



New Releases - Bordeaux En Primeur 2017

'2017 was complicated, but there are some excellent wines.' ~ by Decanter



Bordeaux En Primeur 2017 campaign is picking up the pace last week. Here comes another array of new releases, including 2 big names - **Ch. Pichon Baron** from Pauillac and **Ch. Cos d'Estournel** from St Estephe; a leading player of Pessac Leognan - **Ch. Smith Haut Lafitte** and 5 Premiers grands crus classés B of Saint Emilion – **Ch. Pavie Macquin**, **Ch. Troplong Mondot**, **Ch. La Gaffeliere**, **Ch. Larcis Ducasse**, and **Clos Fourtet**.

Check out our running list of [New Releases](#) and the [particular highlights](#).

2017 New Releases

En Primeur 2017	AOC	WA	Vinous	JS	WS	Euro	HKD (REF) @9.29
Baron de Brane	Margaux	-	86-88	90-91	-	€ 19.5	HK\$182
Beauregard	Pomerol	86-88+	90-93	92-93	89-92	€ 45.5	HK\$423
Bellevue Mondotte	St Emilion	96-98	95-97	92-93	91-94	€ 110.5	HK\$1,027
Carmes Haut Brion	Pessac Leognan	-	-	94-95	-	€ 58.5	HK\$544
Clos Fourtet	St Emilion	-	92-95	94-95	93-96	€ 78	HK\$725
Clos Rene	Pomerol	-	90-93	-	-	€ 23.4	HK\$218

Cos d'Estournel	St Estephe	97-100	94-96	97-98	-	€ 117	HK\$1,087
Cos d'Estournel Blanc	St Estephe	90-92	90-93	96-97	-	€ 91	HK\$846
Feytit Clinet	Pomerol	-	93-96	91-92	-	€ 45.5	HK\$423
Gaffeliere	St Emilion	95-97	94-97	94-95	89-92	€ 50.8	HK\$472
Grandes Murailles	St Emilion	88-91	90-93	88-89	90-93	€ 32.5	HK\$302
Lacoste Borie	Pauillac	-	88-90		-	€ 19.5	HK\$182
Larcis Ducasse	St Emilion	92-94	92-95	94-95	92-95	€ 52	HK\$484
Marquis de Calon	St Estephe	88-90	88-90	89-90	-	€ 19.5	HK\$182
Pagodes de Cos	St Estephe	90-92	90-92	92-93	-	€ 32.5	HK\$302
Pavie Decesse	St Emilion	95-97	93-96	95-96	90-93	€ 93.5	HK\$869
Pavie Macquin	St Emilion	95-97	93-96	94-95	92-95	€ 55.8	HK\$519
Pichon Baron	Pauillac	95-97	93-95	95-96	92-95	€ 104	HK\$967
Smith Haut Lafitte Blanc	Pessac Leognan	96-98+	93-96	96-97	94-97	€ 87	HK\$809
Smith Haut Lafitte Rouge	Pessac Leognan	94-96	94-97	95-96	91-94	€ 72.8	HK\$677
Tropelong Mondot	St Emilion	95-97	95-98	95-96	91-94	€ 78	HK\$725

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Cos d'Estournel 2017 (St Estephe)

EUR 117 (~HK\$1,087) / bt1

Wine advocate 97-100:

"The final blend of the 2017 Cos d'Estournel is 66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot, 1% Petit Verdot and 1% Cabernet Franc. Very deep purple-black in color, it offers up intense scents of crushed blackcurrants, blackberries and black cherries with touches of incense, spice cake, star anise and plum preserves plus a perfumed hint of potpourri. The palate is medium-bodied with very firm yet wonderfully ripe, "sweet", fine-grained tannins at just 13% alcohol—something of a miracle in our modern times. The palate sports fantastic freshness and tons of energy emitted from the intensely perfumed black fruit layers, finishing on an epically long-lingering mineral note. Truly profound."

James Suckling 97-98:

"Love tasting this wine. You almost want to drink it for its harmony and balance. Full-bodied and so complete with cloves, spices, dark berries and hints of chocolate. Wonderful integration on the finish."

Vinous 94-96:

"The 2017 Cos d'Estournel is matured in 60% new oak and comprises 13% alcohol, approximately the same as the 2016. It has a more expressive and welcoming bouquet than usual, maybe more indicative of how this wine will mature in bottle, less opaque than the 2016. A common theme throughout the range from Cos d'Estournel is a Pauillac-inspired backbone/tannic structure coupled with an attractive scent wafting over from the estuary...think mudflats, oyster shells and the tang of sea spray. It gains a little intensity with aeration but never fully lets go. The palate is very well balanced with filigree tannin, rendering this one of the most approachable barrel samples from the estate in recent years. The coolness of the latter part of the season defines this Saint-Estèphe more than the precocity of June: streamlined, cool and linear with a velvety finish that feels sleek, to the point of being understated, though that belies its length and focus. This is simply a very classy wine in the making and typical of the more recent sophisticated style pursued by the property in recent years." - Neal Martin

Pichon Baron 2017 (Pauillac)

EUR 104 (~HK\$967) / bt1

Wine Advocate 95-97:

"The grand vin represents 50% of production this year. A blend of 79% Cabernet Sauvignon and 21% Merlot, the 2017 Pichon-Longueville Baron is deep garnet-purple in color and simply sings of vibrant blackcurrants, black cherries and rose hip notes with nuances of potpourri, incense, licorice and pencil shavings plus touches of cigar box and fertile loam. Medium-bodied, super intense and possessing stunning poise, it has very firm, fine-grained tannins and a beautifully silken texture, with bags of freshness and a very long, perfumed finish." - Lisa Perrotti-Brown

James Suckling 95-96:

"This is very centered and focused on the mid-palate with beautiful currant, coffee and walnut character. Full-bodied and superfine. Strong tannins and a long and bright finish. Lots of blackcurrants and blackberries in the end."

Vinous 93-95:

"Pichon Baron is one of the sexiest Pauillacs I tasted in 2017. Silky, nuanced and finessed to the core, the 2017 hits all the right notes. In the glass, the 2017 possesses striking aromatic presence, vivid flavors, silky tannins and exceptional balance. In 2017, Pichon Baron is a wine of incomparable elegance and total finesse. I loved it." - Antonio Galloni

Smith Haut Lafitte Rouge 2017 (Pessac Leognan)

EUR 72.8 (~HK\$677) / bt1

Vinous 94-97:

"The 2017 Smith Haut Lafitte is easily one of the highlights of the vintage. Dense, unctuous and impeccably balanced, the 2017 exudes depth from start to finish. Charcoal embers, graphite, menthol, licorice and sage add myriad shades of nuance to the plush, unctuous dark raspberry jam fruit. This is a super impressive showing from Smith Haut Lafitte. I tasted the 2017 two times. On both occasions, the wine showed tremendous aromatic and flavor depth." - Antonio Galloni

James Suckling 95-96:

"This is a solid Smith for the vintage with blackberry and blackcurrant character. Full to medium body, firm and silky tannins and a lingering finish. Excellent potential here."

Wine Advocate 94-96:

"A blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot, the deep garnet-purple colored 2017 Smith Haut Lafitte opens slowly to reveal complex notes of crushed black cherries, black currants and wild blueberries with touches of lavender, pencil lead, cast iron pan and a waft of aniseed. Medium-bodied and elegant with great freshness and quiet intensity, it has firm, grainy tannins and a sustained yet ethereal mid-palate, with a long, energetic, mineral-laced finish." - Lisa Perrotti-Brown

Troplong Mondot 2017 (St Emilion Grand Cru)

EUR 78 (~HK\$725) / bt1

Vinous 95-98:

"The 2017 Troplong Mondot is easily one of the wines of the vintage. New CEO Aymeric de Gironde (formerly of Cos d'Estournel) and consulting oenologist Thomas Duclos are masterminding a remarkable new chapter in the life of Troplong Mondot. A major stylistic shift in the direction of freshness and energy has resulted in a positively stunning Troplong Mondot endowed with tremendous depth and vibrant. A rush of black cherry, plum, mocha, new leather and spice builds as this gorgeous Saint-Émilion shows off its breeding and total class. The blend is 85% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Sauvignon and 2% Cabernet Franc ." - Antonio Galloni

Wine Advocate 95-97:

"Troplong Mondot saw hardly any frost—less than 10%. The 2017 Troplong Mondot is blended of 85% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Sauvignon and 2% Cabernet Franc. Very deep purple-black in color, it offers up a cedar chest, cinnamon stick and cloves-laced nose with a core of crème de cassis, blackberry compote and preserved plums plus wafts of licorice, violets and sandalwood. Full-bodied, concentrated and sporting a firm frame of velvety tannins, it has a lively line lifting the densely packed fruit, finishing long and on a compelling savory note."

James Suckling 95-96:

"A bright and vivid red with dark-berry and plum character. Floral and bright. Medium to full body. Intense and crystal-clear. Ultra-fine tannins with a long and beautiful. Wonderful balance and harmony." - Lisa Perrotti-Brown

Pavie Macquin 2017 (St Emilion Grand Cru)

EUR 55.8 (~HK\$519) / btl

Wine Advocate 95-97:

"The 2017 Pavie Macquin is deep garnet-purple in color and opens with flamboyant notes of warm black and red plums, black cherries and tilled soil with delicate touches of cloves, star anise, red roses and forest floor. Medium-bodied with a firm backbone of very finely grained, very ripe tannins and tons of freshness, it has wonderfully elegant yet intense fruit layers and a long, minerally finish. Just beautiful."

Vinous 93-96:

"A sexy, racy wine, the 2017 Pavie Macquin is full of personality. A rush of sweet red cherry, plum, rose petal, mint and blood orange infuses this sumptuous, racy Saint-Émilion. A wine of striking purity and total class, Pavie Macquin dazzles. As always, Pavie Macquin is marked by stunning fruit purity, red fruit, soft contours and silky, voluptuous tannins. In 2017, the blend has a bit more Cabernet Franc than in the past, now that younger vineyards have come online." - Antonio Galloni

James Suckling 94-95:

"Very solid center palate of fruit and firm, silky tannins. Linear and bright with a focused and pretty finish. Full-bodied, tight and precise. Very clear and bright."

Gaffeliere 2017 (St Emilion Grand Cru)

EUR 50.8 (~HK\$472) / btl

Wine Advocate 95-97:

"Composed of 40% Cabernet Franc and 60% Merlot, the deep garnet-purple colored 2017 La Gaffeliere has pronounced cassis, baked plums and blackberry pie notes with suggestions of lavender, baking spices and rose hip tea. The palate is medium to full-bodied with a firm frame of ripe, fine-grained tannins, an electric intensity of bright black and blue fruits and wonderful freshness, finishing long and minerally."

Vinous 94-97:

"The 2017 La Gaffelière is without question one of the wines of the vintage in Saint-Émilion. Bright, precise and wonderfully lifted, the 2017 is all precision. Exquisite aromatics and lively, red-toned fruit infuse this mid-weight, remarkably pure Saint-Émilion. Spice, blood orange and floral notes add the closing layers of nuance. The 2017 really dazzles. Don't miss it." - Antonio Galloni

James Suckling 94-95:

"This is really excellent for the vintage with wonderful density of fruit in terms of plum liqueur and creme de cassis. The palate's plush but velvety with round tannins and a long finish. Should drink fabulously when young. So generous but silky and dialed-in."

Larcis Ducasse 2017 (St Emilion Grand Cru)

EUR 52 (~HK\$484) / bt1

James Suckling 94-95:

"A very pretty and structured red with blackberries, blueberries and hints of limestone character. Medium to full body, solid tannins and a real freshness underneath. Long and flavorful."

Vinous 92-95:

"The 2017 Larcis Ducasse is a rich, sensual wine, with softer contours and more plushness than is typically the case, part of which is attributable to the vintage and part of which is the result of gentler winemaking. Dark red cherry and plum fruit is nicely pushed forward in this succulent, racy Saint-Émilion. Mocha, licorice and menthol wrap around the juicy, pliant finish. The 2017 is an especially succulent, racy Larcis. It has been consistently brilliant on the four occasions I have tasted it so far." - Antonio Galloni

Wine Advocate 92-94:

"The 2017 Larcis Ducasse is deep garnet-purple colored with a bombastic, gregarious nose of preserved plums, baked blackberries and mocha with hints of sautéed herbs, pencil lead and chargrilled meats plus a waft of yeast extract. The palate is big, rich and full-bodied with a very firm frame of chewy tannins and lashings of oak joining with opulent fruit, finishing long."

Clos Fourtet 2017 (St Emilion Granc Cru)

EUR 78 (~HK\$725) / bt1

Wine Spectator 91-94:

"Well-built, with plum and blackberry fruit that is very fresh, thanks to bright acidity. Light floral, anise and graphite notes add range. A savory streak keeps the finish going."

James Suckling 92-93:

"A firm and silky young red with an attractive center palate of fruit and hints of cedar. Fresh, tight and compacted."

Vinous 90-92:

"The 2017 Gruaud Larose was picked from 15 to 20 September for the Merlot and from 21 to 3 October for the Cabernets, fermented in wood and cement tanks and aged in French oak, 80% new for 18 to 24 months. It comes in with 12.88° alcohol. Quite deep in colour, it has an introverted bouquet at first that demands a lot of coaxing from the glass. There are notes of black cherry, iodine and just a touch of pencil lead. The palate is medium-bodied with finely balanced. An unpretentious but pretty Gruaud Larose that is benefitted by what is clearly a prudent extraction. The oak is neatly integrated with a linear, almost pastille-like finish and quite a sustained aftertaste." - Neal Martin

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