

DECANTER - dégustation Jane Anson des Bordeaux et Bordeaux Supérieur 2014 - 2015

DECANTER PROMOTION

Bordeaux & Bordeaux Supérieur 2014 and 2015s

Report by Jane Anson, *Decanter's* Bordeaux correspondent

One half of all the wine made in Bordeaux are bottled under the label of AOC Bordeaux, AOC Bordeaux Supérieur, AOC Bordeaux Blanc and AOC Bordeaux Blanc Supérieur. From these names comes a wonderful array of choices that are among the best value for money wines of France.

Recent years have seen a focus on the search for consistency and excellence, whether from large producers crafting modernist or blended wines or from family-run estates. To find the best bottles available on the market right now, we tasted around 250 wines from the vintages 2014 and 2015 ensembles. For the whites, we selected only from the 2015 vintage – as excellent as past vintages, but the focus and quality of freshness. We also looked at around 40 Grand crus from 2015 that distinctive old dark crus that is only found in Bordeaux.

For the reds, the two villages on display here are 2014 and 2015. Both offered excellent winemaking conditions and have a number of good quality bottles, although 2014 has greater consistency and depth of fruit. These are great villages to go to for the whites. Bordeaux across the full colour spectrum, with many impressive, good value drinking wines, fresh, forward and seductive, perfect for early to medium-term drinking.

Wines to try Whites 2015

Château Margaux, AOC Bordeaux Blanc 2015 £8.99 100, 2014 and 2015 www.margaux.com at Xavier Méthénat has produced an exceptionally good white wine, with full, crisp mouth feel, lively acidity that, together with fresh white apple, honeydew, sweet peach, blending for a deepening over next 12 months. 20% Sauvignon Blanc, 10% Sémillon. **Drink** 2016-2018



Château du Grand Pré, AOC Bordeaux Blanc 2015 £10.99 www.grandpre.com Delicious, crisp, well defined, mouthwatering, citrus mineral, wet stones, ractarine, easily one of the best on display. From a blend of 80% Sauvignon Blanc, 10% Sémillon and 10% Muscadelle. Owned by Janine. They since 2012, his investment is clearly paying off in the quality of the wine. 12.7% alcohol. **Drink** 2016-2018

Château Puchet, 'Vine de France', AOC Bordeaux Blanc 2015 £11.99 www.vine.com 50% Sémillon, 50% Sauvignon Blanc from Grand Cru, excellent delivery of a mouthwatering fruit, exactly what you are looking for in an inexpensive white Bordeaux. **Drink** 2016-2018

Château Tournat Cuvée Mémoire, AOC Bordeaux Blanc 2015 £13.99 www.tournat.com (UK) www.vine.com (USA) Light on the nose, elegant definition, 40% Sauvignon Blanc, 15% Sémillon, 45% Sémillon. It is rich and round in colour and clearly one that is full of aromatic complexity. Very family-like acidity. Approx. 14.5% alc. **Drink** 2016-2018

Château La Frenelle, AOC Bordeaux Blanc 2015 £14.99 www.lafrenelle.com Love the aromatics here, gooseberry and ractarine. Great on the palate also, there are almost pear drops but it somehow manages to turn into a good peach, really full of personality. From a blend of Sauvignon, Sémillon and Muscadelle. **Drink** 2016-2018

Château Mignon Milla, AOC Bordeaux Blanc 2015 £14.99 www.millon.com Not taking itself too seriously, this wears its name around charmingly, good definition, 60% Sauvignon Blanc, 40% Sémillon. **Drink** 2016-2018

Château Viret, AOC Bordeaux Blanc 2015 £15.99 www.viret.com Excellent, good, tension, sense of forward motion, this is good and has the architecture to give you through. Classic white Bordeaux with personality. 40% Sauvignon Blanc, 40% Sémillon, 20% Muscadelle. **Drink** 2016-2018

Château Tour de Mibouzac Réserve, AOC Bordeaux Blanc 2015 £15.99 www.mibouzac.com This is beautifully defined from the Desgrippes family. Ripen fruit and an enjoyable take on the vintage because it preserves a fresh sense of fruit and momentum. 40% Sauvignon Blanc, 30% Sémillon and 30% Muscadelle. **Drink** 2016-2018

Château de Mirval, AOC Bordeaux Blanc 2015 £16.99 www.mirval.com Touch of reduction on the nose, certainly they are working hard to keep this fresh. On the palate this has an attractive sense of minerality and citrus, not because and a full mouth watering. Well placed. **Drink** 2016-2018

Château La Tron, AOC Bordeaux Blanc 2015 £16.99 www.latron.com (Online shop in France) www.latron.com (UK) Great. No, this, almost gooseberry, comes some of the perfume of Sauvignon, but it really has more expression of slight sweetness that in the mid-palate, gives a lovely balance to the fresh, subtle complexity. 70% 60% Sauvignon Blanc, 20% Sémillon, 20% Sémillon. **Drink** 2016-2018



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Château de la Vallée Tost, AOC Bordeaux Blanc 2015 £17.99 www.vallée.com Rich, rounded, juicy, round, impactful, silky texture, perhaps acidity a little in the low in the mid-palate but there is a mouthwatering ractarine on the finish if you hold on. Certified organic since 2007. This is a blend of 60% Sauvignon Blanc, 30% Sémillon, 10% Muscadelle from Yvonne Bousquet. **Drink** 2016-2018

Château Leclère Capelin, AOC Bordeaux Blanc 2015 £17.99 www.leclere.com Effusive, fresh, with good grip. A blend of Sauvignon Gr, Sémillon and Sauvignon Blanc, all great in balance. Another excellent vintage from winemaker Estelle Rouzeau. **Drink** 2016-2018

Château d'Harville, AOC Bordeaux Blanc 2015 £18.99 www.harville.com Flirty, smoky, there is more complexity to this than an average white. Don't hold your breath though the mid-palate, but like the citrus dash on the finish. From a precision-banded blend of 80% Sauvignon Blanc and 20% Sémillon. The Ducour family blending another exceptional Bordeaux white. **Drink** 2016-2018

Château Haut Médière, AOC Bordeaux Blanc 2015 £18.99 www.mediere.com Strong aromatics, nice nose, some brambles (lemon peel), round, garnet, delicately pleasant, good lift on finish, clear liquor, comes through the mid-palate. **Drink** 2016-2018

Sauvignon de Seguin, AOC Bordeaux Blanc 2015 £17.99 www.sauvignon.com Rich yellow color, fine, lively attack of fresh white peach and ractarine, silky texture. Pleasant, subtle, elegant, but huge that, most, more minerality and wet stones. 100% Sauvignon Blanc. **Drink** 2016-2018

Maison Bernard Bouchard, Institut Bordeaux, AOC Bordeaux Blanc 2015 £17.99 www.maisonbernard.com Rich, round, good expression, dry sweetness on the finish, classic white Bordeaux, not too overpowering from a quality region. Cuvée Maison Bernard Blanc. From a blend of 70% Sauvignon Blanc, aged in barrels, 20% Sémillon + natural sweet. **Drink** 2016-2018

Château Bel Air Réserve, AOC Bordeaux Blanc 2015 £18.99 www.belair.com Rich, round, good expression, dry sweetness on the finish, classic white Bordeaux, not too overpowering from a quality region. Cuvée Maison Bernard Blanc. From a blend of 70% Sauvignon Blanc, aged in barrels, 20% Sémillon + natural sweet. **Drink** 2016-2018

Roc St Vincent, AOC Bordeaux Blanc 2015 £18.00 www.sainsburys.co.uk This has personality and a sense of tension and grip. Crab apple on the attack, shot through with sweet toffee. Mouthwatering rise on the finish, elderflower and white peaches, a lovely classic white Bordeaux. **Drink** 2016-2018

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