

Best Buys from Bordeaux 2009

July 9th 2010, by Gavin

All over now bar the shouting.

Here, in my humble opinion, are the Best Buys - at the opening prices - of Bordeaux 2009, broken down as follows:

10 Expensive wines - but sound investments.

£400 to £1000 - 17 Fabulous quality, blue chip names.

£200 - £300 - This is where the values of 2009 lie: 20 cracking wines.

Under £200 - 12 lovely wines from the Left Bank.

The 2009 columns, on the left, show the price per case in £ [En Primeur \(EP\) from UK merchants](#). Then my scores (GQ) and Robert Parker's, using the 100 point system, Jancis Robinson's out of 20. On the right, I tasted all the top 2005s in bottle for Wine & Spirit magazine for the Dec 2007 issue, five months before Robert Parker released his final scores, followed by both the price EP and now.

10 Expensive - but sound investments

That is, at the opening prices shown. To show all the First Growths would be boring, so here's my personal selection. Clinet, for example, which I tweeted as a 'Must Buy', was released ex-Chateau at €58, or £820 to the consumer, is now being offered by the UK's biggest merchant at £1600.

| Château | Appellation | £ EP 2009 | GQ 2009 | RP 2009 | JR 2009 | GQ 2005 | RP 2005 | £ EP 2005 | £ Now 2005 |
|---------------------|-------------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|------------|
| Beauséjour Duffau | St-Emilion | £900 | 94-97 | 96-98+ | 16.5+ | 92 | 91 | £550 | £450 |
| Carruades de Lafite | Pauillac | £800+ | 91-93 | 92-94* | 17 | 91 | 89 | £380 | £2,400 |
| L'Eglise Clinet | Pomerol | £3,400 | 94-97 | 98-100 | 17.5+ | 97 | 100 | £1,300 | £4,350 |
| L'Evangile | Pomerol | £2100 | 95-97 | 96-100* | 18 | 97 | 95 | £1,100 | £1,800 |
| Duhart Milon | Pauillac | £540+ | 93-95 | 94-96* | 17.5 | 91 | 94 | £240 | £630 |
| Clinet | Pomerol | £820 | 94-96 | 97-100* | 17 | 94 | 92 | £550 | £600 |
| Les Forts de Latour | Pauillac | £1,100 | 91-94 | 93-95* | 18 | 93 | 92 | £650 | £1,300 |
| Lafite Rothschild | Pauillac | £10,000 | 96-99 | 98-100 | 19 | 98 | 96+ | £3,750 | £10,500 |
| Hosanna | Pomerol | £1050 | 93-95 | 98-100* | 17 | 94 | 95 | £590 | £1,200 |
| Montrose | St-Estèphe | £1,200+ | 96-98 | 96-100* | 16.5+ | 93 | 95 | £630 | £820 |

£400 to £1000 - 17 Fabulous quality, Blue Chip names

| Château | Appellation | £ EP 2009 | GQ 2009 | RP 2009 | JR 2009 | GQ 2005 | RP 2005 | £ EP 2005 | £ Now 2005 |
|--------------------------|-------------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|------------|
| Beychevelle | St-Julien | £520 | 90-93 | 92-94+ | 16.5 | 91 | 90 | £280 | £550 |
| Calon Ségur | St-Estèphe | £600 | 92-95 | 92-94+ | 18 | 95 | 92+ | £430 | £500 |
| La Fleur-Pétrus | Pomerol | £930 | 94-96 | 96-98+* | 17+ | 93 | 93 | £550 | £1,350 |
| Gruaud Larose | St-Julien | £470 | 90-93 | 92-94+ | 16.5 | 92 | 89? | £330 | £384 |
| Larcis Ducasse | St-Emilion | £480 | 94-96 | 91-94 | 17 | 97 | 98 | £670 | £1,050 |
| La Lagune | Haut-Médoc | £395+ | 93-95 | 94-96 | 15 | 94 | 95 | £260 | £500 |
| Malescot St-Exupéry | Margaux | £670 | 93-95 | 95-97 | 17.5 | 93 | 97 | £355 | £850 |
| Lagrange | St-Julien | £400 | 92-94 | 90-93 | 17 | 93 | 91? | £275 | £370 |
| Léoville Poyferré | St-Julien | £860 | 93-95 | 97-100* | 17.5 | 96 | 93 | £450 | £650 |
| Lynch-Bages | Pauillac | £900 | 94-96 | 94-96+ | 17 | 93 | 91 | £470 | £800 |
| Magdelaine | St-Emilion | £540 | 93-95 | 92-94+ | 16+ | 90 | 90 | £350 | £400 |
| Malartic-Lagravière | P-Léognan | £410 | 92-95 | 93-95+* | 15.5 | 93 | 92 | £250 | £300 |
| Gazin | Pomerol | £540 | 91-93 | 94-96* | 16.5 | 92 | 94 | £320 | £480 |
| Pavie-Macquin | St-Emilion | £780 | 94-96 | 94-96 | 16 | 98 | 98 | £450 | £1,100 |
| Pichon-Longueville Baron | Pauillac | £995 | 95-97 | 93-95 | 18 | 95 | 94 | £725 | £795 |
| Pontet-Canet | Pauillac | £900+ | 95-97 | 97-100 | 18 | 96 | 96+ | £460 | £760 |
| Saint Pierre | St-Julien | £535 | 92-93 | 94-98* | 17+ | 94 | 93 | £300 | £375 |

£200 - £300

This is where the values of 2009 lie: 20 cracking wines that would grace any cellar. In some cases, such as de Fieuzal and La Tour Figeac, prices have yet to catch up with quality. And you can't say that about many top wines in 2009. Rouget, for £300, is right opposite L'Eglise Clinet and Clos l'Eglise in Pomerol - and they cost £3400 and £1500 respectively.

| Château | Appellation | £ EP 2009 | GQ 2009 | RP 2009 | JR 2009 | GQ 2005 | RP 2005 | £ EP 2005 | £ Now 2005 |
|-------------------|-------------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|------------|
| Batailley | Pauillac | £265 | 90-92 | 90-92 | 17 | 90 | 91 | £180 | £320 |
| Bellefont Belcier | St-Emilion | £252 | 91-93 | NT | 17+ | 91 | 94 | £190 | £350 |
| Cantemerle | Haut-Médoc | £240 | 90-92 | 92-94* | 15.5 | 90 | 90 | £160 | £190 |
| Clos des Jacobins | St-Emilion | £280 | 90-92 | 92-94* | 16.5 | 90 | 91 | £212 | £350 |
| Ferrière | Margaux | £240 | 90-92 | NT | 16.5 | 91 | NT | £175 | £295 |
| de Fieuzal | P-Léognan | £250 | 91-93 | 91-93+* | 15.5 | 88 | 90 | £160 | £220 |

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|--------------------|------------|------|-------|--------|-------|----|----|------|------|
| Grand Mayne | St-Emilion | £290 | 90-93 | 91-94 | 16 | 91 | 93 | £250 | £320 |
| Grand Pontet | St-Emilion | £250 | 90-92 | 91-93 | NT | 91 | 93 | £210 | £295 |
| Grand Puy Ducasse | Pauillac | £260 | 90-92 | 90-93* | 16.5 | 89 | 91 | £165 | £280 |
| Haut Bergey | P-Léognan | £230 | 91-92 | 92-94 | 16 | 90 | 92 | £160 | £215 |
| Haut-Bages Libéral | Pauillac | £285 | 91-93 | NT | 15.5 | 90 | 90 | £200 | £265 |
| Haut-Batailley | Pauillac | £280 | 91-93 | 88-90 | 17.5 | 91 | 89 | £215 | £250 |
| Les Ormes de Pez | St-Estephe | £240 | 90-92 | 88-90 | 17+ | 88 | 86 | £165 | £235 |
| Phélan Ségur | St-Estèphe | £250 | 90-92 | 90-92 | 17- | 90 | 89 | £200 | £276 |
| Pibran | Pauillac | £215 | 89-91 | NT | 16.5 | 90 | NT | £150 | £260 |
| Rouget | Pomerol | £299 | 91-93 | 91-93* | 17 | 90 | 90 | £210 | £280 |
| du Tertre | Margaux | £260 | 90-91 | 90-92 | 17.5 | 90 | 90 | £210 | £265 |
| La Tour Carnet | Haut-Médoc | £230 | 90-93 | 91-93* | 16.5+ | 91 | 91 | £180 | £280 |
| La Tour du Pin | St-Emilion | £295 | 89-91 | 92-94 | 16.5 | NT | NT | ? | £320 |
| La Tour Figeac | St-Emilion | £245 | 92-94 | 91-93 | 16 | 92 | 91 | £200 | £340 |

Under £200

12 lovely wines from the Left Bank: Poujeaux and Chasse Spleen for around £200 are favourites, while Labégorce, not really liked by Parker, is good value. The Wine Society are also offering Fourcas-Borie, another Lustrac, which is terrific for £98.

| Château | Appellation | £ EP 2009 | GQ 2009 | RP 2009 | JR 2009 | GQ 2005 | RP 2005 | £ EP 2005 | £ Now 2005 |
|----------------|-------------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|------------|
| Beaumont | Haut-Médoc | £92 | 87-88 | NT | 16.5 | 87 | NT | £70 | £130 |
| Belgrave | Haut-Médoc | £180 | 90-92 | 88-90+ | 16 | 90 | 89 | £135 | £200 |
| Belle-Vue | Haut-Médoc | £125 | 88-89 | 90-92* | 16.5 | NT | 88 | £95 | £180 |
| Bernadotte | Haut-Médoc | £140 | 88-90 | 90-92* | 16 | 86 | NT | NA | £120 |
| Chasse-Spleen | Moulis | £195 | 90-92 | 90-92 | 16.5 | 88 | 88 | £153 | £205 |
| Fourcas-Dupré | Lustrac | £110 | 87-89 | NT | 16 | 87 | NT | £75 | £125 |
| Fourcas-Hosten | Lustrac | £110 | 87-88+ | NT | 17 | 87 | NT | £75 | £110 |
| Gironville | Haut-Médoc | £90 | 88-89 | 89-91* | 14.5 | 87 | 88 | £65 | £120 |
| Labégorce | Margaux | £165 | 90-92 | 85-87 | 17 | 88 | NT | £160 | £180 |
| Potensac | Médoc | £175 | 89-91+ | 89-91* | 17 | 89 | NT | £130 | £180 |
| La Tour de By | Médoc | £115 | 87-89 | NT | 17 | 86 | NT | £80 | £180 |
| Poujeaux | Moulis | £195 | 90-92 | 90-93* | 16 | 90 | 89 | £150 | £240 |

If only I could afford the lot.