MICHELIN GUIDE

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The MICHELIN Guide Launches Its Second Grape Selection, Focusing on the Bordeaux Region

This inaugural edition for the Bordeaux region focuses on the most prestigious appellations and celebrates a total of 84 estates, including 63 highlighted with One, Two or Three MICHELIN grapes – nine of which have been awarded the top distinction.

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The MICHELIN Guide has chosen the Cité du Vin in Bordeaux to unveil the very first Grape Selection dedicated to the Bordeaux region. This marks the second instalment – following Burgundy – in the MICHELIN Grape series, which shines a spotlight on a region whose reputation spans the centuries. A land of prestige and innovation, the Bordeaux region combines tradition with international renown.

Today, Bordeaux produces some of the finest wines in its modern history, shaped by a new form of 'contemporary classicism' defined by pure fruit, harmonious structure and a strong sense of estate identity that's underpinned by viticulture tailored to the terroir – including the likes of cover crops, adaptive canopy management and plot-by-plot cultivation. The region is also embracing gentler winemaking practices, with organic and biodynamic approaches gaining ground and producers increasingly seeking fresher, more authentic expressions of their terroirs.

This first selection covers the majority of the region's most iconic appellations, ranging from the Left Bank (the Médoc commune appellations of Saint-Estèphe, Pauillac, Saint-Julien and Margaux, as well as Pessac-Léognan), the Right Bank (Saint-Émilion and Pomerol) and the Sauternes region (Sauternes and Barsac), resulting in an inaugural list of 21 Selected châteaux, 38 awarded One grape, 16 awarded Two grapes and nine awarded Three grapes.

Head to our **wine homepage** to check out the full MICHELIN Guide grape Selections and to our dedicated **Bordeaux homepage** for all of our region-specific content and features.

Left: exterior view of Château Montrose. Right: portrait of Marielle Cazaux and Nicolas Jean-Valmy in the wine cellar at Château La Conseillante. © SAISON D'OR/Château Montrose; Florent Larronde/MICHELIN Guide

9 Châteaux Receive Three MICHELIN Grapes

Reserved for the most exceptional estates, the Three-MICHELIN-grape distinction crowns nine Bordeaux châteaux this year, recognising their consistency and singular character.

Médoc

On the Left Bank, three names stand out: **Château Léoville Las Cases**, **Château Lafite Rothschild** and **Château Montrose**.

Château Léoville Las Cases owes much of its identity to its celebrated Clos: 50 hectares of deep gravel soils enclosed by walls, along the banks of the Gironde estuary, whose influence on the style of the wines is both natural and unmistakable. Cabernet sauvignon dominates the vineyard's varietal composition, cultivated using traditional methods now complemented by cover crops and biodynamic practices. Rigorous selection, long macerations, and ageing in barrels with a significant proportion of new oak casks lend these wines remarkable precision. The Las Cases style is recognised for its layered cabernet fruit profile, structural depth and power: age-worthy wines that, in exceptional vintages, reach a level comparable with Bordeaux's best.

On the deep gravel soils of Pauillac, **Château Lafite Rothschild** embodies one of the most classic expressions of cabernet sauvignon in the Médoc. The vineyard, covering approximately 110 hectares – including 4.5 hectares in Saint-Estèphe – has been refined in recent years to focus on its finest plots. The transition to organic farming began in 2021, with part of the vineyard already cultivated using biodynamic practices, supported by hedgerows and cover crops. Cabernet sauvignon is gaining ground, as it is elsewhere in the Médoc. Winemaking here remains resolutely traditional, producing precise wines that emphasise length and ageing potential rather than immediate power.

Among the great estates of Saint-Estèphe, **Château Montrose** stands out for its commanding position overlooking the Gironde and for its wines renowned for their power and aging capacity. Under the direction of Vincent Decup since 2014, vineyard management has been further refined, with a clear choice: reserving the Grand Vin for the estate's finest historic plots. This approach is also accompanied by ongoing reflection on adapting the vineyard to the effects of climate change.

Pomerol

Three Pomerol estates feature in this ranking: **Petrus**, **Château La Conseillante** and **Château Lafleur**.

Petrus is based on a vineyard of just under 11 hectares located on the renowned Pomerol plateau. Predominantly planted with merlot, it produces wines deeply shaped by the estate's blue clay terroir. The Berrouet family has been closely associated with the history of the estate for several generations. Today, Olivier Berrouet continues this legacy with an intimate understanding of the vineyard. Restraint prevails in the cellar, allowing the expression of the terroir to shine through. The timing of the harvest remains the most decisive factor. When the season is particularly warm, the wine reveals its power and structure, with tightly woven tannins that allow it to age for many years. In fact, it illustrates the ageing potential of Bordeaux's greatest wines more than any other.

Neighboring Petrus, **Château La Conseillante** has gained in finesse since Marielle Cazaux took over its management in 2015, with the 2023 vintage ranking among the estate's greatest successes. Born to a family of farmers in the Landes region, Marielle upholds the solidly practical, down-to-earth approach, combined with genuine technical expertise gained at Suduiraut, in the Côtes de Bordeaux, and later at Petit Village. Since her arrival, the style has undergone a profound transformation: more thoughtful viticulture and, in the cellar, a 'less is more' philosophy, with no added sulfites, no exogenous yeasts, and no new oak. The result is a remarkable aromatic intensity and beautiful fluidity. These refined wines favour fragrance, purity of fruit and immediacy over overt power.

Château Lafleur, located on Pomerol's gravel and clay soils, holds a unique position under the direction of the Guinaudeau family. Planted with old cabernet franc and merlot vines, it produces a wine that is atypical for the appellation, combining structure with aromatic tension. Jacques Guinaudeau restored the vineyard's coherence and developed his own massal selection program, while the family introduced Les Pensées de Lafleur, a cuvée produced from the estate's clay soils. More recently, Lafleur left the appellation system to become a *Vin de France*, using underground irrigation designed to preserve soil vitality rather than directly feed the vines. The wines are characterised by their balance, precision and distinctive identity.

A bottle and a vineyard plot from Château-Figeac in Saint-Émilion, which has been awarded Three MICHELIN grapes. © Constant Formé-Becherat / Château-Figeac

Saint-Émilion

The Right Bank also features two essential figures from Saint-Émilion: **Château Cheval Blanc** and **Château-Figeac**.

Located on an exceptionally diverse terroir, **Château Cheval Blanc** practices meticulous, parcel-by-parcel viticulture. The estate's approach respects nature, with hedgerows and fruit trees introduced to promote biodiversity. Cabernet franc and merlot are cultivated with precision according to each soil type, producing wines that combine richness of texture and aromatic complexity – the result of both exacting craftsmanship and an exceptional terroir.

Château-Figeac stands out for its gravel soils, similar to those found in the Médoc, and its unusually high proportion of cabernet varieties. Nothing initially predestined Frédéric Faye, an agricultural engineer and oenologist, to take the helm of the estate: arriving as an intern in 2002, he became Managing Director in 2013 at the age of 32, following a discreet rise built on his deep understanding of the terroir.

Since then, he has refined both vineyard and cellar practices, with parcel-by-parcel harvesting and ever-greater precision, while remaining faithful to traditional methods. This philosophy was recognised in 2022 with the estate's elevation to *Premier Grand Cru Classé A* status. True to his discreet nature, he consistently highlights the importance of collective work. Whatever the case, the wines are structured and aromatic, with notes of graphite and black fruit, becoming increasingly silky while remaining faithful to the identity of their terroir.

Sauternais

The Sauternais region completes the Three grape selection with **Château d'Yquem,** the ultimate benchmark for first-rate sweet wines.

A leading figure in Sauternes, **Château d'Yquem** has long ranked among the greatest sweet wines in the world. The only estate awarded *Premier Cru Supérieur* status in the 1855 Classification, its reputation is built less on ambition than on continuity: the estate has been shaped generation after generation across 112 hectares of clay-gravel hillsides overlooking the confluence of the Ciron and the Garonne. Selection remains exceptionally rigorous, while viticulture is moving towards organic and biodynamic principles applied with pragmatism. With age, the wines develop aromas of saffron and dried fruit, while maintaining a precision that makes Château d'Yquem a benchmark for the entire category.

Left: Stéphanie and Hubert de Bouärd, owners of Château Angélus. Right: the Château Pontet-Canet winery. © Deepix Alain Benoit/Château Angélus; Gunther Vicente/MICHELIN Guide

16 Châteaux Receive Two MICHELIN grapes

In Pauillac, four emblematic estates feature in the Two grape selection. **Château Mouton Rothschild**, a *Premier Grand Cru Classé*, is recognised worldwide for the quality of its wines and its renowned artist-designed labels. **Château Pichon Comtesse** and **Château Pichon Baron**, historic neighbours, rank among the appellation's most iconic names, while **Château Pontet-Canet** has established itself in recent years as one of the Médoc's most dynamic estates.

On the southern gravel soils of Pauillac, **Château Pontet-Canet** has undergone one of the most significant transformations in the Médoc over the past twenty years. Driven by the Tesseron family, the estate embraced biodynamic farming at an early stage, a decision that has profoundly influenced the evolution of its wines' style. The arrival of Mathieu Bessonnet has brought a renewed focus on precision, both in the vineyard and in the cellar. Recent vintages stand out for their natural depth, greater finesse and a rare aromatic brilliance in the Médoc, confirming the estate's remarkable momentum.

Château Pichon Baron owes much of its transformation to one simple decision: reducing production volumes. Under the direction of Christian Seely since 2001, production has decreased from approximately 350,000 to 160,000 bottles per year, with a renewed focus on the deep gravel terraces facing Château Latour. This exacting approach continues in the cellar, where extraction and ageing methods prioritise structure without excess. The result: concentrated wines with a firm tannic backbone that above all reward patience.

In Margaux, two emblematic estates feature in the selection. **Château Margaux**, a *Premier Grand Cru Classé*, remains one of the absolute benchmarks of the Bordeaux vineyard. Alongside it, **Château Palmer** ranks among Margaux's most iconic estates.

Château Palmer occupies a unique position among the great wines of the Médoc. Under the direction of Thomas Duroux, the estate has strengthened its commitment to biodynamic farming and agroforestry, with a vineyard conceived as a true ecosystem. On its gravel and clay soils, merlot plays a central role in the blend. The wines retain the richness that defines Palmer's reputation, while gaining in freshness and finesse.

Among the estates selected in Saint-Émilion, **Château Troplong Mondot** stands out as one of the appellation's leading references thanks to its privileged location on the limestone plateau, while **Château Canon** is distinguished by its elegance and consistency. Two emblematic estates complete this selection: **Château Ausone** and **Château Angélus**, whose respective trajectories each illustrate excellence on the Right Bank.

Perched on the heights of Saint-Émilion, **Château Ausone** benefits from one of Bordeaux's most remarkable terroirs. Its vineyard is planted on limestone hillsides overlooking the village, with the 'Poirier' plot at the heart of the blend. The limestone and clay soils, combined with a naturally protected climate, particularly favour cabernet franc, which plays an important role alongside merlot.

Château Angélus is today led by Stéphanie de Boüard-Rivoal. Following a period marked by powerful wines heavily influenced by oak ageing, the estate is gradually returning to a more classic style inspired by its great historic vintages. In both the vineyard and the cellar, the objective is now to further highlight the terroir and the wine's balance. Recent vintages have therefore gained in finesse while preserving the depth and breadth that define Angélus' signature on the Saint-Émilion hillsides.

Left: Château Pichon Baron in Pauillac. Right: Édouard and Constance Vauthier of Château Ausone in Saint-Émilion. © Serge Chapuis/Château Pichon Baron; Sarah Arnoult/Château Ausone

The sole representative of Pomerol in this selection, **Vieux Château Certan** ranks among the appellation's most emblematic estates. Spread across 14 hectares and 23 parcels on the Pomerol plateau, the vineyard benefits from remarkable soil diversity, ranging from gravel to clay. Under the direction of Alexandre Thienpont, now alongside his son Guillaume, the estate has cultivated a discreet and demanding approach for several decades. The wines are recognised for their elegance, aromatic complexity and outstanding ageing potential.

In Pessac-Léognan, three emblematic estates feature in the selection: **Château Haut-Brion**, a *Premier Cru Classé* and historic Bordeaux reference; **Château La Mission Haut-Brion**, recognised for the depth and consistency of its wines; and **Château Les Carmes Haut-Brion**, which has distinguished itself in recent years through a particularly distinctive approach.

Enclosed within the city of Bordeaux itself, **Château Les Carmes Haut-Brion** occupies one of the appellation's most original terroirs, where gravel, clay and limestone converge around the bed of an ancient stream. Since Guillaume Pouthier's arrival, the estate has developed a distinctive style based on whole-cluster fermentation, gentle extraction and increasingly precise ageing. The wines stand out for their freshness, finesse and unique identity.

Owned by the Lur Saluces family since the 15th century and historically linked to Yquem, **Château de Fargues** applies the same exacting standards in the Sauternais: releasing its wines only when conditions allow. Across 15 hectares planted primarily with sémillon, harvesting is carried out through successive passes, followed by extended ageing with a significant proportion of new oak. This results in concentrated wines with vibrant acidity, emphasising structure and longevity, that often require several years of ageing before revealing their full complexity.

Left: Château Belair-Monange in Saint-Émilion. Right: a bottle of Château Giscours from Labarde. © Florent Larronde/Château Belair-Monange; Gunther Vicente/MICHELIN Guide

37 Châteaux Receive One MICHELIN grape

The One MICHELIN grape distinction brings together 37 châteaux this year, highlighting the richness of the Bordeaux vineyard far beyond its most renowned names. Saint-Émilion is the most represented appellation, with around ten estates receiving the distinction, including **Château Canon La Gaffelière**, **Château Belair-Monange** and **La Mondotte**, all recognised for the quality and consistency of their wines.

Pomerol also confirms its status as an exceptional terroir, with estates such as **Château L'Évangile**, **Château Trotanoy** and the highly sought-after **Château Le Pin**, whose limited production contributes to their worldwide reputation.

In the Médoc, several major appellations stand out. In Saint-Julien, **Château Léoville Barton** and **Château Branaire-Ducru** embody the appellation's classic elegance. In Pauillac, **Château Lynch-Bages** and **Château Clerc Milon** represent the powerful and structured style of this terroir. In Margaux, **Château Rauzan-Ségla** and **Château Giscours** offer appealing finesse, while in Saint-Estèphe, **Château Cos d'Estournel** and Château **Calon Ségur** confirm the appellation's growing momentum.

Pessac-Léognan stands out for its remarkable consistency with four estates receiving the distinction, including **Château Haut-Bailly** and **Château Smith Haut Lafitte**, two major references on the Left Bank.

Rounding out the distinction, Sauternes and Barsac highlight the full grandeur of Bordeaux's sweet wines through legendary estates such as **Château Rieussec**, **Château Suduiraut** and **Château Coutet**, which continue to uphold a unique savoir-faire recognised worldwide.

21 Châteaux Join the Main Selection

Alongside these distinctions, the selection also highlights 21 châteaux that reflect the richness and diversity of the Bordeaux vineyard. The Médoc occupies an important place, spanning Pauillac, Margaux and Saint-Julien, alongside Saint-Émilion and Pomerol on the Right Bank, while Sauternes completes this panorama with several notable estates.

The 2026 MICHELIN grape Selection in Bordeaux at a Glance:

9 Wine Estates – Three MICHELIN grapes

16 Wine Estates – Two MICHELIN grapes

37 Wine Estates – One MICHELIN grape

21 Wine Estates – Main Selection

Hero Image: The view over the vines of Three MICHELIN grape Château La Conseillante in Pomerol. © Château La Conseillante

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Excessive alcohol consumption is harmful to health. Please enjoy in moderation and drink responsibly.

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Written by le Guide MICHELIN