

James Molesworth's Recommended 2010 Bordeaux

The left column of this chart features smart buys in ageable wines; the right column lists widely available wines at \$25 or less.

More than 1,000 wines were tasted for this report; a complete alphabetical list begins on page 88.

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SMART BUYS

WINE	SCORE	PRICE
CHÂTEAU D'ARMAILHAC Pauillac 2010	93	\$55
Dense and juicy, with briar, blackberry, black currant and black licorice framed by roasted apple wood and graphite. Energetic and tempting, but the gripping, iron-laden finish will benefit from cellaring.		
CHÂTEAU BARDE-HAUT St.-Emilion 2010	93	\$40
Vivacious, and should unwind nicely in the cellar. Blueberry coulis, fig and blackberry paste notes are tightly wound, backed by a structured finish with a buried iron accent.		
CHÂTEAU LA POINTE Pomerol 2010	93	\$45
This has power in reserve, with a torrent of boysenberry, fig and raspberry fruit held in check by charcoal-studded grip and well-embedded acidity. Long, dense finish should let this cruise nicely in the cellar.		
CHÂTEAU BROWN Pessac-Léognan 2010	92	\$35
Shows good range, with currant, tangy iron and sanguine notes. Turns plush, with a tarry hint on the finish. Displays density, but stays pure.		
CLOS LA MADELEINE St.-Emilion 2010	92	\$38
Sleek, with a beam of cassis, blackberry and plum, a solid but silky and seamless structure and a long, incense- and anise-filled finish.		
CHÂTEAU FAUGÈRES St.-Emilion 2010	92	\$50
A bit exotic, but cellaring should tame it. Solid, if a touch chewy along the edges, with briar, cocoa and licorice snap notes. Features sweet, roasted wood spice on the finish.		
CHÂTEAU GRAND-PUY DUCASSE Pauillac 2010	92	\$50
Excellent typicity. Offers loam, dark chocolate, plum and black currant, staying polished, with a singed apple wood note on the solid finish.		
CHÂTEAU HAUT-BERGEY Pessac-Léognan 2010	92	\$40
Offers lush fruit, with dark berries, graphite-laced structure and bright acidity throughout, followed by a long finish of licorice snap and violet.		
CHÂTEAU LAFLEUR-GAZIN Pomerol 2010	92	\$46
Fleshy, with mouthfilling plum, melted licorice, fruitcake and linzer torte pumping through the broad, well-toasted finish. A not-shy style.		
CHÂTEAU PHÉLAN SÉGUR St.-Estèphe 2010	92	\$50
Allies density to refinement, with steeped plum, currant, iron and charcoal. The lightly firm finish has a tobacco edge. Should age gracefully.		
CHÂTEAU PIBRAN Pauillac 2010	92	\$45
Ripe and packed, silky and racy too, with linzer torte, cassis and blackberry flecked with singed anise and violet. Graphite spine on the finish.		
CHÂTEAU MARQUIS DE TERME Margaux 2010	92	\$45
Alluring, with sappy kirsch, plum and loganberry melded to a charcoal spine. Finishes with an iron note and good grip. Should evolve nicely.		
CHÂTEAU DU TERTRE Margaux 2010	92	\$45
Plush and flattering style, with beguiling toast around a core of warm plum confiture, dark cherry and currant, with buried hints of charcoal and espresso. Polished finish.		
CHÂTEAU LA TOUR FIGEAC St.-Emilion 2010	92	\$41
This has power, but there's purity at the core. A solid, fleshy style, with ganache and tobacco followed by ample plum sauce, steeped fig and dark currant preserves.		
CHÂTEAU LA VIEILLE CURE Fronsac 2010	92	\$35
A modern approach, with a dose of espresso and chocolate up front, but remains grounded in Fronsac's textbook racy chalk and charcoal profile. Lush fig, plum and blackberry in reserve, with a polished finish.		

TOP VALUES

WINE	SCORE	PRICE
CHÂTEAU MONTLABERT St.-Emilion 2010	92	\$20
Grippy structure with a briary edge, but stays juicy, compact and focused. Nicely aromatic, with blueberry coulis and blackberry preceding chocolate, tobacco and charcoal notes.		
CHÂTEAU BEL AIR Haut-Médoc 2010	91	\$23
Roasted alder and mesquite notes lead to linzer torte, blackberry and plum sauce. The long, anise-framed finish has a graphite spine.		
CHÂTEAU BELLE-VUE Haut-Médoc 2010	91	\$25
Lovely modern expression, with suave toast, linzer torte notes and boysenberry fruit. Shows great drive, with a mouthwatering finish.		
CHÂTEAU DE CARLMAGNUS Fronsac 2010	91	\$18
Dark and winery, with a roasted mesquite frame lending grip to anise, steeped plum and blackberry notes. Juicy and edgy at the same time.		
CHÂTEAU LA CROIX LARTIGUE Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux 2010	91	\$25
Muscular, with cocoa powder and coffee, dark plum, currant and blackberry fruit. Toasty finish. The dense fruit will allow cellaring.		
CHÂTEAU DALEM Fronsac 2010	91	\$23
Dark and winery, just bracing enough, with a slightly taut charcoal frame. Sleek through the finish, with plenty of stuffing to cellar awhile.		
CHÂTEAU LAFONT MENAUT Pessac-Léognan 2010	91	\$20
Shows a brawny edge, with briary grip, while blackberry, cassis bush and apple wood notes form a muscular core. Dark, tarry finish.		
CHÂTEAU PALOUMEY Haut-Médoc 2010	91	\$17
Dark, grippy and tarry, with pebbly tannins driving steeped fig and berry fruit. Baker's chocolate and tobacco fill in. Needs a little cellaring.		
CHÂTEAU PEYRABON Haut-Médoc 2010	91	\$25
Rock-solid, with a gutsy frame of roasted apple wood and a full-bodied core of plum and black currant. Spice-studded grip on the finish.		
CHÂTEAU PUYGUERAUD Francs Côtes de Bordeaux George 2010	91	\$20
Dark currant and bright plum flavors are entwined with mesquite and bergamot notes. The taut finish should flesh out with modest cellaring.		
CHÂTEAU DU RETOUT Haut-Médoc 2010	91	\$18
Ripe, fresh and lively, with plum, cassis and black cherry compote, singed sandalwood and warm stone accents. Excellent cut on the finish.		
CHÂTEAU DE LA RIVIÈRE Fronsac 2010	91	\$23
With excellent depth and buried acidity, this should blossom in the cellar. Loads of blackberry, fig and plum, with mouthwatering accents.		
CHÂTEAU DE SEGUIN Bordeaux Supérieur Cuvée Carl 2010	91	\$25
Toasty, with integrated espresso and bittersweet ganache leading dark fig, boysenberry and plum sauce flavors. Graphite-framed finish.		
CHÂTEAU TAILLEFER Pomerol 2010	91	\$24
Fleshy, with a juicy core of bramble, raspberry and plum backed by clove and mesquite notes. Fine-grained finish. Cellar mid-term.		
TERRA BURDIGALA Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux Château Manoir du Gravoux La Violette 2010	91	\$20
Sleek feel, with blueberry and blackberry fruit, licorice snap and fruitcake notes gliding through a medium-weight finish.		
CHÂTEAU LE THIL Pessac-Léognan Comte Clary 2010	91	\$25
Strikes a strong pose, with fig, plum and blackberry fruit backed by scorched earth, charcoal and tobacco. Shows verve from start to finish.		