

ATYPICAL GRAPE VARIETY

Château Haut Grelot, L'As de Grelot, Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux 2017 93
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60% Merlot, 40% Malbec. Clear deposit on the side of the glass and lovely rich dark colour. A real clear sweetness through the palate, damson and black cherry, excellent quality. Powerful but takes its foot off the pedal just at the very last minute so you get a flood of juice to finish things off. Dark chocolate and smokey tar; but also tons of fruit and firm pliable tannins. Great quality, from four generations of the Bonneau family. **Drink** 2020-2034 **Alc** 14%

Château Puygueraud, Cuvée George, Francs Côtes de Bordeaux 2016 93
secretariat@puygueraud.com
50% Malbec, 30% Cabernet Franc, 20% Merlot. Full of poise and drama, a tightrope of power and finesse, really impressive with complexity and depth, and a really interesting blend of grapes. HVE-certified. **Drink** 2020-2034 **Alc** 14.5%

Vignobles Arbo, Arbo Malbec, Francs Côtes de Bordeaux 2016 92
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90% Malbec, 10% Merlot. Well-handled, where high alcohol notes seem enrobed by the power of the black cherry and damson fruit. This will take its time to come around but is good quality and worth the wait. HVE-certified, ISO 14001. Aged in stainless steel but still manages to feel seductively textured. **Drink** 2020-2034 **Alc** 14.5%

Château Carsin, Cuvée Noire, Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux 2016 91
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69% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Franc, 5% Malbec, 5% Petit Verdot, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Carménère. This has personality and zip and is doing its best to express a purpose and a sense of direction. No overly worked or polished, it feels vibrant and fun with fresh recurrant and raspberry fruits and a twist of grilled rosemary. A blend of all six red grape varieties allowed in Bordeaux. 5% Petit Verdot, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Carménère complete the mix. **Drink** 2020-2032 **Alc** 13.5%

Château Montfollet, Icône, Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux 2018 91
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60% Merlot, 10% Malbec, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Cabernet Franc, 10% Petit Verdot. Powerful and deep in colour as this entire flight is from Blaye, and clear deeply spiced herbal notes on the palate. Clear ageing potential, enjoyable and atypical. 10% Cabernet Franc completes the blend. **Drink** 2020-2034 **Alc** 15%

Château Reynon, Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux 2016 90
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75% Merlot, 17% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Petit Verdot. This is deep rich sweet fruit plenty of tannins but fairly soft and plush. Liquorice is clear here, and this is good - but not an unusual blend. **Drink** 2020-2034 **Alc** 14%

Château Terre Blanche, Les Cailloux, Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux 2018 91
odile@terreblanche.com
80% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot. Confident and carefully extracted. Unusual to have this amount of Cabernet Sauvignon in a Blaye blend for sure and these wines challenge what the Côtes can do. Black cherry, spiced damson, olive paste, enjoyable lift on finish. **Drink** 2020-2034 **Alc** 13.5%

Château Magdeleine Bouhou, Grand Vin, Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux 2015 90
info@magdeleine-bouhou.com
90% Merlot, 10% Malbec. Savoury swirl of black cherry and cut herbs; clear spice with a powerful punch through the attack, good length and tannins that are smooth and elongated, lots to enjoy, feels alive and enjoyable. Getting far less unusual to have 10% Malbec in wines from the Côtes, but we'll allow it. **Drink** 2020-2032 **Alc** 14%

Château Peyredouille, Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux 2016 89
mdesaintjan@lgcf.fr
73% Merlot, 20% Petit Verdot, 7% Malbec. Gentle white spice, rich texture that is sinewy and muscular, adding interest through the palate. Good quality. **Drink** 2020-2034 **Alc** 14%

Vignerons de Tutiac, L'Un dans l'Autre, Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux 2015 89
contact@tutiac.com
40% Merlot, 40% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Petit Verdot. Juicy but savoury, streak of leathery taste underneath the fruit, makes it enjoyable and with personality. But not unusual varieties. **Drink** 2020-2034 **Alc** 13.5%



PARCEL SELECTION

Château du Grand Barrail, La Révélation, Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux 2016 91

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Powerful and concentrated on the nose, a touch of reduction but more smoking gun than burnt tyre, and it adds a whiff of smoke that I really enjoy. This has personality and poise, and it's a good wine. **Drink** 2020-2032 **Alc** 13.5%

Château les Guyonnets, Lion D'or, Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux 2016 91
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One of the pure inky deep colour ones some liquorice on the nose and attack, tar and smoke following up, and heat on the tongue. Once you acclimatise to all of that this is a juicy rich and concentrated wine, with notes of olive paste an really rather lovely. Will take its time to fully soften. **Drink** 2020-2034 **Alc** 13.5%

Château Petit Boyer, Unique Terroir Premium, Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux 2016 91

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A ton of personality here, touches of sweet cola flavour, with spice and rich sweet damson. Powerful kick, hardly typical flavours of Bordeaux but smooth tannins, sexy feel with swagger and good freshness. Enjoyable. Terra Vitis, HVE-certified. **Drink** 2020-2034 **Alc** 14.5%

Château Cantinot, Collection, Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux 2015 90
chateau.cantinot@wanadoo.fr
Carefully extracted with power and

freshness, this 100% Cabernet Sauvignon has a good sense of personality and forward motion, hard to argue with its intent. Unusual squat bottle shape as with the 100% Malbec Cantinot. **Drink** 2020-2032 **Alc** 13.5%

Domaine des Graves d'Ardonneau, Grand Vin, Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux 2016 90

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Powerful dark ruby colour, not quite inky but getting there. Really like this, silky sooth with clear chocolate notes. Enjoyable, there is heat from the alcohol but it is sweet kirsch cherry and it works. Enjoyable and with personality. **Drink** 2020-2030 **Alc** 14%

Château du Cros, Coteaux de Lou, Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux 2016 90

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Well held together if a little more subdued than some, classic and well presented. Packed full of tannins but with a softness to them that is really enjoyable and nicely integrated with the brambly black fruits. **Drink** 2020-2034 **Alc** 13%

Château Haut-Rian, Selection Parcelle Saint-Seurin, Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux 2016 89

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Tight tannic structure, deep fruit flavours with well constructed tannins and attractive spice notes. The colour is not as deep as the flavours suggest and will improve further with a few more years. **Drink** 2021-2032 **Alc** 13.5%

Château les Conseillans, Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux 2015 89
alexandre@bordeauxlink.wine

Enjoyable berry fruits here, soft on the finish but with attractive olive paste notes and a juicy twist. Gentle frame but with plenty of pleasure. 10% Cabernet Franc completes the blend. **Drink** 2020-2034 **Alc** 14.5%

Château les Conseillans, Réserve du Pré Carré, Côtes de Bordeaux 2015 89
alexandre@bordeauxlink.wine

Real spice and attitude although the alcohol is a little out of balance and gives heat on the finish. Plenty to enjoy, and a reminder that Cadillac can be dark and powerful, and far closer to Blaye in character than Castillon or Francs. 2% Cabernet Franc finishes the blend. **Drink** 2020-2034 **Alc** 14.5%

Château de Ricaud, Grand Vin, Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux 2015 88
contact@ourthe.com

Cedar on the nose with a smoky finish, powerful flashy style with a silky texture. A little overpowering but with impact. Good stuff from Vignobles Ourthe. **Drink** 2020-2032 **Alc** 14.5%

Château La Rame, Grand Vin, Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux 2016 88
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Tight, tart, tannins are bristling and bright, and absolutely close in on the end of play. The black cherry is enjoyable and builds up through the mid palate. Will soften over the next few years in bottle - you might want to carafe it for now. **Drink** 2020-2032 **Alc** 13.5%

Château le Camplat, Prestige, Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux 2016 88
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Dark ruby in colour, not hugely expressive on the nose and this is struggling to come through on the palate right now also. In the glass it relaxes and opens up, and what you get are cut herbs, white pepper spice, savoury and more on the mineral notes than the fruit, acidity a touch high on the finish. **Drink** 2020-2032 **Alc** 14%

Château Peneau, La Dame de Haute-Sage, Côtes de Bordeaux 2016 88
emilie.douce@chateaupeneau.com

Well expressed, nicely extracted, rich and spicy and silky, and full of life. A touch high acidity makes the finish a little abrupt but it's good quality along

the way, from this 30ha estate on clay-limestone and gravel soils worked by Dany and Emilie Douence. **Drink** 2020-2032 **Alc** 13%

Les Truffards du Domaine d'Argilius, Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux 2018 88
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Touch of reduction, extremely tight dark fruit, tannins really closing in. Really grows on me and this is extremely young right now, but clearly needs time in bottle and then in glass. **Drink** 2020-2032 **Alc** 14.5%

ORGANIC/BIODYNAMIC

Château Cru Godard, Francs Côtes de Bordeaux 2018 92

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There is some resistance to the tannins, feels like you have to work for it, wait a little for things to open up. Damson and black cherry fruits, clear spice notes, good precision, ambitious without being swaggering, with a juicy finish. 5% Malbec completes the blend from this 10ha estate owned by Franck and Carine Richard. Organic since 2010. **Drink** 2021-2036 **Alc** 14%

Château les Mangons, Chant Secret, Sainte-Foy Côtes de Bordeaux 2017 92
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Deep ruby in colour, evident extraction, ambitious, a little overly swaggering but with cocoa powder, liquorice and black chocolate to fill out the brambly fruits. Potential for ageing. Biodynamic estate since 2000. **Drink** 2020-2034 **Alc** 13.5%

Château Moulin des Blais, Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux 2018 92

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Good depth to the brambly fruits here in both colour and on the palate. A lovely clarity of purpose and real juice though the palate, one of my favourites of the tasting, great quality with layers, spice, minerality, soft well-ripened fruit and a mouthwatering finish. A 12ha estate from winemaker Guillaume Guérin who spent time working in New Zealand before taking over from his parents at this property in 2013. **Drink** 2021-2034 **Alc** 13% ➤