

CÔTES DE BORDEAUX

2013, 2014 & 2015

Finding Value in the Côtes de Bordeaux. Report by Jane Anson,
Decanter's Bordeaux correspondent

The home of good value and enjoyable wines, the AOC Côtes de Bordeaux has the fourth largest sales of red wines in France.

The Côtes draws together wines made from four separate areas of Blaye, Cadillac, Castillon and Francs that lie on the Right Bank of Bordeaux along the Dordogne and Garonne rivers. Over 900 winemakers make their home here, farming an area of 10,000 hectares and producing around 10% of Bordeaux's overall output per year. The vast majority (97%) of the wine here is red, but there are also some excellent white wines. And the spirit of the Côtes is clear – these are welcoming, family-run properties that prioritise not only making wonderful wines, but welcoming visitors to discover what are some of the most beautiful parts of Bordeaux. These four regions are part of the fabric of Bordeaux's history, and yet are also part of its renaissance, making some of the most exciting wines of modern Bordeaux.

On wine labels, look out for either the general Côtes de Bordeaux appellation, which is becoming an increasingly strong promise of value and quality, or one of the four individual names of Blaye, Cadillac, Castillon and Francs, indicating that the grapes are grown only in that specific area. All tend to be from small properties (the average size is around 10 hectares), and most have a majority of the Merlot grape in their red wines. This is, however, the land of experimentation, with many young winemakers, and increasing numbers now use the more unusual varieties of Malbec or Cabernet Franc alongside the more usual Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon. The whites tend to be blends of Sauvignon Blanc, Semillon, and sometimes Sauvignon Gris or Muscadelle.

These are richly textured and interesting wines that have a story to tell, so it's always worth looking at the back label, visiting the website, or heading out to Bordeaux to visit.

There are excellent Maisons des Vins in all corners of the Côtes that offer regular tastings and stock the vast majority of the wines selected here. The Bordeaux region as a whole is experiencing a renaissance in wine tourism, with around five million visitors per year, and the Côtes offer some of its most enriching and exhilarating experiences.

This is some of the oldest viticultural terroir in Bordeaux, with many châteaux dating back to the 12th century and earlier. There are Roman remains to be found around the city of Blaye, along with a UNESCO World Heritage Citadelle overlooking the Gironde Estuary. Cadillac and Francs are full of historic châteaux and ancient churches that date back to the Middle Ages, while Castillon is full of rolling countryside as it reaches out towards the green Dordogne, with towering limestone hills that offer perfect bedrock for vines. There are marathons, hikes, markets and various events where winemakers can share their passion and know-how with visitors.

The tasting below gathered together over 220 wines from: for the reds, the 2014 and 2013 vintages, and for the whites the 2015 and 2014. These were then cut down to around 100 final choices.

These are three vintages with real variations in style, with the full range from light, fresh, early drinking bottles to more powerful structured wines to age. The 2013 vintage for the reds was a little bumpy in places, but we have narrowed down the field to some excellent examples, full of light fresh fruit and unforced pleasure. The 2014 vintage was, in contrast, almost uniformly excellent, and you will find plenty of wines offering both firm rich fruits and soft, round tannins. The whites in 2014 also show some great success, with plenty to get excited about. And while the brilliant 2015 reds are still ageing in cellars right now, the whites on show seem hugely promising – the acidities a little lower than in 2014 perhaps, with a gourmet take on the Côtes.

Wines to try: Whites BLAYE CÔTES DE BORDEAUX

Château la Rose Bellevue Prestige, Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux 2014

91 Highly recommended

www.chateau-larosebellevue.com

Bright, clean, good grip, sparkling citrus flavours, this has been oak aged for five months but with great restraint, 85% Sauvignon Blanc, 15% Muscadelle. A lovely example of a Blaye white, from an always-reliable producer.

Drink now-2017 **Aic** 13.5%abv

Château des Tourtes Cuvée Prestige, Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux 2014

90 Highly recommended

£11.50 **The French Wine Project**,

www.thefrenchwineproject.com

This gets to the point straight away and is easily one of my favorites tasted. Lots of interest, from fresh white flowers to lemon rind, lots of interest with a touch of flinty reduction on the very first nose. **Drink** now-2017 **Aic** 14%abv

Château Haut Canteloup, Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux 2015

90 Highly recommended

£9.90 **The French Wine Project**,

www.thefrenchwineproject.com

Distinct citrus flavours, with touches of gooseberry and asparagus Sauvignon, this is almost tart but manages to be mouthwatering instead, good example of a northern hemisphere Sauvignon, with grip and presence. 85% Sauvignon Blanc, 10% Sauvignon Gris and 5% Muscadelle. **Drink** now-2017 **Aic** 13.5%abv.

La Révélation des Vignobles Denis Lafon, Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux 2014

89 Recommended



www.denislafon.com

A lovely bit of lift and a touch of reduced expression. The 50% Sauvignon Blanc here expresses green-tinged citrus and lime fruits and is zippy with lift, brought into balance with 50% Semillon. Six months in new oak gives a roundness without sacrificing the edge. Great stuff from Denis Lafon. **Drink** now-2017 **Aic** 12.5%abv

Château Manon La Lagune, Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux 2015

89 Recommended

www.myliko.co.uk, Musgrave SuperValu

Straw colour, with a smooth rich mouthfeel from the off. This has high aromatics of freshly cut grass. Good typicity, making the most of its 100% Sauvignon Blanc. **Drink** now-2017 **Aic** 13%abv

Château Haut Grelot, Cuvée Sélection, Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux 2015

89 Recommended

Bancroft Wines, www.bancroftwines.com

A rich and ripe expression of the 2015 vintage. This is 100% Sauvignon Blanc given the full treatment - so six months oak ageing, with the fermentation done in new oak (before half of the wine passes into one year old barrels for the ageing, and owner Julien Bonneau cleverly using the new barrels for his red wine). **Drink** now-2017 **Aic** 13%abv

Château Lacaussade St Martin, Cuvée Trois Moulins, Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux 2015

89 Recommended

www.lacaussade-saintmartin.com

Smudged smoky extract on the nose, this is citrus grilled over vine shoots. Has personality and grip, and a soft candyfloss finish. Distinctive, perhaps because from an unusual blend of 80% Semillon and 20% Sauvignon Blanc, aged in 400 litre barrels with regular lees stirring. **Drink** now-2017 **Aic** 13.5%abv

Château des Matards, Cuvée Quentin, Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux 2014

88 Recommended

www.chateau-des-matards.com

Cheerful sunflower colour, with a silky and sweet mouthfeel. A white wine that is full of personality, from 100% Sauvignon Blanc first vinified and then aged for nine months in oak. Majoring on exotic fruit rather than the more typically Bordeaux expression of Sauvignon, very enjoyable. **Drink** now-2017 **Aic** 14%abv

Château Maison Neuve, Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux 2014

88 Recommended

www.chateau-maisonneuve.com

Crisp and clean, a little sour perhaps, gooseberry tart rather than fool, but on the mid palate a lovely citrus flesh comes into play, and this turns into a very pretty wine. 100% Sauvignon Blanc, on the fresh scale. Unoaked, gentle lees stirring. **Drink** now-2017 **Aic** 13%abv

Château Montfollet Le Valentin, Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux 2014

87 Recommended

www.chateaux-solidaires.com

Rich, round, silky, but here also a nice grip of lemon and a sizzle of rosemary spicing. Enjoyable blend of 60% Sauvignon Blanc and 40% Semillon from winemaker Dominique Raimond. **Drink** now-2017 **Aic** 14%abv

Château Berthenon, Sauvignon, Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux 2015

87 Recommended

www.chateauberthenon.com

From the 2015 vintage, this has a classic Sauvignon nose, freshly cut grass, good spiciness without being overpowering. This is made up of 95% Sauvignon Blanc with a 5% squeeze of Sauvignon Gris. Unoaked, focusing on the character of the grape. **Drink** now-2017 **Aic** 13%abv

Château Dubraud, Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux 2014

86 Recommended

www.chateaudubraud.com (sell online)

This is rich and silky smooth, it is unoaked but has regular stirring of the lees to fatten up the texture of the wine. 70% Sauvignon Blanc; 15% Semillon and 15% Muscadelle from winemakers Celine and Alain Vidal. **Drink** now-2017 **Aic** 12.5%abv

Tutiac Sélection, Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux 2014

86 Recommended

www.tutiac.com

Fragrant on the nose, with white flowers and gentle curling citrus. This fades quickly, but is pretty. 100% Sauvignon Blanc, unoaked. **Drink** now-2017 **Aic** 12%abv

**Château Haut Bertinerie,
Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux 2014**

85 Commended
www.myliko.co.uk
 From an excellent estate that I often enjoy, this is not quite up to their 2013 standard for the white, but still an enjoyable wine with well defined flavours. 100% Sauvignon Blanc, aged in barrel for around 10 months with regular lees stirring. Sauvignon is often a strong finisher but this ends just a little soft. **Drink** now-2017 **Aic** 13%abv

**Château Bel Air La Royère,
Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux 2014**

85 Commended
www.bel-air-la-royere.com Approx £13 (red wine 2011 vintage) www.cadmanfinewines.co.uk, (red wine 2012 vintage) www.wineye.com
 Lemon curd roundness, smoked almond and a twist of lime. Combine that with ripe grapes and you have this attractively full expression. Could do with a mouthwatering finish perhaps, but this is good stuff. 100% Sauvignon Blanc with just under half seeing some barrel ageing. **Drink** now-2017 **Aic** 13%abv

**Château Les Bertrands, Cuvée Prestige,
Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux 2014**

85 Commended
www.chateaubertrands.com
 This is a foodie white, round, soft and sexy but lacks a little punch. 100% Sauvignon Blanc with six months in French oak. **Drink** now-2017 **Aic** 13%abv

FRANCS
CÔTES DE BORDEAUX**Château Les Charmes Godard,
Francs Côtes de Bordeaux 2014**

89 Recommended
www.nicolas-thienpont.com
 A small estate owned by Nicolas Thienpont that consistently produces excellent white wines. Majoring on straw and freshly cut grass, the green side of Sauvignon is on display. I'm not complaining - the juiciness is highly welcome, especially as it is underpinned by peach flesh, and rounded out by a touch of oak. **Drink** now-2017 **Aic** 13%abv

**Château Tifayne,
Francs Côtes de Bordeaux 2014**

87 Recommended
www.tifayne.com
 Pale straw colour, strong hay on the nose, this is 100% Muscadelle and is unusual, a little wild and rustic. Rose on the finish. Enjoyable, just clear your mind of expectations of a Bordeaux white. **Drink** now-2017 **Aic** 12%abv

Reds

BLAYE
CÔTES DE BORDEAUX**Château la Braulerie de Peyraud,
Cuvée Prestige,
Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux 2014**

91 Highly recommended
www.braulerie.com
 Firmly extracted with great skill, this is really an excellent example of the quality to be found in hidden corners of Blaye, a wine to savour. Lovely, a touch of high acidity on finish but even this gives you a mouthwatering close of play and will make it a good food-pairing choice. 65% Merlot, 30% Malbec, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon. **Drink** now-2020 **Aic** 13.5%abv

**Château Tour St Germain, Cuvée Élégance,
Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux 2014**

91 Highly recommended
www.tour-st-germain.com
 A delicious wine, snapping with rich fruit, blackberry and bilberry that builds in intensity, playing with a second tier of flavour. Good balance overall, this is not trying too hard and is a great example of Blaye. From a blend of 65% Merlot, 25% Malbec, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, aged in oak. **Drink** now-2020 **Aic** 14%abv

**La Révélation des Vignobles Denis Lafon,
Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux 2014**

90 Highly recommended
 Approx £13 StAubinLeschallasWines.com, www.slwines.co.uk
 Rich deep purple in colour, firm and nicely definted on the nose, followed by lovely autumnal brambly fruit held in place by rich tannic structure. This stays full in flavour right through the palate and is confident, highly enjoyable. 90% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon. 12 months in new oak. **Drink** now-2019 **Aic** 14%abv

**Château La Bretonnière,
Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux 2014**

90 Highly recommended
www.vignoblesheurlier.com
 Great stuff from winemaker Stéphane Heurlier. Firm fruits, some uplift on the finish, this has real promise, good integrity of the fruit, abundant flesh, and lovely mouthwatering finish. 85% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Malbec. **Drink** now-2019 **Aic** 13.5%abv

**Château Haut Canteloup Cuvée Prestige,
Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux 2014**

89 Recommended
 £14 [The French Wine Project](http://TheFrenchWineProject.com), www.thefrenchwineproject.com
 Dark, rich and velvety purple. This has oak but it's balanced, modern, with attractive brushes of tar, bitter chocolate and coffee. Certainly this has impact, big tannins, can age another five years which is not the case with all of these. Be aware it is ambitious, it's one to carafe. 85% Merlot, 12% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Malbec. **Drink** now-2020 **Aic** 14%abv

**Château Haut Bertinerie,
Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux 2014**

89 Recommended
www.myliko.co.uk
 The white wine tasted from this estate showed a truly excellent 2013 vintage, but here the red 2014 blows the socks off this estate's 2013, with good ripe tannins, plush strands of damsons and black cherries. Well worked and well extracted. 60% Merlot, 40% Cabernet Sauvignon. New oak for around nine months. Always a name to trust in the Côtes. **Drink** now-2019 **Aic** 14%abv

**Château les Grands Maréchaux,
Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux 2014**

88 Recommended
 (2004, £79 for case of 6) www.laithwaites.co.uk (currently sold out but buys most years), [Fine & Rare](http://Fine&Rare.com), www.frw.co.uk
 Highly extracted but expertly done, rich damson,

tight tannins, some lift, a little drying on the very finish but this is really a lovely wine to be enjoyed right now and over the next few years. Stéphane Derenoncourt consults at this estate, made from a blend of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc aged 50% in oak, grown on clay-limestone soils. **Drink** now-2019 **Aic** 13.8%abv

**Château le Grand Moulin,
Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux 2014**

88 Recommended
www.grandmoulin.com
 Deft touch, clean and textured raspberry fruit, a sense of freshness brings the whole wine into focus. 75% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc, 56% Malbec. Accomplished winemaking from vines grown on hillsides that line the Garonne riverside. Also tasted the Prelude du Château le Grand Moulin, which was enjoyable but I would go for this classic château version. **Drink** now-2019 **Aic** 13.5%abv

**Château Puynard,
Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux 2014**

88 Recommended
www.vignobles-gregoire.com (myvitibox.co.uk is currently out of stock)
 Located in a pretty spot close to the Gironde estuary, Nicolas Grégoire is owner of this 13th century estate. The wine has pretty violet reflections, and the fruit has been fleshed out, lively, clear vibrancy with a good five years ahead of it. Promising. 90% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc. **Drink** now-2020 **Aic** 13.5%abv

**Château la Rose Bellevue, Secret,
Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux 2014**

88 Recommended
www.chateau-larosebellevue.com
 Dark chocolate and coffee dusting, good balance with plump black cherry fruit, a little made up, can see the oak workings here, but the overall effect is a charged sense of forward motion. Vinified in 400 litre barrels. **Drink** now-2019 **Aic** 13.5%abv

**Château Clos du Loup, Cuvée Prestige,
Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux 2014**

88 Recommended
www.vignoblesbouillac.com
 A little tight on the attack, the fruit is pulled in, but there is good gentle spice underneath. 18 months oak ageing. 70% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Cabernet Franc, 5% Malbec. **Drink** now-2019 **Aic** 14.5%abv

**Château des Tourtes,
Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux 2013**

87 Recommended
 £11 [The French Wine Project](http://TheFrenchWineProject.com), www.thefrenchwineproject.com
 One of the most enjoyable 2013s on display, from dozens tasted. This has well defined fruit, with integrity to the raspberry and

redcurrants, enjoyable and well balanced. 70% Merlot and 30% Cabernet Sauvignon from the reliable Château des Tourtes. Even more impressive as this is unoaked, so we are really tasting the fruit. **Drink** now-2019 **Aic** 13%abv

**Château Cailleteau Bergeron,
Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux 2014**

87 Recommended
 Approx £17, [Friarwood Wines](http://FriarwoodWines.com), www.friarwood.com
 Strong, deep colour, highly extracted, modern, touches of vanilla and mocha. A wine with ambition, although the fruit is a little constrained. 13 months ageing in barrel for the 20% Malbec, together with 80% Merlot. Plenty to enjoy here. **Drink** now-2019 **Aic** 14%abv

**Château Mayne Guyon,
Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux 2014**

87 Recommended
www.chateau-mayneguyon.com
 Reasonable weight, good texture to the fruit, a smoky twist of almond oak on the finish. From a blend of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Sauvignon. **Drink** now-2019 **Aic** 13.5%abv

**Château Bonnange, Clos Maë,
Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux 2014**

87 Recommended
www.chateaubonnange.fr
 Smooth and fleshy, from a blend of 90% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Merlot, this is plush, damson, silky, flashy and fleshy just a little too controlled at this stage, I would give it another year before opening. **Drink** 2017-2020 **Aic** 14.5%abv

**Château les Maréchaux,
Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux 2014**

87 Recommended
www.vignobles-rs.com
 Again, there is promise here although the structure is big and clunky. Plenty of personality and the winemakers have done a great job getting plumped up black fruits from a controlled extraction. 84% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc, 6% Cabernet Sauvignon. **Drink** now-2018 **Aic** 14%abv

**Château La Grange d'Orlean,
Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux 2014**

87 Recommended
<http://grandmoulin.com>
 A 12 hectares vineyard known for its refined wines. This has a good deep colour, attractive expression fruit, clean, strands of flavour, not hugely complex but what there is has been well handled. As often seen in the Blaye wines, the 10% dash of Malbec gives depth and interest. **Drink** now-2018 **Aic** 13%abv

**Château Clos Mansio,
Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux 2014**

87 Recommended
 Approx £14 (2006) [Field and Fawcett](http://FieldandFawcett.com),

www.fieldandfawcett.co.uk
 Rich mouthfeel, plump fruit, this is polished with charcoal toasting and a lovely rich cinnamon spice playing with the black cherry fruit. Finishes short, but lots to enjoy. 70% Merlot (aged in stainless steel) and 30% Malbec (aged in new oak barrels for 13 months). **Drink** now-2018 **Aic** 13.5%abv

**Château les Bertrands, Nectar des Bertrands,
Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux 2014**

86 Recommended
www.chateaubertrands.com
 Deep colour, medium to full purple, rich and alluring. Touches of vanilla bean and bitter coffee on the aromatics and again on the attack. Clear pleasure on offer here, a little short. Contemporary with a sense of fun. 17 months in new oak. **Drink** now-2018 **Aic** 13%abv

**Château Labrousse,
Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux 2014**

86 Recommended
www.chateau-labrousse.com
 Deep purple colour, rich fruit, damson and black cherry, slightly hard edged. Some attractive texture and tannic hold, clove spices. Abrupt ending. 80% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Malbec. **Drink** now-2018 **Aic** 13.5%abv

**Château du Vieux Puit,
Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux 2014**

86 Recommended
www.vignoblesbouillac.com
 Strong liquorice, chocolate and coffee, with some rich black fruits from a 5% touch of Malbec. This will have plenty of fans. Touches of frangipane because not overly sweet. The rest of the blend is 70% Merlot and 25% Cabernet Sauvignon, all aged for a full 18 months in vats. **Drink** now-2018 **Aic** 14%abv

**Château Berthenon,
Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux 2014**

86 Recommended
www.chateauberthenon.com
 Good plush start, but a little over extracted. Short on the finish as a result, but this has charm, fairly big, plush, modern expression. 70% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18 months ageing in cement vats. **Drink** now-2018 **Aic** 13%abv

**Château les Gatines,
Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux 2014**

85 Commended
www.alliancebourg.com
 Lovely plush bilberry nose, feel oaked, but promisingly so. Great attack but a little short on the finish, and the fruit fades into tar and coffee. This has personality, just pair it with something that can stand up to it. Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon. **Drink** now-2018 **Aic** 12.5%abv



**Château Les Cimes du Queyrous,
Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux 2014**

85 Commended
www.vinbordeauxblayrouseaud.com
 Firm, rich, good fruit extraction, this is high in alcohol but has an attractive balance. Clay limestone soils bring out finess in the Merlot grape. **Drink** now-2018 **Aic** 14%abv

**Château les Chaumes Malbec,
Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux 2014**

85 Commended
www.chatealeschaumes.com
 The first vintage under Henri and Anne Parmentier (Anne is the winemaker), this has a light touch even with the richness of the fruits, there is clear flesh but the overall impression is pared back and elegant. Damson plum, and a great dollop of spice. A highly unusual 100% Malbec, aged in 25% new oak. **Drink** now-2018 **Aic** 13.5%abv

**Château Maison Neuve,
Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux 2014**

85 Commended
www.chateau-maisonneuve.com
 Strong empreumatic notes, clean fruit, a little short, but there is lovely personality here. 80% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Malbec. **Drink** now-2018 **Aic** 13.5%abv

**Château Peyredouille,
Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux 2014**

85 Commended
 Approx £11 (2011 vintage) [Ocado](http://Ocado.com),
www.ocado.com
 Rich texture, keeps going strong through the mid palate, touches of clove spice. A little heat but lovely personality. From 100% plump Merlot fruit, easy drinking. **Drink** now-2018 **Aic** 14%abv

**Château Cap Saint Martin, Cuvée Prestige,
Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux 2014**

85 Commended
 Approx £6 Calais Vins, www.calais-vins.com
 (resale across UK)
 Confident sense of extracting the most interesting part of the grape, not perfectly balanced but good structure and good fruit. 95% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon. One year ageing in oak. **Drink** now-2018 **Aic** 13.5%abv

**Château les Gorces,
Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux 2014**

85 Commended
didiersicaud@orange.fr
 Clear potential, this is carefully extracted with a kick in its step and a sense of lightness. Just a touch dry on the finish. 12 months oak ageing. 100% Merlot. **Drink** now-2018 **Aic** 13%abv

**Château la Tonnelle de Grillet,
Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux 2014**

85 Commended
www.grandmoulin.com
 An enjoyable wine. Restrained extraction but still plump in mid palate and modern, a confident touch of grilled oak, with a spot of bitter chocolate on the finish. 90% Merlot, 5% Malbec, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon. **Drink** now-2018 **Aic** 13%abv

**Château les Aubiers,
Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux 2014**

85 Commended
www.grandmoulin.com
 Clean fruit on the nose with vibrancy and violet edging. Light, good uplift, hovers over the palate. This again isn't hugely complex, but is thoroughly enjoyable. 70% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Cabernet Franc. **Drink** now-2018 **Aic** 13%abv

**Château Petit Boyer Vieilles Vignes,
Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux 2013**

85 Commended
www.petit-boyer.com
 Vanilla edging on the oak fairly evident, but this is a 2013 that has done a pretty good job of balancing things out - with the added bonus of a dash of spicy Malbec. Grab a pizza, and enjoy some early drinking. 65% Merlot, 25% Malbec, 10% Cabernet France aged in one-third new oak. I also tasted an enjoyed the 2014 vintage. **Drink** now-2018 **Aic** 13%abv

**Château La Carelle,
Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux 2013**

84 Commended
www.baile-carreau.com
 Again an attractive 2013, acidity goes a little high in the finish, but this has well worked summery red fruits, and a sense of freshness. 80% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Sauvignon. **Drink** now-2017 **Aic** 13%abv

**Château Monconseil Gazin,
Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux 2014**

84 Commended
The Wine Society www.thewinesociety.com
 This is attractive, good plush fruit, firm with a sense of hold and clear tannins. Not hugely polished, but with a rustic charm. An early drinker from Jean-Michel Baudet and his wife Françoise. **Drink** now-2018 **Aic** 13%abv

CADILLAC CÔTES DE BORDEAUX

**Château les Guyonnets Héritage,
Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux 2014**

90 Highly recommended
www.chateau-les-guyonnets.fr
 Lovely plum purple colour, red velvet edging. The firm grip is evident even on the nose, and there is an excellent sense of lift that carries

this wine right through the mid palate and over the finish line. Excellent quality, tannins are present and correct, not at all drying. 50% Merlot, 50% Cabernet Sauvignon with one year in (not new) oak. Highly enjoyable, great stuff from Sophie and Didier Tordeur. **Drink** now-2018 **Aic** 13%abv

**Château de Bellegarde,
Côtes de Bordeaux 2013**

89 Recommended
www.chateau-de-bellegarde.com
 Firm and promising on the attack, with an attractive tunnel of flavour, firm ripe but still crunchy fruit, love the construction here, not overdone but with natural sweet fruit. Very good focus, great for the category and really an impressive handling of the 2013 vintage. From an even blend of Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon, low temperature vinification and eight months in barrel. **Drink** now-2018 **Aic** 12%abv

**Château Courrèges,
Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux 2014**

89 Recommended
landeau.xl@gmail.com
 Sweet fruit, good weight, nicely balanced, cinnamon and cedar spice, this is pretty and has good Côtes typicity. The fruit is juicy, not complex but lovely bright backbone with just enough depth. Good example of a Cadillac wine from Xavier Landeau, shows just how much value there is out in these appellations. **Drink** now-2018 **Aic** 14%abv

**Perle du Payre,
Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux 2014**

89 Recommended
www.chateau-du-payre.fr
 The rusticity on the attack gives an attractive sense of balance to the rich, plumped up fruits. Great Côtes typicity. This is nicely put together with a good grip that carries you through. 100% old vine Merlot. Although I selected this wine, the 2013 vintage from this estate also deserves a mention - certainly an impressive achievement. **Drink** now-2018 **Aic** 13%abv

**Château Clos Bourbon, Cuvée La Rose Bourbon,
Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux 2014**

89 Recommended
 Approx £10 www.hhandc.co.uk, www.farehamwinecellar.co.uk, www.rfvintners.co.uk
 Lovely firm, well structured raspberry and brambly fruits, astringent tannins, good personality, with grip and sense of resolve. This should hold and steadily improve over next couple of years. Has the liveliness to work well with food also, with a touch of spice for seasoning. 85% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Sauvignon, from the excellent Boyer family. **Drink** now-2019 **Aic** 13%abv

**Château Réaut,
Côtes de Bordeaux 2014**

89 Recommended
 (£15 2012 vintage) www.vinatis.co.uk
 Deep but well controlled extraction, midnight velvet tones, oak on nose. This is highly charged, but here there is texture, and even a touch of astringency that suggests the tannins are still flexing and have further to go. Charming, with potential from an increasingly impressive performer located on the limestone slopes of the Côtes. 58% Merlot, 37% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Cabernet Franc. One of the few tasted when I would also thoroughly recommend the 2013 vintage. **Drink** now-2019 **Aic** 13.5%abv

**Château de Bellegarde,
Côtes de Bordeaux 2014**

88 Recommended
www.chateau-de-bellegarde.com
 This has lovely violet notes, some plush damson fruits, touch of fattening up through vanilla bean oak, tannins are well smoothed out, for the price and appellation this is really an impressive wine. To be drunk now but the freshness suggests there is a good four or five years still to go. Just from a tiny one hectare of vines though, with an even blend of Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon. **Drink** now-2020 **Aic** 12%abv

**Château Grimont,
Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux 2014**

88 Recommended
www.delor-bordeaux.com
 Soft and light in structure. Raspberry and cherry, light tannins, easy to drink. The property has been in the Yung family for three generations, today run by Paul and Jean. This is a blend of 60% Merlot with 35% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Cabernet Franc, vinified in stainless steel. **Drink** now-2018 **Aic** 13%abv

**Château Clos Chaumont,
Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux 2014**

88 Recommended
www.closchaumont.com
 A consistent performer, Château Clos Chaumont has Hubert de Bouard as consultant and sits on a beautiful spot high up on a limestone ridge. This is soft and smooth, nice grip, very light of touch on the attack but rustic tannins come in through the mid palate. Easy to like,

with a refreshingly unusual blend of 40% Cabernet Franc, 40% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Sauvignon. **Drink** now-2018 **Aic** 14%abv

**Château La Caussade,
Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux 2014**

88 Recommended
[Majestic](http://www.majestic.co.uk), www.majestic.co.uk (not currently in stock)
 Pretty much every element has been pushed to the extreme here, but the result certainly has appeal. Smoky and smudged, bilberry and blackberry fruits. Supercharged but fun. 60% Merlot, 40% Cabernet Sauvignon. **Drink** now-2018 **Aic** 13.5%abv

**Domaine du Seuil,
Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux 2014**

88 Recommended
 £10.99 Fine Wines Direct www.finewinesdirectuk.com
 Warm welcoming nose, sweetly ripe fruit. This has heart and personality, and offers plenty of enjoyable drinking. 50% aged in oak, 50% stainless steel, finessing an equal blend of brambly Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon. Organic wine. **Drink** now-2018 **Aic** 12.5%abv

**Château Biac,
Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux 2013**

87 Recommended
 £30 www.uncorked.co.uk
 One of the rare 2013 that has a rich, round mouthfeel. The fruit is still very much on the fresh rather than overripe scale, and I would suggest getting going on this fairly soon, but you will find a very pretty wine. Great accomplishment from this reliable estate. Patrick Léon, ex-Mouton Rothschild, is consultant here, attracted by the excellent terroir. **Drink** now-2018 **Aic** 13.5%abv

**Château du Grand Moueys,
Côtes de Bordeaux 2014**

87 Recommended
www.grandmoueys.com
 Rich in colour with a fine sweetness to the fruit. Cedary oak on display, this is impressive quality. 72% Merlot, 28% Cabernet Sauvignon, with at least half of the wine spending 10 months in barrel. Since 2012, the stunning Grand Moueys has been owned by Zhang Jinshan, and he is clearly working hard on developing the potential of this wine. **Drink** now-2018 **Aic** 13.5%abv

**Château Laroche,
Côtes de Bordeaux 2014**

87 Recommended
www.jean-merlaut.com
 Dark velvet in colour, with tight tannins, fairly high acidity and squeezed cassis juice on the attack. Can see the ambition here and the tannins have been well rounded off. These are dark fruit expressions with some spice, buttoned up, I would suggest giving it another 12 months in bottle. Drama, touch of Brett on finish. 68% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Cabernet Franc. **Drink** 2017-2020 **Aic** 12.5%abv

**Château les Conseillers,
Côtes de Bordeaux 2014**

87 Recommended
www.chateaulconseillers.fr
 Pure cassis on the nose, silky structure, again a nice lift, not hugely expressive right now, but a quiet sense of confidence, a little short on finish but smooth. Pretty. 58% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Malbec, 10% Cabernet Franc. **Drink** now-2018 **Aic** 13%abv

**Château Melin,
Cadillac Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux 2014**

87 Recommended
www.vignobles-modet.com
 On the nose, charred, smoky vanilla bean is in full effect, swiftly followed by a punch of dark fruits on the attack. A little overworked, but coffee beans and bitter, dark coco caste make for a fun, impactful wine. One third new oak. 70% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Sauvignon. **Drink** now-2018 **Aic** 13.5%abv

**Château Lamothe de Haux,
Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux 2014**

86 Recommended
www.chateau-lamothe.com Rodney Densem Wines www.rodneydensemwines.com (Première Cuvée)
 On the attack, a great whiff of concentrated cherry coulis, certainly showing a contemporary approach, it is expressive but needs time in the glass to open. Rich, sticky tannins. 60% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Cabernet Franc. Also tasted their Cuvée Valentine, same vintage but with a full 80% Merlot, a similarly enjoyable bottle with a touch more weight on the fruit. **Drink** now-2018 **Aic** 12.5%abv

**Château Prieuré Canteloup,
Côtes de Bordeaux 2014**

86 Recommended
www.chateaucanteloup.com
 An attractive estate to the north of Bordeaux overlooking the river Garonne farmed by Xavier and Valérie Germe. Fresh, light fruit, gentle but enjoyable, low tannins, early drinker, enjoyable. 60% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc, 20% Cabernet Sauvignon. Unoaked. **Drink** now-2018 **Aic** 13.5%abv



Château Sainte Marie, Cuvée Alios, Côtes de Bordeaux 2014

86 Recommended
www.chateau-sainte-marie.com
 Concentrated in colour and purpose. This has a frank and open nose, is replete with dark cassis fruits, liquorice, a flush of heat on the rustic but hearty finish. Enjoyable, with a touch of spice from the 5% Petit Verdot. **Drink** now-2018 **AIC** 13%abv

Château les Hauts de Palette, Côtes de Bordeaux 2014

86 Recommended
www.leshautsdepalette.com
 Dark ruby in colour. Attractive nose, well textured fruit, firm but controlled extraction. On the palate there is cinammon, rich liquorice, bitter chocolate, all thoroughly modern. I'm not going to fall in love with this but there is plenty to admire. **Drink** now-2018 **AIC** 13%abv

B de Biac, Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux 2013

85 Commended
 £23 www.uncorked.co.uk
 Soft and smooth on the attack, the blend here is 86% Merlot with 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot. Even the second wine gets 16 months in barrel, and this does very well for what is a distinctly patchy year. Drink young, but enjoy. **Drink** now-2018 **AIC** 13%abv

Château le Doyenné, Côtes de Bordeaux 2014

84 Commended
 £14 [Adnams, www.adnams.co.uk](http://adnams.com)
 This has an expressive but restrained nose and starts off very well, although finishes a little short. Bright attack, charming, but early drinking. 80% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Cabernet Franc. Charming wine from Marie-Dominique and Jean Watrin, from a 13 hectare property that dates back to 1791. **Drink** now-2018 **AIC** 13.5%abv

Domaine de Darlan Vieilles Vignes, Côtes de Bordeaux 2014

84 Commended
 £14 www.bordeaux-wine-guindeuil.co.uk
 Pale ruby raspberry, nose is expressive of strawberries and redcurrants. Drink soon, this is charming but light from a blend of Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon. **Drink** now-2018 **AIC** 12.5%abv

Château Langoiran, Cuvée Prestige, Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux 2014

85 Commended
infos@chateaulangoiran.com
 Sleek and polished on the nose, but the tannins swamp the fruit a little on the palate. Give this one time to breathe. 65% Merlot, 35% Cabernet Sauvignon, one third new. **Drink** now-2018 **AIC** 13%abv.

Château Suau, Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux 2014

84 Commended
www.chateausuau.com
 Impactful, with rich oak that is just a touch overdone. Clear ambition, with dark fruit, blackcurrant rolled in bitumen. Organic wine, with Michel Rolland as oenologist. **Drink** now-2018 **AIC** 13.5%abv

**CASTILLON
CÔTES DE BORDEAUX**

Château des Demoiselles, Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux 2014

91 Highly recommended
www.ducourt.com
 Bright and vibrant, with a violet expression on the nose. Good clean fruit, this feels like it is moving forward, picking up the pace over the course of the palate. Good uplift, nice spice, an excellent wine. 74% Merlot, 26% Cabernet Sauvignon. 12 months in oak, then an extra year in bottle at the estate. Also tasted the Special Réserve de Famille 2014, another successful bottle majoring more on highly-charged chocolate with coffee finessing. **Drink** now-2020 **AIC** 13.5%abv

Château Canon Montségur Cuvée Gaspard, Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux 2014

91 Highly recommended
chateau.lajarre@hotmail.fr
 Perky, good grip, black fruits and a sense of freshness, this is a good spicy interesting wine with a sense of subtlety. Owner Gregory Lovato - who also owns Château Lajarre - makes excellent use of its 50% Cabernet Franc, blended with 50% Merlot. 12 months in oak. **Drink** now-2020 **AIC** 13.5%abv

Château la Clarière Laithwaite, Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux 2014

88 Recommended
 £24 (2012 vintage) www.laithwaites.co.uk
 Promising nose, rich and deeply textured on the palate, with firm bilberry and damson fruit. Contemporary in style, with a lovely texture and depth. Great expression of the appellation and the vintage. Tony Laithwaite's property since 1984, now run

by his son Henry. 70% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon. **Drink** now-2019 **AIC** 13.5%abv

Château Ampélia, Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux 2014

88 Recommended
[The Wine Society www.thewinesociety.com](http://www.thewinesociety.com) (currently sold out)
 Dark and deep purple in colour, this has violet edging and a good structure, starts out well although majors on cinammon and spice rather than fruit in the mid-palate. A very enjoyable wine, with a sexy Castillon flourish from one-third new oak barrels. François Despagne's Castillon estate, taking his excellent vineyard-driven approach out of his home turf of Saint Emilion. 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc. **Drink** now-2019 **AIC** 13%abv

Château Roque le Mayne, Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux 2014

88 Recommended
www.vignobles-meynard.com
 This is poised with clean dark fruits, good restraint even though it has the requisite Castillon sexiness that most buyers of this appellation are looking for. Oak shortens the finish a little. 80% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Malbec. **Drink** now-2019 **AIC** 14%abv

Château Moulin de Clotte, Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux 2014

87 Recommended
www.vignobles-lannoye.com
 Violet reflections, attractive nose, a touch of sweetness from a 20% dusting of oak, but this is 80% aged in stainless steel vats and has a lovely softness to it. Like the potential here, should continue to develop for another few years. 95% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc. **Drink** now-2019 **AIC** 14%abv

Château Montlandrie, Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux 2013

86 Recommended
 Approx £20 www.leaandsandeman.co.uk
 Denis Durantou makes the best of this difficult vintage by coaxing out the freshness of the red cherry fruit, and avoiding any sense of over extraction. A blend of 75% merlot, 20%

Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon, aged in both vat and barrel. Salinity on the finish. **Drink** now-2018 **AIC** 13.5%abv

Château Pillebois Vieilles Vignes, Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux 2014

86 Recommended
www.vignobles-petit.com
 Promising nose, with notes of tobacco, black truffle. Good potential, still young right now and has some hurdles to get over. Plenty of ambition on display, liquorice and black cherry takes you through to the finish. 90% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon. **Drink** now-2018 **AIC** 12.5%abv

Château Tertre de Belvès, Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux 2013

85 Commended
www.feret-labonnelie.com
 Touch of volatile acidity (a sharp edge) on the nose, which has been a key marker of the 2013 vintage, but this pulls things together on the palate, has a finely grained structure and juicy redcurrant and raspberry fruit. 90% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc. **Drink** now-2018 **AIC** 13%abv

Château Cadet, Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux 2013

85 Commended
 £14.25 (2012 vintage) [Corney and Barrow, www.corneyandbarrow.com](http://www.corneyandbarrow.com)
 Raspberry russet in colour, redcurrant and raspberry leaf comes through clearly on the palate, slightly underripe fruit but clever winemaking keeps things pretty. This is made by Louis Mitjavile, son of François from Tertre Rôteboeuf. Early drinking, but works well with the vintage. 90% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc. **Drink** now-2018 **AIC** 13%abv

Château Damas de Montdespic, Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux 2014

85 Commended
www.vignobles-lavau.com
 Good typicity of the merlot-driven Castillon with a plump, oak-driven sense of fun. This has quite a powerful attack, lively fruit, contemporary styling. Plenty to enjoy with a plate of charcuterie or cheese. 70% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Franc and Sauvignon. Aged in 80% French oak and 20% American oak. **Drink** now-2018 **AIC** 13.5%abv.

Château de Chainchon, Cuvée Tradition, Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux 2014

85 Commended
www.chateau-chainchon.fr
 Good typicity for Castillon, in that this wine has a sense of finesse and generosity, oak-driven, confident and firm. A little hefty upfront, but plenty to enjoy here. 100% Merlot. Organic wine from Vignobles Erésué. **Drink** now-2019 **AIC** 14%abv

Château de Belcier, Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux 2014

85 Commended
chateaubelcier@orange.fr
 The nose is full of rich plum fruit, with a good structure giving it plenty of hold. I like this wine. A light touch for early drinking, 100% Merlot. **Drink** now-2018 **AIC** 13%abv

Château La Grande Maye, Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux 2014

85 Commended
 Approx £11 [Justerinis & Brooks](http://www.justerinisandbrooks.com)
 Rich, deep in colour, very ripe black fruits on the nose, touches of blackcurrant coulis and port spices. Enjoyable, although a touch of heat on the finish. 85% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Sauvignon, aged in oak barrels. **Drink** now-2018 **AIC** 14%abv.

Château La Pierrière, Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux 2014

85 Commended
www.delor-bordeaux.com
 Lightweight in colour, with clean unfussy fruit on the nose. A touch rustic but attractive raspberry leaf and redcurrant keeps things light and easy drinking. 80% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon. **Drink** now-2018 **AIC** 13.5%abv

Clos Louie, Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux 2013

85 Commended
closlouie@orange.fr
 Again, a successful expression of 2013. Oak used cleverly to bring out a sexy appeal. Sense of freshness and careful extraction, not trying too hard (which probably took a lot of effort). This is an organic wine, made it open vats with manual punching down. **Drink** now-2018 **AIC** 13.5%abv

Clos Lucin 2014, Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux

84 Commended
christophe.lucin@hotmail.fr
 A perky bright attack, fresh fruit on the nose. Things get a little soft in the mid palate but there is plenty of early drinking pleasure on offer here. 85% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc, aged for 12 months in oak with regular lees stirring. **Drink** now-2018 **AIC** 13.5%abv

**FRANCS
CÔTES DE BORDEAUX**

Château Godard Bellevue, Francs Côtes de Bordeaux 2014

89 Recommended
www.vignobles-arbo.com
 Bright and reflective purple colour, this comes very close to the complete package, good structure, contemporary with a flick of freshness, richly textured dark fruits. Good quality, from a blend of 65% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc and 15% Cabernet Sauvignon. **Drink** now-2019 **AIC** 14%abv

Château Puyguéraud, Francs Côtes de Bordeaux 2013

87 Recommended
www.nicolas-thienpont.com
 Rustic on the nose, charming, this has a feeling of fun and has a lift on the finish. Enjoyable Right Bank expression from winemaker Nicolas Thienpont. Great for the vintage, make the most of it by drinking soon. 85% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc, 5% Malbec. **Drink** now-2018 **AIC** 13.5%abv

Château Puyfromage, Francs Côtes de Bordeaux 2014

86 Recommended
www.puyfromage.com
 Firm well extracted fruit on the nose, clean attack, cherries and raspberries, again displays a modern Right Bank typicity, enjoyable. Touch rustic but plenty to enjoy. **Drink** now-2018 **AIC** 12.5%abv

Château Le Priolat, Francs Côtes de Bordeaux 2013

85 Commended
www.chateau-adfrancos.com
 Good colour, bright and clean. Touch medicinal on the initial attack, this has been well drawn together by owner André Vossen and consultant Michel Rolland. 70% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Cabernet Franc. Light, early drinking. **Drink** now-2018 **AIC** 13%abv



Union des Côtes de Bordeaux
 1, cours de XXX juillet - 33000 BORDEAUX
 +33 (0)5 56 00 21 99 - www.bordeaux-cotes.com