black fruits; making way for blackberries, violets, licorice, forest floor, wild game elements, minerals, vanilla, and spice. Extremely complex, delivering incredibly refined, gorgeously concentrated fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a poignant, eternally graceful hint of black currants, raspberries, and mineral deposits on the finish. So delicious, generous, and elegant; this will likely keep much longer than any vintage preceding it. 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, 3.5% Petit Verdot, and 1.5% Cabernet Franc. Now-2045+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**96 \$215.00 (#323287) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

**Podere Aldo Conterno 2008 Colonnello, Barolo DOCG, Piedmont, Italy:** Based out of Bussia, the angelic 2008 Colonnello is likely the most finesse-oriented, most intoxicating of Aldo Conterno's three single-vineyard Barolos. Dark-opaque ruby in colour, it conveys sublime aromas of dark briary black cherries, blueberries, and blackberries; switching to tar, rose petals, saddle leather, white truffles, vanilla, and spice. Incredibly complex, showcasing sensationally concentrated, uninhibited fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a wonderful, 'agile' hint of briary black cherries, blueberries, and plums (plus a few truffles) on the finish. Extremely pure, fully structured, and very close to faultless. This will probably merit an even higher evaluation several years from now. Now-2038+-. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**95++ Currently Unavailable Trialto Wine Group (Private Order)**

**Dominus 2009, Napa Valley, California:** Along with the '08, proprietor Christian Moueix's 2009 Dominus is easily the greatest wine I have yet to taste from this nowadays-spectacular estate. Opaque black-ruby in colour, this gem showcases sensationally multilayered, almost whimsical aromas of mineral-tinged crème de cassis, dried spring flowers, purple plum remnants, crushed rocks, dark chocolate, vanilla, and spice. Truly complex, wielding incredibly structured fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and an elegant, long-lasting hint of crème de cassis, dark chocolate, and charcoal on the finish. Magnificent texture, expression, style, and harmony; this will probably reveal many more tertiary nuances over the next several years. 86% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Cabernet Franc, and 4% Petit Verdot. Now-2042+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, January 2013)

**95++ \$151.95 (#212381) Vintages 2 February 2013 Release**

**Château Pichon-Longueville Baron 2010, Pauillac AOC, Bordeaux, France:** As close to perfection as this estate has ever reached, the 2010 Pichon-Longueville Baron represents Christian Seely's most triumphal accomplishment to date. Opaque black-ruby in colour, it reveals classically 'Pauillac,' almost addictive aromas of currants, plums, blackberries, dark cherries, spring flowers, pain grille, pencil lead, forest floor, licorice,

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mocha, vanilla, and spice. Incredibly complex, wielding astounding fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a layered, impeccable hint of currants, black cherries, spring flowers, and asphalt on the finish. Extraordinary breadth, style, and prowess;; collectors may balk at the price, though perhaps come to their senses in the end. 79% Cabernet Sauvignon and 21% Merlot. Now-2042+-. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**95++ \$309.00 (#325514) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

**Château Léoville Poyferré 2010, St-Julien AOC, Bordeaux, France:** Nowadays one of the most sought-after of St-Julien, recent vintages of Château Poyferré have been among the most concentrated, most ambitious wines this estate has ever seen. Opaque black-ruby in colour, the colossal '10 features tempting, copious aromas of blackberries, mocha, crème de cassis, espresso, asphalt, pain grille, licorice, smoke traces, floral elements, vanilla, and spice. Incredibly complex and layered, exuding impeccable fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a lingering, confident hint of crème de cassis, asphalt, and licorice (plus a little mocha extract) on the finish. Brilliantly executed, harmonious, and non-excessively fulsome. 61% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 6% Petit Verdot, and 3% Cabernet Franc. Now-2045+-. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**95+ \$199.00 (#259259) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

**Château Lynch Bages 2005, Pauillac AOC, Bordeaux, France (3L):** Tasted out of double magnum, the classic 2005 Lynch Bages vies with the over-the-top '09 as the greatest wine this estate has ever produced. Opaque ruby in colour (slightly faded), this stunning offering exudes extraordinarily multilayered aromas of crème de cassis, blackberries, plums, dark cherries, dried blueberries, pencil shavings, pain grille, forest floor, minerals, vanilla, and spice. Extremely complex, featuring delicious, superbly structured fruit, firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a gloriously poised, persistent hint of smooth crème de cassis, dark cherries, and graphite on the finish. Outstanding harmony, balance, polish, and breed—glad I secured my allotment. 72% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot, 12% Cabernet Franc, and 1% Petit Verdot. Now-2036+-. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, April 2012)

**95+ \$1,295.00 (#252874) Vintages Special Offer**

**Château Canon-la-Gaffelière 2010, St-Emilion Grand Cru Classé AOC, Bordeaux, France:** As is well known in St-Emilion circles, proprietor Stéphan von Neipperg has always shown a certain flair for the extravagant in his winegrowing operations; yet few would dispute the quality of his wares. Case in point: opaque ruby in colour, the glorious 2010 Canon-La-Gaffelière is beautifully toasted, disclosing tremendously expressive, enticing aromas of mocha, crème de cassis, plummy currants, blueberries, kirsch, licorice, dessert nougat, charcoal, vanilla, and spice. Very complex, featuring immensely delicious supple fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a lingering, energetic hint of plummy currants/crème de cassis, licorice, and chocolate on the finish. Abundant, sumptuous, and fully structured; easily one of the top wines ever produced here. 50% Merlot, 40% Cabernet Franc, and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon. Now-2043+-. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**95 \$139.00 (#260075) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

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**Poderi Aldo Conterno 2008 Cicala, Barolo DOCG, Piedmont, Italy:** Based out of Bussia, the supremely opulent 2008 Cicala, aside from being a must-have for collectors, is a truly top-tier creation. Dark-opaque ruby in colour, it exudes stellar, enveloping aromas of dark dried cherries and plums, blackberry treacle, blueberries, black tea, tar, walnuts, forest floor, truffles, vanilla, and spice. Amazingly complex, delivering delicious extraordinarily 'postured' fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a mesmerizing, brilliantly textured hint of plummy black cherries, tar, and minerals on the finish. Lively, robust, and downright fabulous. This will certainly cellar over the very long term, though it drinks fantastically now. Now-2036++. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**95** **Currently Unavailable** **Trialto Wine Group (Private Order)**

**Poderi Aldo Conterno 2008 Romirasco, Barolo DOCG, Piedmont, Italy:** Based out of Bussia, apparently from the oldest vines in Aldo Conterno's possession (50-55 years of age), the 2008 Romirasco is an unforgettable experience. Dark-opaque ruby in colour, the wine reveals tantalizing aromas of briary black cherries, blackberries, blueberries, tar, truffles, tealeaves, undergrowth, vanilla wafers, and spice. Truly complex, wielding sumptuous, superbly structured fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a wondrous, multilayered hint of dark cherries and plums (both a little briary and truffle-oriented) on the finish. Fantastic modernism, balance, harmony, and breed; this is one sincerely special Barolo. Now-2034++. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**95** **Currently Unavailable** **Trialto Wine Group (Private Order)**

**Château La Gaffelière 2010, St-Emilion Grand Cru Classé AOC, Bordeaux, France:** Hands down the most powerful, most decadent wine proprietor Léo de Malet Roquefort has ever overseen, the stunning 2010 La Gaffelière is easily a thirty-year proposition. Extremely dense black-ruby in colour, it showcases fantastic, abundant aromas of well-moderated mocha/espresso, blackberry compote, currants, kirsch, dried flowers, asphalt, tar, vanilla, and spice. Truly complex, sporting prodigious fruit concentration, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and an exceedingly opulent, paradoxically elegant hint of blackberry compote, currants, and espresso on the finish. Outstanding fulsomeness, structure, and breed. Among the top class of wines in the appellation, it is really hard to believe how harmonious this otherwise markedly Parkerized claret performs. 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc. Now-2042++. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**95** **\$145.00 (#322496)** **Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

**Château Lynch Bages 2000, Pauillac AOC, Bordeaux, France (3L):** Tasted out of double magnum, the already-legendary 2000 Lynch Bages is a stunning claret. Dark ruby-red currant in colour, it delivers incredibly elegant, in-depth aromas of tobacco-driven black fruits, dark dried cherries, cigarbox overtones, scorched earth, pain grille, dessert nougat, cedarwood, minerals, and spice. Extremely complex, possessing magnificent fruit, still-firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a triumphant hint of currants, plums, and amazingly minimalist cedarwood on the finish. Exquisite harmony, balance, and breed; this will easily keep for another two decades. 71% Cabernet Sauvignon, 16% Merlot, 11% Cabernet Franc, and 2% Petit Verdot. Now-2032+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, April 2012)

**95** **\$1,989.00 (#252767)** **Vintages Special Offer**

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**Château Saint-Pierre 2010, St-Julien AOC, Bordeaux, France:** The smallest Classed Growth in St-Julien (17ha), the wines of Château St-Pierre are nowadays among the most exciting, most undervalued wines on the Left Bank; thanks to the uncompromising care of proprietor Françoise Martin and husband Jean-Louis Triaud. Extremely dense black-ruby in colour, the best-ever '10 presents fabulous, multilayered aromas of crème de cassis and black mocha; switching to charcoal embers, espresso, licorice, forest floor, mineral deposits, vanilla, and spice. Exceptionally complex, wielding decadent, classically elegant fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a refined, robust hint of currants, espresso, and asphalt on the finish. Dazzling style, finesse, structure, and harmony—quite the showpiece. 78% Cabernet Sauvignon and 22% Merlot. Now-2044+. (Julian Hitner, *The Successful Collector*, November 2012)

**95 \$125.00 (#260695) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

**Château Canon 2010, St-Emilion AOC Premier Grand Cru Classé AOC, Bordeaux, France:** Under the same ownership as vastly improved Second Growth Rauzan-Ségla, recent vintages suggest Château Canon has finally reached a new level of potential that had been lacking for so many years. Opaque ruby in colour, the monumental 2010 is finally toasted, showcasing magnificent, gently fragrant aromas of red and black fruits, cherries, kirsch, licorice, mocha, vanilla wafers, spring flowers, minerals, and spice. Exceedingly complex, retaining incredibly focused, deliciously layered fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and an emphatic yet wholly refined hint of currants, plums, and floral elements (plus a little licorice) on the finish. Potent, textured, and undeniably exquisite—very similar to its immediate predecessor. 75% Merlot and 25% Cabernet Franc. Now-2042++. (Julian Hitner, *The Successful Collector*, November 2012)

**94+ \$229.00 (#322446) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

**Domaine de Chevalier 2010, Pessac-Léognan AOC, Bordeaux, France:** Words can't describe the beauty and grace of beauty of proprietor Oliver Bernard's latest outing. Opaque ruby in colour, the 2010 Domaine de Chevalier reveals stunning, in-depth aromas of currants, plums, blackberries, dried blueberries, espresso, black licorice, forest floor, abundant mineral elements, vanilla, and spice. Exceedingly complex, possessing refined, outgoing fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and an immensely well-structured, delicious hint of currants, plums, and mineral-laced black licorice on the finish. Gloriously crisp, balanced, and expressive; easily the best red ever produced here. 58% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, 7% Petit Verdot, and 5% Cabernet Franc. Now-2043++. (Julian Hitner, *The Successful Collector*, November 2012)

**94+ \$115.00 (#259598) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

**Château Gruaud Larose 2010, St-Julien AOC, Bordeaux, France:** As if the wines of this outstanding Second Growth needed my endorsement, winemaker Georges Pauli's 2010 Gruaud Larose is as great an offering as this estate has ever produced. Dark ruby in colour, it exhibits classic yet 'contemporaneous' aromas of refined currants, dried black fruits, cherries, licorice, underbrush, smoke, minerals, vanilla, and spice. Very complex, featuring exquisite, excellently structured fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a remarkably elegant hint of currants, dried black fruits, and licorice on the finish. Exemplary character, finesse, and grip—archetypal, wholly harmonious claret. 66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Merlot, and 6% Petit Verdot. Now-2040+. (Julian Hitner, *The Successful Collector*, November 2012)

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**94+ \$109.00 (#258731) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

**Château Malescot St-Exupéry 2010, Margaux AOC, Bordeaux, France:** To my profound disappointment, I have only been able to taste of Jean-Luc Zuger's estate on a handful of occasions. Opaque ruby in colour, the astounding '10 delivers amazing, finely fragranced aromas of strawberry- and violet-tinged currants, blackberries, cherries, licorice, crushed rocks/minerals, forest floor, Oreo Cookie® remnants, vanilla, and spice. Truly complex, providing impeccable fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a robust, finesse-fixated hint of blackberries, cherries, and mineral deposits on the finish. Glorious harmony, style, balance, and breed—a thirty-year proposition at least. 58% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc, and 4% Petit Verdot. Now-2043++. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, January 2013)

**94+ \$145.00 (#260000) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

**Château Branaire-Ducru 2010, St-Julien AOC, Bordeaux, France:** Owned by Patrick Maroteaux since 1988, the wines of Château Branaire-Ducru, better than ever before, continue from strength to strength—though the 2010 is definitely in a league of its own. Opaque ruby in colour, it offers terrific, finesse-driven aromas of slightly fragrant currants, plums, blackberries, dried raspberries, forest floor, mineral deposits, mocha extract, vanilla, and spice. Very complex, wielding exquisite fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a stunning, completely harmonious hint of 'crunchy' black currants, dried blueberries, and graphite on the finish. Sensational style, structure, and breed; this will go for at least thirty years. 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc, and 3% Petit Verdot. Now-2042+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**94 \$115.00 (#260679) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

**Château Brane-Cantenac 2010, Margaux AOC, Bordeaux, France:** Under the skilled tenure of Henri Lurton since 1992, the wines of Château Brane-Cantenac have been much more consistent of late, if not just below the best of what the appellation has to offer. Dark-opaque ruby in colour, the stunning, luminous '10 reveals impeccably elegant, in-depth aromas of fragrant dark raspberried currants, red fruits, licorice, kirsch, minerals, smoky elements, forest floor, vanilla, and spice. Truly complex, possessing exquisite fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and an elegant, splendidly 'proper' hint of currants, minerals, and dried dark raspberried elements on the finish. Wondrous finesse, structure, and elegance. This will likely keep much longer than most vintages preceding it. 62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, and 8% Cabernet Franc. Now-2042+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**94 \$125.00 (#260547) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

**Château Grand-Puy-Lacoste 2010, Pauillac AOC, Bordeaux, France:** After Lynch Bages and Pontet-Canet, few would argue that François-Xavier Borie's beloved Grand-Puy-Lacoste is the finest Fifth Growth in Pauillac, perhaps even the best in its class throughout the entire Médoc. Opaque ruby in colour, the masterful '10 features expressive, alluring aromas of currants and alternate black fruits, dark cherries, kirsch, spring flowers, incense, graphite, mocha, vanilla, and spice. Truly complex, delivering wonderfully 'threaded' fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and an elegant, chewy hint of currants, plums, and cherried licorice on the finish. Outstanding structure, style,

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dimension, and layering—best ever wine? 83% Cabernet Sauvignon and 17% Merlot. Now-2040++. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**94 \$139.00 (#260117) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

**Château Trotte Vieille 2010, St-Emilion Premier Grand Cru Classé AOC, Bordeaux, France:** Like so many wines from this astonishing vintage, the 2010 Trotte Vieille will likely go down as one of Philippe Castéja's greatest creations. Extremely dense black-ruby in colour, it reveals enticing, voluminous aromas of chocolate, currants, blackberry treacle, strawberries, minerals, asphalt, vanilla, and spice. Very complex, with exquisitely sumptuous fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a lengthy, indulgent hint of chocolate and blackberry treacle on the finish. Hugely rich, opulent format, reinforced by an outstanding texture, sense of balance, and overall harmony. The vineyard is planted to 50% Merlot, 45% Cabernet Franc, and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon. Now-2035+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**94 Price Unavailable Private Collection**

**Château Beau-Séjour Bécot 2010, St-Emilion Premier Grand Cru Classé AOC, Bordeaux, France:** Running on all cylinders these days, recent vintages of Beau-Séjour Bécot have never been better, culminating in the fabulous 2010. Opaque black-ruby in colour, the wine reveals electrifying aromas of blackberry treacle, kirsch liqueur, blueberries, cherry compote, mocha, saddle leather, forest floor, vanilla, and spice. Very complex, delivering fabulously opulent fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a lengthy, finely 'controlled' hint of pure kirsch liqueur and plummy currants on the finish. Powerful, succulent, and unequivocally excellent (despite the obvious Parkerization). 70% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Franc, 2.5% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 2.5% Petit Verdot. Now-2044+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**93++ \$79.00 (Private Order) JJ Buckley Fine Wines (USA)**

**Château Cantenac-Brown 2010, Margaux AOC, Bordeaux, France:** Just when I thought the '09 was the estate's greatest vintage ever, administrator Christian Seely's 2010 Cantenac-Brown comes along and proves me wrong. Opaque ruby in colour, the wine exudes beguiling, finesse-driven aromas of dark strawberries, raspberried currants, blackberry liqueur, violets and alternate spring flowers, asphalt, minerals, and a hint of espresso, vanilla, and spice. Incredibly complex, with superbly structured fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a deliciously silky, finely textured hint of plummy currants, strawberries, and violet-laden minerals on the finish. Breathtaking grace, structure, and balance. 66% Cabernet Sauvignon and 34% Merlot. Now-2038+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**93++ \$89.00 (#259424) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

**Château Sociando-Mallet 2010, Haut-Médoc AOC, Bordeaux, France:** Even better than the benchmark '05, proprietor Jean Guateau's stunning 2010 Sociando-Mallet effortlessly combines a profound sense of richness with a level of finesse seldom seen in non-Classified Growths. Opaque ruby in colour, it offers wonderful aromas of dark currants and blackberries; quickly switching to raspberries, graphite, licorice, rose petals, black mocha, scorched earth, minerals, vanilla, and spice. Very complex, providing stupendous, well-styled fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and an impeccable hint of currants, blackberries/red fruit traces, and graphite on the finish. Fantastic layering, integration, and accentuation. According to one source: 48% Cabernet Sauvignon, 47%

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Merlot, and 5% Cabernet Franc. Now-2035++. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, April 2012)

**93++ \$57.00 (#257782) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

**Château Gazin 2010, Pomerol AOC, Bordeaux, France:** Though steadily inching up in price over the years, the fast-improving Château Gazin remains one of the best bets for value (and now considerable quality) in Pomerol. Opaque ruby in colour, director Mickaël Obert's stunning '10 displays impeccable, inviting aromas of slightly brambling currants, plums, blackberries, cherries, asphalt, graham crackers, forest floor, charcoal, vanilla, and spice. Truly complex, retaining outstanding, fairly opulent fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a lingering, impactful yet elegant hint of currants, blackberries, and asphalt on the finish. Generous, excellently structured, and downright top-notch. The vineyard is planted to 90% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 3% Cabernet Franc. Now-2040++. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**93++ \$115.00 (#256255) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

**Tenimenti Angelini 2007 Val di Suga, Brunello di Montalcino DCG, Tuscany, Italy:** Wonderfully styled and expressive, the 2007 Val di Suga is a tremendous success. Dark garnet in colour, the wine issues spectacular aromas of gently fragrant, cedar-laced red fruits, wild cherries, underbrush, sandalwood, white pepper elements, pipe tobacco, and a hint of white truffles and spice. Very complex, sporting exquisite traditional fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and an outstanding, finesse-oriented hint of pure cedary red fruits (slightly floral) on the finish. Impeccable harmony, balance, and grace; this is a twenty-year proposition. Now-2032++. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, January 2013)

**93+ \$49.95 (#713719) Vintages 2 February 2013 Release**

**Château Beauregard 2010, Pomerol AOC, Bordeaux, France:** Under the same ownership as Bastor-Lamontagne in Sauternes, winemaker Vincent Priou's 2010 Château Beauregard is unquestionably his (and the estate's) best vintage yet. Opaque black-ruby in colour, this beauty relays impeccable, rather poignant aromas of chocolate, blackberry compote, plums, red fruits, licorice, dessert nougat traces, scorched earth, asphalt, vanilla, and spice. Truly complex, with deliciously robust fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a glorious hint of chocolate, blackberry compote, and cherry liqueur on the finish. Robust, abundant, and outstandingly layered—a colossal effort. 70% Merlot and 30% Cabernet Franc. Now-2035++. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, January 2013)

**93+ \$69.00 (#323048) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

**Château Beychevelle 2010, St-Julien AOC, Bordeaux, France:** Slightly better than the '09, the sensational 2010 Château Beychevelle may very well confirm what I've been thinking for some time—that this estate is finally performing the way it should. Dark-opaque ruby in colour, it displays elegant, characterful aromas of black currants and alternate black fruits; switching to licorice, graphite, forest floor, moderate espresso, pain grille, tobacco, vanilla, and spice. Immensely complex, carrying incredible, slightly chewy fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and an impeccable, wholly refined hint of currants and spring flowers on the finish. Entirely delicious, elegant, and fairly compact at the present time. 54% Cabernet Sauvignon, 38% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc, and 3% Petit Verdot. Now-2038++. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

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**Domaine Bosquet des Papes 2010 Chante Le Merle Vieilles Vignes, Châteauneuf-du-Pape AOC, Rhône, France:** Flagship wine of the domaine crafted from near-century-old vines, the full-throttle 2010 Chante Le Merle seems designed for long-term cellaring. Opaque ruby in colour, it tosses up incredibly enticing aromas of blackberry and blueberry compote, dark mocha, charcoal, licorice, cookie crumble, leather, vanilla, and spice. Very complex, wielding deliciously structured fruit, firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a magnificent, long-lasting hint of blackberry/blueberry compote, licorice, and mineral elements on the finish. Definitely Parkerized, nonetheless superbly textured, polished, and positively potent. 80% Grenache, 10% Syrah, and 10% Mourvèdre. Now-2028++. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, October 2012)

**93+ \$66.00 (#734244) Vintages Shop Online**

**Château Dauzac 2010, Margaux AOC, Bordeaux, France:** Hands down the greatest wine ever produced at this lesser-known property, the 2010 Château Dauzac is to be lauded as administrator André Lurton's finest accomplishment. Opaque ruby in colour, this overachiever delivers fragrant, remarkably appellation-specific aromas of currants, plummy blackberries/raspberries, licorice, forest floor, cookie dough, graphite, vanilla, and spice. Very complex, boasting impeccable fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a stunning hint of dark raspberried currants and plums (all wrapped in a bundle of delicate minerals) on the finish. Glorious offering, this will cellar at least twenty years. 66% Cabernet Sauvignon and 34% Merlot. Now-2032+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**93+ \$69.00 (#323188) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

**Château Kirwan 2010, Margaux AOC, Bordeaux, France:** Examined with less frequency than I would obviously prefer, the few vintages I've tasted of Château Kirwan have all been first class. Dark-opaque ruby in colour with a touch of purple, the glorious, best-ever '10 exhibits extremely tempting, almost 'exacting' aromas of fragrant violet-infused currants, plums, blackberries, blueberries, pain grille, minerals, vanilla, and spice. Very complex, boasting exquisite, finely structured fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a refined hint of currants, violets, and raspberry-laden mineral elements on the finish. Deliciously silky, full-bodied, and focused—wonderful claret. 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, 9% Cabernet Franc, and 6% Petit Verdot. Now-2041+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**93+ \$125.00 (#323238) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

**Château Langoa Barton 2010, St-Julien AOC, Bordeaux, France:** A shade superior to the '09, the 2010 Langoa Barton (tasted alongside the Léoville) serves as yet another reminder of how underrated this Third Growth is continually perceived. Dark-opaque ruby in colour, it provides outstanding, slightly floral aromas of currants, plums, dried blackberries, licorice, pain grille, forest floor, subtle mineral deposits, vanilla, and spice. Very complex, retaining delicious, elegantly textured fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a finesse-driven, finely honed hint of currants, purple plums, and licorice on the finish. Top-tier refinement, structure, harmony, and breed. 73% Cabernet Sauvignon, 17% Merlot, and 10% Cabernet Franc. Now-2040++. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**93+ \$105.00 (#259937) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

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**Château Larcis Ducasse 2010, St-Emilion Grand Cru Classé AOC, Bordeaux, France:** Promoted to Premier Grand Cru Classé status in the September 2012 (though bottle labels have yet to be changed), estate manager Nicolas Thienpont's 2010 Larcis Ducasse, while unquestionably one of the best wines ever produced here, has (excepting sheer power) much in common with the '08. Extremely dense ruby in colour, it displays powerful, expressive aromas of kirsch liqueur and blackberry compote; switching to currants, blueberries, cherries, leathery asphalt, vanilla, and spice. Very complex, boasting wonderfully outgoing yet finely textured fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a lingering, focused hint of pure blackberry liqueur, licorice, and plummy currants on the finish. Opulent, engaging, and completely Americanized; yet all other components seem firmly in place, which is reflected in my final score. 78% Merlot and 22% Cabernet Franc. Now-2036++. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**93+ \$119.00 (#260687) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

**Château Lynch Bages 2006, Pauillac AOC, Bordeaux, France (3L):** Tasted out of double magnum, the 2006 Lynch Bages, while no means as stalwart and colossal as the '05, should nonetheless leave a fantastic impression on the those fortunate enough to obtain it. Dark-opaque ruby in colour, the wine is finely toasted, showcasing enticing aromas of slightly fragrant currants, blackberries, dark cherries, strawberries, pencil lead, pain grille, light mocha, forest floor, vanilla, and spice. Very complex, delivering excellent, rather chewy fruit, firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a delicate hint of currants and moderate graphite on the finish. Brilliant 'Pauillac' character, structure, and underlying fragrance. 79% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc, and 1% Petit Verdot. Now-2030. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, April 2012)

**93+ \$995.00 (#252890) Vintages Special Offer**

**Château Poujeaux 2010, Moulis-en-Médoc AOC, Bordeaux, France:** Tied with Chasse-Spleen as the greatest estate in Moulis-en-Médoc, the Theil family's beloved Château Poujeaux has been in the same capable hands since 1921. Opaque ruby in colour, the best-ever '10 discloses remarkable aromas of currants, blackberries, dried cherries and flowers, kirsch, forest floor, minerals, dark mocha extract, vanilla, and spice. Very complex, retaining full-bodied, exciting fruit concentration, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and an inspiring hint of currants, blackberries, and dried spring flowers on the finish. Dazzling finesse, structure, and breed—fabulous long-term claret. 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, and 5% Petit Verdot. Now-2035++. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**93+ \$46.00 (#257758) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

**Château Le Bon Pasteur 2010, Pomerol AOC, Bordeaux, France:** From Michel Rolland's impeccably-run estate, the 2010 Le Bon Pasteur is undoubtedly the finest wine I've yet to taste from this outpost. Opaque ruby in colour and finely toasted, it presents inviting, exceptional aromas of crème de cassis, mocha, dark red fruits, strawberries, licorice, forest floor, subtle dessert nougat, vanilla, and spice. Very complex, boasting extraordinary, finely layered fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a wonderful hint of crème de cassis, mocha/espresso, and red fruit traces on the finish. Sumptuous, balanced, and truly well executed. The vineyard is planted to 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc. Now-2038+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, January 2013)

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**93 \$115.00 (#323295) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

**Château Giscours 2010, Margaux AOC, Bordeaux, France:** Acquired by Dutch businessperson Eric Albada Jelgersma in 1995, quality at Château Giscours continues to climb with each passing vintage. Dark-opaque ruby in colour, the outstanding '10 delivers alluring, engaging aromas of fragrant currants, raspberries/cherries, blackberries, licorice, forest floor, smoke traces, underbrush, mineral elements, vanilla, and spice. Very complex, delivering excellent, elegant fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a wonderfully textured hint of currants, blackberries, and 'forested' licorice on the finish. Amazing finesse, structure, and style. 71% Cabernet Sauvignon and 29% Merlot. Now-2040+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**93 \$109.00 (#259093) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

**Groth 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon, Oakville (Napa Valley), California:** Examined with the Ontario representative at the local LCBO, winemaker Michael Weis' 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon is certainly a terrific achievement. Dark-opaque ruby in colour, it displays enticing, engaging aromas of currants and creamy mocha; giving way to blackberries, plums, cherries (slightly 'dusty'), graphite, rose petals, vanilla, and spice. Complex, featuring delicious, fully integrated fruit, firm tannins, slightly milder acidity, and a beautiful, amazingly polished hint of mocha-laced black cherried currants on the finish. Exemplary precision, refinement, and power—remarkably classy, focused, and integrated. Also contains 20% Merlot. Now-2022+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, December 2011)

**93 \$64.95 (#606517) Vintages 22 January 2011 In-Store Discovery**

**Patrick Jaume 2010 Tour de l'Isle, Châteauneuf-du-Pape AOC, Rhône, France:** Top bargain by our market standards, the 2010 Tour de l'Isle is a sensational, powerfully formatted Châteauneuf. Dark-opaque black-ruby in colour, it delivers close-knit, potentially delectable aromas of blackberry compote, dark cherries, black mocha extract, licorice, minerals, Provençal herbs, vanilla, and spice. Very complex, boasting glorious, well-structured fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a lingering, tightly packaged hint of blackberry compote and minerals on the finish. Fantastically structured, textured, and styled; this should keep about twenty years. 85% Grenache, 8% Syrah, 5% Mourvèdre, and 2% Cinsault. Now-2032+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, January 2013)

**93 \$39.95 (#309849) Vintages 2 February 2013 Release**

**Château Lagrange 2010, St-Julien AOC, Bordeaux, France:** Owned by Suntory Group since 1983, while Château Lagrange always seems to bone up in top vintages, in lesser years it almost always underperforms. With this in mind, the '10 represents an exceptional turnout. Opaque ruby in colour, the wine delivers alluring, unusually 'complete' aromas of currants, blackberries, blueberries, licorice, spring flowers, forest floor, vanilla, and spice. Quite complex, realizing outstanding fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and impeccable, tightly wound hint of currants, blackberries, and dried blueberries on the finish. Excellent structure, balance, and elegance; if only this estate made wines like this on a more regular basis. 75% Cabernet Sauvignon and 25% Merlot. Now-2039+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**93 \$99.00 (#229807) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

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**Château Lascombes 2010, Margaux AOC, Bordeaux, France:** One of the largest Classified Growths in the appellation (83ha), the wines of Château Lascombes have always seemed laboured even in the best of years; though the 2010 may finally indicate a turn of the page. Extremely dense ruby in colour, this stellar claret highlights abundant, multilayered aromas of currants, mocha, blackberries, dried raspberries, kirsch liqueur, scorched earth, vanilla, spice. Very complex, featuring superlative, well-structured fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and an excellent, fairly compact hint of currants, dried blackberries, and licorice on the finish. Considerably concentrated, in-depth, and finesse-driven, this is definitely the finest wine I've ever tasted from here. 55% Merlot, 45% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 5% Petit Verdot. Now-2036+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**93 \$169.00 (#323253) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

**Château Malartic-Lagravière 2010, Pessac-Léognan AOC, Bordeaux, France:** In all probability, the 2010 Malartic-Lagravière shall serve as the gold standard for most future reds at this fast-improving estate. Opaque ruby in colour, it provides inviting, generous aromas of blackberry treacle, currants, cherries, licorice, dried figs, forest floor, nutted elements, vanilla, and spice. Very complex, boasting delicious, fully attenuated fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and an elegant, even sumptuous hint of blackberry treacle, licorice, and minerals on the finish. Fantastic structure, power, and breadth. 45% Cabernet Sauvignon, 45% Cabernet Franc, 5% Cabernet Franc, and 5% Petit Verdot. Now-2035++. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**93 \$85.00 (#258962) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

**Château Marquis de Terme 2010, Margaux AOC, Bordeaux, France:** Lesser-known Fourth Growth owned by the Sénéclauze family, the 2010 Marquis de Terme effortlessly rivals many of the more widely recognized properties throughout the Left Bank. Unusually dense black-ruby in colour with a trace of purple, it opts for surprisingly indulgent aromas of mocha-espresso, currants, blackberry treacle, blueberries, kirsch, licorice, forest floor, vanilla, and spice. Very complex, featuring finely textured, full-bodied fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and an absolutely beautiful, outgoing hint of plummy currants, charcoal, and licorice on the finish. Fabulous expression, balance, and degree of attraction; quite the surprise. 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, and 5% Petit Verdot. Now-2034++. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**93 \$69.00 (#323261) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

**Outpost 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon, Howell Mountain (Napa Valley), California:** My only note from this winery up until now, winemaker Thomas Rivers Brown's 2009 Outpost Cabernet Sauvignon is of amazing calibre, style, and depth. Opaque purple-ruby in colour, the wine is beautifully toasted, delivering seductive aromas of black mocha/espresso, currants, blackberries, and alternate black fruits; switching to tertiary notes of subtle spring flowers, licorice, minerals, vanilla, and spice. Very complex, presenting abundant fruit, smooth yet finely structured tannins, milder acidity, and a long-lasting, hedonistic hint of black mocha and plummy blackberries on the finish. Glorious bottling, this will easily keep over the long term. Now-2026. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, August 2012)

**93 Price Unavailable (#278044) Vintages Shop Online**

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**Château Pavie Macquin 2010, St-Emilion Premier Grand Cru Classé AOC, Bordeaux, France:** Along with Larcis Ducasse and several other properties, the Corre family's Château Pavie Macquin has been administered by Nicolas Thienpont since the early-1990s. Extremely dense black-ruby in colour, the titanic '10 discloses powerful, über-Parkerized aromas of blackberry compote and currants (slightly sinewy and leathery); giving way to dark raspberries, licorice, kirsch, crème brûlée, 'thick' black fruits, vanilla, and spice. Very complex, possessing remarkably sumptuous fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a long-lasting, decadent hint of blackberry compote, licorice, and kirsch liqueur on the finish. Extremely weighty, extracted, and long; this blockbuster will keep for at least twenty-five years. 85% Merlot, 14% Cabernet Franc, and 1% Cabernet Franc. Now-2038+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**93 \$185.00 (#260711) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

**Château La Pointe 2010, Pomerol AOC, Bordeaux, France:** Situated near Libourne, under present ownership the wines of Château La Pointe have never been better—at least that's impression my latest notes (however few) seem to indicate. Opaque black-ruby in colour, the exquisite '10 delivers innately inviting aromas of mocha/espresso, plummy currants, blackberry compote, licorice, spring flowers, charcoal, 'blackened' earth, vanilla, and spice. Very complex, with remarkably supple fruit, firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a lingering, extremely delicious hint of plummy currants and mocha on the finish. Archetypal Pomerol, wielding terrific structure, fatness, and attack. 85% Merlot and 15% Cabernet Franc. Now-2033+-. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**93 \$38.54 (Private Order) Bootle (France)**

**Château Prieuré-Lichine 2010, Margaux AOC, Bordeaux, France:** From one of the most fragmented properties on the Left Bank (numbering roughly forty different parcels), the 2010 Prieuré-Lichine is a clear-cut overachiever. Extremely dense ruby in colour, it delivers enticing, multilayered aromas of black currants and plummy blue fruits; switching to dark raspberried cherries, kirsch, spring flowers, forest floor, minerals, vanilla, and spice. Very complex, possessing outstandingly elegant, silky fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a wonderful hint of near-velvety currants, raspberries, and minerals on the finish. Exquisite structure, style, and balance, the breed of this wine is truly uncanny. 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, and 5% Petit Verdot. Now-2034+-. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**93 \$54.06 (Private Order) Fine & Rare Wines (UK)**

**Château Troplong Mondot 2010, St-Emilion Premier Grand Cru Classé AOC, Bordeaux, France:** Reaching a staggering 15.5% alcohol, the ultra-powerful style of the 2010 Troplong Mondot will please some and dismay others. To my mind, this is Parkerization (combined with climate change) run amuck; and were it not for the wine's glorious integration and sense of cohesion, my score would have been much lower. Extremely dense black-ruby in colour, it provides hedonistic, port-like aromas of sinewy blackberry liqueur and alternate black fruits; switching to currants, crème de cassis, dried strawberries, chocolate, leather, tar, vanilla, and spice. Very complex, wielding boisterously concentrated fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a persistent, abundant hint of blackberry liqueur, licorice, and currants on the finish. Wholly sumptuous, long-lasting, and entirely unlike anything I've yet to encounter out of St-

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Emilion. 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc. Now-2045+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**93 \$235.00 (#262345) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

**Casanova di Neri 2007 Pietradonice, IGT Toscana, Tuscany, Italy:** Super Tuscan bottling of stellar Brunello producer Casanova di Neri, the 2007 Pietradonice is a very worthy collectible. Opaque red currant in colour, the wine is beautifully toasted, featuring abundant aromas of chocolate, currants, blackberries, plums, roasted meats, undergrowth, leather, balsam traces, and a hint of black olives, vanilla, and spice. Very complex, wielding exquisite, decadent fruit, firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a sumptuous hint of chocolate, blackberry treacle, and delicate cedarwood on the finish. Intoxicating texture, flavour, and length. 100% Cabernet Sauvignon. Now-2025. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, May 2012)

**92++ \$79.00 (#103085) Vintages Shop Online**

**Château La Couspaude 2010, St-Emilion Grand Cru Classé AOC, Bordeaux, France:** In a very brief period of time, proprietor Jean-Claude Aubert's 7-ha estate has managed to turn heads with a streak of fabulous vintages. Opaque ruby in colour, the 2010 Château La Couspaude reveals alluring, extremely indulgent aromas of mocha, blackberries, plums, black cherries, licorice, charcoal/asphalt, pain grille, subtle strawberries and forest floor, vanilla, and spice. Very complex, carrying outstanding, well-styled fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a persistent, exhilarating hint of mocha extract, blackberries, and plums on the finish. First-rate harmony, smoothness, structure, and balance. 70% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc, and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon. Now-2036+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, January 2013)

**92++ \$95.00 (#322487) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

**Château Lafon-Rochet 2010, St-Estèphe AOC, Bordeaux, France:** Though differently styled, the 2010 Lafon-Rochet is qualitatively tied with the decadent '09 and the classic '05 in my humble opinion. Opaque ruby in colour, it showcases truly beautiful, atypically 'widespread' aromas of currants, blackberries, plums, blueberries, delicate herbal elements, asphalt/crushed rocks, incense, pain grille, vanilla, and spice. Very complex, featuring exquisite fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and an expressive, slightly chewy hint of currants, dried spring flowers, and mineral traces on the finish. Exceptional concentration, structure, and harmony. 66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 31% Merlot, and 3% Petit Verdot. Now-2037+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**92++ \$75.00 (#257295) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

**Mollydooker 2009 The Velvet Glove Shiraz, McLaren Vale, South Australia, Australia:** Despite its ridiculous bottle shape and obvious Parkerization, the 2009 Velvet Glove Shiraz remains the best wine I've tasted from this madcap operation to date. Opaque ruby in colour and beautifully toasted, it exhibits enticing, desirably saturated aromas of rich blackberry/blueberry treacle, black mocha extract, spring flowers, raspberry parfait, leather, forest floor, vanilla, and spice. Very complex, boasting extremely sumptuous, powerful fruit, firm yet slightly supple tannins, very mild acidity, and a longlasting, muscular hint of blackberry/blueberry treacle and chocolate on the finish. Gloriously decadent, extracted, and lasting. Screwcap closure. Now-2030. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, October 2012)

**92++ \$211.00 (#242784) Vintages October 2012 Classics Collection**

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**Château Phélan Ségur 2010, St-Estèphe AOC, Bordeaux, France:** Unquestionably the best vintage yet for this highly consistent establishment, the Gardinier family's 2010 Phélan Ségur every bit equals the other Classified Growths of St-Estèphe. Opaque ruby in colour, it delivers enticing, close-knit aromas of dark currants and crème de cassis; giving way to black cherries, plums, strawberries, licorice, charcoal, forest floor, scorched earth traces, vanilla, and spice. Very complex, with wonderful fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and an elegant, fully realized hint of currants, espresso, and mineral traces on the finish. Fabulous layering, harmony, and focus. 51% Cabernet Sauvignon and 49% Merlot. Now-2035+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, January 2013)

**92++ \$69.00 (#260505) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

**Château du Tertre 2010, Margaux AOC, Bordeaux, France:** Possibly the greatest overachiever of the vintage, the 2010 Château du Tertre is unlike anything I have ever examined from the estate. Dark-opaque ruby in colour, it features glorious, unusually concentrated aromas of 'silky' blackberried currants (almost liqueur-styled), black raspberries, plums, dried blueberries, violets, licorice, minerals, herbs, vanilla, and spice. Very complex, retaining exceptional full-bodied fruit, firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a lingering, outstanding hint of currants and dried blueberries/raspberries (slightly floral) on the finish. Excellent extraction, style, texture, and balance—bravo! 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, and 10% Petit Verdot. Now-2033. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**92++ \$59.00 (#323204) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

**Château Batailley 2010, Pauillac AOC, Bordeaux, France:** Owned by the Castéja family since the early-1960s, recent vintages of Fifth Growth Château Batailley have been more fine-tuned and better layered than ever before. Dark-opaque ruby in colour, the '10 features inviting 'Pauillac-styled' aromas of moderate mocha, currants, dried cherries, licorice, spring flowers, and a hint of forest floor, graphite, vanilla, and spice. Very complex, sporting remarkable fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a deliciously supple hint of currants, dried blackberries, and mocha remnants on the finish. Wonderful offering, delivering real structure, harmony, and breed. 78% Cabernet Sauvignon, 19% Merlot, 2% Petit Verdot, and 1% Cabernet Franc. Now-2032+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**92+ \$65.00 (#259218) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

**Château La Cabanne 2010, Pomerol AOC, Bordeaux, France:** Lesser-known estate with a growing reputation, the 2010 Château la Cabanne delivers indulgent smoothness, structure, and balance. Opaque ruby in colour, this beauty details exemplary, slightly 'inward' aromas of mocha, plums, dried currants and flowers, licorice, pain grille, wild game traces, scorched earth, vanilla, and spice. Very complex, featuring incredibly supple, well-styled fruit, firm tannins, balanced acidity, and an extremely delicious, almost velvety hint of mocha and plummy currants on the finish. Superlative flesh, layering, and desirable fat. The vineyard is planted to 92% Merlot and 8% Cabernet Franc. Now-2031++. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**92+ \$69.00 (#323071) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

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**Château Carbonnieux 2010, Pessac-Léognan AOC, Bordeaux, France:** Far and away a total overachiever, the Perrin family's 2010 Château Carbonnieux performs well above its weight. Opaque ruby in colour, it displays enticing, terrific aromas of currants, blackberries, plums, licorice, minerals, delicate forest floor, mild mocha, vanilla, and spice. Complex, wielding deliciously supple fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and an impeccable hint of currants, minerals, and manageable mocha extract on the finish. Surprisingly sumptuous, robust, and exceedingly pleasurable—bravo. The vineyard is planted to 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc, and 3% Petit Verdot. Now-2032++. (Julian Hitner, *The Successful Collector*, January 2013)

**92+ \$49.00 (#259085) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

**Château Chasse-Spleen 2010, Moulis-en-Médoc AOC, Bordeaux, France:** One of the finest estates in Moulis-en-Médoc, the 2010 Chasse-Spleen, relatively inward when examined, may very well turn out to be the best wine Céline Villars-Foubet has ever presided over. Opaque ruby in colour, it discloses enticing aromas of currants and floral red fruits; switching to dark dried cherries and blueberries, licorice, pain grille, subtle underbrush and wild game, espresso, vanilla, and spice. Complex, featuring superbly elegant fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a marvellous hint of plummy red currants on the finish. Engaging, excellently structured, and built for a bright future. 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, and 5% Petit Verdot. Now-2034++. (Julian Hitner, *The Successful Collector*, January 2013)

**92+ \$45.00 (#257220) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

**Château La Croix de Gay 2010, Pomerol AOC, Bordeaux, France:** Managed by Alain Raynaud and Chantal Lebreton, the 13-ha La Croix de Gay has proven track record for consistent, occasionally excellent Pomerol. Opaque ruby in colour, the impeccable '10 exhibits beautiful, slightly 'singed' aromas of mocha and dark red fruits; switching to plums, blackberries, licorice, raspberry/strawberry parfait, vanilla, and spice. Quite complex, providing deliciously supple fruit, firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a lingering, fully integrated hint of mocha, currants, and plummy red fruits on the finish. Superbly flavoured, textured, and balanced, even at 14.5% alcohol this is one excellent claret. According to one source: 75% Merlot and 25% Cabernet Franc. Now-2032++. (Julian Hitner, *The Successful Collector*, November 2012)

**92+ \$47.00 (#259150) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

**Château La Dominique 2010, St-Emilion Grand Cru Classé AOC, Bordeaux, France:** Abundant and absolutely harmonious, the 2010 Château La Dominique succeeds where most other Parkerized wines fall short (hedonistic though they might be). Opaque ruby in colour and finely toasted, it discloses enticing aromas of blackberry compote and chocolate; switching to brambling cherries, slightly sinewy red/black fruits, forest floor elements, asphalt, vanilla, and spice. Complex, boasting exquisite, powerful yet fully 'controlled' fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a decadent hint of blackberry compote, dark mocha, and blue fruit traces on the finish. Superlative richness, structure, and balance, great aging potential for those with enough patience. 85% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Franc, and 2% Cabernet Franc. Now-2036++. (Julian Hitner, *The Successful Collector*, January 2013)

**92+ \$74.00 (#259978) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

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**Château Durfort-Vivens 2010, Margaux AOC, Bordeaux, France:** Along with fellow Second Growths Lascombes and Rauzan-Gassies, Gonzague Lurton's Château Durfort-Vivens often struggles to live up to its status; though the '10 represents a superlative outing by previous standards. Opaque black-ruby in colour, it showcases beautiful, deeply fragrant aromas of black currants, dark cherries, violets, forest floor, charcoal, herbal and mineral elements, vanilla, and spice. Complex, with excellent fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a refined, almost silky hint of black fruits, raspberries, and herbs (slightly vegetal) on the finish. Glorious flavour, finesse, and structure. 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 26% Merlot, and 4% Cabernet Franc. Now-2034+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, January 2013)

**92+ \$85.00 (#323212) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

**Château La Lagune 2010, Haut-Médoc AOC, Bordeaux, France:** Under manager and oenologist Caroline Frey, the wines of Château La Lagune are nowadays reaching new heights. Opaque ruby in colour, the terrific '10 presents stellar, elegant aromas of slightly fragrant currants and black fruits; switching to dark cherries, licorice, espresso, mineral traces, forest floor, vanilla, and spice. Very complex, possessing exceptional, beautifully styled fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a superlative hint of currants, black fruits, and delicate espresso/minerals on the finish. First-rate structure, balance, and breed. The vineyard is planted to 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, and 10% Petit Verdot. Now-2034+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, January 2013)

**92+ \$95.00 (#259606) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

**Michele Chiarlo 2007 Cerequio, Barolo DOCG, Piedmont, Italy:** Over the years, I've tasted the wines of Michele Chiarlo many times, but until now have yet to make any formal notes. Sourced from the glorious Cerequio vineyard, the 2007 Barolo, medium ruby-red currant in colour, sports classic aromas of cherries (with a slight Provençal feel about it); switching to tar, rose petals, tealeaves, smoke, undergrowth, and spice. Very complex, with superbly elegant, tightly layered fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a keenly refined hint of cherries, dried plums, and tealeaves on the finish. Impeccable elegance, balance, sturdiness, and focus. Now-2025+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**92+ \$71.10 (Private Order) Wine Speak Wine (USA)**

**Podere Aldo Conterno 2008, Barolo DOCG, Piedmont, Italy:** Sourced from various vineyards, the 2008 Barolo delivers remarkable style, balance, and pedigree. Medium-dark ruby in colour, the wine reveals elegant, inviting aromas of fragrant dark cherries, licorice, white truffles, spearmint, tar, and well-integrated nuances of blackberry liqueur, rose petals, vanilla, and spice. Very complex, sporting excellent, whimsical fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a lingering, impactful hint of cherries, plummy blueberries, and truffle evocations on the finish. Outstanding non-vineyard-specific Barolo; this will last well over a dozen years. Now-2025++. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**92+ Currently Unavailable Trialto Wine Group (Private Order)**

**Château Fourcas Hosten 2010, Llistrac-Médoc AOC, Bordeaux, France:** Quite possibly the greatest bargain of the vintage, the 2010 Château Fourcas Hosten defies all expectations. Opaque ruby in colour, the wine exhibits inspiring, elegant aromas of currants and delicate espresso; making way for blue fruits, graphite, smoke traces,

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vanilla, and spice. Complex, possessing wonderful, intricately layered fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a compact, delicious hint of currants, dried blueberries, and mineral deposits on the finish. Excellent potential, structure, flavour, and harmony. I'll be picking up a case. 55% Cabernet Sauvignon and 45% Merlot. Now-2032+-. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, January 2013)

**92+ \$27.00 (#323329) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

**Château Gloria 2010, St-Julien AOC, Bordeaux, France:** Under the same ownership as Château St-Pierre, Françoise Triaud's Château Gloria is widely considered the finest non-Classé Growth in St-Julien. Dark-opaque ruby in colour, the '10 demonstrates exciting aromas of dark 'crunchy' currants, blackberries, plums, licorice, kirsch, pain grille, grilled herbs, vanilla, and spice. Very complex, featuring well-structured fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and an entirely elegant, almost silky hint of currants, plums, and herbs (plus a dash of kirsch) on the finish. Great character, finesse, and breadth—excellent performance. The vineyard is planted to 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc, and 5% Petit Verdot. Now-2035. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**92+ \$69.00 (#259945) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

**Château Grand-Puy Ducasse 2010, Pauillac AOC, Bordeaux, France:** The most ambitious wine I've yet to taste from here, the 2010 Grand-Puy Ducasse suggests recent improvements at this still-underperforming property have been highly worthwhile. Opaque ruby in colour, the wine delivers compelling aromas of black cherried currants and plums; quickly switching to kirsch, cookie crumble, graphite, licorice, underbrush traces, vanilla, and spice. Very complex, boasting excellent fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and an elegant, delicious hint of dark cherried currants and subtle kirsch on the finish. Superb structure, balance, and poignancy of flavour—a significant success. 60% Cabernet Sauvignon and 40% Merlot. Now-2032. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**92+ \$74.00 (#322925) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

**Château Petit-Village 2010, Pomerol AOC, Bordeaux, France:** Having tasted from here on many occasions, the wines of Petit-Village (owned by AXA Millésimes) have long been inconsistent; though recent vintages suggest more permanent changes may be in the works. Opaque ruby in colour, the terrific '10 delivers superb aromas of currants, plums, red fruits, moderate mocha, scorched earth, pain grille, vanilla, and spice. Very complex, featuring impeccable full-bodied fruit, firm tannins, balanced acidity, and an elegant, expectedly (though not undesirably) midweight hint of plummy currants, mocha, and red fruits on the finish. Remarkably delectable, supple, and refined. 75% Merlot, 18% Cabernet Franc, and 7% Cabernet Sauvignon. Now-2032+-. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**92+ \$63.20 (Private Order) Fine & Rare Wines (UK)**

**Poggio San Polo 2007, Brunello di Montalcino Riserva DOCG, Tuscany, Italy:** Owned by the Fertonani family, the wines of Poggio San Polo enjoy a well-founded reputation; though to date I've only tasted a few of their wines. Dark-red garnet in colour, the 2007 Brunello displays impeccable, albeit 'compact' aromas of dried cherries and red fruits; quickly switching to leather, underbrush, forest floor, wild game, white pepper, cedarwood, and spice. Very complex, sporting outstanding, finely layered fruit, very firm

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tannins, balanced acidity, and a focused, refined hint of dried cherries, wild game, and cedarwood on the finish. Wonderful structure, style, and elegance. Now-2028. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, August 2011)

**92+ \$49.00 (#650812) Vintages Shop Online**

**Château Talbot 2010, St-Julien AOC, Bordeaux, France:** All elegance and grace, the 2010 Château Talbot, in perfect keeping with the style of claret that has always been made here, is neither excessively concentrated nor overly reliant on oak. Dark-opaque ruby in colour, it details beautiful aromas of 'crunchy' currants, plums, dried cherries and strawberries, loamy earth traces, grilled herbs, vanilla, and spice. Very complex, featuring excellent fruit, firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a terrific hint of currants, plums, and scorched earth traces (plus a shred of minerality) on the finish. Remarkable breed, finesse, and harmony. 63% Cabernet Sauvignon and 37% Merlot. Now-2030+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**92+ \$95.00 (#259630) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

**Domaine du Vieux Lazaret 2007 Cuvée Exceptionnelle, Châteauneuf-du-Pape AOC, Rhône, France:** Top bottling of the Quiot family (proprietors of Vieux Lazaret), the 2007 Cuvée Exceptionnelle is certainly more serious than most vintages of the standard Châteauneuf produced here. Opaque ruby in colour and evolving slowly, it reveals remarkable aromas of 'rugged' red/black Provençal fruits and herbs; switching to leather, licorice, loamy earth, gentle cedarwood, and spice. Very complex, sporting superb, elegant fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a superlative hint of 'rugged' red/black fruits and underbrush on the finish. Great attitude, structure, and breed. Grenache and Syrah (percentages unknown). Now-2024. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, October 2012)

**92+ \$50.00 (#957274) Vintages Shop Online**

**Château d'Armailhac 2010, Pauillac AOC, Bordeaux, France:** Under the same ownership as Mouton Rothschild since 1933, recent vintages of Château d'Armailhac have never been better. Opaque ruby in colour, the '10 reveals immensely elegant, expressive aromas of currants, cherries, slightly floral red fruits, licorice, grilled herbs, underbrush, vanilla, and spice. Quite complex, retaining marvellous, finely integrated fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a delicious hint of currants and dried black cherries on the finish. Remarkable fullness, focus, and strength. 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc, and 2% Petit Verdot. Now-2032+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, January 2013)

**92 \$79.00 (#258087) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

**Château Bouscaut 2010, Pessac-Léognan AOC, Bordeaux, France:** As far as I am aware, the overachieving 2010 Bouscaut represents my only note from this winery to date. Opaque ruby in colour, this earnest claret delivers exceptional, elegant aromas of espresso-infused currants, blackberries, brambling black fruits, violets, graphite, vanilla, and spice. Very complex, with fabulous fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a beautifully textured hint of currants, charcoal, and mineral deposits on the finish. Remarkable focus, structure, and 'gravelly' disposition. 55% Merlot, 40% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 5% Malbec. Now-2034+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, January 2013)

**92 \$49.00 (#322164) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

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**Château Cantemerle 2010, Haut-Médoc AOC, Bordeaux, France:** Although I possess few notes from this Fifth Growth, I have to believe director Philippe Dambrine's 2010 Château Cantemerle is the greatest wine ever produced here. Opaque ruby in colour, it offers expressive, remarkable aromas of black currants, plums, blackberries, dried blueberries, crushed rocks, forest floor, vanilla, and spice. Very complex, possessing excellent, finely structured fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a wholly elegant, robust hint of dark red and black fruits on the finish. Wonderful body, balance, and breed. 52% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc, and 5% Petit Verdot. Now-2032+-. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, January 2013)

**92 \$50.00 (#256610) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

**Château Clerc Milon 2010, Pauillac AOC, Bordeaux, France:** Acquired by Baron Philippe de Rothschild in 1970, the wines of Clerc Milon have since enjoyed an excellent track record. Opaque ruby in colour, the '10 features beautifully expressive, 'compact' aromas of currants and red fruits; switching to blackberries, pain grille, pencil lead, mocha, forest floor, grilled herb traces, vanilla, and spice. Complex, with delicious, full-bodied fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a pleasurable, appropriately outlined hint of currants, black cherries, and pain grille on the finish. Excellent plumpness, balance, and 'Pauillac' character. 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36% Merlot, 11% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot, and 1% Carmenère. Now-2035. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, January 2013)

**92 \$115.00 (#262592) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

**Podere Aldo Conterno 2008 Conca Tre Pile, Barbera d'Alba DOC, Piedmont, Italy:** One of the most ambitious, most beautifully crafted Barberas I have ever tasted, the 2008 Conca Tre Pile bestows terrific intensity, balance, and depth. Dark-opaque ruby in colour, it features gorgeously youthful aromas of fragrant black plums and alternate dark fruits; quickly switching to blueberries, licorice, mocha, tar, vanilla, and spice. Very complex, with concentrated, deliciously styled fruit, firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a brilliant, flavourful hint of dark fruits, licorice, and white truffle nuances on the finish. Exceptional bottling, this can be cellared for least a dozen or more years. Now-2024+-. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**92 \$49.95 (Private Order) Trialto Wine Group**

**Château Cos Labory 2010, St-Estèphe AOC, Bordeaux, France:** The smallest of the three Classified Growths in St-Estèphe (18ha), the Audoy family's 2010 Cos Labory is a considerable treat. Opaque ruby in colour, the wine seems tight at present, alluding to superlative aromas of currants, blackberries, and purple fruits; switching to blueberries, crushed rocks, minerals, forest floor, vanilla, and spice. Quite complex, possessing excellent fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a lingering, 'compact' hint of currants, crushed rocks, and purple plums on the finish. Remarkable structure, fullness, and balance—excellent claret. 65% Cabernet Sauvignon and 35% Merlot. Now-2034+-. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**92 \$63.00 (#322958) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

**Château du Fieuzal 2010, Pessac-Léognan AOC, Bordeaux, France:** One of few reds I've tasted from here, the 2010 Château de Fieuzal shows remarkable potential and weight. Opaque black-ruby in colour, it offers fabulous, noticeably youthful aromas of

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black mocha, crème de cassis, dark fruits, dried blueberry compote, cookie crumble, minerals, vanilla, and spice. Very complex, sporting delicious, well-established fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a superlative, stylish hint of crème de cassis, espresso, and delicate mineral traces on the finish. Wonderful outline, robustness, and focus. 60% Cabernet Sauvignon and 40% Merlot. Now-2033+-. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, January 2013)

**92 \$64.00 (#259614) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

**San Felice 2007 Pugnello, IGT Toscana, Tuscany, Italy:** Named after a recently revived Tuscan red varietal, the 2007 Pugnello is the best vintage yet for this promising grape. Opaque black-ruby in colour and finely toasted, it offers elegant, poignant aromas of black mocha- and nougat-infused currants, blackberries, forest floor, leather, walnuts, vanilla, and spice. Very complex, retaining wonderful, finely textured fruit, firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a brilliant hint of nougat-infused plummy currants on the finish. Delicious, focused, and insatiably impactful; this will keep over next dozen years with little concern. Now-2024. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, August 2012)

**92 \$52.95 (#291419) Vintages Shop Online**

**San Felice 2007 Vigorello, IGT Toscana, Tuscany, Italy:** Super Tuscan blend of the estate, the 2007 Vigorello is a sumptuous treat. Opaque ruby in colour, the wine is finely toasted, presenting enticing aromas of blackberry compote, plums, dessert nougat, forest floor, mocha, vanilla, and spice. Complex, featuring excellent, robust fruit, firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a fabulous, impactful hint of blackberry compote and dessert nougat on the finish. Superlative style, structure, and balance; drink now or keep for the next dozen years. Sangiovese, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Merlot (percentages unknown). Now-2025. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, August 2012)

**92 \$50.00 (#726463) Vintages Shop Online**

**Château Ferrière 2010, Margaux AOC, Bordeaux, France:** Lesser-known Margaux Third Growth (only 8ha) under the same ownership as Chasse-Spleen, the exceedingly commendable 2010 Château Ferrière represents my only note from this estate to date. Opaque ruby in colour, it provides beautiful aromas of currants, black cherries, licorice, dried flowers, black/red fruits, forest floor, vanilla, and spice. Very complex, with excellently structured, well-flavoured fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a superb hint of dried raspberried currants and black fruits on the finish. Great breed, structure, and harmony—a keeper. 66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot, and 2% Cabernet Franc. Now-2034. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**92 \$59.00 (#323220) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

**Château Haut-Bages Libéral 2010, Pauillac AOC, Bordeaux, France:** Funny how the wines of Haut-Bages Libéral always perform well in blind tastings, yet are oftentimes overlooked when stacked against those of other properties out in the open. No matter: opaque ruby in colour, the excellent '10 displays enticing aromas of plummy currants and moderate mocha; switching to 'forested' cherries, licorice, graphite, fragrant vanilla wafers, and spice. Quite complex, with superb fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and an elegant, expressive hint of 'forested' black cherried currants and delicate mocha on the finish. Great disposition, balance, structure, and breed. 72% Cabernet Sauvignon and 28% Merlot. Now-2032+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**92 \$68.00 (#259069) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

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**Château d'Issan 2000, Margaux AOC, Bordeaux, France:** With abundant pedigree and harmony, Emmanuel Cruse's 2000 Château d'Issan is an obvious success story. Dark-opaque ruby-red currant in colour (slightly faded), this beautiful claret conveys a very compelling bouquet of 'seasoned' earthy red currants and blackberries; switching to dried cherries, raspberries, cedarwood, damp earth, tobacco, and spice. Very complex, wielding endearing, elegant fruit, still-firm tannins, balanced acidity, and an absolutely lovely hint of dried black fruits and earth-infused tobacco on the finish. Terrific expression and balance. 70% Cabernet Sauvignon and 30% Merlot. Now-2020+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

92 \$83.72 (Private Order) Fine & Rare Wines (UK)

**Château Larrivet Haut-Brion 2010, Pessac-Léognan AOC, Bordeaux, France:** With very few bases for comparison, it is difficult to measure the progress this château has made over the past several vintages. Either way, the 2010 Larrivet Haut-Brion is exceptional. Opaque ruby in colour, the wine features in-depth aromas of damson-tinged currants, blackberry treacle, herbed strawberries, crushed flowers, minerals, mocha, vanilla, and spice. Complex, with tightly structured fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a finely layered hint of currants and damson elements on the finish. Terrific 'darkness' of character, structure, and harmony. 55% Merlot and 45% Cabernet Sauvignon. Now-2032+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, January 2013)

92 \$49.00 (#259077) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures

**Château Latour-Martillac 2010, Pessac-Léognan AOC, Bordeaux, France:** Like many châteaux in Pessac-Léognan, the Kressmann family's Latour Martillac has seen remarkable improvements in a very short time. Opaque ruby in colour, the '10 features fulsome, 'darkly fragranced' aromas of blackberry compote, currants, plums, blueberries, strawberries, licorice, asphalt, vanilla, and spice. Very complex, with tightly integrated fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a superlative, elegant hint of blackberry compote, plums, and floral blueberry nuances on the finish. A real surprise: excellent body, structure, and depth. The vineyard is planted to 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, and 5% Petit Verdot. Now-2034. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, January 2013)

92 \$48.00 (#322263) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures

**Tenuta Rocca 2007 San Pietro, Barolo DOCG, Piedmont, Italy:** The only single-vineyard Barolo from this well-respected producer, the 2007 San Pietro is a sure-fire hit. Dark red-garnet in colour, the wine displays exemplary aromas of dried red fruits, cherries, tealeaves, leather, tar, underbrush, cedarwood, floral elements, and spice. Complex, featuring excellent fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and an exceedingly elegant hint of dried red fruits and cedarwood on the finish. Impeccable orientation, structure, and balance; something of a backward, almost 'quiet' bottling at the moment—it should age brilliantly. Now-2026++. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, September 2012)

92 \$50.00 (#103721) Vintages Shop Online

**Château Rol Valentin 2010, St-Emilion Grand Cru AOC, Bordeaux, France:** Purchased by Vignobles Robin in 2009 from ex-footballer Eric Prissette, the 2010 Château Rol Valentin would seem to indicate that quality has remained unaltered

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at least thus far. Extremely dense ruby in colour and finely toasted, it exhibits luxurious aromas of dark mocha, cherry/blackberry treacle, crème de cassis, blueberries, licorice, forest floor, vanilla, and spice. Very complex, delivering sumptuous fruit, firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a decadent, supple hint of mocha and plummy crème de cassis on the finish. Bold, balanced, and wonderfully concentrated; built to last at least two decades. 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc. Now-2032++. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**92 \$59.00 (#257592) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

**Château Angludet 2010, Margaux AOC, Bordeaux, France:** As every bit the equal as the terrific '05, the 2010 Château Angludet, while no longer the bargain it once was, really ought to be checked out. Dark-opaque ruby in colour, the wine reveals superbly elegant aromas of black currants, plums, cherries, dried raspberries, minerals, herbal elements, vanilla, and spice. Complex, sporting delicious, full-bodied fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and an excellent hint of currants, dark cherries/raspberries, and mineral deposits on the finish. Real lift, boldness, and grace; truly an excellent claret. 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 38% Merlot, and 12% Petit Verdot. Now-2031+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, January 2013)

**91++ \$79.00 (#323170) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

**Château d'Angludet 2005, Margaux AOC, Bordeaux, France:** Owned by the Sichel family since 1961 and always enjoyable as a mid-tier Margaux, recent vintages of Château d'Angludet seem to show better layering and full-bodiedness. Dark faded ruby in colour, the terrific '05 details delightfully outgoing aromas of warm earth-infused currants, strawberries, licorice, red flower petals, forest floor, pain grille, graphite, vanilla, and spice. Very complex, retaining great fruit, firm yet slowly mellowing tannins, balanced acidity, and an exemplary, finesse-filled hint of currants, raspberries/red fruits, and scorched earth on the finish. Wonderful elegance, balance, and attitude. According to one source: 48% Cabernet Sauvignon, 47% Merlot, and 5% Petit Verdot. Now-2024+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**91++ \$48.96 (Private Order) Davy's Wine Merchants (UK)**

**Château Berliquet 2010, St-Emilion Grand Cru Classé AOC, Bordeaux, France:** 9-ha property well situated on the limestone plateau, the wines of Château Berliquet have never been more powerful. Extremely dense black-ruby in colour, the über-saturated '10 is beautifully toasted, displaying enticing aromas of blackberry treacle/liqueur, dark cherry compote, kirsch, licorice, forest floor, melted asphalt, vanilla, and spice. Complex, boasting exceedingly decadent fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and an incredibly concentrated hint of blackberry liqueur and crème de cassis on the finish. Massively Parkerized, sumptuous, and lasting. 70% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Franc, and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon. Now-2033++. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, January 2013)

**91++ \$62.00 (#322412) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

**La Dame de Montrose 2008, S-Estèphe AOC, Bordeaux, France:** Perennially underrated 'second wine' of Château Montrose, the 2008 La Dame performs just as well—if not better than—a whole host of Cru Bourgeois-level estates. Dark-opaque ruby in colour, it offers great aromas of aromas of currants, plums, black fruits, licorice, dried flowers, wild game, asphalt, vanilla, and spice. Complex, retaining truly beautiful fruit,

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firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a wholly elegant, even vibrant hint of currants and plums on the finish. Surprisingly supple, open-concept, and undeniably delicious; terrific claret. 56% Merlot and 44% Cabernet Sauvignon. Now-2024. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**91++ \$30.21 (Private Order) Fine & Rare Wines (UK)**

**Château La Tour Carnet 2010, Haut-Médoc AOC, Bordeaux, France:** Remarkably different than the '09 (though this might be more attributable to the glassware than anything else), the 2010 La Tour Carnet represents yet another marvellous outing for this much-improved operation. Opaque ruby in colour, it reveals expressive, almost 'angular' aromas of cherried black fruits, currants, licorice, delicate mocha, underbrush, pain grille, mild sinewy elements, vanilla, and spice. Quite complex, carrying excellent full-bodied fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a superlative, close-knit hint of pure dark red plummy fruits on the finish. Superior attitude, structure, balance, and character. 60% Merlot, 34% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Cabernet Franc, and 1% Petit Verdot. Now-2032++. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, January 2013)

**91++ \$54.00 (#259176) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

**Mollydooker 2010 Carnival of Love Shiraz, McLaren Vale, South Australia, Australia:** Abundant, fruit-oriented, and unmistakably Parkerized (still rather excellent), the 2010 Carnival of Love Shiraz demands hefty food accompaniments if for no other reason than to mitigate the colossal 15.5% alcohol. Opaque ruby in colour and finely toasted, it reveals enticing, forward aromas of black raspberries, plums, blueberry/blackberry compote, spring flowers, licorice, chocolate, vanilla, and spice. Very complex, with powerful supple fruit and tannins, very mild acidity, and a lengthy, indulgent hint of pure black raspberry/blueberry liqueur on the finish. Outstanding intensity, flavour, and boldness. North American palates will adore this. Screwcap closure. Now-2024+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, October 2012)

**91++ \$99.00 (#242743) Vintages October 2012 Classics Collection**

**Château Rauzan-Ségla 2004, Margaux AOC, Bordeaux, France:** Immensely pleasurable claret, the 2004 Rauzan-Ségla reflects the quality of this underrated vintage with absolute clarity. Dark-opaque faded ruby in colour, the wine features slightly spicy, engaging aromas of fragrant black fruits (aligned with dark earth), blackberries, licorice, Chinese tea, forest floor, and a hint of tobacco and spice. Complex, possessing superbly elegant fruit, firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a very beautiful hint of dried black fruits, licorice, and scorched earth on the finish. Coming along marvellously, with great structure, balance, and focus. According to one source: 52.5% Cabernet Sauvignon, 42% Merlot, 4% Petit Verdot, and 1.5% Cabernet Franc. Now-2022++. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**91++ \$61.18 (Private Order) Fine & Rare Wines (UK)**

**Clos Vieux Taillefer 2010, Pomerol AOC, Bordeaux, France:** Fledgling operation begun by Vignobles Robin, the 2010 Clos Vieux Taillefer (sourced from a 2.3-ha site with forty-year-old old vines) shows considerable promise. Opaque ruby in colour, the wine is finely toasted, delivering inviting aromas of delicate mocha extract, plums, currants, red fruits, licorice, pain grille, and a hint of roasted meats, coffee, vanilla, and spice. Very complex, featuring deliciously supple fruit, firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a lingering, slightly velvety hint of plummy currants and moderate mocha on the finish.

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Excellent expression, balance, and non-excessive concentration. 100% Merlot. Now-2028+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**91++** **Price Unavailable** **Private Collection**

**Château de Camensac 2010, Haut-Médoc AOC, Bordeaux, France:** One of the least distinguished Classified Growths on the Left Bank, even Château de Camensac managed to produce a superb wine in 2010. Opaque ruby in colour with purple highlights, it reveals beautiful, promising aromas of currants and blackberries (both slightly singed); switching to licorice, incense, asphalt, scorched earth, vanilla, and spice. Complex, possessing great fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a lifted hint of blackberries, asphalt, and delicate purple fruits on the finish. Bold, balanced, and delicious; a real success. The vineyard is planted to 60% Cabernet Sauvignon and 40% Merlot. Now-2031+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, January 2013)

**91+** **\$45.00 (#323154)** **Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

**Château Chauvin 2009, St-Emilion Grand Cru Classé AOC, Bordeaux, France:** Situated on sandy soils in the 'Graves' section of St-Emilion, the 15-ha Château Chauvin has long enjoyed a fine reputation. Dark-opaque ruby in colour, the '09 is finely toasted, delivering decadent yet well-moderated aromas of currants, plums, blackberries, cherries, subtle mocha, licorice, espresso, graphite, vanilla, and spice. Very complex, with beautifully structured fruit, firm tannins, balanced acidity, and an exceptional hint of plums, licorice, and mocha on the finish. Marvellous balance, body, and breed. According to one source: the vineyard is currently planted to 75% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc, and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon. Now-2026. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**91+** **\$32.72 (Private Order)** **La Bergere (France)**

**Henschke 2008 Keyneton Euphonium, Barossa, South Australia, Australia:** Better than the '08, the 2009 Keyneton Euphonium is a first-rate blend of 62% Shiraz, 23% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Merlot, and 7% Cabernet Franc, sourced from the Barossa and Eden Valleys. Dark-opaque ruby in colour, it presents exceptional aromas of briary black fruits, strawberries, dark raspberries, eucalyptus, leather, and a hint of vanilla and spice. Complex, possessing beautifully polished fruit, firm yet slightly supple tannins, mild acidity, and a lingering, well-styled hint of briary black fruits on the finish. Excellent balance, disposition, and flavour. Screwcap closure. Now-2021++. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, October 2012)

**91+** **\$59.95 (Private Order)** **B & W Wines**

**Château Maucaillou 2010, Moulis AOC, Bordeaux, France:** By most standards, the 2010 Château Maucaillou represents exceptional value for money. Dark-opaque ruby in colour, the wine details attractive, highly refined aromas of pseudo-fragrant currants, black and red fruits, dried strawberries, pain grille/pencil lead traces, underbrush, vanilla, and spice. Quite complex, sporting outstanding fruit, firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a delicious, accessible yet well-structured hint of currants and red fruits on the finish. Great openness, balance, sophistication, and elegance. The vineyard is planted to 52% Cabernet Sauvignon, 41% Merlot, and 7% Petit Verdot. Now-2028+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, January 2013)

**91+** **\$35.00 (#323097)** **Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

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**Langmeil 2009 Orphan Bank Shiraz, Barossa, South Australia, Australia:** Crafted from vines over ninety years of age, the 2009 Orphan Block Shiraz is both exceedingly delicious and fulsome. Dark-opaque ruby in colour, the wine is finely toasted, offering beautiful aromas of fragrant black currants, mocha, licorice, wild spring flowers, vanilla icing, and spice. Complex, possessing excellent, well-defined fruit, firm tannins, mild acidity, and a superb, long-lasting hint of plummy currants, licorice, and eucalyptus on the finish. Stylish, characterful, and very powerful at 15.7% alcohol. Screwcap closure. Now-2025. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, October 2012)

**91+ \$59.95 (Private Order) B & W Wines**

**Château Rauzan-Gassies 2010, Margaux AOC, Bordeaux, France:** As with other vintages of late, the 2010 Rauzan-Gassies, while undoubtedly a superior wine, nonetheless remains unrepresentative of its Second Growth status. No matter: opaque ruby in colour, the '10 delivers attractive, fully 'packaged' aromas of currants, cherries, raspberries, licorice, underbrush, delicate minerals, vanilla, and spice. Complex, with beautiful fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and an easygoing, completely refined hint of currants, cherries, and raspberry traces on the finish. Marvellous expression, finesse, and balance. 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, and 5% Petit Verdot. Now-2034. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, January 2013)

**91+ \$94.00 (#323279) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

**Château d'Angludet 2004, Margaux AOC, Bordeaux, France:** Examined alongside the first-class '05 at a recent gathering, the 2004 Château d'Angludet is as studly as they come. Dark-opaque ruby in colour, the wine issues beautiful aromas of dried currants and blackberries, strawberries, delicate forest floor, scorched earth, minerals, fragrant notes, and spice. Complex, with extremely elegant fruit, still-very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and an excellent hint of refined currants, licorice, and scorched earth traces on the finish. Great character, structure, and refinement. The vineyard is planted to 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, and 10% Petit Verdot. Now-2022+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**91 \$43.71 (Private Order) Frazier's Wine Merchants (UK)**

**Château Grand Mayne 2010, St-Emilion Grand Cru Classé AOC, Bordeaux, France:** Highly admired for some time, the wines of Grand Mayne always seem to deliver excellent results. Opaque ruby in colour, proprietor Marie-Françoise Nony's marvellous '10 reveals attractive, potent aromas of dark plums, blackberries, cherry liqueur, forest floor, fig paste, mocha, vanilla, and spice. Complex, featuring delicious, rather powerful fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a delicious, lingering hint of dark plums, cherry/strawberry liqueur, and fig paste on the finish. Great depth, structure, and character. 76% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Franc, and 11% Cabernet Sauvignon. Now-2025++. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, January 2013)

**91 \$69.00 (#322479) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

**Louis Jadot 2007, Vosne-Romanée Premier Cru Les Suchots AOC, Burgundy, France:** Sourced from the largest Premier Cru vineyard (13.08ha) in the commune, the 2007 Les Suchots is of first-rate calibre at the medium-weight range; which is typical of the vintage. Medium ruby in colour with a trace of red currant, the wine presents outgoing, expressive aromas of raspberries, plums, strawberries, licorice, loamy earth traces, rhubarb, and a hint of dried herbs, vanilla extract, and spice. Complex, retaining

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truly fine fruit, reasonably firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a beautiful hint of dried raspberries and mineral elements on the finish. Great style, balance, and class. Now-2016++. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**91 \$72.00 (Private Order) Fine & Rare Wines (UK)**

**Château Labégorce 2010, Margaux AOC, Bordeaux, France:** Owned by the Perrodo family since 1989, recent vintages of Château Labégorce seemed to have gained a little extra muscle. Dark-opaque ruby in colour, the '10 delivers superb, fairly fragrant aromas of currants, plums, cherry liqueur, minerals, and a trace of underbrush, vanilla, and spice. Complex, boasting incredibly elegant fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a refined, well-endowed hint of currants and dark floral red fruits on the finish. Marvellous character, balance, and elegance; excellent performance. The vineyard is planted to 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 45% Merlot, 2% Petit Verdot, and 1% Cabernet Franc. Now-2027+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, January 2013)

**91 \$39.00 (#323246) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

**Château Lynch Bages 2001, Pauillac AOC, Bordeaux, France (3L):** Tasted out of double magnum, the 2001 Lynch Bages is now entering maturity with pride. Dark red currant in colour, this understated beauty features a beautiful bouquet of cedar-driven black fruits, dried cherries, tobacco, scorched earth, cigarbox, grilled herbs, and spice. Very complex, possessing great 'mellow' fruit, still-firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a delicious hint of cedary currants on the finish. Totally elegant, balanced, and harmonious; this will keep another decade with little fuss. 78% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc, and 2% Petit Verdot. Now-2024. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, April 2012)

**91 \$895.00 (#252775) Vintages Special Offer**

**Château Laroque 2006, St-Emilion Grand Cru Classé AOC, Bordeaux, France:** Acquired by the Beaumartin family in 1935, Château Laroque is currently the largest estate in St-Emilion (67ha). Opaque ruby in colour with a trace of red currant, the '06 is maturing steadily, providing more 'tertiary' aromas of dried currants and mocha; switching to slightly sinewy-savoury cherries, strawberries, licorice, forest floor, and a hint of kirsch liqueur, coffee, vanilla, and spice. Very complex, with beautiful fruit, firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a superb hint of dried plummy currants, licorice, and minor sinewy nuances on the finish. Somewhat chunky, nonetheless deliciously full-bodied and balanced. 88% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc, and 2% Cabernet Sauvignon. Now-2022++. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**91 \$49.95 (#235481) Vintages 9 July 2011 Release**

**Château Phélan Ségur 2004, St-Estèphe AOC, Bordeaux, France:** Evolving slowly, the 2004 Phélan Ségur, while hardly a showstopper, should nonetheless sufficiently impress claret lovers with its uninhibited sense of elegance of harmony. Dark ruby-red currant in colour, it displays refined, easygoing aromas of plummy currants, blackberries, licorice, pain grille, underbrush/forest floor, and the slightest trace of cedarwood and spice. Complex, with excellently integrated fruit, firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a soothing hint of plummy currants and dried licorice on the finish. Marvellous. According to one source: 50% Merlot, 48% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 2% Cabernet Franc. Now-2021+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**91 \$41.34 (Private Order) Fine & Rare Wines (UK)**

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**Château Phélan Ségur 2008, St-Estèphe AOC, Bordeaux, France:** Dark-ruby in colour, the first-rate 2008 Phélan Ségur is finely toasted, featuring inviting, 'confident' aromas of currants, plums, dried fruits, forest floor, asphalt, underbrush, subtle gamey elements, and spice. Complex, with great fruit, firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a refined, singular hint of currants and dried plums on the finish. Superbly structured and balanced, proprietor Thierry Gardinier should pat himself on the back for yet another totally harmonious, utterly appreciable outing. 60% Cabernet Sauvignon and 40% Merlot. Now-2023+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**91 \$49.00 (#580928) Vintages 2008 Bordeaux Futures**

**Château Pontet Chappaz 2008, Margaux AOC, Bordeaux, France:** Dark-opaque ruby in colour, the under-the-radar 2008 Pontet Chappaz is finely toasted, disclosing beautiful fragrant aromas of currants, plums, black cherries (slightly wild), dried raspberries, crushed rocks, leather, forest floor, and a hint of vanilla and spice. Complex, retaining tight yet delicious fruit, firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a superb hint of floral currants and crushed rocks on the finish. Great midweight Margaux of real structure, elegance, and breed; this should be vigorously decanted if drunk young. From what I can gather, the vineyard is planted to 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot, and 5% Petit Verdot. Now-2022+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, August 2011)

**91 \$39.95 (#243956) Vintages 17 September 2011 Release**

**Domaine La Roquette 2009 L'Accent de La Roquette, Châteauneuf-du-Pape AOC, Rhône, France:** Top wine of the domaine, the 2009 L'Accent de La Roquette is crafted from vines roughly sixty years of age. Dark ruby in colour, the '09 presents appetizing aromas of dark raspberries, currants, and figs; switching to dried cherries, underbrush, and a hint of savoury herbs and spice. Complex, boasting delicious, 'deceptively midweight' fruit, firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a terrific hint of dried red fruits/figs, raspberries, and underbrush on the finish. Great character, balance, and structure. According to their website: mainly Grenache, plus roughly 10% Mourvèdre. Now-2020++. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, October 2012)

**91 \$80.00 (#65565) Vintages Shop Online**

**Le Vieux Donjon 2009, Châteauneuf-du-Pape AOC, Rhône, France:** Dark ruby in colour, the 2009 Châteauneuf-du-Pape displays refined, inviting aromas of Provençal-derived raspberries and blackberry compote; switching to plums, licorice, lavender, leather, vanilla, and spice. Very complex, featuring beautifully textured fruit, firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a lingering, expressive hint of dark raspberries, plums, and English lavender on the finish. Definitely better than the '08, with much greater density, robustness, and aging potential—a sign of better things to come? Roughly 80% Grenache, the rest Syrah and Mourvèdre. Now-2023++. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, October 2011)

**91 \$57.95 (#700922) Vintages 12 November 2011 Release**

**Quintarelli 2008 Primofiore, IGT Veneto, Veneto, Italy:** One of many entirely individualistic blends produced at Quintarelli, the 2008 Primofiore delivers excellent character and polish. Dark red currant in colour, it offers beautiful aromas of wild red fruits and cherries; quickly making way for underbrush (slightly sinewy), cedarwood, seaweed, herbs, and spice. Complex, with deliciously original, impactful fruit, firm

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tannins, balanced acidity, and a superb hint of delicate chocolate, underbrush, and sinewy red fruits on the finish. Very classy and appetizing. Corvina Veronese, Corvione, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Cabernet Franc. Now-2022+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, January 2013)

**91 \$56.95 (#20867) Vintages 2 February 2013 Release**

**Château Fombrauge 2008, St-Emilion Grand Cru AOC, Bordeaux, France:** Taken over by Bernard Magrez in 1999, the wines of Château Fombrauge have never been better. Dark-opaque ruby in colour, the '08 is finely toasted, boasting inviting aromas of ripe plummy currants, black mocha (intermixed with scorched earth), licorice, incense, graphite, leather, vanilla, and spice. Complex, featuring deliciously polished fruit, firm tannins, balanced acidity, and an expressive, 'modern' hint of chocolate shavings and plummy currants on the finish. Appetizing, well-integrated, and balanced; excellent showing. 77% Merlot, 14% Cabernet Franc, and 9% Cabernet Sauvignon. Now-2022++. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, August 2011)

**90++ \$45.00 (#235556) Vintages 17 September 2011 Release**

**Château Meyney 2008, St-Estèphe AOC, Bordeaux, France:** Though the estates are entirely unrelated, I've often thought the bottle label of Château Meyney slightly resembles that of Fourth Growth Chateau Talbot. Dark-opaque ruby in colour, the '08 of the former is mildly toasted, intimating exceptional aromas of slightly briary currants, plums, brambleberries, mocha, incense, and a hint of lavender, figs, and spice. Complex, with tight yet well-integrated fruit, firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a refined hint of briary currants on the finish. Extremely satisfying, finely structured, and elegant. 61% Cabernet Sauvignon, 26% Merlot, 10% Petit Verdot, and 3% Cabernet Franc. Now-2021++. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, August 2011)

**90++ \$42.95 (#245811) Vintages 17 September 2011 Release**

**Château Beau-Site 2004, St-Estèphe AOC, Bordeaux, France:** Overpriced in this market, Château Beau-Site is owned by the forward-looking Castéja family. Dark red currant with a touch of garnet, the '04 is aging with ease, featuring a savoury bouquet of cedar-infused currants, leather, graphite, wild game, and spice. Complex, with beautiful 'claret' fruit, fine tannins, balanced acidity, and a great hint of savoury currants and graphite on the finish. Superb Cru Bourgeois-level structure, leanness, and balance. The vineyard is planted to 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 34% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc, and 1% Petit Verdot. Now-2017. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, October 2011)

**90+ \$37.95 (#967844) Vintages 12 November 2011 Release**

**Carpineto 2006, Vino Nobile di Montepulciano Riserva DOCG, Tuscany, Italy:** Dark-opaque ruby in colour with a trace of red currant, the 2006 Vino Nobile di Montepulciano Riserva displays soothing aromas of dried cedar-oriented red and black fruits, underbrush, leather, tobacco, roasted meats, and spice. Complex, retaining superb, 'dark' traditional fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and an innately refined hint of wild plums, tobacco, and cedary nuances on the finish. Great balance, harmony, structure, and aging potential. Now-2020++. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, January 2013)

**90+ \$29.95 (#368910) Vintages 2 February 2013 Release**

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**Château Chauvin 2008, St-Emilion Grand Cru Classé AOC, Bordeaux, France:**

Tasted alongside the '09 at a recent gathering, the 2008 Château Chauvin is both finely crafted and delicious. Dark-opaque ruby in colour, the wine displays inviting aromas of dried mocha extract and black cherried plums; switching to licorice, red fruits, forest floor, toasted oak, vanilla, and spice. Complex, carrying beautiful fruit, firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a slightly silky hint of plums and red fruits on the finish. Superb orientation and balance; this should last a decade. According to one source: the vineyard is currently planted to 75% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc, and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon. Now-2023. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**90+ \$30.11 (Private Order) La Bergere (France)**

**Poderi Aldo Conterno 2009 Il Favot Nebbiolo, Langhe DOC, Piedmont, Italy:**

Sourced from younger vines (up to twenty years) from various sites in Bussia, the Il Favot label is clearly the most accessible wine out of the astonishing Conterno lineup. Medium-dark ruby in colour, the '09 is rather tight at present, boasting beautiful aromas of plums, dried cherries and wild blueberries, licorice, grilled herbs, vanilla, and spice. Complex, with delicious fruit, firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a lingering, 'open' hint of fresh plums and licorice on the finish. First-rate freshness, balance, and integration. 100% Nebbiolo. Now-2020. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**90+ Currently Unavailable Trialto Wine Group (Private Order)**

**Château Corbin 2006, St-Emilion Grand Cru Classé AOC, Bordeaux, France:**

Dark ruby in colour with the slightest trace of red currant, the 2006 Château Corbin reveals enticing chocolaty aromas of plummy currants and red fruits; switching to dried cherries, underbrush, cigarbox traces, smoke, vanilla, and spice. Complex, boasting deliciously supple fruit, firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a smooth, lingering hint of dried mocha extract and plummy red fruits on the finish. First-rate appeal, balance, and breed; this will surely keep another seven years without fail. 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc. Now-2019+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**90+ \$22.78 (Private Order) Bootle (France)**

**Château La Croix-de-Gay 2008, Pomerol AOC, Bordeaux, France:**

Consistently reliable as a midweight Pomerol, proprietor Chantal Lebreton's 2008 La Croix-de-Gay possesses great texture, elegance, and flavour. Dark ruby in colour with a trace of red currant, the wine is lightly toasted, offering beautiful aromas of plums, mild mocha extract, licorice, forest floor, raspberry traces, minerals, vanilla, and spice. Complex, carrying very fine fruit, firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a refined, confident hint of blackberries and licorice on the finish. Marvellously crafted, this should keep for the rest of the decade and beyond. The vineyard is planted to roughly 80% Merlot, the rest Cabernet Franc. Now-2020++. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, May 2012)

**90+ \$39.00 (#136879) Vintages Shop Online**

**Château Croizet-Bages 2010, Pauillac AOC, Bordeaux, France:**

Under the same ownership as Rauzan-Gassies, Château Croizet-Bages continues to underperform in even the best of vintages; though the '10 (were it better priced in our market) is worth taking a look at. Dark-opaque ruby in colour, the wine displays beautiful, 'honest' aromas of currants, cherries, plums, licorice, dried/grilled herbs, scorched earth, vanilla, and spice. Complex, carrying appetizingly round fruit, very firm tannins (a tad coarse), balanced acidity, and a delicious hint of plummy currants and cherries on the finish.

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Great roundness, structure, and balance. 80% Cabernet Sauvignon, 17% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 3% Cabernet Franc. Now-2026+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, January 2013)

**90+ \$59.00 (#322917) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

**Château Desmirail 2010, Margaux AOC, Bordeaux, France:** Owned by Denis Lurton since 1992, the wines of Château Desmirail have improved in both consistency and quality; though further efforts are certainly warranted. No matter: dark-opaque ruby in colour, the '10 reveals superb aromas of mineral-laced currants, blackberries, cherries, licorice, wild game elements, and a hint of plum sauce, forest floor, vanilla, and spice. Complex, with marvellous, elegant fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a refined, robust hint of currants, licorice, and blackberry liqueur traces on the finish. Great framework, balance, and lift. 60% Cabernet Sauvignon and 40% Merlot. Now-2029. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, January 2013)

**90+ \$52.00 (#323196) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

**Faust 2008 Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley, California:** Named after the famed German poet's masterpiece, Faust vineyards is located in Coombsville, Napa's newest American Viticultural Area (AVA). Dark-opaque ruby in colour, the 2008 Cabernet Sauvignon is very finely toasted, exhibiting lovely, even elegant aromas of black cherry currants and plums, delicate licorice, mild leather, and a hint of mocha, vanilla, and spice. Complex, with delicious, well-structured fruit, firm tannins, milder acidity, and a lingering hint of 'dusty' mocha and currants on the finish. Excellent structure, balance, and flavour. Also contains 13% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc, 3% Malbec, and 2% Petit Verdot. Now-2017++. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, August 2011)

**90+ \$39.95 (#238261) Vintages 17 September 2011 Release**

**Château Lalande-Borie 2008, St-Julien AOC, Bordeaux, France:** Lesser-known estate created by the Borie family (think Ducru-Beaucaillou), in good vintages the wines of Château Lalande-Borie are certainly worth seeking out. Dark-opaque ruby in colour, the '08 exhibits reserved aromas of black cherry currants (somewhat earth-driven); switching to plums, wild flowers, leather, lavender, and a hint of incense and spice. Complex, with tight fruit, firm tannins, balanced acidity, and an elegant hint of currants and wild flower traces on the finish. Great structure, balance, and finesse; decanting highly recommended if drunk young. 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, and 10% Cabernet Franc. Now-2020++. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, August 2011)

**90+ \$42.95 (#234807) Vintages 17 September 2011 Release**

**Château Les Ormes de Pez 2000, St-Estèphe AOC, Bordeaux, France (3L):** Tasted out of double magnum, the Les Ormes de Pez is the most compelling wine I've tasted from this well-regarded estate to date. Dark red-garnet in colour and now fairly mature, it exhibits a lovely bouquet of red currants, scorched earth, cedarwood, underbrush, roasted meats, and spice. Complex, retaining beautiful, elegant fruit, firm yet accessible tannins, balanced acidity, and a refined, polished hint of red currants on the finish. Delicious, resoundingly positive claret. The vineyard is planted to 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, and 10% Cabernet Franc. Now-2016+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, April 2012)

**90+ \$425.00 (#252924) Vintages Special Offer**

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**Austin Hope 2010 Hope Family Vineyard Syrah, Paso Robles, California:** My only note from this winery, the 2010 Hope Family Vineyard Syrah is sourced entirely from a site located within the Templeton Gap region (just west of the Paso Robles AVA). Opaque ruby in colour, the wine is finely toasted, with inviting aromas of blackberries, plums, incense, tobacco, forest floor, vanilla, and spice. Complex, boasting delicious forward fruit, fairly supple tannins, mild acidity, and a long, satisfying hint of blackberries, incense, and tobacco on the finish. Bold, lengthy, and balanced (despite 15% alcohol). Now-2017+-. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, October 2012)

**90 \$45.00 (#686121) Vintages Shop Online**

**Château Beauregard 2003, Pomerol AOC, Bordeaux, France (Magnum):** Tasted from magnum, the 2003 Château Beauregard is undoubtedly ready for drinking. Dark faded ruby-red currant in colour, it opts for subdued 'mellow' aromas of mature red fruits, cedarwood, forest floor, damp earth, and spice. Complex, with beautiful, fully integrated fruit and tannins, balanced acidity, and a truly lovely hint of dried red fruits and subtle, gentle cedarwood on the finish. Open, elegant, and very focused—claret lover's wine. The vineyard is planted to 70% Merlot and 30% Cabernet Franc. Now-2018. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**90 Price Unavailable Private Collection**

**Château Belgrave 2010, Haut-Médoc AOC, Bordeaux, France:** Still a work in progress, the 2010 Château Belgrave is almost the equivalent of the estate's 'second wine' Diane de Belgrave that I recently tasted (albeit from an alternate vintage). This notwithstanding, the '10 displays beautiful aromas of currants, plums, slightly sinewy cherries, licorice, wild game, and a hint of underbrush, vanilla, and spice. Complex, with full-bodied, highly accessible fruit, firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a supple hint of plummy red and black fruits on the finish. Great flavour, balance, and charm; though such a wine should ideally distance itself from its younger sibling. 52% Cabernet Sauvignon, 41% Merlot, 4% Petit Verdot, and 3% Cabernet Franc. Now-2025. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, January 2013)

**90 \$55.00 (#323147) Vintages 2010 Bordeaux Futures**

**Chapellet 2009 Signature Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley, California:** Extremely dense black-ruby in colour, the 2009 Signature Cabernet Sauvignon is finely toasted, disclosing inviting aromas of sweet chocolate-laced currants, blackberry treacle, plums, bonbons, pain grille, forest floor, wild game traces, vanilla, and spice. Complex, with powerful forward fruit, velvety-firm tannins, milder acidity, and a lengthy hint of chocolate and plummy currants on the finish. Deliciously Parkerized, slightly sweetened bottling—ideal for the North American palate. Also contains 11% Malbec, 9% Merlot, and 4% Petit Verdot. Now-2022. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, January 2013)

**90 \$68.95 (#704254) Vintages 2 February 2013 Release**

**Lamole di Lamole 2007, Chianti Classico Riserva DOCG, Tuscany, Italy:** Based out of Greve in Chianti (located in the northern half of the zone), I have just a few notes from Lamole di Lamole. Dark ruby in colour, the 2007 Chianti Classico Riserva reveals very lovely aromas of cherries, plums, mild undergrowth, licorice, herbs, cedarwood, and the slightest hint of earth-infused leather and spice. Complex, carrying expressive fruit, firm tannins, balanced acidity, and an elegant hint of cherries and plums on the finish. Great

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freshness, structure, and balance; marvellous job. Their website suggests 100% Sangiovese. Now-2017++. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, August 2011)

**90 \$36.95 (#231241) Vintages 17 September 2011 Release**

**Landmark 2008 Grand Detour Pinot Noir, Sonoma Coast (Sonoma County), California:** Sourced from multiple vineyards throughout the Sonoma Coast, the 2008 Grand Detour Pinot Noir (even at 14.5% alcohol) is both endearing and beautifully inlaid. Dark ruby in colour, the wine is lightly toasted, offering first-rate 'Pinot' aromas of dried cherries, raspberries, red plums, rhubarb, licorice, and spice. Complex, featuring delectable fruit, soft yet well-integrated tannins, balanced acidity (more or less), and a silky, lingering hint of raspberries and cherries on the finish. Great fruit concentration, balance, and style. Now-2016+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, January 2012)

**90 \$41.95 (#737890) Vintages 18 February 2012 Release**

**Seghesio 2009 Home Ranch Zinfandel, Alexander Valley (Sonoma County), California:** Equalling the '08 in both abundance and stature, the 2009 Home Ranch Zinfandel is a substantial success. Dark-opaque ruby in colour, it displays beautiful aromas of incense-filled blackberries and plums (slightly baked); switching to cherries, licorice, subtle leather, vanilla, and spice. Complex, delivering delicious forward fruit, firm tannins, milder acidity, and a lingering, extremely flavourful hint of 'thick' black cherried plums and incense on the finish. Excellent purity, heft, and balance. Now-2018+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, August 2011)

**90 \$49.95 (#70391) Vintages 17 September 2011 Release**

**Alves de Sousa 2009 Abandonado, Douro DOC, Portugal:** Sourced from vines over eighty years old, the Abandonado label is only produced in the best vintages. Dark-opaque ruby in colour, the '09 displays beautiful, inviting aromas of wild flower-infused blackberries, plums, mocha, cherries, potpourri, vanilla, and spice. Complex, retaining superb fulsome fruit, firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a lingering hint of mocha and plummy red fruits on the finish. Delicious, robust, and balanced. Mostly Tinta Amarela, Touriga Franca, Touriga Nacional, and other local grapes. Now-2020++. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**90 \$91.90 (Private Order) Dom Vinho (Portugal)**

**Tin Barn 2005 Cabernet Sauvignon/Cabernet Franc/Merlot, Napa Valley, California:** My only note from this winery to date, the 2005 Tin Barn is a blend of 63% Cabernet Sauvignon, 21% Cabernet Franc, and 16% Merlot. Dark-opaque ruby in colour and finely toasted, it delivers truly lovely aromas of currants, plums, 'rugged' cherries, pain grille, subtle mocha extract, vanilla, and spice. Complex, sporting delicious, even elegant fruit, firm tannins, milder acidity, and a beautiful, non-excessive hint of currants on the finish. Superb purity, balance, and elegance, it begs the question why more Napa wines aren't made this way. Now-2017+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, December 2011)

**90 \$34.95 (#201202) Vintages 13 November 2010 Release**

**Wynns Coonawarra Estate 2008 Cabernet Sauvignon, Coonawarra, South Australia, Australia:** Opaque ruby in colour, the 2008 Cabernet Sauvignon is finely toasted, showcasing beautiful aromas of mint-infused currants and blackberries; giving way to black mocha, crème de cassis, dark cherries, eucalyptus, roasted meats, vanilla, and spice. Complex, boasting delicious, well-structured fruit, firm tannins, milder acidity,

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and a lingering, almost elegant hint of dark mocha and currants (plus a pinch of eucalyptus) on the finish. Superb dimension, clarity, structure, and length; consistently one of the best bets in Coonawarra. Screwcap closure. Now-2019++. Now-2018+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, August 2011)

**90 \$24.95 (#84996) Vintages 17 September 2011 Release**

**Blue Rock 2008 Baby Blue Proprietary Red, Alexander Valley (Sonoma County), California:** Opaque ruby in colour, the 2008 Baby Blue Proprietary Red is a dead ringer for a South Australian equivalent, delivering enticing aromas of eucalyptus, currants, incense, flowers, licorice, and cinnamon-oriented spices. Complex, boasting very supple forward fruit and tannins, milder acidity, and a lingering, well-rounded/polished hint of plums, eucalyptus, and incense on the finish. Flattering, velvety style; quite delicious and long. 51% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Cabernet Franc, 18% Syrah, and 6% Merlot. Now-2020. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, January 2012)

**89++ \$38.95 (#261727) Vintages 18 February 2012 Release**

**Château Les Ormes de Pez 2005, St-Estèphe AOC, Bordeaux, France (3L):** Tasted out of double magnum, the Les Ormes de Pez, while a tad dry at the moment (also likely shutting down), realizes sound pedigree, balance, and elegance. Dark ruby-red currant in colour, the wine suggests beautiful aromas of red currant and plums; switching to dried cherries, scorched earth, forest floor, mint, mild cedarwood, and spice. Complex, with elegant fruit, firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a refined, almost 'backward' hint of red currants, subtle earth, and cedarwood on the finish. First-rate potential. The vineyard is composed of 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, and 10% Cabernet Franc. Now-2016++. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, April 2012)

**89++ \$345.00 (#253005) Vintages Special Offer**

**Allegrini 2008 Palazzo della Torre, IGT Veronese, Veneto, Italy:** Opaque ruby (in colour (more or less), the 2008 Palazzo del Torre is moderately toasted, providing hearty aromas of blackberries, cherries, plums, leather, underbrush, gentle pepper and herbs, plus a hint of coffee and spice. Complex, with lovely smooth fruit, firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a lingering, flavourful hint of plummy blackberries on the finish. Enticing texture, smoothness, and balance. Corvina, Rondinella, and Sangiovese (percentages unknown). Now-2018+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, January 2012)

**89+ \$24.95 (#672931) Vintages 18 February 2012 Release**

**Chehalem 2008 3 Vineyard Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley, California:** Medium-ruby in colour, the 2008 3 Vineyard Pinot Noir (crafted from three different vineyards—not surprisingly) is gently smoky, revealing fragrant aromas of strawberries, red plums, raspberries, wild currants, loamy earth, and a hint of wild game, white pepper, and cinnamon-oriented spice. Complex, with very fine fruit and tannins, balanced acidity, and an elegant hint of strawberries and white pepper (the latter exceedingly faint) on the finish. Refined, almost soothing bottling; just lovely. Now-2014. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, August 2011)

**89+ \$28.95 (#949909) Vintages 17 September 2011 Release**

**Domaine Grand Veneur 2010 Les Champavins, Côtes du Rhône AOC, Rhône, France:** Dark-opaque ruby in colour, the 2010 Les Champavins delivers expressive 'regional' aromas of blackberries, dried leathery raspberries/strawberries, licorice,

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Provençal herbs, and a hint of cherry liqueur elements and spice. Complex, with very satisfying fruit, firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a lingering hint of blackberries and cherry liqueur nuances on the finish. Impressive extraction, balance, and approach. 70% Grenache, the rest Syrah and Mourvèdre. Now-2019+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, January 2013)

**89+ \$18.95 (#76331) Vintages 2 February 2013 Release**

**Hecht & Bannier 2010, Côtes du Roussillon-Villages AOC, Midi, France:** Opaque black-ruby in colour, the 2010 Côtes du Roussillon-Villages presents attractive, highly concentrated aromas of blackberries, dark raspberries, mocha extract, forest floor, mild sinewy herbs, mineral traces, vanilla, and spice. Complex, with delicious, powerful forward fruit, firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a long-lasting hint of blackberries and curranted plums on the finish. Fulsome and delicious, with fairly heavy emphasis on North American-style extraction. According to their website: Grenache, Syrah, Carignan, Mourvèdre, and Lledoner Pelut. Now-2019+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, January 2013)

**89+ \$23.95 (#142802) Vintages 2 February 2013 Release**

**Lan 2003 Gran Reserva, Rioja DOCa, Spain:** Dark red-garnet in colour, the 2003 Gran Reserva offers engaging, fully mature aromas of dried cedary plums, wild game, Chinese black tea, tobacco, scorched earth, leather, and spice. Complex, with expressive 'mellow' fruit, still-firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a lovely hint of dried cedary plums on the finish. Impressive approach, balance, and agreeably dry disposition—wines from this vintage have certainly evolved quickly. 80% Tempranillo, 10% Mazuelo, and 10% Garnacha. Now-2015++. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, August 2011)

**89 \$26.95 (#928622) Vintages 17 September 2011 Release**

**Château Les Ormes de Pez 2001, St-Estèphe AOC, Bordeaux, France (3L):** Tasted out of double magnum, the Les Ormes de Pez is now ready to drink. Dark red-garnet in colour, the wine boasts mature, cedar-driven aromas of dried earthy red fruits, underbrush, tobacco, and a hint of wild game and spice. Complex, with fine fruit, firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a refined hint of red plums and cedarwood on the finish. Elegant, balanced, and very mellow. According to one source: 67% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot, and 10% Cabernet Franc. Now-2015. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, April 2012)

**89 \$295.00 (#252932) Vintages Special Offer**

**Château Pey de Pont 2009, Médoc AOC, Bordeaux, France:** Dark-opaque ruby in colour, the 2009 Château Pey de Pont displays 'ruggedly Médoc' aromas of currants, plums, dried blackberries, cherries, scorched earth, forest floor, and a wisp of vanilla and spice. Complex, with fine fruit, very firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a refined, enjoyable hint of currants and scorched earth on the finish. Robust, balanced, and crisp; vigorously decant if consumed young. 50% Merlot, 45% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Cabernet Franc. Now-2019. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, January 2013)

**89 \$23.95 (#307967) Vintages 2 February 2013 Release**

**Ruffino 2008 Modus, IGT Toscana, Tuscany, Italy:** Dark-opaque ruby in colour, the 2008 Modus is moderately toasted, presenting attractive aromas of dark cherries,

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currants, light mocha, licorice, subtle leather, vanilla, and spice. Complex, retaining very fine, well-structured fruit, firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a beautiful hint of cherries and plums on the finish. Lovely body, balance, and overall disposition. Typically 50% Sangiovese, 25% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 25% Merlot. Now-2018+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, May 2012)

**89** \$28.95 (#912956) Vintages 29 September 2012 Release

**Ruffino 2007 Riserva Ducale, Chianti Classico Riserva DOCG, Tuscany, Italy:** Dark ruby in colour with a streak of red currant, the 2007 Riserva Ducale reveals lovely, spritely aromas of wild red cherries, plums, dried currants, herbs, undergrowth, cedarwood, and spice. Complex, carrying fine fruit, firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a more traditional hint of dried wild cherries and cedarwood on the finish. Finely crafted, balanced, and flavoured—swell lightweight Riserva. Typically 80% Sangiovese (minimum), the rest Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Now-2016+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, May 2012)

**89** \$24.95 (#45195) LCBO General List

**Masseria del Feudo 2007 Rosso delle Rose, IGT Sicilia, Sicily, Italy:** Dark ruby in colour, the 2007 Rosso delle Rose offers lovely notes of fragrant cherries and licorice; switching to red plums, along with a hint of white pepper and spice. On the palate: good fruit showing, with firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a hint of licorice and 'blue' plums on the finish. Delightful flavour, roundness, and balance. Syrah and Nero d'Avola (percentages known). Now-2015. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, April 2011)

**88+** \$29.95 (Private Order) Ex-Cellars Wine Services

**Aneto 2009, Douro DOC, Portugal:** Dark-opaque ruby in colour, the 2009 Aneto reveals lovely notes of dark plummy strawberries, dried blueberries, dessert nougat, American oak traces, vanilla, and spice. On the palate: fine fruit showing, with firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a hint of plummy strawberries on the finish. Full-bodied, balanced, and flavourful. Touriga Franca, Touriga Nacional, Tinta Roriz, and Tinta Cão. Now-2018. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, January 2013)

**88** \$19.95 (#314930) Vintages 2 February 2013 Release

**Tenuta di Capraia 2010, Chianti Classico DOCG, Tuscany, Italy:** Dark ruby in colour, the 2010 Chianti Classico reveals lovely, open-concept notes of wild cherries and plums; switching to berries, mild herbs, and spice. On the palate: good fruit showing, with fine tannins, balanced acidity, and a hint of wild cherried plums on the finish. Balanced, fresh, and agreeably fruit-oriented. Typically 90% Sangiovese and 10% Colorino. Now-2016+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, January 2013)

**88** \$19.95 (#135277) Vintages 2 February 2013 Release

**Les Halos de Jupiter 2010, Costières di Nîmes AOC, Rhône, France:** Dark-opaque ruby in colour, the 2010 Les Halos de Jupiter reveals enjoyable notes of mildly herbed Provençal black fruits, dried raspberries, minerals, and a hint of licorice and spice. Reasonably complex, with fine fruit, firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a lovely hint of blackberries and dried herbs on the finish. Delightful flavour and balance. Grenache, Mourvèdre, and Carignan (percentages unknown). Now-2017. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, January 2013)

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**88 \$14.95 (#309153) Vintages 2 February 2013 Release**

**Langmeil 2009 Valley Floor Shiraz, Barossa, South Australia, Australia:** Dark-opaque ruby in colour, the 2009 Valley Floor Shiraz reveals delightful notes of eucalyptus, plums, dried berry fruits, leather, vanilla, and spice. On the palate: juicy forward fruit showing, with supple tannins, mild acidity, and a hint of wild flowers, eucalyptus, and plums on the finish. Nicely balanced and fresh. Screwcap closure. Now-2016+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, October 2012)

**88 \$29.95 (Private Order) B & W Wines**

**Ottoventi 2007 Nerello Mascalese, IGT Sicilia, Sicily, Italy:** Dark red currant in colour, the 2007 Nerello Mascalese displays pleasant notes of 'rugged' rhubarb-driven cherries, fruitcake, cloves, and a hint of cedarwood and spice. On the palate: very good fruit showing, with firm tannins, balanced acidity, and a hint of rhubarb-infused cherries and cloves on the finish. Nicely crafted, with good regional character and balance. Now-2013. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, April 2011)

**88 Currently Unavailable Les Vins Leanto (Private Order)**

**Rabbit Ranch 2009 Pinot Noir, Central Otago, South Island, New Zealand:** Medium ruby-red currant in colour, the 2009 Pinot Noir displays lovely notes of red cherries (slightly spicy), plums, strawberries, licorice, rhubarb, and spice. On the palate: fine fruit showing, with balanced acidity, and a delightful hint of cherries and strawberries on the finish. Lightweight yet very fresh, balanced, and silky. Screwcap closure. Now-2013. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, January 2012)

**88 \$24.95 (#55228) Vintages 18 February 2012 Release**

**Baglio di Pianetto 2005 Ramione, IGT Sicilia, Sicily, Italy:** Dark ruby in colour, the 2005 Ramione reveals pleasant notes of plummy red cherries, currants, and a hint of dried blackberries and spice. On the palate: good fruit showing, with fine tannins, balanced acidity, and a reserved hint of red plums on the finish. Balanced, well-executed, and enjoyable. 50% Nero d'Avola and 50% Merlot. Now-2011+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, March 2010)

**88 Currently Unavailable Lifford Wine Agency**

**Zolo 2008 Reserve Malbec, Uco Valley (Mendoza), Argentina:** Opaque black-purple in colour, the 2008 Reserve Malbec reveals concentrated notes of subtle white pepper-laced blackberries and plums; switching to tobacco, dried violets, and spice. On the palate: fine forward fruit showing, with firm tannins, milder acidity, and a lingering hint of purple fruits on the finish. Good flavour, balance, and overall freshness. Now-2017. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, January 2013)

**88 \$16.95 (#81091) Vintages 2 February 2013 Release**

## Sparkling Wines:

**Taittinger 2005 Vintage Brut, Champagne, France:** Compared to the '04, the 2005 Taittinger is a somewhat more delicate, more delectably medium-bodied creature. Pale straw-lime in colour, it offers elegant, inviting scents of citrus-infused biscuits, dried green fruits, ginger, brioche, subtle powdered sugar, vanilla, and a fabulous hint of exotic spices. Complex, delivering pristine frothy fruit, balanced acidity, and a refined, outgoing

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hint of yeasty biscuits and lemon citrus on the finish. Amazing purity, structure, and style; this will keep for at least a decade. 50% Chardonnay and 50% Pinot Noir. Now-2022+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**92 \$58.00 (Private Order) Eton Vintners (UK)**

**Taittinger NV Prélude Grand Cru Brut, Champagne, France:** Crafted from some of the finest Grand Cru vineyards in the Marne (50/50 Montagne de Reims and Côte des Blancs), the NV Prélude delivers a terrific performance. Pale straw in colour with a touch of lime, it opts for exceptional scents of fresh yeasty biscuits, lemon citrus, white grapefruit, ginger, white flowers, pear cider, and spice. Complex, with remarkable frothy fruit, balanced acidity, and a very elegant hint of pure lemon citrus and moderate biscuity notes on the finish. Wonderful style, balance, and finesse. 50% Chardonnay and 50% Pinot Noir. Now-2019+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**92 \$49.07 (Private Order) Universal Fine Wine & Spirits (USA)**

**Taittinger NV Folies de la Marquetterie Brut, Champagne, France:** Single-vineyard champagne grown near the birthplace of this exquisite family-owned house, the NV Folies de la Marquetterie conveys real finesse, body, and balance. Pale-light straw in colour, it offers tempting scents of 'icy' lemon citrus, yeasty biscuits, dried green fruits, white flowers, ginger, and spice. Complex, retaining marvellously crisp fruit, balanced acidity, and an excellent, upright hint of lemon citrus and green fruit traces on the finish. Exciting discovery, this will easily keep over the medium term. Now-2020. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**91++ \$54.40 (Private Order) Fine & Rare Wines (UK)**

**Lacroix-Triaulaire & Fils 2005 Vintage Prestige Brut, Champagne, France:** Pale-light lime in colour, the 2005 Lacroix-Triaulaire & Fils reveals beautifully delicate scents of yeasty biscuits, pears, green grapes, ginger, cream crackers, and a hint of spice. Complex, with round fruit, balanced acidity, and an elegant, stylish hint of delicate yeasty biscuits and pears on the finish. Highly impressive balance, structure, and general accessibility; my only note from this operation. Now-2014++. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2010)

**90 \$46.65 (Private Order) Nokhrin Wines**

**R. Pouillon & Fils NV Premier Cru Brut Rosé, Champagne, France:** Crafted from 100% Pinot Noir and sourced from Premier Cru sites, the NV Brut Rosé is a beautiful champagne. Medium cherry-cranberry in colour, it features elegant, immensely engaging scents of red 'Pinot' fruits and yeasty biscuits; making way for pink cherries, moderate herbal nuances, and a hint of blood oranges and spice. Complex, with very fine, crisp fruit, balanced acidity, and a refined hint of red fruits and subtle yeasty biscuits on the finish. First-rate originality, style, and balance. Now-2017. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, January 2013)

**90 \$44.95 (#314518) Vintages 2 February 2013 Release**

**Veuve Doussot NV Brut Rosé, Champagne, France:** Pale-light pink in colour with a touch of salmon, the NV Brut Rosé is delicately toasted, offering very lovely scents of ruby-red grapefruit, dried cherries, flowers, and a hint of nuts and spice. Complex, with beautiful delicate fruit, balanced acidity, and an elegant, crisp/fresh hint of delicate

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yeasty biscuits on the finish. First-rate approach, balance, and refinement. 100% Pinot Noir. Now-2014+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, December 2010)

**90** \$30.83 (Private Order) Cavavino (Belgium)

## Dessert Wines:

**Coyote's Run 2008 Riesling Icewine, VQA Niagara Peninsula, Ontario, Canada (375 mL):** The best wine of the vintage? Tasted in sub-zero temperatures at the outdoor Niagara Icewine Festival, the 2008 Coyote's Run Riesling was my favourite of all wines presented. Light gold in colour with a touch of orange, it reveals extremely flattering, almost intoxicating scents of mangos, apricots, honeysuckle, orange blossom, starfruit, lemon citrus, lanolin, amber, nuts, and exotic spices. Truly complex, exhibiting dazzling sweet fruit, balanced acidity, and an opulent, extraordinary hint of mangos and honeyed orange blossom on the finish. Magnificent liveliness, balance, and harmony. Screwcap closure. Now-2028+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, January 2012)

**93+** \$49.95 (#12658) Vintages 11 December 2010 Release

**Konzelmann 2008 Riesling Icewine, VQA Niagara Peninsula, Ontario, Canada (375 mL):** Tasted outdoors in finger-numbing conditions at Niagara-on-the-Lake, the 2008 Riesling Icewine is definitely the best dessert wine Herbert Konzelmann has yet to produce. Light-medium orange in colour, it reveals extraordinary scents of sweet apricots and peaches, honeysuckle, orange zest, lemon, acacia flowers, and a hint of green fruits and spice. Very complex, featuring wonderful fruit, balanced acidity, and a lingering, exceptional hint of honeysuckle and orange blossom on the finish. Magnificent concentration, balance, and intensity; this beauty will keep for at least fifteen years. Now-2026+-. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, January 2012)

**92++** \$54.00 (Private Order) Konzelmann Estate Winery

**Stratus 2008 White Icewine, VQA Niagara Peninsula, Ontario, Canada (200 mL):** A 50/50 blend of Riesling and Sémillon, winemaker Jean-Laurent Groux's 2008 White Icewine is amazingly silky, balanced, and textured. Light golden-straw in colour, this unusual pairing of grapes reveals intriguing, inviting scents of honeyed apricots, melon, peaches, custard, lime, nuts, and a hint of lanolin and spice. Complex, boasting superbly sweet, fully integrated fruit, balanced acidity, and a marvellous, elegant hint of lemon, honeysuckle, and nuts on the finish. Great style and length, Status' dessert labels have long been recognized as the stars of the winery. Now-2024. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, January 2012)

**92** \$39.85 (Private Order) Stratus Wines

**Château Bastor-Lamontagne 1990, Sauternes AOC, Bordeaux, France (Magnum):** Tasted from magnum, the 1990 Bastor-Lamontagne, though unlikely to improve with further aging, remains not in the least bit frail. Medium-orange in colour, this marvellous Sauternes reveals welcoming scents of nitted orange marmalade, honeysuckle, maple amber, marzipan, lemon, and a hint of blood oranges and exotic spices. Complex, boasting excellent sweet fruit, balanced acidity, and a lingering, dryish hint of nitted orange marmalade on the finish. Great disposition, dignity, and harmony; best enjoyed as a digestif. The blend is usually roughly 80% Sémillon, 17% Sauvignon Blanc, and 3% Muscadelle. Now-2025+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**91+** Price Unavailable Private Collection

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**Colaneri 2010 Profondo Mistera Gewürztraminer Icewine, VQA Niagara Peninsula, Ontario, Canada (375 mL):** Though made by only a handful of producers, Gewürztraminer often makes for fantastic icewine. Light-medium golden-straw in colour, the 2010 Profondo Mistera is definitely more Alsatian in style, disclosing beautiful, fascinating scents of lychee-infused pears, peaches, banana-flavoured candies, and exotic spices. Complex, retaining delicious, singularly sweet fruit, balanced acidity, and a lingering, poignant hint of lemon drops, lychees, and banana-flavoured candies on the finish. Powerful at 13.7% alcohol, delivering remarkable intensity, potency, and character. Now-2024. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, January 2012)

**91+ \$29.95 (Private Order) Colaneri Estate Winery**

**Palatine Hills 2008 Gewürztraminer Icewine, VQA Niagara Lakeshore, Niagara Peninsula, Ontario, Canada (200 mL):** Light golden-yellow in colour with orange highlights, winemaker Jeff Innes' superlative 2008 Gewürztraminer icewine displays marvellously delicate scents of fragrant orange peel, honeysuckle, lemon drops, lychees, jasmine, apricots, and a hint of bergamot, lime cordial, and spice. Very complex, possessing excellent, exceedingly sweet fruit, balanced acidity, and a slightly spicy, luxurious hint of nut-infused apricots, honeysuckle, and lychee traces on the finish. Marvellous sophistication, intensity, and balance. Now-2023+. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, January 2012)

**91+ \$35.00 (Private Order) Palatine Hills Estate Winery**

**Ravine Vineyard 2009 Riesling Icewine, VQA Niagara Peninsula, Ontario, Canada (375 mL):** Pale-light lime in colour, the 2009 Riesling Icewine features more delicate, delightful scents of honeysuckle, kiwi, white peaches, lemon citrus, and a hint of nuts and spice. Complex, retaining superb sweet fruit, balanced acidity, and an elegant, youthful hint of ripe pears, lemon, and honey-coated nuts on the finish. First-rate freshness, balance, and expression, with the distinct possibility of opening up further over the next several years. Now-2022++. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, January 2012)

**90 \$36.00 (Private Order) Ravine Vineyard**

### Fortified Wines:

**Graham's 40 Year Old Tawny Port, Douro DOC, Portugal:** Examined alongside the its ten-year-younger sibling, the melodious Graham's 40 Year Old Tawny reverberates in near-perfect harmony. Medium tawny in colour, this gem exhibits astounding multilayered aromas of toffee and dried fruits; quickly switching to butterscotch, Skor® bars, fruitcake, figs, maple amber, walnuts, extremely mild citrus elements, and plenty of spice. Incredibly complex, wielding soothing, fantastically mellow fruit, fully integrated tannins, balanced acidity, and a longlasting hint of toffee, dried fruits, and walnuts on the finish. Amazingly lengthy, harmonious, and comforting. Not as elegant as the 30 Year Old, but definitely more powerful and (appropriately) flavourful in orientation—the full package...and then some. Now-2055++. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**97 \$147.20 (Private Order) K&L Wine Merchants (USA)**

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**Graham's 30 Year Old Tawny Port, Douro DOC, Portugal:** Along with the Taylor Fladgate (examined several years back), the Graham's 30 Year Old Tawny Port has got to be one of the best of its kind in the business. Medium tawny in colour, it delivers captivating aromas of rich caramel- and nut-infused dried fruits, gingerbread and shortbread, butterscotch, toffee, maple amber, delicate citrus elements, cinnamon, and abundant alternate spices. Truly complex, possessing heavenly, slightly velvety fruit, fully integrated tannins, balanced acidity, and a stunning, incredibly graceful hint of toffee, caramel, and nuts on the finish. Classic harmony, structure, balance, and focus. Tasted (and purchased) at recent gathering in London. Now-2050++. (Julian Hitner, The Successful Collector, November 2012)

**95 \$95.18 (Private Order) Pacific Wine Merchants (USA)**