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A new generation of winemakers is redefining Bordeaux

Bordeaux reloading... Red wines to watch

A blind tasting of more than 120 Bordeaux and Bordeaux Supérieur reds revealed a wonderful spirit of experimentation and diversity of styles

For many, Bordeaux is synonymous with grand châteaux, endless ageing potential, and a certain elitism. While this prestigious image is built on a legacy of unparalleled quality, it often overshadows the dynamic revolution currently energising the region. Beyond the timeless classics, a new generation of winemakers is redefining what Bordeaux wine can be, crafting a diverse and exciting range of styles for a modern audience.

The heart of this transformation lies in a spirit of experimentation. In response to a growing demand for easy-drinking, versatile wines, numerous producers are now creating lighter, fruit-forward reds. Etienne Carteyron of Château Penin in

Génissac presents his recently released L'Infusé as the ultimate crushable red. Made from old vines and designed to be served slightly chilled as an aperitif, it breaks the old rule that red Bordeaux must be served at room temperature with a copious meal.

This innovative drive goes even further. A daring cohort of vignerons is embracing low-intervention winemaking, taking risks to appeal to a new audience. This includes producing wines without added sulphites, which requires very healthy grapes. Even classic producer Château Montlau in Moulon took the step in 2020 of crafting a Merlot *sans sulphites ajoutés* – a true revolt!

Others are rethinking the ambience in which wine is served. The forward-thinking

Domaines Fontana in Gensac, for example, has partnered with the Garorock music festival to serve its wines at the event. Domaines Fontana is considering using beer kegs in future, which is not only more practical and sustainable, drastically reducing glass waste, but also ensures a fresh, consistent product without compromising quality.

After all, innovation and tradition are not opposites. Today's Bordeaux and Bordeaux Supérieur winemakers are still committed to the same rigorous AOC standards and harnessing the same exceptional terroir, but now offer a breathtaking diversity of styles to appeal to all palates. The new Bordeaux is not about replacing the old – it's about inviting everyone to the table.

Bordeaux Rouge 2024

① **Château La Fontaine de Genin 2024** 90
80% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc. The nose is dark, woody and spicy, with notes of forest berries and underbrush. Bold, dense and spicy on the palate, with pleasant fruit sweetness and grippy tannins. A serious wine that can age. **Alcohol** 13%

Château Carsin, Amphora Carmenère 2024 89
100% Carmenère. Very spicy on the nose, with notes of black and green pepper, cassis and blackberries. Juicy on the palate, grippy but well integrated tannins, with black fruits and black pepper. A steak wine, very unusual. Organic certified. **Alc** 12%

Château Penin, L'Infusé 2024 89
100% Merlot. A slight reductive note on the nose. Refreshing on the palate, with notes of blood orange, citrus, cranberries and crunchy strawberries. Tangy and succulent. An aperitif red, to be served chilled. HVE4 certified. **Alc** 12.5%

Maison Raymond, Les Hauts de Lagarde 2024 89
65% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Carmenère. The nose is perfumed and floral, with notes of red tea, raspberries, hibiscus and violets, very attractive. The palate confirms the nose with juicy red fruit notes; alcohol is warming but balanced by fresh acidity. Medium-long, fruity finish. Organic certified. **Alc** 13%

Bordeaux Rouge 2023

Antoine Moueix Propriétés, Château Grand Renom 2023 89
80% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc. Balsamic on the nose, smoky and savoury, with unusual but attractive smoked fish notes. Similar on the palate, not too fruity but elegant; tannins are grainy, yet there is charm and finesse in this wine. Bee-friendly and HVE3 certified. **Alc** 14.5%

Château de Bouillerot, Cep d'Antan 2023 89
50% Petit Verdot, 40% Malbec, 10% Carmenère. On the nose, perfumed and floral, with notes of red and black cherries. Juicy and tangy on the palate, very digestible, fresh and crunchy red fruits, not

long but accessible and pleasant, a good vintage representative. Organic certified. **Alc** 14%

Château Joinin 2023 89
95% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc. Very spicy on the nose with notes of vanilla, cinnamon and cloves. On the palate, rich and intense, bold and juicy, well-made and balanced. A food wine for BBQs and meat. A polished, attractive style. **Alc** 14.5%

Maison Salin, Château Moulin de Mallet 2023 89
80% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Sauvignon. Very peppery on the nose, intense and perfumed, with notes of black fruits and spices. Juicy on the palate with good freshness, slightly astringent tannins, but balanced by fruity texture and full body; good length. HVE3 certified. **Alc** 14.5%

Vignoble Lafoi, Château Lamothe Gaillard 2023 89
100% Merlot. On the nose, perfumed notes of forest berries, raspberries and underbrush. A bit astringent on the palate, bold and round, with good volume and length – unusual for the year. Will age well. Organic certified. **Alc** 13.5%

Bordeaux Rouge 2022

② **Univitis, Grand Théâtre Premium 2022** 90
40% Merlot, 30% Malbec, 30% Cabernet Sauvignon. Notes of red and dark berries on the nose, with a hint of spices. Juicy on the palate with tangy acidity and beautiful freshness, crunchy and bright fruit, slightly warming on the finish, but perfectly integrated alcohol. HVE certified. **Alc** 14%

③ **Vignobles J. Queyrens & Fils, Château du Pin-Franc 2022** 90
60% Merlot, 40% Cabernet Sauvignon. Nicely spicy on the nose, with dark fruits, cassis and milk chocolate with hazelnuts. A lot of juice on the palate, powerful and dense. A complete and solid wine with silky texture and velvety tannins, perfectly made. HVE certified. **Alc** 13.5%

Château Aurore 2022 89
60% Merlot, 40% Cabernet Franc. Slightly oxidative on the palate with hints of walnuts and cherries. Juicy on the



palate, with good freshness and crunchy red cherries, the alcohol is warming but well-integrated, with a restrained overall expression. Classic, drinks well now. Organic certified. **Alc** 14%

Château Haut-Meyreau, l'Instant H 2022 89
100% Cabernet Franc. Beautiful, attractive nose, floral with notes of raspberries and hibiscus – very Cabernet Franc. Crunchy acidity on the palate, balanced by juicy fruit and polished tannins; elegant. HVE certified. **Alc** 14.5%



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Château La Rame 2022 89
60% Merlot, 40% Cabernet Sauvignon. On the nose, sweet oaky notes, vanilla and cloves. Vibrant and fruity on the palate, with warming alcohol, bold tannins, but well-balanced. It has flesh and persistence, with the finish full of bramble and raspberries. HVE4 certified. **Alc** 14%

Château Rioublanc 2022 89
70% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Cabernet Franc, 4% Malbec. On the nose, notes of blood orange, red fruits and a hint of sweet spices. Juicy and round on the palate, with excellent ripeness but not overextracted, bold yet polished tannins, and drinks well now. Organic certified. **Alc** 13%

Dourthe, N°1 de Dourthe 2022 89
73% Merlot, 27% Cabernet Sauvignon. Smoky on the nose, with notes of cinnamon, cloves and tobacco. Juicy on the palate, the wine shows concentrated, savoury fruit, black and red cherries, fresh acidity and polished tannins. A well-made, polished wine. **Alc** 14.5%

Pallaruelo Pascal, Château Mazetier 2022 89
60% Merlot, 20% Malbec, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Cabernet Franc. On the nose, smoky, with notes of cassis and forest floor. There's beautiful freshness on the palate, with tangy acidity. The tannins are polished and grainy. A classic Bordeaux with good length. HVE certified. **Alc** 13.5%

Producta Vignobles, Château Roberperots 2022 89
74% Cabernet Sauvignon, 26% Merlot. Intense nose of underbrush, red cherries, cassis and forest berries, very attractive. Juicy on the palate, with crisp acidity, intense and precise. Well-made, with good alcohol integration: a crowd-pleaser but not too showy. HVE3 certified. **Alc** 13.5%

Vignobles Duval, La Source Duval 2022 89
100% Merlot. Some green pepper on the nose, notes of tobacco and tomato leaf. Pleasant and juicy on the palate, with good freshness and tannic structure – a bit astringent but pleasant and accessible, with good persistence. HVE certified. **Alc** 15.5% ►

Bordeaux Supérieur Rouge 2024

④ **Baron de Montfort, Château Lagrange-Monbadon 500 ans 2024** 90
70% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc, 15% Cabernet Sauvignon. Very intense and dense on the nose, revealing notes of cassis, blackberries and sweet spices. Fleshy and powerful, with warming alcohol, good concentration, ripe and bold tannins, good length; needs a steak to pair with it. HVE3 certified. **Alc** 14%

Bordeaux Supérieur Rouge 2023

⑤ **Haure Xavier, Château Mallard Les Rousseaux 2023** 91
80% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Malbec. Spicy notes of vanilla and cinnamon initially on the nose, then ripe fruits, red and black cherries. Juicy and full-bodied on the palate, with bold tannins, ripe and powerful. This wine has flesh and character; it needs food with it. **Alc** 14%

⑥ **Château La Verrière 2023** 90
80% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Sauvignon. Spicy on the nose with notes of cinnamon, cloves, a hint of balsamic and oak. Sweet fruit on the palate, cassis and black plums, with excellent oak integration; well-made, classic wine. A success! HVE certified. **Alc** 14.5%

⑦ **Château Maison Noble, Cuvée Prestige 2023** 90
75% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Sauvignon. Floral on the nose, with notes of crunchy raspberries, fleshy red cherries and forest floor. Juicy on the palate, revealing smokiness, nice ripe fruit



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and light sweetness of oak. Very well-balanced between bold and polished tannins and filigreed acidity. HVE3 certified. **Alc** 14%

⑧ **Château Sainte Barbe 2023** 90
85% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Petit Verdot, 3% Cabernet Franc. Smoky nose of charred wood and toast, with the fruit remaining in the background. Powerful and fruity on the palate, with good ripeness and depth, this well-made, high-concentration wine is ideal for steak lovers. HVE certified. **Alc** 14%

⑨ **Château Vilatte, Baies Entières 2023** 90
40% Merlot, 40% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Petit Verdot. Restrained on the nose initially, needs aeration. Bold and fruity on the palate, ripe and plush, with crisp acidity that balances the bright fruit: some blood orange, cassis, juicy cherries and pungent spice. An unusual style, excellent drinkability. Organic certified. **Alc** 14%

Château Bellevue Peycharneau 2023 89
65% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Malbec. Herbaceous notes on the nose, with hints of tomato leaf, forest berries and raspberries. Juicy and full on the palate, with bold tannins that are well supported by fruit and body. The alcohol is warming and makes the wine powerful, but it is delightful overall. HVE certified. **Alc** 14.5%

Château de Seguin, Cuvée Prestige 2023 89
67% Merlot, 19% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14% Malbec. The oak dominates the nose initially; the fruit takes time to emerge. Juicy and intense on the palate, with good concentration, bold tannins and fresh acidity. Well-made, straightforward and sure to please many. HVE3 certified. **Alc** 14.5%

Château des Tourtes, Symposium 2023 89
60% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Malbec. Oak spices are initially present on the nose, accompanied by cloves and balsamic notes, with discreet blackberry jam notes in the background. Good freshness and finesse on the palate. Tannins are grippy; an elegant and linear wine. HVE3 certified. **Alc** 14%

Vignobles Delong, 1890 La Genèse 2023 89
60% Malbec, 40% Cabernet Franc. Perfumed on the nose, with notes of violets, peonies, black pepper and black plums. Crunchy and fruity on the palate, with crisp acidity and notes of dark fruits, blackberries and sweet spices. Tannins are well-polished. Pleasant and accessible. HVE certified. **Alc** 14%



Bordeaux Supérieur Rouge 2022

⑩ **Fougère, Château de Crain 2022** 91
40% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Cabernet Franc, 20% Malbec. Enveloping nose of ripe black plums, cassis, violets and raspberries. Very attractive and juicy on the palate, with velvety texture and bold, polished tannins, notes of red and black cherries and spices, all in harmony. HVE3 certified. **Alc** 13.5%

⑪ **Vignoble Eric Duffau, L'Excellence de Belle Garde 2022** 91
50% Merlot, 50% Cabernet Sauvignon. A bit balsamic on the nose, with sweet spicy notes and crunchy red cherries. Juicy on the palate, showing excellent balance of fruit and oak, polished tannins and a long finish. HVE3 certified. **Alc** 14.5%

⑫ **Caves de Rauzan, Château Balan 2022** 90
80% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Sauvignon. Raspberries and forest floor on the nose, with a fresh and appealing character. Crunchy and juicy on the palate, with intense red and black plum flavours, polished tannins and a lingering finish. A delight to drink!. **Alc** 14%

⑬ **Château Saint Sulpice, Prestige 2022** 90
75% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Sauvignon. Dense nose of ripe black fruits, bramble and cassis jam. On the palate, excellent, with well-integrated acidity, polished tannins, nice juiciness and fleshiness and a lingering finish. HVE certified. **Alc** 15.2%

⑭ **La Renardière, Château Les Dames de la Renardière 2022** 90
50% Merlot, 50% Cabernet Sauvignon. Slightly dusty oak on the nose, with notes of crunchy red and black cherries in the

background. Beautiful freshness on the palate, with crunchy fruit. It's not too long, but coherent, not overextracted, accessible and a joy to drink. HVE4 certified. **Alc** 14.5%

⑮ **Lamont Financière, Château Chenu-Lamont 2022** 90
75% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Cabernet Franc, 5% Petit Verdot. Balsamic notes on the nose, with hints of pickles and sweet baking spices. Opulent and fleshy on the palate, with muscular tannins, good juice and red and black cherries. The oak is well balanced, and the wine is not overly fruity – a classic Bordeaux Supérieur. HVE3 certified. **Alc** 14.5%

Vignobles Baylet, Château Landereau 2022 90
70% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Franc. Smoky on the nose, with notes of milk chocolate, a bit of hay and balsamic. Juicy on the palate, with excellent freshness and well-integrated spicy balsamic hints. A powerful wine, but with finesse and beautiful length. HVE4 and Bee-friendly certified. **Alc** 14%

Vignobles Bourdillas, Château de Presles 2022 90
100% Merlot. Smoky on the nose, with notes of sweet spices and black fruits (plums, cherries, prunes). The palate is full and dense with bold tannins. It's still juicy and elegant, with red and black fruits, not overextracted, but balanced and long. HVE4 certified. **Alc** 13.5%

Château La Mothe du Barry, Le Barry 2022 89
75% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Sauvignon. Dark fruit on the nose, very perfumed and floral (violets). Opulent on the palate, with

concentration and flesh; not very fruity, but rather savoury. A very dark profile (prunes, blackberries) and a long finish. Organic certified. **Alc** 14.5%

Château Le Grand Verdus 2022 89
80% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Sauvignon. Floral notes and red cherries on the nose. The palate reveals excellent juiciness and crunchy flesh. The tannins are coarse but polished; there are sweet oak spices and a good balance of savoury fruit and oak. HVE certified. **Alc** 13.5%

Château Montlau 2022 89
70% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc, 15% Cabernet Sauvignon. Light reduction on the nose initially – needs aeration to open up. Powerful and intense on the palate, with bold tannins and concentrated fruit, crunchy red and black fruits. Currently a bit closed, this has further ageing potential. **Alc** 14%

Vignobles Chaigne et Fils, Château Ballan-Larquette Marie-Louise 2022 89
100% Cabernet Sauvignon. Slightly reductive on the nose, with milk chocolate, prunes and cassis jam. Restained on the palate, with bold tannins – expressive, not quite a classic Bordeaux profile. Tobacco and cigar box on the finish. Organic certified. **Alc** 14.5%

Vignobles Jean-Louis Trocard, Château Trocard Monrepos 2022 89
100% Merlot. Pine needles, menthol and liquorice on the nose; the oak is well-balanced. Bold on the palate, with round tannins and beautiful fruit concentration, while light smoky notes add complexity. Dark fruits and chocolate on the lingering finish. Sustainable certified. **Alc** 14.5%

Vignobles MC & Fils, Château Notre Père 2022 89
90% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon. Unusual nose, with notes of kirsch, liquored cherries and dark chocolate. Powerful on the palate, with dense, bold tannins and well-integrated oak. A potent wine that lingers long and shows good balance. **Alc** 14%



SCORES WERE GENERATED AS PART OF A BLIND TASTING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PLANÈTE BORDEAUX, AND ALL WINES WERE SUPPLIED FREE OF CHARGE TO FEATURE IN PAID FOR CONTENT.