


From: The BrightWines Beacon lighthouse@brightwines.com 
Subject: it's Octob-bordeaux!
Date: October 26, 2024 at 1:53 PM
To: The BrightWines Beacon newsletter

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The BrightWines Beacon for October 25th, 2024: it's Octob-bordeaux

It's Octob-bordeaux, time for the annual offering of carefully selected Bordeaux, curated by one of the Twin Cities' leading experts for Bordeaux...
Dave@BrightWines! ;-)

"Bordeaux carries a heavy responsibility, because just about every wine book describes it as the greatest wine region in the world. Is it? Yes, I have to admit that it is!" — Oz Clarke (famed wine critic, and author of the Encyclopedia of French wine)

"Despite the seeming ubiquity of Bordeaux, finding truly high quality Bordeaux for reasonable prices requires a lot of tasting, knowledge, and effort, and knowing which suppliers to trust." — Dave@BrightWines

This weekend, BrightWines is featuring a one-time special purchase offer (direct from importers I work with) of a selected range top quality Smart Buys for red Bordeaux, with impressive smart-buys of true estate chateau Bordeaux reds priced from \$14.99 to \$25.99 as well as some great Affordable Luxury wines priced from \$27.99 - \$44.99 per bottle, with a few interesting other Bordeaux wines and styles sprinkled in for good measure!

Read BRIGHT LIGHTS for all the details! *see ATTACHED PHOTO for one of the featurd estates!* email orders accepted - instock wines for immediate pickup this weekend, or for pickup now through November 2nd - subject to confirmation and while supplies last!

THE LAMP IS LIT: Store Hours this weekend and next week, plus an UPDATE on recent "flash sale" wines

**** UPDATE on recent "Flash Sale" wines** (see last week's newsletter):

"Sea Enchantress" Red Blend @ \$10.97 per bottle - the last handful of cases "on reserve" at the warehouse arrived here today!

The Immortal Zin - SOLD OUT

Peirano Estate Viognier @ \$10.97 per bottle - the last handful of cases "on reserve" at the warehouse arrived here today!

Babich "Black Label" Sauvignon Blanc - SOLD OUT

Angels Ink central coast Pinot Noir @ \$12.99 per bottle - the 2nd half of my last large order arrived here today!

**** SATURDAY October 26th: OPEN from 10:45am-ish until 5:30pm-ish** (regular-ish Saturday hours)

BrightWines will be open regular hours this weekend, for order pickups from this newsletter as well as for other recent orders and Dave-as-personal-shopper requests too. email orders are preferred, just reply to this newsletter or contact Dave and be sure to mention when you prefer to pick up your order so I can reply and prepare accordingly.

**** SUNDAY:** closed per usual

**** NEXT WEEK Monday/Tuesday/Weds, October 28th - 30th:** OPEN at 11am on the weekdays

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**** NEXT WEEKEND Thursday/Friday/Saturday Oct 31st - Nov 2nd:** OPEN at 10:30am on the weekends

There's alot going on a BrightWines for Halloween and beyond, so STAY TUNED for more great Halloween and Fall season features here at BrightWines, like an Oktoberfest of wines from Germany/Austria, plus plenty more new arrivals for the fall wine season!

BRIGHT LIGHTS: special purchase, direct from importer, in-stock BORDEAUX

Earlier this fall I was able to sample through a couple of dozen different Chateau-bottled red Bordeaux being offered on a pre-arrival basis by a couple of my favorite local suppliers who both happened to be offering direct-from-importer opportunities on select recent vintages of Bordeaux, especially for the run of very good Bordeaux vintages from 2019 - 2022, and one older vintage too.

Out of the many many wines available from these suppliers, I found several good red Bordeaux wines (plus a couple whites) that I felt lived up to the lofty standards that I have set for my Bordeaux offerings here at BrightWines over the years. The wines have all arrived now as part of one very large shipment and a couple of smaller ones. As a result, I have over 40 cases of Bordeaux IN-STOCK NOW and available for immediate purchase, while supplies last, starting this Saturday!

email orders accepted - instock wines for immediate pickup this weekend, or for pickup now through November 2nd - subject to confirmation and while supplies last!

**** Smart Buys in red Bordeaux, in stock special purchase ****

note: the 12-bottle Case Prices listed do Mix-and-Match within this offer, for confirmed email orders only

Chateau Ribebon 2019 Bordeaux Superieur @ \$14.99 per bottle (\$179.88 per case) SEE ATTACHED PHOTO of the estate!

mis en bouteille au chateau at Pessac sur Dordogne. **Rated 91 points by Wine Enthusiast**, who notes: "Owned by the Aubert family, this estate has produced a **well-balanced wine**. Tannins and spice lie easily with the berry fruits and final touches of dark chocolate. It will age well. Drink from 2023." This wine **also rated 90 points by noted Bordeaux expert James Suckling** (formerly lead editor at Wine Spectator for Bordeaux wines) who says: "A clean, fruity 2019 with currant and berry character. Medium body. Fresh finish. Easy and clean Bordeaux. Nice transparency and yumminess." And DAVE says: this is a **fine "classic claret" style** that traditionalists will love! Per usual, it's a blend of Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc. The Cabernet character shines in this wine, perhaps due to the location of the estate nearby the famed Graves and Pessac-Leognan region, whos wines I find to be some of the best "smart buys" of all the left bank regions.

Chateau Maison Noble St. Martin 2019 Bordeaux Superieur @ \$19.99 per bottle (\$107.94 per 6pk, wood box = **\$17.99** ea)

A **flashy modern style** Bordeaux red that comes packed in **lovely wood-case 6pk boxes!** Only \$17.99 per bottle by the 6pk, or mixed into other full cases.

Wine Enthusiast recommended saying: "With ripe tannins and dense blackberry flavors, this wine is packed with fruitiness. The tannins and freshness are still buoyant and young." This wine also tated 94 points (World Wine Awards) by Decanter magazine, who noted: "**Deep and pure, with an abundance of creamy blackcurrant and blackberry, boosted by licks of vanilla, cacao and spice.**"

Chateau Piney 2020 Saint Emilion Grand Cru @ \$25.99 per bottle (\$299.88/case = **\$24.99** each, mix/match)

Reated **90 points by Wine Entthusiast**, at a **full \$45 retail price** (not direct-import) price!

This wine also **rated 90 points by noted Bordeaux expert James Suckling** (formerly lead editor at Wine Spectator for Bordeaux wines) who says "This has aromas of currants, raspberries, licorice and red tea. It's medium-bodied with firm, chalky tannins. Mineral, fresh and tea-like finish. Better in 2024." And DAVE says: this is a very **complex wine, styled in a classic traditional St Emilion personality** with a seriousness to it, but as J.S. pointed out it is **beginning to show nicely in 2024 here**. The blend has a full 25% Cabernet Franc, which is evident right now - so fans of the Merlot + Cab Franc style of right bank Bordeaux will enjoy this one!

**** Bordeaux Whites - in stock special purchase ****

note: the 12-bottle Case Prices listed do Mix-and-Match within this offer, for confirmed email orders only

Chateau de Grand Jean 2023 Bordeaux Blanc @ \$14.99 per bottle (case price \$162 = \$13.50 mix/match)

New vintage of a locally-imported, perennial favorite from the Entre Deux Mers region, Semillon and Sauvignon Blanc with lime zest and stoney freshness.

Chateau Reynon 2020 Bordeaux Blanc - Sauvignon Blanc @ \$17.99 per bottle (very limited stock)

From one of the more famous of the Premieres Cotes de Bordeaux (across the river from Graves). Rated 89-90 points by James Suckling AND by Wine Spectator, who notes: "Juicy and direct, with a mouthwatering burst of lemon peel, thyme and gooseberry notes that crackle through the finish. Drink now."

Chateau Petit Vedrines 2018 Sauternes @ \$19.99 per bottle (375ml, very limited stock)

This is the 2nd label of the famed Sauternes Chateau Doisy-Vedrines. Drinkable now, and a fantastic example of top-tier dessert Sauternes for an affordable price in 375ml bottles.

Chateau de Cruzeau 2022 Pessac-Leognan Blanc @ \$27.99 per bottle (\$320 per case = \$26.67 ea mix/match)

This exotic dry white Bordeaux truly stunning. It won a **Gold Medal at the Concours Generale in Paris and rated 91 points by Decanter** magazine, who notes: "aromatic, seriously floral and perfumed - expressive with tropical notes on the nose; peach, pineapple, and honeyed lemons with crisp green apple." Also recommended by Wine Spectator, who says: " Offers a good mix of citrus oil, honeysuckle and yellow plum notes backed by a breezy, chalk-infused finish. Fresh. Drink now through 2026." And DAVE says the white wines of the Pessac-Leognan take Graves to a higher level and imbue a luxurious personality. We loved the 2020 on last year's offer, and the new 2022 is great again!!

**** Affordable Luxury red Bordeaux, in-stock special purchase ****

Chateau La Tour de Mons 2020 Margaux @ \$39.99 per bottle (\$431.88/case = **\$35.99** each, mix match)

This Margaux property is owned and made by the famed Chateau Labegorce! This standalone estate red is **rated 92-93 points by James Suckling** (formerly lead editor at Wine Spectator for Bordeaux wines). It comes nicely reviewed by Wine Spectator proper too, as well as Vinous. It also **rated 92 points** by Jeb Dunnuck (formerly of Robert Parker's Wine Advocate) who says: "Another gem of a wine from the talents of Marjolaine de Coninck, who manages all of the Perrodo family vineyards (Châteaux Labégorce and Marquis d'Alesme), the 2020 Château La Tour De Mons checks in as 57% Merlot, 36% Cabernet Sauvignon, and the rest Cabernet Franc, aged in 30% new oak. This medium-bodied, round, **absolutely charming and delicious Margaux gives up lots of cedary, spicy herbs, sweet tobacco, and sandalwood nuances, and it's nicely textured, with soft tannins and a great finish.** Where most 2020s really demand bottle age, this already offers loads of pleasure. It should keep nicely through 2032. 92 points." DAVE says: the property itself is a single block vineyard, surrounded by a wall and located in the northern part of the Margaux appellation, and was previously known as Tour de Marsac. Only 5 cases available.

Chateau La Garde 2015 Pessac Leognan rouge @ SOLD OUT

Library release from the very good negociant, Dourthe. But the local supplier had less available than I wanted to order.

55% Cabernet Sauvignon. **Rated 91- 93 points by three different U.S. wine magazines.** Rated 93 points James Suckling, rated 91 points Wine Spectator, and rated 92 points Wine Enthusiast, who notes: "This is a stylish wine, with acidity, firm tannins and layers of blackberry and black-currant fruits. A blend of almost equal proportions of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot, its richness comes from the ripe fruits and layered structure that now shows the beginnings of maturity."

(also available, last 2 bottles from a previous offer) **Chateau Bernard Magrez 2019 Saint Estephe @ \$44.99 per bottle**

Chateau de Cruzeau 2019 Pessac-Leognan rouge @ \$29.99 per bottle (\$335.88 per case = **\$27.99** ea, mix/match)

Suggested Retail: \$28 (see W.E.)

DAVE.SAYS: a rare "reneaf offer" that I iust could not resist. because it was showing so well when I sampled it this fall ...

Rated 91 points by James Suckling "Blackberries, blackcurrants, black olives, tea leaves, bark and dried earth on the nose. It's medium-bodied with firm, tight-grained tannins. A little austere and tight for now. Cabernet sauvignon and merlot. Better after 2024." This wine also **rated 90 points by Wine Enthusiast** AND also **rated 90 points by Vinous**: "The 2019 de Cruzeau is impeccable and absolutely delicious. Silky contours and pretty floral accents give this **mid-weight Pessac-Léognan its charming, gracious personality**. Crushed flowers, red berry fruit, orange peel, dried herbs and gravel lead into the delineated finish. The 2019 has developed into a very pretty, understated wine." And just for good measure it **rated 93 points Decanter** "Dark chocolate, liquorice and red cherries on the nose, ripe and darkly aromatic. Excellent energy and life to this."

That's all for now, all of these great Bordeaux wines are in stock now! And except where noted, I have approximately 5 -10 cases of each on the value end and 2 - 5 cases of each available on the upper end wines, for a combined total of 40+ cases of Dave-approved Bordeaux available immediately. email orders are preferred and are first-come, first-served and limited to stocks on hand. The 12-bottle case prices do mix and match within this offer for confirmed email orders. When you send an order, please indicate when you'd like to pick up the order so I can be timely in my confirmations.

To paraphrase a quote on Bordeaux that I've used in previous editions... *"I find that most of my more knowledgeable wine-drinking friends are claret lovers at heart."* —Dave

The Right Wines are BrightWines!

2420 Margaret Street
North Saint Paul, MN 55109

