2020 Classification
Les Crus Bourgeois du Médoc

Press Kit
The results of the blind tastings are finally revealed.
20.02.2020 is an important date for the Crus Bourgeois du Médoc! Nearly nine years of work were necessary to establish this classification.

“The new classification has been created to enable more fluid, longer-term marketing with visibility for five years. The hierarchical structure should enable a clearer explanation of this very large family of wines, and for the châteaux at the top who act as “locomotives” to stay with us, or in some cases to come back”.

Olivier Cuvelier, President of the Alliance of the Crus Bourgeois du Médoc
A proudly upheld identity

The Crus Bourgeois are a family of châteaux located on terroirs recognized for their quality all over the world, located in eight major appellations in the Médoc: Médoc, Haut-Médoc, Listrac-Médoc, Moulis-en-Médoc, Margaux, Pauillac, Saint-Julien, and Saint Estèphe.

Comprised solely of red wines that offer excellent value for money, the Crus Bourgeois du Médoc are one of Bordeaux’s historic institutions.

They offer a very diverse range of characters, wherein lies their richness and their strength. They all provide reliable, enjoyable drinking, while also remaining accessible.

“

To each day its Cru Bourgeois

”
Visibility for five years

The new Crus Bourgeois du Médoc classification introduces a significant change to the annual quality procedure established in 2010. The châteaux are now classified for a period of five years.


Three historic hierarchical categories

A return to its roots for this family of wines that for centuries had been classified according to a qualitative hierarchy:

- CRU BOURGEOIS
- CRU BOURGEOIS SUPÉRIEUR
- CRU BOURGEOIS EXCEPTIONNEL

These levels will therefore again appear on the wines’ labels for 5 years. There are no restrictions on intake in any category.

Independence and impartiality

The classification is based on a schedule of requirements and a rigorous verification procedure, approved by the French public authorities, which define the criteria and conditions for properties applying for entry. It is also overseen by an independent verification body, QB Vérification, which ensures total independence, reinforced by strict checks at every stage of the process.

This new classification is a testimony to the dynamism of the Crus Bourgeois.

For Laurent Vaché, Vice-President of the Alliance des Crus Bourgeois du Médoc, it is a gift to be passed on to future generations.

“This was a stepping-stone in the Crus Bourgeois du Médoc adventure. We all wanted the Cru Bourgeois designation to continue to exist as it had done for several centuries.”
Five main principles

Overseen by a verification body, the classification is based on five pillars: the quality of the wine, the environment, the study of additional criteria, traceability and authentication, and tasting checks.

Quality of the wine guaranteed by a committee of tasters
A committee of tasters trained in the specific requirements of the Crus Bourgeois du Médoc carries out a blind tasting to check the consistency of the quality of each wine and its capacity to improve with age.

Encouraging sustainable, environmentally responsible winegrowing
Approaches encouraging sustainable, environmentally responsible winegrowing are encouraged. Every château in the classification must now demonstrate that it has undertaken action by obtaining High Environmental Value certification.

New criteria studied
Two new criteria will be considered for properties applying for the higher categories, Cru Bourgeois Supérieur and Cru Bourgeois Exceptionnel: technical management, from the vine to the bottle, and the marketing and promotion of the property’s wines.

A sticker, traceability & authentication
For the consumer, the Crus Bourgeois du Médoc are a trusted source. The systematic presence of an authentication sticker in the form of a QR code provides a basic guarantee of the product’s authenticity.

Regular tasting checks
Once the classification has been established, ongoing verification of the wines’ quality will be ensured by the verification body who will conduct random tasting checks at the châteaux throughout the five-year classification.

The 2020 Classification of the Crus Bourgeois du Médoc is the promise of an expertise, born of the boldness and high-quality standards of passionate winegrowers and professionals. In the face of ever-more demanding consumers and actors in the wine market, being included in the Crus Bourgeois du Médoc classification is the guarantee of rigorous, objective, upstream checks on quality.
Sensory analysis

The verification body collected samples that it then sealed and made anonymous. A vertical blind tasting of five vintages of the same wine was then carried out enabling the allocation of an average score for the wine by two committees of five independent tasters. The score obtained by the wine in this sensory analysis determines a level 1, 2 or 3 and hence the eligibility of the wine to each level of the classification.
Becoming a Cru Bourgeois Supérieur or Cru Bourgeois Exceptionnel

Candidates may apply for the higher categories enabling them to become a Cru Bourgeois Supérieur or Cru Bourgeois Exceptionnel. To do this, the château must be assessed on three main criteria.

Strict selection criteria

Criteria 1, corresponds to effective HEV2 certification of the property, justifying its commitment to sustainable winegrowing

Criteria 2, consisting of five points, seeks to verify actions implemented at each step of the management of production to optimize the quality and character of the wine (vineyard, harvest, winery, bottling, quality assurance system)

Criteria 3, also consisting of five points, concerns the promotion of the wine (promotion of the site, quality of the reception of visitors, individual and collective promotion, distribution channels, national and international marketing).

Detailed information presenting the château’s DNA

For the study of criteria 2 and 3, candidates must submit an application containing a maximum of 50 pages. This should cover the 5 themes of each criterion and may be written in whatever manner the candidates wish. It is an opportunity for candidates to highlight their strong points.

Assessment by experts

A committee of ten experts worked on the study of the additional criteria. Selected according to their references and their area of expertise - technical or marketing and promotion, they carried out an analysis of all the applications, before visiting each property. A score was awarded for each of the 5 themes in Criteria 2 and 3. This study, a task which required several months, enabled the overall assessment of all the candidates for the higher categories. The six jury members judge, anonymously, criteria 2 and 3 for each candidate on the basis of the assessments and scores from the experts, and the obtaining of the minimum score of twelve points to be eligible for a higher category. They also consider the tasting results to ensure that the required score is reached.

The top of the pyramid

The establishment of the Crus Bourgeois du Médoc classification and recognition in the higher categories of Crus Bourgeois Supérieur or Crus Bourgeois Exceptionnel are determined by a six-person jury: Gilles de Revel, President of the jury, Bill Blatch, Vice-President of the jury, two independent tasters from the initial committee of tasters, a technical expert and a marketing and promotion expert also from the committee of experts.

The six jury members judge, anonymously, criteria 2 and 3 for each candidate on the basis of the assessments and scores from the experts, and the obtaining of the minimum score of twelve points to be eligible for a higher category. They also consider the tasting results to ensure that the required score is reached.

The jury votes in a secret ballot to determine, by a 2/3 majority, the properties that will be classified as “Cru Bourgeois Exceptionnel”. After the vote, the jury establishes the pyramidal classification with the 3 levels.

Those in the higher categories show the way to the other properties in the context of 2025 classification thereby creating a spirit of emulation within the Crus Bourgeois family.
Establishment of the Crus Bourgeois du Médoc Classification

1 Constitution of a 6-person jury
A president, vice-president, two independent tasters and two Technical / Marketing & Promotion experts.

2 Establishment of the Crus Bourgeois du Médoc Classification
According to the conditions for access to each level described below:

CRU BOURGEOIS LEVEL
- To be eligible
- To have reached at least level 3 in the sensory analysis

CRU BOURGEOIS SUPÉRIEUR LEVEL
- To be eligible
- To have applied to be recognized in a higher category
- To have reached at least level 1 or 2 in the sensory analysis
- To have satisfied criteria 1 (environmental certification)
- To have obtained at least 12 points and no Ds in the additional application on the 10 themes of criteria 2 and 3

CRU BOURGEOIS EXCEPTIONNEL LEVEL
- To be eligible
- To have applied to be a Cru Bourgeois Exceptionnel
- To have reached level 1 in the sensory analysis
- To have satisfied criteria 1 (environmental certification)
- To have obtained at least 12 points and no Ds in the additional application on the 10 themes of criteria 2 and 3
- To have obtained a 2/3 majority in a secret ballot of the jury.

MONITORING OF THE CLASSIFICATION AND QUALITY CONTROL
- Random checks before bottling for each property: at least 2 vintages out of the 5 classified vintages.
- Issue of bottling authorization by the verification body and a sticker for the declared volume.
- Sealed samples of vintages 2017 to 2021 to be used in the sensory analysis of the next Classification in 2025.
The Cru Bourgeois sticker

A guarantee of quality
Since 2010, the quality assurance approach initiated by the Crus Bourgeois du Médoc has included an innovative sticker on each bottle presented for sale. Approximately 30 million bottles are sold every year, so nearly 300 million since the 2008 vintage. This obligation has been maintained in the new classification, from the first classified vintage (2018).

The sticker, attached to the bottle, the label or back-label is immediately identifiable.

Its presence guarantees the quality of the wine for a specified volume for each vintage placed on the market. The consumer can therefore be assured that the contents of the bottle comply with this high qualitative requirement which characterizes the Crus Bourgeois du Médoc.

A security mechanism
Equipped with different levels of security, the sticker is also an effective means of combating counterfeiting. The origin of the bottles is guaranteed, and traceability is established from the château to the point of sale. Using their smartphone buyers can scan the QR code to check the origin and uniqueness of the bottle.

A source of information
The QR code is connected to the Crus Bourgeois du Médoc website. Users can then access a château profile with information about the terroir, the soil composition, the grape varieties grown and yields, alongside technical information relating to the vinification and ageing process, and tasting notes. Information on wine tourism activities is also available.
### Results of the 2020 classification of the Crus Bourgeois du Médoc

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crus Bourgeois du Médoc</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>MÉDOC</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château les Anguillées</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château d’Argian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château l’Argençay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château Beaumarché</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château Bégadanet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château Bellgrave</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château Bellerive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château Bellvue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château de Bensse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château Bessan Ségar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château Blaignan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château Bois-Mondon Saint Germain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château le Bourdieu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château Bournac</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château des Broasteras</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château des Cabans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château Campillon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château Cangruey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château Carcanieux</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château Chantemerle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château la Clarense</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château Clément Saint Jean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château Côtes de Blaignan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château de la Croix</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château Escot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château d’Escurac</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château l’Estran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HAUT-MÉDOC</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château d’Arcins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château d’Aurilhac</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château Barateau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château Barreyres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château Belgrave du Poujeau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château Beyzac</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clos la Bohême</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château le Boudieu Vertheuil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château de Braude</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château de Cartujac</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château Corconac</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château Croix du Trale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château Dasvin Bel Air</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château Devise d’Ardille</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château Duthil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château la Fong du Berger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château Fopiqueyre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château de Gironville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château Grand Clapeau Olivier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château Grand Médoc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château Grandis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château Hanteillan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château Haut Beyzac</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château Haut-Logat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château Haut Madrac</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château Laborde</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château Lacour Jacquet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château Lamothe-Cissac</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château Landat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LISTRAC-MÉDOC</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château Capdet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château Donissan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château l’Ermitage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château Lafon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château Lalande</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château Liouner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château Semaille-Maizeau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château Vieux Moulin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MOULIS-EN-MÉDOC</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château Chemin Royal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château Duplessis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château Guitignan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château Myon de l’Enclos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MARGAUX</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château Bellevue de Tayac</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château la Fortune</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château Pontac Lynch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PAUILLAC</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château Plantey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SAINT-ESTÈPHE</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château la Commanderie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château Coutelin Merville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château Picard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château Plantier Rose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château Saint Pierre de Corbian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château Tour de Pez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Château Tour Saint Fort</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Crus Bourgeois Supérieurs

MÉDOC
CHÂTEAU LA BRANNE
CHÂTEAU LA CARDONNE
CHÂTEAU CASTÉRA
CHÂTEAU FLEUR LA MOTHE
CHÂTEAU GREYSAC
CHÂTEAU LAUJAC
CHÂTEAU LOUSTEAUENEUF
CHÂTEAU NOAILLAC
CHÂTEAU PIERRE DE MONTIGNAC
CHÂTEAU POITEVIN
CHÂTEAU PREUILLAC
CHÂTEAU SAINT HILAIRE
CHÂTEAU TOUR SÉRAN
CHÂTEAU LES TUILERIES

HAUT-MÉDOC
CHÂTEAU BALAC
CHÂTEAU BEAUMONT
CHÂTEAU BEL AIR GLORIA
CHÂTEAU BERNADETTE
CHÂTEAU BIBIAN
CHÂTEAU DU CARTILLON
CHÂTEAU CISSAC
CHÂTEAU CLÉMENT-PICHON
CHÂTEAU DILLON
CHÂTEAU DOYAC
CHÂTEAU FONTENESTEAU
CHÂTEAU LABAT
CHÂTEAU LAMOTHE-BERGERON
CHÂTEAU LAROSE PEGANSON
CHÂTEAU LAROSE TRINTAUDON
CHÂTEAU LESTAGE SIMON
CHÂTEAU MEYRE
CHÂTEAU DU MOULIN ROUGE
CHÂTEAU PALOUMEY
CHÂTEAU PEYRABON
CHÂTEAU PEYRAT-FOURTHON

CHÂTEAU PONTOISE CABARRUS
CHÂTEAU Ramage La Batisse
CHÂTEAU DU RETOUT
CHÂTEAU REYSSON

LISTRAC-MÉDOC
CHÂTEAU CAP LÉON VEYRIN
CHÂTEAU FONRÉAUD
CHÂTEAU FOURCAS-BORIE
CHÂTEAU REVERDI
CHÂTEAU SARANSOT-DUPRÉ

MOULIS-EN-MÉDOC
CHÂTEAU Biston-BRILLETTE
CHÂTEAU CARoline
CHÂTEAU Lalaudey
CHÂTEAU LA MOULINE

MARGAUX
CHÂTEAU DEYREM VALENTIN
CHÂTEAU MONGRAVEY
CHÂTEAU LA TOUR DE MONS

SAINT-ESTÈPHE
CHÂTEAU DE CÔME
CHÂTEAU LAFITTE CARCASSET
CHÂTEAU PETIT BOCCQ
CHÂTEAU SÉRILHAN
CHÂTEAU TOUR DES TERMES

Crus Bourgeois Exceptionnels

HAUT-MÉDOC
CHÂTEAU D’AGASSAC
CHÂTEAU ARNAULD
CHÂTEAU BELLE-VUE
CHÂTEAU CAMBON LA PELOUSE
CHÂTEAU CHARMAIL
CHÂTEAU MALESCASSE
CHÂTEAU DE MALLERET
CHÂTEAU DU TAILLAN

LISTRAC-MÉDOC
CHÂTEAU LESTAGE

MARGAUX
CHÂTEAU D’ARSAC
CHÂTEAU PAVEIL DE LUZE

SAINT-ESTÈPHE
CHÂTEAU LE BOSCO
CHÂTEAU LE CROCK
CHÂTEAU LILIAN LADOYUS
History of the Crus Bourgeois

Several centuries ago, when the “Bourg” (town) of Bordeaux was under English rule, the merchants were exempt from taxes on local sales and on the export of wines produced from their vineyards. This privilege allowed them to make their fortunes, and for these 15th century “bourgeois” to acquire the best plots in the Médoc, which soon became known as the “Crus des Bourgeois”. The prices of these various wines were established for the first time in 1740 in a document drawn up by the Bordeaux Chamber of Commerce.

An ancient hierarchy and a form of recognition

A hierarchy gradually emerged, leading Mr. d’Armailhac to publish a book in 1858 unofficially dividing 248 Crus Bourgeois into three categories. The appearance of some of them in an addition to the 1855 classification was suggested but not taken up. It was not until the early 20th century (1932) that the first real classification was created under the supervision of the Bordeaux Chamber of Commerce and the Chamber of Agriculture of the Gironde, listing 444 “Crus Bourgeois du Médoc”. Although this classification was never submitted for ministerial approval, it served as a reference for several decades.

1962 saw the birth of the Union des Crus Bourgeois du Médoc and, in 1979, the European Community labelling regulations approved the traditional designation of “Cru Bourgeois” provided that the conditions for its use were specified by French law.

On 17 June 2003, a ministerial order approved the first official classification of the Crus Bourgeois du Médoc which recognized 247 châteaux out of 490 candidates classified as 151 “Cru Bourgeois”, 87 “Cru Bourgeois Supérieurs” and 9 “Cru Bourgeois Exceptionnels”.

However, this was denounced as unfair by certain properties that had not been classified, because the jury of experts was composed of 18 professionals including the President of the Union des Crus Bourgeois du Médoc at the time (in accordance with the organization specified by the ministerial decree of 30 November 2000). In 2007 the Bordeaux Administrative Court of Appeal pronounced the order of 17 June to be void, on the basis that, “one cannot judge something in which one has an interest”.

Commitment to a quality procedure

In order to save the designation, the union and its members mobilized to establish a quality procedure. A selective quality assurance procedure was approved by the public authorities with the decree of 20 October 2009 and the ministerial order of 16 November 2009. In 2010, the Union of the Crus Bourgeois du Médoc completed the creation of its new quality procedure and published its first Official Selection in September (consisting of the 2008 vintage). The Crus Bourgeois du Médoc Official Selection has since been published every year in September.

Towards a five-year, hierarchical classification

In September 2016 at an Extraordinary General Meeting, 78% of the members of the union approved the specifications of the future classification which was to be published in 2020. This was followed by the approval of the French government in 2017 of the specifications and the verification procedure that would be used to establish the new Crus Bourgeois du Médoc classification (ministerial order of 29 December 2017, published in the Official Journal of the French Republic on 4 January 2018). After ten years, this selection evolved towards a five-year classification which reintroduces the categories of “Cru Bourgeois”, “Cru Bourgeois Supérieur” and “Cru Bourgeois Exceptionnel” from the 2018 vintage onwards.
## Key figures

249 Crus Bourgeois du Médoc classified in the 2020 Classification

- **179** Crus Bourgeois
- **56** Crus Bourgeois Supérieurs
- **14** Crus Bourgeois Exceptionnels

### Number of châteaux by appellation

- **Médoc**: 115
- **Haut-Médoc**: 88
- **Listrac-Médoc**: 14
- **Moulis-en-Médoc**: 8
- **Margaux**: 8
- **Pauillac**: 1
- **Saint-Estèphe**: 15

#### Other figures

- **28 million** bottles produced
- **31%** of the Médoc’s production
- **27.5%** of the total surface under production in the Médoc

*average established over the last ten vintages*
Press Contacts

Alliance des Crus Bourgeois du Médoc

Olivier Cuvelier – President of the Crus Bourgeois du Médoc
Jennifer Mathieu – Director of the Crus Bourgeois du Médoc

alliance@crus-bourgeois.com - +33 (0)5 56 79 04 11