

OPENING OFFER

BORDEAUX 2014

AN OPENING OFFER OF THE TOP WINES TO PRE-ORDER

CLARETS OF FINESSE, FRESHNESS AND BALANCE

At last, a red Bordeaux vintage to get really enthusiastic about. 2014 is a good to very good vintage for reds which has produced wines of considerable finesse, freshness and balance. It undoubtedly eclipses the last three Bordeaux vintages, both in terms of the wines' quality and ageworthiness. Dry white wines are also delicious in 2014 with racy acidity and plenty of aromatic fruit, and the châteaux of Sauternes and Barsac have once again produced excellent sweet wines, benefitting from widespread noble rot.

Whilst the cabernet-dominated wines of the Médoc were particularly successful in 2014 there are nevertheless a number of attractive merlot-based wines to enjoy from the right bank.

Those looking for very deep colours and high levels of concentration and alcohol will be disappointed this year. However, if your preference is for wines that are more along classical lines that is to say, with ripe but restrained fruit character, a backbone of fine acidity to lend the wine freshness, and moderate levels of alcohol, you will find much to interest you among the 2014 reds. Some of the more forward wines will become approachable relatively early once in bottle, with the more serious wines expected to have long lives ahead of them. Respected oenologist Stéphane Derenoncourt believes that 2014 is a vintage that is unlikely to go through a closed phase, with the wines continuing to offer great pleasure throughout their drinking windows.



THE STORY OF 2014

Several visits by myself, Joanna Locke MW and Sebastian Payne MW have been made to Bordeaux in April to assess the new vintage, tasting through literally hundreds of wines at individual châteaux, in négociants' tasting rooms and at the communal tastings organised by the Union des Grands Crus. We tasted wines at all levels, from most of the top wines to petits châteaux. We tasted and retasted several times, and we are confident that we have picked out the very best wines of the vintage.

The story of 2014, from a climatic perspective, was of a cool, overcast and often damp summer followed by a particularly sunny *arrière saison* (late season) which effectively saved the vintage. According to Christian Moueix, in late August the châteaux owners were extremely pessimistic about the chances of even a half-decent harvest. Average maximum temperatures in August were below 25°C, almost 5°C below the norm, with the thermometer never hitting the 30°C mark. The prospect of a lacklustre vintage beckoned. However September, the warmest for over 50 years, saw virtually uninterrupted daily sunshine and very little rain. These conditions ensured that both merlot and then the cabernet grapes had the potential to reach full ripeness.

PRICING

After a very small crop in 2013, Bordeaux returned a normal-sized harvest in 2014. We are hoping that Bordeaux château owners will take a sensible approach to en primeur pricing this year. Release prices have come down with each vintage since the dizzy heights of the 2010 vintage, but the temptation to raise prices for what is undoubtedly the best vintage since 2010 may prove too much for some, and there is talk of prices edging up to similar levels to the 2012 vintage. On a more positive note, sterling has strengthened against the euro in the past year, so any potential increases at source would be moderated (or even cancelled out) by the more favourable exchange rate.

We anticipate our larger main offer of 2014s, which will include reds, dry white and sweet wines, to be published in early June.

Tim Sykes
Head of Buying

HOW THIS OPENING OFFER WORKS

Pre-order offer of the top wines

The Society is offering a selection of the most sought-after wines of the vintage in the same way as for the 2013 vintage, requiring members to pre-order. The process for our main opening offer, which will contain all the other, mostly lower-priced, wines will remain unchanged and this should be available from early June.

- **At this stage, members wanting to buy the wines in this offer need to place a pre-order.** The pre-order will be based on the guide price range that we have specified. Members may, however, indicate a maximum price which they would be willing to pay within this price range.
- **When the actual prices are released by the châteaux** (The Society has no control over when this will be) members will be notified whether they have been successful in their pre-orders for these particular wines. Should the actual price exceed the guide price on release, we will contact members to ask whether they would still like to order the wine.
- **If your pre-order is successful,** we will debit your card for the wine once the offer has closed. This will be once all the prices have been released and we anticipate this to be mid June at the latest.

Pre-orders by telephone and website only will be accepted. To pre-order wines, please telephone Member Services on 01438 741177, or visit thewinesociety.com/bordeauxtopwines



CS945I	Château Ausone, Saint-Emilion A wine of generosity and balance from the Vauthier family. Made from 60% cabernet franc and 40% merlot, the wine displays an intensely perfumed nose, with generous fleshy fruit and ripe tannins on the palate. Just 14,000 bottles were made in 2014. 2022–2045.	£1,150 to £1,800
CS946I	Château Bélair-Monange, Saint-Emilion Owned by the Moueix family, and situated close to Ausone, Bélair-Monange is beginning to realise its true potential. The wine is made from 90% merlot with 10% cabernet franc added to provide structure. The 2014 has velvety texture, with pure, supple fruit character and a hint of tannin on the finish to ensure long, graceful ageing. Very fine indeed. 2024–2038.	£200 to £290
CMI809I	Château Beychevelle, Saint-Julien The best Beychevelle we have tasted for several years, the 2014 has just over 50% merlot in the blend, which lends an attractive roundness and suppleness to the wine. The nose is perfumed and expressive and the palate displays silky, fine-grained tannins and ripe fruit character. 2021–2034.	£175 to £225
CS947I	Château Canon, Saint-Emilion 'Charm' is the word that sums up the 2014 Canon. The wine, a blend of 72% merlot and 28% cabernet franc, is very approachable with intense perfume on the nose, followed by lovely merlot ripeness on the palate. This wine harks back to the true traditions of Saint-Emilion, displaying elegance, suppleness and charm, without massive intensity. 2020–2035.	£140 to £180
CMI786I	Château Calon Ségur, Saint-Estèphe Calon Ségur, in the hands of new manager Laurent Dufau, is starting to produce exceptionally good wines. The 2014, a blend of 66% cabernet sauvignon, 13% cabernet franc, 19% merlot and 2% petit verdot, is one of the wines of the vintage, displaying beautiful, ripe cabernet freshness and silky tannins. A restrained and appealing claret in the classic mould. 2024–2040.	£165 to £230
CMI789I	Carruades de Lafite, Pauillac A combination of plush fruit character and well-integrated tannins lend the 2014 Carruades a lovely freshness and satisfying texture. A blend of 58% cabernet sauvignon with merlot making up the balance, the wine is already showing a finesse that is the hallmark of the Lafite stable. 2022–2035.	£350 to £490
CMI790I	Château Cos d'Estournel, Saint-Estèphe Under the stewardship of new manager Ayméric de Gironde we are seeing a welcome change in style at Cos. Gone are the heavy, highly concentrated wines of recent years in favour of a more restrained and refined style. The 2014 has lovely pure fruit combined with fresh acidity and ripe tannins. 2023–2039.	£250 to £340
CMI807I	Le Clarence de Haut-Brion, Pessac-Léognan Bahans Haut-Brion was renamed Le Clarence de Haut-Brion from the 2007 vintage. Consistently one of the finest of the great second wines, Clarence 2014 shares the purity and refinement of the grand vin but its 80% merlot and lightly toasted oak make for a sweetly textured and more forward wine. 2020–2038.	£200 to £300
CS955I	La Conseillante, Pomerol The talented Jean-Michel Laporte, in his last vintage at La Conseillante, has fashioned a delicious wine in 2014. The blend of 78% merlot and 22% cabernet franc has intense perfume, generous fruit, and fine tannins, all combining to form a harmonious expression of the Château's fine terroir. 2020–2039.	£250 to £325
CMI792I	Château Ducru-Beaucaillou, Saint-Julien Without doubt the most impressive wine of the Saint-Julien commune in 2014. Bruno Borie has made a classic grand vin with concentration and elegance in equal measure. The wine has deep colour and the fruit is dense and satisfying. Saint-Julien at its best. 2025–2045.	£290 to £370
CMI791I	Château Duhart-Milon, Pauillac Charles Chevallier and his team made an impressive Duhart-Milon in 2014. The wine, a blend of 55% cabernet sauvignon and 45% merlot, is classic Pauillac, with cassis flavours to the fore, both on the nose and on the palate. The vibrant fruit is balanced with firm, but ripe tannins. 2022–2038.	£140 to £250

*Actual price per six

Price range per six

CS949I	Château Figeac, Saint-Emilion The high proportion of cabernet in the blend – 32% cabernet sauvignon and 28% cabernet franc in 2014 – ensures that Figeac always maintains a lovely savoury freshness. The 2014 has good colour and elegant fruit character, with fine-grained tannin structure on the palate. 2025–2038.	£210 to £275
CS950I	Château La Fleur-Pétrus, Pomerol The Moueix stable produced a perfumed and elegant Fleur-Pétrus in 2014. Always a consistent performer due to the great terroir, the wine combines plush merlot fruit with velvety tannin structure. It will provide genuine drinking pleasure for many years to come. 2020–2038.	£390 to £530
CS956I	Clos Fourtet, Saint-Emilion Clos Fourtet sits atop the plateau of Saint-Emilion on the edge of the historic town. The château produced a wine of considerable elegance in 2014, with the high proportion of merlot in the blend lending the wine supple texture and an attractive crushed-berry fruit character. 2021–2036.	£180 to £220
CS951I	Château Le Gay, Pomerol The best Le Gay we have tasted for a number of years, this year a blend of 90% merlot and 10% cabernet franc. Pure, plump fruit flavours combine with lovely black-cherry perfume to produce a charming expression of Pomerol. A welcome return to form. 2020–2038.	£235 to £315
CMI793I	Château Haut-Bailly, Pessac-Léognan A pure and classic expression of the great terroir upon which the Haut-Bailly vines stand, the cabernet sauvignon-based 2014 shows good purity of fruit and depth of flavour. As with all Véronique Sanders' wines, refinement and freshness shine through to produce a vibrant and appealing claret. 2020–2037.	£185 to £245
CMI794I	Château Haut-Brion, Pessac-Léognan A very pure and intense expression of Haut-Brion's unique terroir, the 2014 is a blend of 50% merlot, 39% cabernet sauvignon and 11% cabernet franc. It displays considerable intensity but also lovely balance with a long, refined finish. 2023–2042.	£1100 to £1500
CS952I	Château Hosanna, Pomerol This tiny property of less than five hectares is owned by the Moueix family, and makes a full and savoury style of Pomerol. The cabernet element of the 2014 is very much in evidence with attractive, cedary fruit character and a long, smoky finish. 2022–2035.	£360*
CMI795I	Château Lafite-Rothschild, Pauillac Charles Chevallier has presided over the making of a classic Lafite in 2014. The wine, a blend of 87% cabernet sauvignon, 10% merlot and 3% cabernet franc, has a lovely purity of fruit, the hallmark of Lafite, combined with fine tannin structure and a backbone of acidity that will ensure a long and distinguished future. 2024–2048.	£1,100 to £1,750
CMI796I	Château Léoville Barton, Saint-Julien The Barton family have continued the tradition of producing a classically styled Léoville. A blend of 83% cabernet sauvignon, with 15% merlot and 2% cabernet franc, the 2014 displays the savoury, smoky, cassis-scented character that marks the wine out from its neighbours. The relatively firm tannin structure will soften in the coming years to reveal a very appealing wine. 2023–2039.	£175 to £230
CMI797I	Château Léoville Poyferré, Saint-Julien Didier Cuvelier, owner of Léoville Poyferré, has produced a polished grand vin in 2014. The wine has plenty of colour and combines a fresh, ripe mulberry nose with concentrated fruit on the palate and particularly ripe tannins. A modern-style Saint-Julien with impeccable credentials. 2021–2038.	£160 to £225
CMI798I	Château Lynch-Bages, Pauillac The Cazes family consistently produces wines that combine typicity of the terroir from which they come with great drinkability. Their 2014 Lynch-Bages continues that tradition. A blend of 69% cabernet sauvignon, with 26% merlot and a dash of both cabernet franc and petit verdot for seasoning, this is concentrated and firm, with plummy underlying fruit. 2022–2039.	£240 to £350

CMI799I	Château Margaux, Margaux Paul Pontallier has produced a highly perfumed, refined Margaux in 2014. As usual the blend is dominated by cabernet sauvignon (90% this year) and the wine displays particularly fine, silky tannin structure, combined with refined fruit character. A lovely Margaux. 2022–2042.	£1,000 to £1,400
CMI800I	Château Montrose, Saint-Estèphe Saint-Estèphe produced some of the best wines of the vintage, and Montrose has made a most attractive wine. The warm sunny September of 2014 has ensured perfectly ripe cabernet fruit and a silky tannin structure, with a savoury, spicy character to the wine. 2023–2040.	£245 to £300
CMI801I	Château Mouton-Rothschild, Pauillac Mouton has made an impressive wine in 2014. Classically Pauillac in its make-up, the wine is a blend of 81% cabernet sauvignon, 16% merlot and 3% cabernet franc. Cassis and cedar notes dominate on the nose, with ripe berry fruit and refined tannins on the palate. A most harmonious wine. 2024–2042.	£1,000 to £1,450
CMI802I	Château Palmer, Margaux Palmer has produced yet another refined and elegant wine under the direction of gifted winemaker Thomas Duroux. The unusually high proportion of merlot that goes into Palmer – 45% in 2014 – lends the wine an almost decadent character, and this year the plush fruit is counterbalanced by a lovely vein of fresh acidity. 2022–2042.	£550 to £750
CMI803I	Pavillon Rouge de Château Margaux, Margaux The second wine of Château Margaux, Pavillon Rouge this year is a blend of 77% cabernet sauvignon, 22% merlot and a soupçon of petit verdot. The wine has black-cherry perfume, which combines with soft, ripe fruit to produce a wine of real refinement. 2021–2038.	£350 to £425
CMI804I	Château Pichon-Longueville Baron, Pauillac A benchmark and satisfying Pauillac from a property that is on top form thanks to the talented Christian Seely. The wine has plenty of colour, with perfumed cassis notes on the nose and generous, spicy fruit on the palate. A lovely Pichon Baron. 2023–2039.	£250 to £350
CMI805I	Château Pichon-Longueville Comtesse de Lalande, Pauillac A distinguished and elegant Pichon Comtesse which in 2014 is a blend of mainly cabernet sauvignon (65%), with 22% merlot, 7% cabernet franc and 6% petit verdot. The wine displays good depth of flavour with a long, persistent finish. 2021–2039.	£250 to £350
CMI806I	Château Pontet-Canet, Pauillac Another impressive biodynamic wine from the Tesseron family. The 65% of cabernet sauvignon in the blend dominates the nose, with notes of blueberries and pencil sharpenings. The wine has good structure, with ripe fruit, fresh acidity and an edge of fine-grained tannin which will ensure a long life ahead. 2022–2040.	£250 to £350
CS953I	Tertre Rôteboeuf, Saint-Emilion The irrepressible François Mitjavile, owner and winemaker, has produced one of the star wines of the right bank. The wine has almost Burgundian elegance with an attractively scented nose, silky texture and a long, ethereal finish. 2020–2040.	£440 to £600
CS954I	Vieux Château Certan, Pomerol Once again Alexandre and Guillaume Thienpont have made one of the top wines of the vintage. The merlot fruit, which makes up 80% of the final blend, is very much to the fore, with the wine displaying supple, velvety fruit texture on the palate. A seam of ripe acidity on the finish provides freshness and lift. 2021–2038.	£350 to £500

We encourage members to place their order as soon as possible as, once a particular wine's price has been established, no more pre-orders will be taken for that wine.

IF DEMAND EXCEEDS SUPPLY

Although pre-ordering reduces the likelihood, there is still a chance that some wines may be oversubscribed. In the event of this occurring, we will share out (as far as is practical) the available stock equally amongst ordering members. If this still does not allow every member to have some wine, then as a final resort we divide members into groups depending on their level of support for The Society (quantity of wine bought, spend, orders placed etc). Members who have given greater support to The Society will have a better chance (but no certainty) of being allocated wine, and those who have given less support will have a lesser chance (but still a chance).

MEMBERS' RESERVES

The Society's Members' Reserves is a purpose-built, temperature-controlled facility offering members access to optimum storage conditions. The annual rental charge (currently £7.92 per dozen if paid by direct debit, £9.12 if not) includes VAT and insurance at replacement value. Any wine bought from The Society, by the unmixed or pre-mixed dozen, may be added or removed at any time. Members using the facility receive an annual account which lists wines held, along with The Society's recommended drinking dates for each.

IN-BOND RESERVES – A NEW SERVICE

We are launching a new service to give members the opportunity to store their opening offer wines from this offer with The Society 'in bond'. For wines stored in this way, duty and VAT will only be payable when the wines are withdrawn from Reserves.

What the price includes

- Prices shown include delivery to a UK address. They do not include excise duty or VAT (currently £24.60 duty per 12 75cl-bottle case, £12.30 per six-bottle case and 20% VAT payable on wine and duty).
- When the wines arrive in Stevenage (**expected to be summer 2017**) members will be given three options:
 - To take delivery of the wines. Duty and VAT will be payable immediately.
 - To store the wines in duty-paid Members' Reserves. Again, duty and VAT will be payable immediately.
 - To store the wines in our new 'in-bond' Reserves area. With this option, duty and VAT will only be payable (at the prevailing rate) when the wines are finally withdrawn*.

Please visit our website for more details:

thewinesociety.com/inbondreserves

*Unless you are exporting the wines or transferring them to another in-bond storage facility – for which an administration charge would be payable.

Notes

- Members, especially those living overseas, should note that only unmixed cases may be exported or transferred to an outside bond.
- Wines are offered in cases of six bottles as indicated.
- Please note that these wines cannot be collected from our showroom in Montreuil.

For information regarding this offer please contact **The Society on 01438 740222, or e-mail memberservices@thewinesociety.com**



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THE SOCIETY'S PROMISE

Uncork with confidence

The Wine Society is a mutual organisation, so our members' satisfaction is paramount. If, for any reason, you haven't enjoyed a wine we want to hear about it and will happily offer a credit, a replacement or a refund.
thewinesociety.com/promise



PUTTING MEMBERS BEFORE PROFIT

THEWINESOCIETY.COM/VALUECHARTER

