

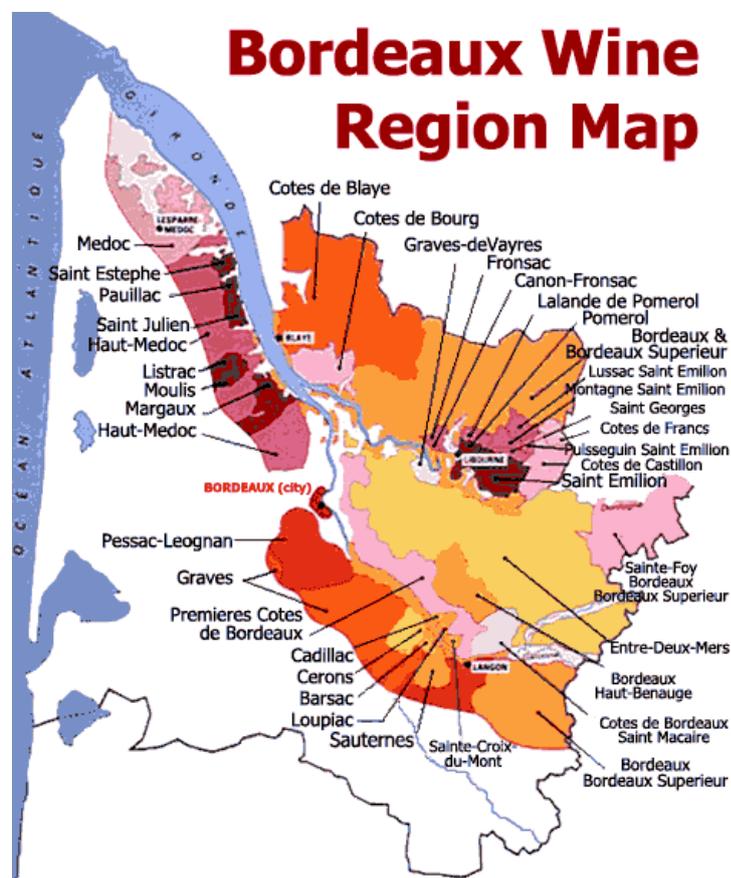
Wine Notes – 9th January, 2026

Wines of Bordeaux

Bordeaux, in southwest France, is the world's largest fine wine region, famous for its prestigious reds (Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot blends) and sweet dessert wines (Sauternes), alongside dry whites, rosés, and sparkling wines. Defined by the Garonne and Dordogne rivers, it's split into the Left Bank (Cabernet Sauvignon-focused, gravelly soil) and Right Bank (Merlot-focused, clay/limestone), with diverse terroirs producing everything from everyday wines to iconic, age-worthy bottles.

Key Characteristics

- Rivers: The Gironde estuary (formed by Garonne and Dordogne rivers) divides the region, influencing terroir and wine styles.
- Grape Varieties: Reds: Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot, Malbec, Carmenère. Whites: Sémillon, Sauvignon Blanc, Muscadelle.



Calvet Reserve 2024 Sauvignon Blanc

Stats:

Price	£10.00
Alcohol	11%
Stockist	Waitrose
Grape	100% Sauvignon Blanc
Country	Bordeaux, France



Notes:

Calvet is one of the oldest wine merchants in the Bordeaux region and this wine has the high-quality AoP label meaning it adheres to strict EU rules around production, yields and winemaking methods. The grapes must come from the Bordeaux area. This wine is crisp and fresh and is best consumed now. It is fermented in stainless steel tanks to preserve freshness.

Described as:

- **Aromatics (Nose):** Very fresh, elegant nose with aromas of flowers (acacia & fruit (lime, grapefruit & lychee)
- **Palate (Taste):** Medium bodied, well-balanced with a long, fresh, fruity finish and floral hints of white peach and mandarin zest.
- **Appearance:** Pale yellow with hints of green.

Food Match: Will go well with smoked salmon, shellfish or white meats.

Calhavera Graves 2022

Stats:

Price	£13.50 (£13.00 mix 6)
Alcohol	12.5%
Stockist	Majestic
Grape	100% Semillon
Country	Graves, Bordeaux



Notes:

Tutiac is one of the largest wineries in France, with all wines being produced from their own vines, many of which are certified organic. This single vineyard Sémillon (AoP) is made from low-yielding vines that are harvested at night time, which locks in freshness to the finished wine. You'll find it layered and textured thanks to 8 months of oak ageing. The wine has been described as round, elegant and zesty.

The wine's name comes from the Gascon word for a small pile of stones (which characterises the terroir of Bordeaux), has lots of zip and focus, refreshingly low alcohol, lively notes of passionfruit, grapefruit, beeswax, citrus and a hint of vanilla spice with a piercingly refreshing finish. Will go toasty with a bit more bottle age.

This is 100% Semillon but, as is typical of the grape when young, is light and particularly acidic. Given time – it's only a year old – this may develop some richer notes and there is a merest hint of those now which gives the wine some complexity. An interesting wine for the price and worth trying and leaving for a couple of years.

Described as:

- **Appearance:** Straw yellow with greenish reflections.
- **Aromas (Nose):** Zesty with grapefruit, green apple and a hint of beeswax on the nose.
- **Palate (Taste):** Hints of passionfruit and grapefruit / citrus with hints of vanilla
- **Finish:** Refreshing and clean.

Food Match: Pairs well with rich fish and seafood dishes and also with pork.

Definition Margaux 2021

Stats:

Price	£28.00 (£25.00 mix 6)
Alcohol	13.5%
Stockist	Majestic
Grape	Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot
Country	Margaux, Bordeaux, France



Notes:

Margaux is often a high price point and this wine from Majestic's Definition range, makes it much more accessible.

Definition Margaux is produced in partnership with Ulysse Cazabonne, one of Bordeaux's most respected wine merchants with close links to many top Châteaux. Director John Kolasa previously worked at Château Latour. It is owned by Chanel, who also own Château Rauzan Ségla and Château Canon. With such strong connections, Ulysse Cazabonne are able to source wines from some of Bordeaux's most famous estates that don't make it into their final blends. Margaux, on the Left Bank of Bordeaux, is where you'll find remarkably supple, perfumed and elegant claret. It's wonderfully complex, with flavours of red berries, smoke and sweet spices. It's medium bodied.

Cabernet Sauvignon is the predominant variety and brings power and structure to the wine. Merlot is also in the blend and brings softness and fruit.

Described as:

- **Appearance:** Intense red with a violet tinge.

- **Aromas (Nose):** Red fruits, some hints of violet and spice.
- **Palate (Taste):** Complex with flavours of red berries (raspberries & redcurrant) along with some blackberry, smoke and sweet spice.

Food Match: Partners well with chicken or turkey. A young Margaux is also said to go well with some cheese, duck or chicken in a red wine sauce and lamb.

Chateau Meaume Bordeaux Superior: Vintage Comparison

These two wines are both from the British owned Chateau but of different vintages giving us a chance to compare how a wine develops with time.

Stats:

2023

Price	£13.50 (£12.00 mix 6)
Alcohol	13.5%
Stockist	Majestic
Grape	Merlot with Cab. Sav. & Cab. Franc
Country	Bordeaux, France



2019

Price	£20.00 (£17.00 mix 6)
Alcohol	14.5%
Stockist	Majestic
Grape	Merlot with Cab. Sav. & Cab. Franc
Country	Bordeaux, France



Notes:

Description

Château Méauume is owned by British couple, Alan and Sue Johnson-Hill, but today the winemaking is in the hands of Alan and Sue's son, Mark, along with his wife Sandra. Together they uphold the family tradition of respecting land and vine, keeping sustainability at the heart of production. Bordeaux wines labelled 'Supérieur' are a step up from your average bottle. They're made with grapes from lower-yielding vines and must be aged in oak for at least a year, bringing you more complexity and intensity of flavour. Often these wines are richer, more concentrated and tannic than standard Bordeaux. It's structured yet elegant.

2023:

Described as:

- **Appearance:** Deep, intense ruby red.
- **Aromas (Nose):** Ripe red and black fruits, some spice, oak, cedar and a little vanilla.
- **Palate (Taste):** Rich, dark plum and blackberry, hints of cedar spice.

Food Match: Pairs with everything from roasted meats, cheese and charcuterie boards, to cosy fireside sipping.

2019:

Described as:

- **Appearance:** Deep, intense ruby red.
- **Aromas (Nose):** Elderberry, roasted coffee with ripe red and black fruits, some spice, oak, cedar and a little vanilla.
- **Palate (Taste):** Rich, dark plum and blackberry, hints of cedar spice and with smooth, silky tannins from the additional age.

Food match: Pairs well with steak or meat pasta dishes.

Definition Sauternes 2022

Stats:

Price	£26.00 (24.00 mix 6)
Alcohol	13%
Stockist	Majestic
Grape	Semillon
Country	Bordeaux, France



Notes:

Dessert wine is usually sold in half bottles for something sweet to accompany pudding. Sauternes is one of the worlds best known sweet wines and some of the single estate brands command very premium pricing (such as Chateau D'Yquem).

This Sauternes is made by one of the oldest families of the appellation. Winemakers Hervé and Patrick Lamothe have consistently continued to improve the quality of the estate's wines since joining in 1979 and 1989, respectively, with their passion and dedication leading to some of the best wines in the appellation. The vineyards' proximity to the Cerons River means that cool, misty mornings and long sunny days provide the perfect conditions for 'noble rot', essential in the production of sweet Sauternes wines. This funghi extracts the moisture from the grapes, thereby

concentrating the natural sugars and creating incredibly complex aromas and flavours. Fine and elegant,.

Described as:

- **Appearance:** Full bodied in the glass, liquid gold/yellow
- **Aromas (Nose):** Peach, candied fruit, honey and spices.
- **Palate (Taste):** A rich, full-bodied and silky texture on the palate with flavours of rich and concentrated peach, candied fruit and pineapple.

Food match: Can be enjoyed as an aperitif with tangy desserts, but also makes a good pairing for poultry and blue cheeses.

Favourite Wines of the Evening

Red: Chateau Meaume Bordeaux Superior 2019

White: Calhavera Graves 2022