

Rathdowne Cellars

2003 Bordeaux – Stock landing 2005. 75% payable now, balance on arrival.

| <i>Winery</i> | <i>appellation</i> | <i>special price</i> | <i>Qty avail.</i> | <i>Order Qty</i> |
|---------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Chateau Cos D'Estounrel | St Estephe | \$360 | 4 | ..... |
| Chateau Cos Labory | St Estephe | \$61 | 6 | ..... |
| Chateau La Lagune | Haut-Medoc | \$86 | 12 | ..... |
| Chateau Les Ormes De Pez | St Estephe | \$71 | 6 | ..... |
| Chateau Mouton Rothschild | Paulliac | \$675 | 2 | ..... |
| Chateau Climens 375ml | Barsac | \$95 | 3 | ..... |
| Chateau Rieussec | Sauternes | \$105 | 3 | |

2001 Bordeaux – Stock available now. Full payment due with order.

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|--|------------------|-------|--|--------------|
| Carruades De Chateau Lafite Rothschild | Pauillac | \$100 | | |
| Chateau Angelus | St Emilion | \$300 | | |
| Chateau Ausone | St Emilion | \$720 |  | ..... |
| Chateau Bahans Haut Brion | Pessac | \$105 |  | ..... |
| Chateau Canon La Gaffeliere | St Emilion | \$170 |  | ..... |
| Chateau Cheval Blanc | St Emilion | \$720 |  | ..... |
| Chateau La Conseillante | Pomerol | \$260 |  | ..... |
| Chateau Cos D'Estournel | St Estephe | \$210 |  | ..... |
| Chateau L'Église Clinet | Pomerol | \$380 |  | ..... |
| Chateau L'Évangile | Pomerol | \$430 |  | ..... |
| Chateau Figeac | St Emilion | \$200 |  | ..... |
| Chateau Grand Puy Lacoste | Pauillac | \$100 |  | ..... |
| Chateau Haut Brion Rouge | Pessac | \$485 |  | ..... |
| Chateau Langoa Barton | St Julien | \$100 |  | ..... |
| Chateau Lafite Rothschild | Pauillac | \$485 |  | ..... |
| Chateau Latour | Pauillac | \$485 |  | ..... |
| Chateau Leoville Barton | St Julien | \$145 |  | ..... |
| Chateau Lynch Bages | Pauillac | \$130 |  | ..... |
| Chateau Magdelaine | St Emilion | \$135 |  | ..... |
| Chateau Margaux | Margaux | \$485 |  | ..... |
| Chateau La Mission Haut Brion | Pessac | \$300 |  | ..... |
| Chateau Mouton Rothschild | Pauillac | \$485 |  | ..... |
| Chateau Palmer | Margaux | \$310 |  | ..... |
| Chateau Pavillon Rouge | Margaux | \$100 |  | ..... |
| Chateau Pichon Baron | Pauillac | \$140 |  | ..... |
| Chateau Tertre Roteboeuf | St Emilion | \$345 |  | ..... |
| Chateau Troplong Mondot | St Emilion | \$135 |  | ..... |
| Vieux Chateau Certan | Pomerol | \$260 |  | ..... |
| Chateau Bastor Lamontagne | Preignac | \$80 |  | ..... |
| Chateau Coutet | Barsac | \$150 |  | ..... |
| Chateau Filhot 375ml | Sauternes | \$48 |  | ..... |
| Chateau Guiraud 375ml | Sauternes | \$78 |  | ..... |
| Chateau du Pavillon 375ml | St Croix du Mont | \$23 |  | ..... |
| Chateau Rabaud Promis | Sauternes | \$105 |  | ..... |
| Chateau Rabaud Promis 375ml | Sauternes | \$55 |  | ..... |
| Chateau Rayne Vigneau | Bommès | \$110 |  | ..... |
| Chateau Suduiraut | Sauternes | \$190 | | ... sold out |

(Last Updated: 18/1/2005)

BORDEAUX – 2003 OFFER

The 2003 vintage in Bordeaux, and for all of France, will be remembered for its heat. The summer temperatures eclipsed the previous hottest year on record, 1976, and the start of the harvest on August 12th was the earliest start since 1893. Fortunately for Bordeaux, or at least parts of Bordeaux, the cold and wet winter that preceded the fierce summer temperatures, and the gradual increase in temperatures leading up to August, allowed the vines to cope better than they might have otherwise. The end result of all this seems to be mixed, with the high points very high, and the low decidedly low. In a rare show of unanimity, the critics have decreed that the best wines of 2003 have come from the northern communes of the left bank, with St Estephe, the most northerly, faring particularly well. For Pomerol and St Emilion it is a much more uneven story, and careful selection of producers was crucial.

It is also another excellent year for Sauternes, the wines are fat and rich, with exotic flavours and opulent texture, somewhat in the mould of 1990. So much so that Chateau d'Yquem made the highly unusual step of offering their wine for indent – not seen since 2000.

All in all this is a year that promises to live up the hype that surrounds a good vintage.

Cos d'Estournel St Estephe 2003

Cos surprised the trade when they released at a price significantly higher than Montrose. Nevertheless they have made on of the stars of the vintage, following on from great successes in 2000, 2001, and 2002. It seems that everyone that has tasted this wine has been blown away. "Great star of the vintage." Jancis Robinson. "...it is the most impressive young Cos I have ever tasted." Robert Parker. JR 18.5 WS 95-100 RP 95-98

Cos Labory St Estephe 2003

Historically a house with more potential than performance, the 2003 marks a coming of age for this house. We have had decent sturdy examples from here, including the 1995 which was a good effort, but the 2003 has generated lots of excitement at the tastings in Bordeaux. "Deep, exciting crimson. Exciting, classic tension. Serious stuff! Full, opulent, and the extraordinary ripeness is, just, kept in check by the corset of tannins." Jancis Robinson. JR 17/20 WS 89-91 RP 87-89

La Lagune Haut-Medoc 2003

"Possibly the finest La Lagune produced in over a decade, recent investments in new, state of the art winemaking facilities appear to be paying off. This Burgundian-like 2003 exhibits a deep purple-tinged color in addition to a striking perfume of sweet cherry jam, vanilla, and spice box scents, excellent purity, soft tannin, and a medium-bodied, nicely textured mouthfeel. Not a blockbuster, it is a beautifully knit, attractive red to drink well for 10-12 years." Robert Parker. JR 16.5/20 WS 85-88 RP 88-90

Ormes de Pez St Estephe 2003

Ormes de Pez, owned by Jean-Michel Cazes, is one of the big success stories of the vintage. Given some very favourable reports, including one from former importer Jeremy Holmes, who tasted this alongside Lynch Bages two weeks ago. Combining the intensity and balance that all the St Estephe wines show, with juicy approachable fruit, it should be high on everyone's list. JR 16/20 WS 89-91 RP 86-88

Mouton Rothschild Paulliac 2003

We have managed to secure quite reasonable quantities of Mouton, especially given the low yields and scarce availability. This is another wine where critics cannot help but reference great wines of the past in comparison, in particular 1982. "This enormously endowed 2003 is still sorting itself out, but it is unquestionably one of the greatest efforts of the vintage." Robert Parker. JR 17.5/20 WS 95-100 RP 95-98

Sweet Wines

Climens Barsac 2003

Climens had not been assembled and therefore was not available to taste at the tastings in late March. However it will be as always one of the most sought after sweet wines, as it is the definitive example of Barsac, combining massive power and botrytis character with great finesse. Stocks are limited.

Rieussec Sauternes 2003

The 2003 vintage has been likened to 1983 due to the great richness, sweetness, and concentration. If you have tried the 1983 Rieussec that should be enough incentive to make sure you don't miss out. The pricing also looks good, and there have been great comments by all the major commentators. JR 17.5, RP 93-96, WS 95-100

BORDEAUX –2001 OFFER

Please see below our offer of 2001 Bordeaux, now all in the country and available. In most cases the prices have increased only modestly from the en primeur pricing. It is a vintage that has been well-received by the critics, without being over-hyped. Clive Coates, for example, has written that *“to generalize, with the exception of 2000 (showing better after another year in cask), 2001 is the best red wine vintage since 1990.”* And from James Suckling, *“I believe that 2001 is a very good vintage, maybe even outstanding. A number are amazingly good”* Furthermore, the praise for the sweet wines from 2001 is unanimous: *“If I have two words of advice about Bordeaux’s 2001s, they are: buy Sauternes. Last autumn provided Bordeaux’s often unjustly overlooked producers of sweet white wines with textbook conditions for making these unique jewels in the crown of the world’s largest fine wine region.”* - Jancis Robinson.

Carruades de Lafite Rothschild Pauillac 2001

Fresh and focused, with violet, berry and cherry character. Medium body, with silky tannins and a clean finish. The second wine of Lafite. Best after 2007. 22,000 cases made. *James Suckling Wine Spectator*
Robert Parker 87 points

Château Angélu St.-Emilion 2001

Silky, with superfine tannins and luscious fruit and body. Lots of berry and chocolate character, yet very refined. Lovely. Tasted two preliminary blends and both are outstanding. Almost classic. 92-94 – *James Suckling Wine Spectator*
“A brilliant performance” “beautifully put together.” Robert Parker 93 points

Château Ausone St.-Emilion 2001

The 2001 Ausone has put on even more weight than I anticipated. The “wine of the vintage,” this inky/purple-colored 2001 boasts a provocative, floral perfume of crushed stones, raspberries, blackberries, creme de cassis, licorice, and smoke. What makes it so sensational are the layers of flavor and nuances that unfold as the wine sits in the glass as well as on the palate. This is an extraordinarily intense effort, but remarkably elegant and well-balanced. It ideally needs another decade of cellaring; it should last for 4-5 decades! Alain Vauthier is a perfectionist, which is evidenced by what he has produced over the last half dozen vintages at Ausone. Kudos to readers lucky enough to find a bottle or two ... and live long enough to enjoy them in their prime. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2050+. *Robert Parker 98 points*

Château Bahans Haut Brion Pessac-Léognan 2001

Always one of Bordeaux’s finest second wines, the 2001 Bahans-Haut-Brion exhibits a dark plum/ruby color as well as a sweet nose of cedar, earth, and red and black currants. Medium-bodied, with a supple texture, fine purity, and admirable length, it will drink well for 5-8 years. *Robert Parker 88 points*
87 – James Suckling Wine Spectator

Château Canon-La Gaffelière St.-Emilion 2001

Pretty berry and spice aromas, with hints of new wood. Turns to animal and meat character but blows off with lots of air. Decadent juice. Full-bodied, with silky tannins and a long, caressing finish. Lovely stuff. Slightly reductive now, but this should come out lovely. Best after 2007. 4,275 cases made. *James Suckling Wine Spectator*
“representative of the vintage’s overall personality.” “exceptional multilayered flavours”. Robert Parker 92 points

Château Cheval-Blanc St.-Emilion 2001

Dark and intense, with blackberry, plum and light vanilla aromas. Subtle and complex. Full-bodied, with plenty of berry and vanilla character and a long, silky finish. Very racy. Very refined and long. Love the caressing texture. Close to the 2000 in quality. Best after 2008. *James Suckling Wine Spectator*
Robert Parker 93 points

Château La Conseillante Pomerol 2001

Very good colour. Ripe, rich and fat on the nose. Good weight. Very good fruit. Fullish on the palate. Quite meaty. Not a bit over extracted though. Very good grip. Rich and succulent fruit. A little closed for the time being, but there is plenty of class and depth here. Fine. From 2008/2009. *Clive Coates- The vine*
“Always a Burgundian, feminine style of wine, La Conseillante’s 2001 exhibits aromas of plum and raspberry fruit as well as noticeable new oak in a medium-bodied, dark ruby/plum-colored format with excellent ripeness”. Robert Parker 89 points

Château Cos D’Estournel St Estephe 2001

Cos is on top of it now. Very long and racy. Full-bodied, with a solid core of fruit and big, racy tannins. The palate goes on and on. Very serious indeed. As good as or better than 2000. 95-100 – *James Suckling Wine Spectator*
Robert Parker 93 points

Château L’Église Clinet Pomerol 2001

This is really a beauty, a seductive young wine. Best after 2008. 1,330 cases made. *James Suckling Wine Spectator*
“A brilliant effort (one of the vintage’s most substantial wines)”. Robert Parker 94 points

Château L'Evangile Pomerol 2001

Beautiful aromas of chocolate, blackberry and light cappuccino follow through to a medium- to full-bodied palate, with fine tannins and a long finish. Delicious already but will be much better in a few years. Yummy wine. Best after 2008. 2,800 cases made. *James Suckling Wine Spectator*
Robert Parker 91 points

Château Figeac St Emilion 2001

A minty, herbal characteristic combines with scents of incense, black currants, cherries, smoke, and licorice in this complex, pure 2001. It was a bit closed on the three occasions I tasted it, but it was certainly medium-bodied and elegant, with loads of nobility/pedigree, and the potential to be outstanding. Give it 1-2 years of cellaring, and drink it over the following 12-15. *Robert Parker 89 points*

Château Grand-Puy-Lacoste Pauillac 2001

89-91 – A solid, young red, with plenty of berry, tobacco and mineral character. Medium- to full-bodied, with well-integrated tannins and a long finish. *James Suckling Wine Spectator*
Robert Parker 88 points

Château Haut-Brion Pessac-Léognan 2001

Loads of black olives, berry, cherry and tobacco character. Full-bodied, with glorious, silky tannins and a medium to long finish. Better than the 2000. May be not as opulent, but very, very classic in style. 95-100 – *James Suckling Wine Spectator*

“Haut-Brion’s 2001, which was bottled late (the end of September, 2003), possesses an unmistakable nobility as well as a burgeoning complexity”. *Robert Parker 94 points*

Château Langoa Barton St.-Julien 2001

Terrific aromas to this wine, with violets, spices, cinnamon and berries. Full-bodied, with silky tannins and a lovely ripe fruit and vanilla aftertaste. Very integrated and refined. Shows class. Langoa is very underrated. Another winner from the Barton family. Best after 2008. 8,000 cases made. *James Suckling Wine Spectator*
Robert Parker 88 points

Château Lafite Rothschild Pauillac 2001

Fabulous for the vintage. Very grapey, with dark fruits and cured tobacco, leading to a cedar and berry undertone. Full-bodied, with round and rich fruit and big, velvety tannins, yet with all in reserve. A generous, seductive young wine that surprises you with its length. 95-100 – *James Suckling Wine Spectator*
“elegant, medium-bodied, with intense concentration, richness, and sweet tannin”. *Robert Parker 94 points*

Château Latour Pauillac 2001

95-100 – *James Suckling Wine Spectator*.

A brilliant offering, which should be drinkable much earlier than the blockbuster 2000, the 2001 Latour boasts an inky/ruby/purple color to the rim as well as a glorious bouquet of black currants, crushed stones, vanilla, and hints of truffles and oak. The beautiful integration of tannin, acidity, and wood is stunning. The wine flows across the palate with fabulous texture, purity, and presence. This luscious, full-bodied Latour was surprisingly open-knit on the three occasions I tasted it from bottle. However, do not mistake its aging ability as this 2001, despite its precociousness, will last 20-25 years. Anticipated maturity: 2007-2025. *Robert Parker 95 points*

Château Léoville Barton St.-Julien 2001

Consistent from bottle (I tasted it three times), this is an outstanding offering, although not quite at the prodigious level of the 2000. Civilized and approachable for a young Leoville-Barton, it exhibits a saturated plum/purple color along with classic Bordelais aromas of damp earth, creme de cassis, smoke, vanillin, and tobacco. Medium to full-bodied and rich, with high but well-integrated tannin, and a long, 40+ second finish, it should turn out to be a brilliant effort, and one of the stars of the Medoc. However, patience is essential. Anticipated maturity: 2008-2020. *Robert Parker 92 points*

Château Lynch-Bages Pauillac 2001

89-91 – *James Suckling Wine Spectator*

Made in an elegant, approachable style without the blockbuster depth and meat found in the finest vintages (2000 and 1996), this is a dark plum/garnet/ruby-colored, seductive, evolved, delicious 2001. Aromas of black olives, cedar, cassis, damp earth, and licorice, medium to full body, soft tannin, and an easy-going personality suggest consumption over the next 12-14 years is warranted. *Robert Parker 89 points*

Château Magelaine St Emilion 2001

Fine colour. Quite closed, if not a bit tight on the nose. On the palate the attack is rich, ripe and gently oaky. There is very good grip. The fruit is ample and classy and the whole thing is vigorous, long, harmonious and very promising. Fine. From 2008/2009. *James Suckling Wine Spectator*

This stylish, understated St.-Emilion offers notes of kirsch liqueur, cedar, and spice box in an evolved, medium-bodied, exceptionally elegant style. Pure, delicate, and subtle, it should be at its finest between 2005-2013. *Robert Parker 89 points*

Château Margaux Margaux 2001

Subtle and very perfumed with floral, currants, minerals and berry aromas with a hint of toasted barrels. Medium- to full-bodied, with an outstandingly refined core of fruit and smoky, earthy, berry and almost meaty character. It's long and caressing. Could use a bit more fruit to be up with the other first-growths. Best after 2006. 12,500 cases made. *James Suckling Wine Spectator*

"one of the most elegant wines of the vintage". *Robert Parker 93 points*

Château La Mission-Haut-Brion Pessac-Léognan 2001

Like its more famous neighbor, Haut-Brion, the 2001 La Mission Haut-Brion has closed down considerably since bottling. A blend of 62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, and 3% Cabernet Franc, it possesses an inky/purple color (deeper than Haut-Brion's) in addition to a tight but promising bouquet of scorched earth, wood, tar, black currants, and a hint of hickory wood. Medium-bodied, firm, muscular, and virile, it is a candidate for long term cellaring.

Anticipated maturity: 2010-2020+. *Robert Parker 91 points*

Château Mouton- Rothschild Pauillac 2001

Loads of tobacco, berry, mineral and currant character. Full-bodied, with firm tannins and a long, long finish. Solid and very very fine. This goes on for a long time. A baby 1986. Very close to the 2000, but in a different style, less exuberant. (I underrated the Mouton last year. It's a classic, 95-100.) 95-100 – *James Suckling Wine Spectator*

Robert Parker 89 points

Château Palmer Margaux 2001

Raspberries and cherries, with chocolate and currants. Full-bodied, with velvety tannins and a fresh and long finish. Lively and rich. Tightly knit. 95-100 – *James Suckling Wine Spectator*

A virile, muscular effort for this estate, the 2001 Palmer (a blend of 51% Cabernet Sauvignon, 44% Merlot, and 5% Petit Verdot) exhibits a saturated purple color to the rim. Although closed and backward, it is surprisingly powerful, layered, and formidably endowed, revealing hints of charcoal, black fruits, earth, and underbrush. There is a lot going on in this offering, but it needs 5-7 years of cellaring to resolve its high tannin. Anticipated maturity: 2010-2022. *Robert Parker 90 points*

Pavillon Rouge du Château Margaux 2001

Fresh and floral, with hints of berries and vanilla. Medium-bodied, with silky tannins and a fresh, fruity finish. Refined. Second wine of Margaux. Best after 2007. 20,000 cases made. *James Suckling Wine Spectator*

Château Pichon-Longueville-Baron Pauillac 2001

A very successful effort for this vintage in the Medoc, this deep ruby/purple-colored Pauillac exhibits class/nobility/breed along with black currant liqueur, licorice, and incense notes. Sweet, expansive, fleshy, and medium to full-bodied, with good structure, ripe tannin, and a long, 30-35 second finish, it can be drunk now, but will be even better in 2-3 years; it will last for 12-15 years. I had this wine three separate times out of bottle, and it is performing significantly better than it did from cask. *Robert Parker 93 points*

Château Le Tertre Roteboeuf 2001

This open, flattering, surprisingly loosely knit 2001 is seamless, seductive, and hedonistic. A dark plum/ruby color is followed by aromas of fudge, mocha, caramel, and sweet black cherries. Although it lacks some structure as well as depth, it is a delicious, nearly flamboyant St-Emilion to enjoy over the next 7-10 years. *Robert Parker 90 points*

Château Troplong-Mondot St-Emilion 2001

This is a dark and rich red with lovely spice, berry and dark chocolate character. Slightly overextracted, but there is a good core of fruit and silky tannins. Give it time in the bottle. I like it as much as the 2000, though it's slightly sleeker in style. Best after 2007. 5,415 cases made. *James Suckling Wine Spectator*

Robert Parker 93 points

Vieux-Château-Certain Pomerol 2001

Very subtle aromas of blackberries, chocolate and plums follow through to a full-bodied palate, with very silky tannins and a long, caressing finish. An excellent wine with great intensity for the vintage. Very long indeed. Winemaker and part-owner Alexandre Thienpont is a master. Best after 2009. 4,000 cases made. *James Suckling Wine Spectator*

Robert Parker 93 points

Sweet Wines

Château Bastor-Lamontagne Sauternes 2001

Possibly the finest effort I have ever tasted from this estate, Bastor Lamontagne's light gold-colored 2001 is a tropical fruit cocktail offering abundant quantities of apricot, lychee, honeysuckle, and other tropical fruit characteristics with little evidence of oak. Excellent acidity, which provides tremendous definition, and a lusty, heady finish suggest this fun sweetie will drink well now and over the next 10-14 years. A sleeper of the vintage. *Robert Parker 91 points*

Château Coutet Barsac 2001

Subtle, yet powerful. Class in a glass. Superclean and lively, with honey, maple syrup and apricot character. Full-bodied and oily, with medium to full sweetness and a spicy finish. Very, very spicy. 95-100 – *James Suckling Wine Spectator*
Robert Parker 93 points

Château Filhot Sauternes 2001

85-88 – Fresh honey, pear and apple character, with a medium body, medium sweetness and a clean finish. *James Suckling Wine Spectator*
Robert Parker 90 points

Château Guiraud Sauternes 2001

You can spread this on toast. Lots of lemon rind, pineapple and honey on the nose. Full-bodied, very oily and spicy, yet backward and not giving much now. Nonetheless, superb potential. 95-100 – *James Suckling Wine Spectator*
Robert Parker 94 points

Château du Pavillon Saint Croix du Mont 2001

The sweet white wines of Chateau du Pavillon are late picked and often Botrytis affected due to unique micro climate that exists along the banks of the Garonne river where the appellation of Saint Croix du Mont faces the best vineyards of the famous appellation of Barsac and Sauternes. Chateau du Pavillon is a blend of 8% Semillon and 15% Sauvignon Blanc for a perfect smooth and crisp balance wine. Complex aromas of citrus, acacia and honey wax. Large and rich on the palate with candied apricot, roast almond and homey flavours.

Château Rabaud-Promis Sauternes 2001

Brilliant yellow-gold color. Very strong aromas of tropical fruit and honey. Full-bodied, with apricot and botrytis spice character that takes off like afterburners. Fantastic. Best after 2010. *James Suckling Wine Spectator*

Château de Rayne-Vigneau Sauternes 2001

Plenty of apple, honey and caramel on the nose. Medium-bodied, somewhat sweet, with a fresh acidity and a medium-length finish. Lemony aftertaste. Balanced and easy. Drink now. *James Suckling Wine Spectator*
Robert Parker 89 points

Château Suidraut Sauternes 2001

Pure botrytis, with floral spice and honey character. Very sweet yet fruity, with honey, dried pineapple and apple. Full-bodied and lively, with a long finish. Powerful. This is the essence of Sauternes. 95-100 – *James Suckling Wine Spectator*

A prodigious effort, possibly the finest Suidraut since 1959, the medium gold-colored 2001 offers notes of creme brulee, caramelized citrus, Grand Marnier, honeysuckle, and other exotic fruits as well as a pleasant touch of oak. With terrific acidity, a voluptuous/unctuous palate, and sweet, powerful flavors buttressed by crisp acidity, it is a phenomenal Sauternes. Anticipated maturity: 2010-2040. *Robert Parker 98 points*