

vino
vest

The Critics' Choice Collection

Approved by critics, curated by you



"What wine should I invest in?"

It's a popular question, and with good reason. You want to invest your money in the right place.

That's why we created the Critics' Choice Collection, which features eight critically acclaimed wines. So, no matter where you invest, you're guaranteed the approval of the industry's leading minds.

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Why Critics Love Bordeaux

Bordeaux is the epicenter of the fine wine universe. It has countless collectible and critically acclaimed wines along with regulations more complicated than a Christopher Nolan movie. Here are a couple of reasons critics are bullish on Bordeaux.



1. 100-Point Game

Bordeaux receives more perfect scores than any other region. The ten most sought-after wines from Bordeaux on WineSearcher.com have earned 149 perfect scores. Second place is Napa Valley at 59.

2. Market Maker

Once upon a time, Bordeaux commanded 96% of the secondary wine market. While its share has diminished since then, it is still the most coveted region with an average share of 40%.

3. Better with Age

Bordeaux wines are built to age. All of the wines in this collection have a 25+ year aging window. Under the right conditions, some wines can cellar for more than a century.

4. Ruling Class

While strict rules have limitations, they've contributed to exceptional fruit in Bordeaux. Producers have exceedingly high standards, ensuring that only the best of the best goes into the grand vins.

Why Critics Love Napa Valley

Napa Valley is responsible for bringing American wine into the global spotlight. After defeating France in the 1976 Judgment of Paris, wine lovers everywhere realized that great wine could come from anywhere, not just Burgundy or Bordeaux. Here are a few more reasons why critics clamor for Napa Valley.



1. French Connections

Many Napa wineries produced Bordeaux-style wines. Moreover, they have direct ties to the old world. For instance, Opus One began as a collaboration between American vintner Robert Mondavi and French winemaking royalty Baron Philippe de Rothschild.

2. California Cult Cabs

These luxurious red wines are 100-point trophies reserved for the most well-connected individuals. The average collector must hurdle multiple roadblocks to enjoy these bucket list wines.

3. Growing Up

A decade ago, California accounted for less than 1% of the secondary wine market. Today, that figure is closer to 4-5%. Additionally, Liv-ex has reported a 302% return for the region over the last 18 years.

4. Let's Be Exclusive

If you thought Bordeaux was exclusive, try getting into Screaming Eagle or Harlan Estate. People can sit on the respective wait lists for upward of a decade!

Why Critics Love 2016

Every wine in this collection comes from 2016. That was....a happy accident. Why? First, we didn't do that on purpose. Second, it lets us explore the conditions that led to glowing critical reviews.



Bordeaux Vintage Report

The 2016 vintage was wet and warm. In fact, it was one of the warmest on record. The hospitable temperatures prompted early budburst and were followed by unusually dry summer.

Bordeaux avoided hail and frost in the spring. While the rainy conditions contributed to some waterlogged soil, it turned out to be a blessing in disguise. The moist earth ensured the vines were healthy and growing during the summer. The slow ripening allowed producers to harvest at their leisure, with some estates harvesting fruit more than a month apart.

The 2016 harvest was one for the record books. Grapes were consistently rich and ripe with seamlessly integrated tannins. Although they had a slightly lower alcohol content than usual, the reds stood out for their balance of freshness and acidity.

Napa Valley Vintage Report

Spring in Napa Valley got off to a balmy start. Think 60-degree days with modest humidity. June and July were much hotter, with average temperatures of 82 degrees. The heat gave way in August, thanks to seasonal marine fog rolling into the region.

The cool conditions in August slowed the ripening process for some varieties, such as zinfandel. This allowed wineries to pick fruit at peak ripeness. What the harvest lacked in size, it made up for in quality. Cabernet sauvignon and chardonnay were the two standout grapes of the vintage, offering consumers the opportunity to enjoy the vintage now or cellar for later.

What Else the Critics Loved in 2016



Best Picture

Moonlight by Barry Jenkins



Album of the Year

25 by Adele



Heisman

Lamar Jackson, Louisville Cardinals



Pulitzer (Drama)

Hamilton by Lin-Manuel Miranda



Nobel Prize (Literature)

Bob Dylan

**Critics love them.
We think you will too.**



2016 Château L'Évangile

VINTAGE QUALITY



ANNUAL RETURN 6.45%

ANNUAL PRODUCTION: 3,000 CASES

AGING WINDOW 2021 - 2047

RARITY ★ ★ ★ ★

CRITICAL ACCLAIM

100

Andreas Larsson

99

James Suckling

98

Decanter

The typical Château L'Évangile grand vin features 80% merlot and 20% cabernet franc. In 2016, the estate zigged where other vintages zagged. It used a healthy 92% merlot, giving the red blend an almost primordial complexion. The decision paid off. According to WineSearcher.com, 2016 Château L'Évangile is the highest scoring vintage in the estate's history, earning an average rating of 96 out of 100.

The 2016 vintage doesn't waste a moment captivating audiences. It's towering and explosive from the glass, with depth that rivals Khaled Hosseini's *The Kite Runner*. That's not the most impressive part, though. The texture is ultra-seductive with silkiness that accents soft, voluptuous curves. Add in a lingering finish kissed with graphite, and critics had no choice but to award high marks.

THE FINAL SIP:

2016 Château L'Évangile is a highlight of the vintage, with Jane Anson noting, "the power and intensity tells you that this wine has an amazing future."

5-year returns:

2007 VINTAGE	2008 VINTAGE	2009 VINTAGE	2010 VINTAGE	2011 VINTAGE	2012 VINTAGE	2013 VINTAGE	2014 VINTAGE	2015 VINTAGE	2016 VINTAGE
50%	59.10%	14.00%	11.50%	41.80%	56%	23.40%	43.70%	14.90%	8.50%



2016 Château La Mission Haut-Brion

VINTAGE QUALITY



ANNUAL RETURN **2.39%**

ANNUAL PRODUCTION: **6,500 CASES**

AGING WINDOW **2022 - 2054**

RARITY **★★★★**

CRITICAL ACCLAIM

99

Vinous

99

Jeff Leve

99

Jean-Marc Quarin

When the 1855 Bordeaux Classification was released, Château Haut-Brion was the only estate selection from Pessac-Léognan. Poor choice. Time proved that decision short-sighted. With 11 perfect scores to its name, including five from Robert Parker, Château La Mission Haut-Brion is widely considered equal to Haut-Brion and other first growth estates.

Case in point: 2016 Château La Mission Haut-Brion. The blend of 57.5% merlot and 42.5% cabernet sauvignon leads with unflinching intensity. The deep crimson-purple body unfurls a tidal wave of black currants, black cherries, cocoa, violets, cedar, tobacco, graphite, and spice. Polished tannins contribute to a refined texture with stunning mid-palate presence and a lifted finish. Wine critic Neal Martin even compared the 2016 vintage to the mythic 1955 and 1989.

THE FINAL SIP:

When it comes to purity and power, few wines of the vintage can match 2016 Château La Mission Haut-Brion.

5-year returns:

2007 VINTAGE	2008 VINTAGE	2009 VINTAGE	2010 VINTAGE	2011 VINTAGE	2012 VINTAGE	2013 VINTAGE	2014 VINTAGE	2015 VINTAGE	2016 VINTAGE
32.10%	21.90%	6.50%	16%	24.10%	8.40%	17.00%	5.80%	-5.80%	-5.80%



2016 Château Margaux

VINTAGE QUALITY



ANNUAL RETURN

4.98%

ANNUAL PRODUCTION:

12,500 CASES

AGING WINDOW

2024 - 2063

RARITY



CRITICAL ACCLAIM

99

Wine Advocate

99

James Suckling

99

Wine Enthusiast

Château Margaux isn't just one of the most famous names in Bordeaux. It's one of the most famous in the world. A first-growth estate with more than 500 years of history, Château Margaux is renowned for its elegance and complexity. The complex clay, chalk, and gravel soils are perfectly suited for cabernet sauvignon, making this red wine a multi-dimensional behemoth.

The 2016 incarnation features 94% cabernet sauvignon, 3% cabernet franc, 2% merlot, and 1% petit verdot. The dominance of cabernet contributes to serious concentration and profound tannic structure. Black fruits, cassis, violets, cassis, tobacco, crushed flowers, and spice waft from the glass, alluding to the elegance and richness of the body. Meanwhile, a subtle mineral tension permeates the core and leads into the sterling finish. As wine critic Jeb Dunnuck wrote, "2016 Château Margaux is a beauty and tastes like the essence of Margaux."

THE FINAL SIP:

US president Thomas Jefferson once said of Château Margaux, "There couldn't be a better Bordeaux bottle." If you can't trust Thomas Jefferson, who can you trust?

5-year returns:

2007 VINTAGE	2008 VINTAGE	2009 VINTAGE	2010 VINTAGE	2011 VINTAGE	2012 VINTAGE	2013 VINTAGE	2014 VINTAGE	2015 VINTAGE	2016 VINTAGE
11%	20.80%	14.20%	13%	30.50%	20.00%	26.50%	17.10%	76.90%	19.00%



2016 Château d'Yquem

VINTAGE QUALITY



ANNUAL RETURN

4.48%

ANNUAL PRODUCTION:

5,000 CASES

AGING WINDOW

2024 - 2064

RARITY



CRITICAL ACCLAIM

20/20
La Revue du
Vin de France

100
Anthocyanes

98
Wine
Advocate

To understand the greatness of Château d'Yquem, one only needs to look at the 1855 Bordeaux Classification. It is a ranking of all the best wineries in Bordeaux. On it, the founders created a section for white wines of the Gironde. Only one achieved the highest classification of superior first growth. And, yes, that distinction belongs to Château d'Yquem.

Uncork 2016 Château d'Yquem, and the appeal is obvious. Breathtaking notes of honey, marmalade, mango, pineapple, flower blossoms, and baking spice fill the air. The enveloping fragrance dovetails into a silky and sumptuous body that coats the palate evenly. This blend of sémillon (75%) and sauvignon blanc (25%) makes its presence felt without being overbearing, walking the line between sweetness, acidity, and a hint of bitterness. Add in a legendary finish, and it's easy to see why 2016 Château d'Yquem is in a class of its own.

THE FINAL SIP:

When it comes to white wine in Bordeaux, there is Château d'Yquem. Then, there is everyone else.

5-year returns:

2003 VINTAGE	2004 VINTAGE	2005 VINTAGE	2006 VINTAGE	2007 VINTAGE	2008 VINTAGE	2009 VINTAGE	2010 VINTAGE	2011 VINTAGE	2013 VINTAGE
63.90%	42.90%	18.20%	40.90%	32%	33.30%	-17%	-3%	6.70%	6.90%



2016 Château Canon

VINTAGE QUALITY



ANNUAL RETURN

5.94%

ANNUAL PRODUCTION:

7,500 CASES

AGING WINDOW

2022 - 2055

RARITY



CRITICAL ACCLAIM

99

Jean-Marc
Quarin

98

Wine
Advocate

98

Wine
Enthusiast

The brilliance of 2016 Château Canon starts in the vineyard. The estate owns 54 acres across Saint Émilion. It features limestone with fossilized starfish along with a narrow layer of clay leftover from a prehistoric lake. The ideal soil combined with Château Canon's sustainable farming yields concentrated and balanced fruits that earn the estate premier grand cru classé B classification (the second highest in Saint Émilion.)

Now, we could go on ad nauseam about how impressive 2016 Château Canon is. However, we think critic Lisa Perrotti-Brown described this wine best. She wrote, "The 2016 Canon is medium to deep garnet-purple in color, and--WOW--it opens with the most stunning perfume....While I love the bold, rich, seductive nature of the 2015, this 2016 kicks it up a notch in terms of polish, precision, depth and persistence. Most notably, the superbly ripe, exquisitely fine-grained tannins on this 2016 bring to the table a whole other level of sophistication. Bravo!"

THE FINAL SIP:

Following 2015 Canon was a daunting task. The 2016 Canon does that and then some, solidifying the estate among the finest of the Right Bank.

5-year returns:

2007 VINTAGE	2008 VINTAGE	2009 VINTAGE	2010 VINTAGE	2011 VINTAGE	2012 VINTAGE	2013 VINTAGE	2014 VINTAGE	2015 VINTAGE	2016 VINTAGE
58.40%	28.10%	43.00%	23.00%	12.40%	20.00%	55.90%	7.80%	18.80%	29.70%



2016 Opus One

VINTAGE QUALITY



ANNUAL RETURN

7.70%

ANNUAL PRODUCTION:

25,000 CASES

AGING WINDOW

2021 - 2055

RARITY



CRITICAL ACCLAIM

99

James
Suckling

98

Wine
Advocate

97

Jeb
Dunnuck

In 1978, Joseph Phelps released the first proprietary Bordeaux-style blend in California. A year later, Opus One took the region to new heights with this magical red blend. Not only did it usher in a new era for Napa Valley, but Opus One has posted 40+ years of consistent returns since its debut. As K&L wines wrote, "This is hands-down one of the great collectible wines in Napa Valley history."

The 2016 vintage continues the tradition of excellence in classic style. The deep scarlet hue holds layer after layer of ripe black cherries, creme de cassis, baking spice, rosemary, tobacco, oak, and graphite. The structure pays homage to Bordeaux with a full body and not a hard edge in sight. With supreme elegance and finesse, 2016 Opus One can be enjoyed today or held for upward of 35 years.

THE FINAL SIP:

Critics and connoisseurs love 2016 Opus One, one of the most collectible wines in Napa Valley history.

5-year returns:

2004 VINTAGE	2005 VINTAGE	2006 VINTAGE	2007 VINTAGE	2008 VINTAGE	2009 VINTAGE	2010 VINTAGE	2011 VINTAGE	2012 VINTAGE	2013 VINTAGE
48.20%	59.70%	37.60%	41.20%	39.20%	54.40%	14.70%	62.90%	7.20%	20.0%



2016 Joseph Phelps Insignia

VINTAGE QUALITY



ANNUAL RETURN

5.98%

ANNUAL PRODUCTION:

18,000 CASES

AGING WINDOW

2022 - 2060

RARITY



CRITICAL ACCLAIM

99

Wine Advocate

98

Wine Enthusiast

97

Jeff Leve

Few wines have done more for Napa Valley than Insignia. The brainchild of Joseph Phelps, Insignia was the first California blend of traditional Bordeaux grapes produced under a proprietary label. The debut signaled a tectonic shift in the industry. Napa Valley was no longer imitating great wine; it was making it.

The 2016 Insignia marks Phelp's latest triumph. It contains 84% cabernet sauvignon with trace amounts of petit verdot, malbec, and cabernet franc that aged for two years in 100% new French oak. The result is a supremely dense and intense red wine with juicy layers of blackberries, blueberries, black currants, and a kiss of spice and smoke. Add an everlasting finish, and it's easy to see why this vintage earned four 98 and 99-point ratings from critics.

THE FINAL SIP:

2016 Insignia stands out as one of the finest versions of this already classic wine.

5-year returns:

2004 VINTAGE	2005 VINTAGE	2006 VINTAGE	2007 VINTAGE	2008 VINTAGE	2009 VINTAGE	2010 VINTAGE	2011 VINTAGE	2012 VINTAGE	2013 VINTAGE	2014 VINTAGE
1%	32.00%	77.90%	25.50%	-30.10%	63%	15.30%	-12.70%	14%	35.30%	108.40%



2016 Quintessa

VINTAGE QUALITY



ANNUAL RETURN

1.79%

ANNUAL PRODUCTION:

10,000 CASES

AGING WINDOW

2021 - 2048

RARITY



CRITICAL ACCLAIM

98

James Suckling

97

Wine Advocate

97

Decanter

The greatest wines consistently express the uniqueness of their terroir. For Quintessa, that means using small plots to preserve the character of its vineyard. Every plot is individually farmed, harvested, and vinified. This meticulous winemaking ensures that the terroir takes centerstage with each release.

The 2016 Quintessa was an instant classic. As Wine Access put it, "If Quintessa weren't already a Napa Valley benchmark, their 2016 Proprietary Red would make it one." The cabernet sauvignon-dominant blend features ripe fruit, luscious texture, and a tantalizing aromatic profile. With a built-to-age structure, this gem should only improve over the next three decades.

THE FINAL SIP:

Arguably Quintessa's finest wine to date, Jeb Dunnuck called it "a quintessential, rich, elegant Napa Bordeaux blend."

5-year returns:

2007 VINTAGE	2008 VINTAGE	2009 VINTAGE	2010 VINTAGE	2011 VINTAGE	2012 VINTAGE	2013 VINTAGE
38.20%	2.00%	-2.20%	8.50%	12.90%	-19.70%	23.1%

Stop overthinking Invest like the experts

Collection goes live:

Tuesday, August 23

1 PM EST / 10 AM PST

