



BEGINNER

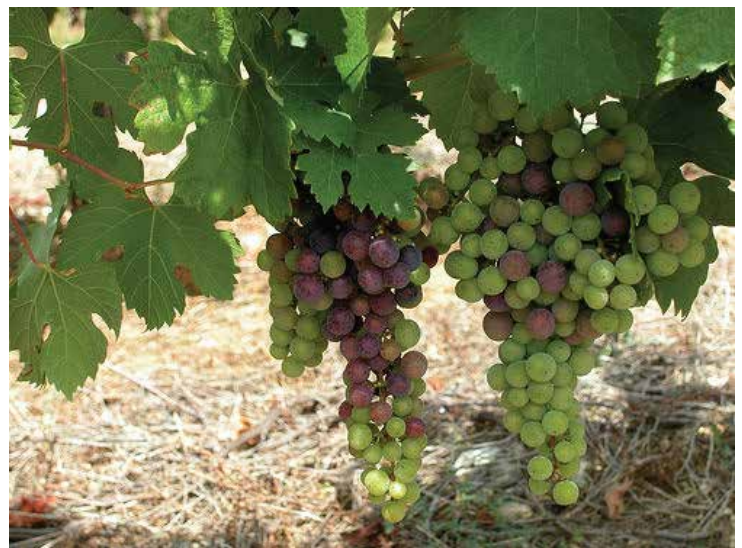
CLASSIFICATION OF BORDEAUX

Content contributed by Kimberly Bricker, Imperial Beverage

Do you ever hear about a bottle of wine selling for \$3,000 and wonder what makes it so special? While part of the answer is subjective, another answer is the 1855 Classification of Bordeaux.

Paris was preparing to host the World's Fair in 1855. London had established their international supremacy by their World's Exhibition of 1851, which featured the Crystal Palace (or glass house). France and England have a long storied past of being at odds with a constant competitive energy between them. The wine industry of Spain and Portugal, in its entirety (at the time), was created by the British who, at various times throughout history, didn't want to buy wine from the French. Napoleon III was determined to show England the supremacy of France and spent approximately five million dollars to that end. Wine has always been one of the great achievements France has contributed to the world. Napoleon III thought it would be a good idea to create an official classification of the world's best wines. The Chamber of Commerce of Bordeaux was given the daunting task to rate the chateaus of Bordeaux. They decided to have the local wine merchants create this political minefield of a list instead. The ranking of each chateau was done entirely upon the prices their wine fetched. While this can vaguely be interpreted to be a verdict on their quality it is important to remember it was on price alone that these chateaus were ranked. After a brief two weeks the local merchants produced a list of 58 chateaus- including 4 first growths, 12 second growths, 14 third growths, 11 fourth growths, and 17 fifth growths. In 1973, after much campaigning, Mouton-Rothschild was promoted from a second growth to a first growth. This is the only change made to the classification since its inception. There are currently 61 classified chateaus due to divisions of property over the years.

Of note is that this system ranks the Chateaux rather than the land. Over time some chateaus have grown significantly in land size. Some chateaus have various plots of land that are not even contiguous. Many chateaus have been divided, or held split ownership, due to Napoleons Law of Succession. (This eliminated primogeniture, or the policy of the oldest son inheriting everything upon the death of his father, and decreed that all assets be divided equally among the children.) Some first growths have taken over lesser growths, gained their land, and thus all the wine produced is labeled as a first growth. The newer land is also typically used to create a 'second label' wine that



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represents the high quality of the chateaux but not quite the best it has to offer. Presently the classified wines of Bordeaux represent such large sums of money that they are rarely held in private ownership. Most of these prestigious grand chateaus are owned by large corporations.

While much has changed since 1855, the classification remains the same. These wines were, and remain, benchmarks for the heights wine can reach. You never forget the powerful and mysterious taste of your first 1st growth even if the current prices ensure that few will have the opportunity.

RECOMMENDED FURTHER READING

Because this topic is so broad, and detail on each of the 60+ classified chateaux locations would be severely cumbersome, Raising the Bar has provided the following links. For more reading on the topic of Classifications of Bordeaux, be sure to visit these sites:

Jancis Robinson

<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/ocw/CH768.html>

Analysis of wine price change and reevaluation/reclassification

<http://www.thewinecellarinsider.com/2011/05/livex-exchange-updates-1855-bordeaux-classification/>

Reflections of Clive Coates MW

<http://www.clive-coates.com/observations/classifications-old-and-new>

Berry Brothers and Rudd on the 1855 Classification

<http://www.bbr.com/wine-knowledge/bord-classifications>

Revised classification- based on current prices

<http://www.wineanorak.com/blog/2009/03/new-1855-bordeaux-classification.html>

Map of Bordeaux

<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/map/083/title/Bordeaux.html>



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CHART OF BORDEAUX GROWTH CLASSIFICATIONS

1855 Classification

Village, Acreage, Production, 2nd Label, Owner, and Pricing

FIRST GROWTHS

Chateau	Village	Acres under Vine	Production cases- 1 st wine	2 nd label Production and Name	Owner	2009 prices: 1 st and 2 nd wine
Ch Lafite-Rothschild	Pauillac	282	20,000	25,000 Carruades de Lafite	Eric Rothschild family	\$1260-\$2248 \$328-\$500
Ch Margaux	Margaux	225	12,500	16,600 Pavillon Rouge	Corine Mentzelopoulos	\$900-\$1832 \$144-\$250
Ch Latour	Pauillac	200	11,000	12,000 Les Forts de Latour	Francois Pinault	\$1654-\$2423 \$250-\$413
Ch Haut Brion	Pessac-Leognan	119red (7white)	10-12,000red 750white	8-10,000 Le Clarence de Haut-Brion	Dillon family	\$900-\$2197 \$117-\$174
Ch Mouton-Rothschild	Pauillac	210	14,150	8,300 Le Petit Mouton de Mouton Rothschild	Rothschild family	\$400-\$1599 \$127-\$198

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SECOND GROWTHS

Ch Rauzan-Segla	Margaux	153	10-12,000	12,000 Segla	Wertheimer family (of Chanel fame)	\$89-\$252 \$40
Ch Rauzan-Gassies	Margaux	74	6,500-7,500	1,250-1,650 Le Chevalier de Rauzan-Gassies	Jean-Michel Quie	\$41-\$56 \$23
Ch Leoville-Las-Cases	St. Julien	240	10-20,000	15-25,000 Le Petit Lion de Marquis de las Cases	Delon family	\$292-\$450 \$52-\$70
Ch Leoville Poyferre	St. Julien	200	18-20,000	7-13,000 Ch Moulin Riche	Cuvelier family	\$172-\$417 \$24-\$40
Ch Leoville Barton	St. Julien	119	20,800	7,500 La Reserve de Leoville Barton	Anthony Barton	\$92-\$170 \$36-\$41
Ch Durfort-Vivens	Margaux	74	15,000	Vivens de Durfort-Vivens	Lurton family	\$38-\$66 \$21-\$26
Ch Gruaud-Larose	St. Julien	200	15,000	20,000 Sarget de Gruard Larose	Taillan group (Merlaut family)	\$76-\$120 \$19-\$37
Ch Lascombes	Margaux	207	20,830	5,830 Chevalier de Lascombes	Colony Capital	\$80-\$121 \$25-\$31
Ch Brane-Cantenac	Margaux	183	15,000	10-12,000 Le Baron de Brane	Lurton family	\$70-\$167 \$24-\$29
Ch Pichon-Longueville	Pauillac	178	16,650	12,500 Les Tourelles de Longueville	AXA Millesimes	\$150-\$325 \$37-\$80
Ch Pichon-Longueville-Comtesse de Lalande	Pauillac	215	19,150	15,000 Reserve de la Comtesse	Rouzard family (also own Roederer)	\$170-\$266 \$40-\$58
Ch Ducru-Beaucaillou	St. Estephe	185	9-12,000	10-12,000 Croix de Beaucaillou	Boric family	\$275-\$458 \$50-\$57
Ch Cos d'Estournel	St. Estephe	220	21-25,000	5-6,500 Les Pagodes de Cos	Michel Reybier	\$350+ \$53-\$78
Ch Montrose	St. Estephe	173	18,350	6,650 La Dame de Montrose	Bouyges family	\$220-\$450 \$40-\$75

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THIRD GROWTHS

Ch Kirwan	Margaux	86	16,000	4,000 Les Charmes de Kirwan	Schlyer family	\$54-\$79 \$37-\$44
Ch d'Issan	Margaux	111	8-10,000	7-9,000 Blason d'Issan	Cruse family	\$59-\$101 \$23-\$32
Ch Lagrange	St. Julien	290	25,000	35,000 Les Fiefs de Lagrange	Suntory	\$50-\$80 \$24-\$38
Ch Langoa Barton	St. Julien	61	8,000 total	Lady Langoa	Anthony Barton	\$60-\$82 \$50-\$57
Ch Giscours	Margaux	210	18-23,000	6-9,500 La Sirene de Giscours	Eric Jelgersma	\$58-\$96 \$23-\$30
Ch Malescot St-Exupery	Margaux	58	13,500	3,500 La Dame de Malescot	Zuger family	\$95-\$149 \$35
Ch Boyd-Cantenac	Margaux	42	9,000	3,000 Jacques Boyd	Lucien Guillemet	\$44-\$71 \$42
Ch Cantenac-Brown	Margaux	133	11,000	7,500 Brio de Cantenac Brown	Simon Halibi	\$58-\$100 \$28
Ch Palmer	Margaux	136	10,000	8,000 Alter Ego	Sichel, and Mahler-Besse families	\$290-\$420 \$48-\$85
Ch La Lagune	Haut-Medoc	200	6-11,000	12-16,500 Le Moulin de La Lagune	Jean-Jacques Frey (owns Jaboulet)	\$58-\$90 \$33
Ch Desmirail	Margaux	74	7,000	Initial de Desmirail	Denis Lurton	\$28-\$44 \$23
Ch Calon-Segur	Margaux	114	12-15,000	4-7,000 Ch Marquis de Calon	Gasqueton and Hanappier families	\$86-\$167 \$27
Ch Ferriere	Margaux	19	3,000	1,000 Les Remparts de Ferriere	Claire Villars	\$33-\$54 \$24
Ch Marquis d'Alesme Becker	Margaux	39	8,000	2,000 Marquis d'Alesme	Perrodo family	\$28-\$34 \$19

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FOURTH GROWTHS

Ch St-Pierre	St. Julien	42	5,400	No 2 nd label	Henri Martin	\$83-\$159
Ch Talbot	St. Julien	264	30,000	10-15,000 Connetable de Talbot	Jean-Paul Bignon	\$54-\$86 \$28
Ch Branaire-Ducru	St. Julien	119	12,500	7,500 Duluc de Branaire-Ducru	Patrick Maroteaux	\$66-\$120 \$25-\$35
Ch Duhart-Milon Rothschild	Pauillac	180	22-25,000	5-7,000 Moulin de Duhart	Eric Rothschild family	\$124-\$208 \$51
Ch Pouget	Margaux	42	3,000	2,000 Antoine Pouget	Pierre Guillemet	\$83-\$103 \$48
Ch La Tour Carnet	Haut-Medoc	160	15,000	9,000 Les Douves de Carnet	Bernard Magrez	\$32-\$46 \$17
Ch Lafon-Rochet	St. Estephe	111	12,000	8,000 Les Pelerins de Lafon-Rochet	Michel Tesseron	\$18-\$70 \$22
Ch Beychevelle	St. Julian	222	20-23,000	10-12,500 Admiral de Beychevelle	GMF & Suntory	\$70-\$170 \$41
Ch Prieure-Lichine	Margaux	172	20,000	7,000 Confidences de Prieure-Lichine	Balande Group	\$46-\$80 \$25
Ch Marquis de Terme	Margaux	94	12,000	2,500 Les Gondats de Marquis de Terme	Seneclauze family	\$38-\$57

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FIFTH GROWTHS

Ch Pontet-Canet	Pauillac	200	20,000	8,000 Les Hauts de Pontet-Canet	Alfred Tesseron	\$172- \$800 \$46
Ch Batailley	Pauillac	141	21-25,000	No 2 nd label	Philippe Casteja	\$47- \$71
Ch Haut-Batailley	Pauillac	76	10,000	1,700 Tour d'Aspic	Francios Borie	\$37- \$60 \$43
Ch Grand-Puy-Lacoste	Pauillac	136	15,400	8,330 Lacoste-Borie	Francios Borie	\$78- \$142 \$28
Ch Grand-Puy-Ducasse	Pauillac	74	18,000	2,000 Prelude a Grand-Puy Ducasse	Cordier-Mestrezat	\$42- \$72 \$25
Ch Lynch-Bages	Pauillac	240	35,000	16,000 Echo de Lynch-Bages	Cazes family	\$145- \$333 \$44
Ch Lynch-Moussas	Pauillac	148	20,000	2-5,000 Les Hauts de Lynch Moussas	Casteja family	\$30- \$45 \$14
Ch Dauzac	Margaux	111	19,000	2-4,000 La Bastide de Dauzac	MAIF	\$42- \$59 \$35
Ch d'Armailhac	Pauillac	123	22,000	No 2 nd label	Phillipine Rothschild	\$44- \$74
Ch du Tertre	Margaux	123	18,000	4-5,000 Les Hauts du Tertre	Eric Jelgersma	\$19- \$66 \$22
Ch Haut-Bages Liberal	Pauillac	69	9,000	6,500c La Chapelle de Bages	Taillan group (Merlaut family)	\$36- \$61 \$41
Ch Pedesclaux	Pauillac	89	8,000	1,600 Fleur de Pedesclaux	Jacky Lorenzetti	\$32- \$40 \$24
Ch Belgrave	Haut-Medoc	148	21,000	9,000 Diane de Belgrave	CVBG	\$30- \$40 \$19
Ch du Camensac	Haut-Medoc	172	20,000	10,000 La Closerie de Camensac	Elise Forner	\$13- \$34 \$14
Ch Cos Labory	St. Estephe	44	7,500	3,330 Le Charme Labory	Weber family	\$31- \$46 \$25
Ch Clerc Milon	Pauillac	106	14,000	None	Rothschild family	\$65- \$105
Ch Croizet-Bages	Pauillac	74	12,500	La Tourelle de Croizet-Bages	Quie family	\$28- \$38 \$19
Ch Cantemerle	Haut-Medoc	222	33,500	13,500 Les Allees de Cantemerle	SMABTP (insurance co)	\$33- \$60 21