

BORDEAUX 2016

Revisited 10 Years Later

What a decade has revealed about one of Bordeaux's great modern vintages

Bordeaux 2016 was hailed as exceptional from the moment it was offered en primeur in 2017: concentrated and structured, yet unusually fresh.

Ten years on, the scores matter less than what time has revealed, and what that means for the bottles in your cellar.

16/10/2026 • 7 MIN READ

A Vintage Defined By Place

A wet spring gave way to a hot, dry summer. Timely rain in mid-September and a long harvest let the grapes ripen fully. The result is consistent quality across Bordeaux, without one uniform style.

Wadih Riachy, Wine Advisor at Vintage Cellar, considers this expression of place fundamental to understanding the year:

“

2016 is an incredible vintage that produced extraordinary wines throughout Bordeaux. The greatest wines of this remarkable year speak not so much about the vintage, but about their individual vineyards. It is the most consistently great year since 2009 and 2010, both at the top of the market and across the wider region.”

Ten Years On

The tannins are softening, the fruit is gaining nuance and the differences between estates are becoming clearer. Yet many of the leading wines are still young, with their best years ahead.



Daniela Borriello, Director of Private Client Development & Winery Relations at Vintage Cellar, explains:

“

I consider 2016 one of the most compelling modern Bordeaux vintages, particularly because of its balance between concentration, freshness and structure. Compared with the more immediately generous and approachable character of 2015, the 2016 wines tend to be more precise, linear and structured.

Their greatness is not necessarily about immediate drinkability, but about their ability to develop beautifully over time.”

Left Bank and Right Bank

2016 was a great Left Bank year: authority in Pauillac, refinement in Saint-Julien, perfume and structure in Margaux, depth in Saint-Estèphe. On the Right Bank, the best of Pomerol and Saint-Émilion pair richness with freshness.

From the Vintage Cellar collection, Daniela particularly highlights Canon, Figeac and La Conseillante on the Right Bank, alongside Pichon Baron, Ducru-Beaucaillou, Montrose, Margaux and Latour on the Left Bank.



Château Canon

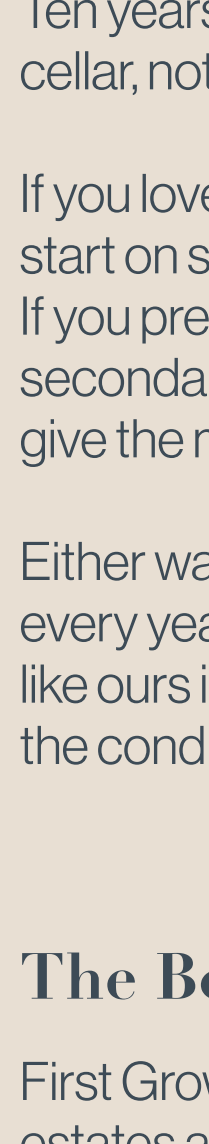
Wadih Riachy's Tasting Perspective

Château Canon 2016

One of the stars of Saint-Émilion. Impressive in both structure and fruit, with considerable weight and concentration balanced by elegance. A wine of real distinction and excellent ageing potential.



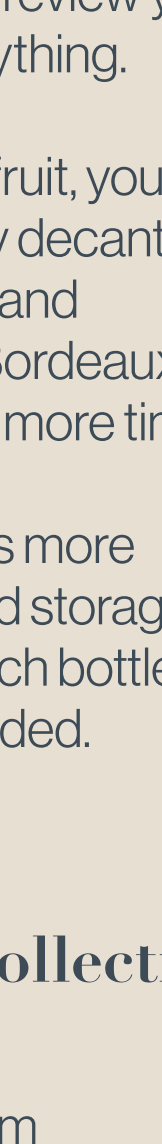
Château Cos d'Estournel 2016



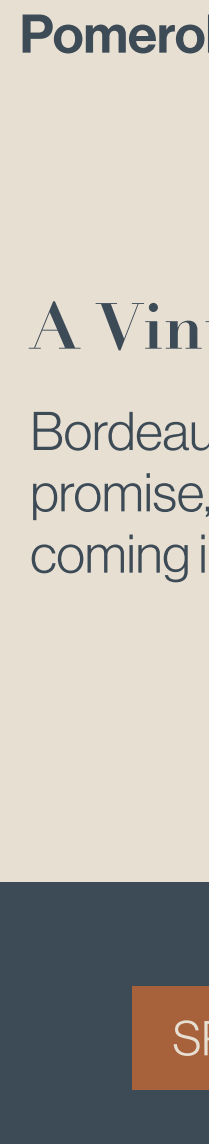
A classic and highly sophisticated expression of Cos d'Estournel. Structured, composed and deeply refined, with the substance to provide considerable pleasure over a long life.

Château Haut-Brion 2016

One of the stars of Saint-Émilion. Impressive in both structure and fruit, with considerable weight and concentration balanced by elegance. A wine of real distinction and excellent ageing potential.



Château Mouton Rothschild 2016



Serious, aristocratic and unmistakably Mouton. A wine of authority and character that can already impress today, supported by the structure to develop for many years.

Château Cheval Blanc 2016

A distinguished expression of Cheval Blanc, combining depth, elegance and remarkable persistence. A wine of extraordinary character with a long future ahead.



Château Ducru-Beaucaillou 2016

Powerful, intense and concentrated, with remarkable length. The palate builds from start to finish, delivering richness and energy in equal measure.

Château Pontet-Canet 2016

An expressive and generous Pauillac with exceptional persistence. Its saline and balsamic finish brings freshness to its scale, while its structure promises a long evolution.

Open Now, or Wait?

Ten years is a good moment to review your cellar, not a signal to open everything.

If you love energy and primary fruit, you can start on selected bottles, ideally decanted. If you prefer the softer textures and secondary aromas of mature Bordeaux, give the most structured wines more time.

Either way, provenance matters more every year. Professional in-bond storage, like ours in Bordeaux, keeps each bottle in the condition the château intended.

The Bordeaux 2016 Collection

First Growths, benchmark estates and standout wines from Bordeaux's main appellations.

Pauillac • Lafite Rothschild, Latour, Mouton Rothschild, Pichon Baron, Pontet-Canet

Saint-Estèphe • Cos d'Estournel, Montrose

Saint-Julien • Ducru-Beaucaillou

Margaux • Château Margaux

Pessac-Léognan • Haut-Brion
Saint-Émilion Angélus,
Canon, Cheval Blanc, Figeac

Pomerol • L'Évangile, La Conseillante

A Vintage Still Unfolding

Bordeaux 2016 is moving past its early promise, and each vineyard's identity is coming into focus.

SPEAK WITH YOUR ADVISOR