

CA Grands Crus presents its 2013 “en primeur” wines from Bordeaux

CA Grands Crus also announces the debut vintage of its sixth Bordeaux estate

Despite an extremely challenging growing season in 2013, CA Grands Crus has succeeded in making exceptional terroir-focussed wines right across its portfolio of leading Bordeaux estates in the region’s most prestigious appellations. ‘Great Terroir and painstaking work in the vineyard and cellar are the keys to success in 2013,’ says Anne Le Naour, CA Grands Crus’ Oenologist. Volumes are down because of the conditions, but we’re extremely excited and proud of what we have achieved in 2013.’

CA Grands Crus presents its six 2013 wines from its properties in Bordeaux. The wines will shortly be available to consumers to buy ‘en primeur’. See notes to Editors.

- *Château de Rayne Vigneau – 1er Grand Cru Classé, AC Sauternes*. The Rayne Vigneau vineyard is ideally located high up on a magnificent gravel hilltop, near the village of Bommès. ‘Compared to the rest of Bordeaux, last year’s conditions in Sauternes were excellent for the development of botrytis or ‘noble rot’. Our 2013 Rayne Vigneau is really outstanding with freshness, sweetness, elegance, complexity and balance,’ says Anne Le Naour.
- *Château Grand-Puy Ducasse, 5ème Grand Cru Classé, AC Pauillac*. Once again, Grand-Puy Ducasse’s perfectly positioned vineyards in Pauillac’s best terroirs proved key in 2013. Although the grapes ripened slowly to begin with due to the cold, wet spring, a warm August gave us the necessary breathing space to wait for the Cabernet Sauvignon to reach maturity. As a result, the final blend has a higher percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon than usual, giving the wine great suppleness and an elegant tannic structure.
- *Château Meyney, AC St Estèphe*. For a complicated vintage like 2013, the nature of the terroir at Meyney was undoubtedly a major asset. Like its counterparts perched on the heights of Saint-Estèphe, the property did not suffer from the severe weather at the beginning of the summer. During a wet year, the proximity to the river, which acts as a corridor of wind, also constitutes an advantage in regulating the moisture content of the berries. These strengths were enough to allow us to wait until maturity before picking. The result of this luxury can be seen on tasting: Château Meyney 2013 is a dense wine, its tannic structure marrying harmoniously with the indulgent aromas of red fruits.

- *Château La Tour de Mons, Cru Bourgeois, AC Margaux.* Château La Tour de Mons is another ancient and historic single block vineyard located in the northern part of Margaux, close to the Garonne River. Anne Le Naour and her team have crafted a classical 2013 Tour de Mons with its signature style of perfume, precision and elegance. Given the vintage, this wine is not designed for long-term ageing and will provide delicious early drinking.
- *Château Marsac Séguineau* - On Marsac plateau, vines enjoy a soil made from bank gravel and siliceous sediment. When a year like this one happens, this advantage is in favour for the maturity of the grape. Like so, harvests have been organised when the maturity level went satisfied.
The Merlot, principal grape in this assemblage give some gourmet fruity taste. It is a light wine with delicate tannins.
- *Château Blaignan, AC Médoc.* After the wet spring, the 2013 Château Blaignan, situated in the Northern Médoc, was saved by good weather in August, which enabled Anne Le Naour to harvest the Cabernet Sauvignon at good levels of maturity. The resulting wine has great finesse, freshness and balance.
- *Sec de Rayne Vigneau* – Thanks to the fresh nights and hot days we had in September, the grapes have been harvested in really good conditions of maturity.
This dry white wine has a good freshness and vivacity. You will feel some grapefruit aromas.

Notes to editor:

How does En Primeur work?

The 'en primeur' sales to consumers of Bordeaux's 2013 crop by UK and international wine merchants is likely to begin in earnest later this month, once the initial release prices have been announced by each Chateau. Because the wines are currently in barrel, the wines are sold as 'wine futures'. As a result, the wines will be physically delivered in 2016, when they have been bottled and are ready for release. In most instances, the wines are bought in case quantities. When the wines are shipped from Bordeaux, buyers have the option to have them professionally stored under bond or delivered to their private cellars, which involves a final payment of VAT and Duty. En Primeur buyers also have the option to request their wines in different bottle formats such as Halves, Magnums or Double Magnums.

List of wines which will be sold "en primeur":

- Château de Rayne Vigneau 2013
- Château Grand-Puy Ducasse 2013
- Château la Tour de Mons 2013
- Château Marsac Séguineau 2013
- Château Meyney 2013

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