

## EN PRIMEUR BORDEAUX 2008 – UPDATED RELEASES

Finally the 2008 vintage has now been endorsed as an excellent Bordeaux vintage according to Robert Parker in his latest Wine Advocate (Issue182). 'all the qualities that make an excellent and in some cases, a great vintage so special: exceptionally dark opaque colours, gorgeously ripe fruit, stunning purity almost across the board, great freshness, slightly higher acids than normal, and remarkable density as well as concentration.'

Of course we had already assessed the wines last month and were very surprised with how good they showed. Parker also says a number of super bwines are close to, if not equal to the prodigious 2005 or 2000 vintages. The quality of the vintage boils down to the longer than usual ripening process. The grapes were hanging off the vines right up to late October, so the tannins were fully ripe. The weather was cooler and drier than usual during the crucial months between June and September. With less than an inch of rain between June and October the yields were low (38hl/ha at Léoville Lascases, for example).

The resulting vintage was excellent but in my opinion not in each appellation. Pauillac, St Julien, St Emilion and Pomerol made the best wines in this year with the finest balance and structure.

We felt that some release prices have been fair with many top chateaux showing a 20-45% reduction in price since 2007. There are many wines in the £10 to £25 category that are worth buying for pure value for money. The First growths prices were released in mid April and at attractive prices, similar to their 2004s. Unfortunately, first *tranche* quantities released were minute amongst these top chateaux. Since Parker scores have been out their prices have jumped, so we recommend buying sooner rather than later.

Here is the list since 2 June with recommendations from L'Assemblage highlighted. Wine notes can be found in the main list under 2008 with current availabilities and prices. For more advice and for orders please don't hesitate to contact us.

	GBP/cs	GW Score	RPScore
<b>Releases to 2 June 2009.</b>			
Angélus	710	92-94	92-94
Ausone*	7500	94-96	96-100
Brane Cantenac	280	90-92	90-93

Branaire Ducru	275	90-92	91-93+	R
Canon La Gaffeliere	390	91-93	90-93	
Calon Ségur	315	91-93	91-93	
Carruades de Lafite *	695	87-89	91-93	
Cosd 'Estournel	770	94-96	94-96	R
Climens	725	93-95	92-95	
Clinet*	470	94-96	95-97	R
Clerc Milon	270	90-93	89-91	R
Croix de Gay	185	90-92	90-92	
Ducru Beaucaillou	750		96-98	
Duhart Milon *	300	89-91	93-95	R
Fonbel	120	87-89	88-90	
La Fleur de Gay	445	92-94	93-95	
Gazin	425	92-94	94-96	
Grand Puy Lacoste	280	89-91	89-91+	
Hosanna	980		96-98	
La Conseillante	500	92-94+	90-94	
La Mondotte	950	92-94+	93-95	
Lafite Rothschild*	3450	95-97	98-100	R
Latour*	2850	94-96	96-98	
Léoville Lascases	950	93-95+	95-97+	
La Lagune	275	90-94	91-93	
La Chapelle D'Ausone	1250	93-95	94-96	R
Le Gay Pomerol	695		96-98	
Léoville Barton	350	92-94	92-94	R
Margaux*	2250	93-95+	95-97	
Monbouquet	285	90-93	92-94	
Montrose	520	92-93	95-97	R
Mouton Rothschild *	1950	94-96	94-96	R
Petit Mouton	460	90-92	89-91	R
Léoville Poyferré	305	92-94	91-93	R
Lynch Bages	440	91-93	91-93+	R
L'Eglise Clinet *	895	94-96	94-96	R
L'Evangile	695	92-95	93-95	
Pavillon Blanc	750	91-93	91-93	
Pavillon Rouge	320	89-91	90-92	
Palmer	1050	93-95	95-97	
Pavie	1200	94-96	96-98	
Pontet Canet	590	94-96	96-98+	R
Phelan Segur	200	89-91	88-90	
Pichon Baron	525	92-94	92-94	R
Pichon Lalande *	560	93-95+	94-96	R
Suduiraut	430	92-94	93-95	
Smith Haut Lafitte	350	92-94	93-95+	R
La Mission Haut-Brion	1335	94-96	94-96+	

Le Clarence de Haut Brion	450	90-92	89-91	<b>R</b>
Haut Brion*	2250	94-96	95-97	<b>R</b>
Haut Brion Blanc*	3000	92-94		
Laville Haut Brion (blanc)	2595	91-93	90-92	
Talbot	260	90-92	89-91	
Troplong Mondot	495	93-95	95-97	
Vieux Ch Certan *	480	93-95	92-94	<b>R</b>
Yquem	1950		93-95	

**All Wines Offered In Bond,.**

\*= very limited

Score: Guy Willings, L'Assemblage **R=highly recommended**

Score: Robert Parker, Wine Advocate