



1 CHÂTEAU LAFLEUR POMEROL BORDEAUX 2014
 OMG, this is fantastic on the nose. Exuberant aromas of lavender, tobacco, cigar box, violet and sliced plum. Medium to full body. It builds on the palate and goes on forever. Speechless. Such finesse and beauty. Just a hint of spices. What a glorious, hyper-classic wine. Coup de foudre! ● **100 points**

2 LOUIS ROEDERER CHAMPAGNE CRISTAL 2008

Disgorged October 2016 and will be the first Cristal to be released 10 years from harvest when it is offered in 2018. So fresh and tense and minerally with extremely exuberant chardonnay notes on the nose of white peach, lemon and yellow grapefruit, and hints of almost brambly aromas. The yeast character is also super fresh, and there are subtle woody notes, with a hint of vanilla bean and light spices. The palate is super long, and very pure, powerful and focused. Pinot noir is a strong core and the chardonnay sits at the edge offering lemon and white nectarine sorbet flavours. This will be at its best from 2025. ● **100 points**



FRENCH GREATS

In a year when James Suckling and his team tasted close to 4,000 wines across France, the 2014 Bordeaux vintage stood out and accounts for the majority of his Top 100 French Wines of 2017. Well-balanced and exuberant, Château Lafleur Pomerol 2014 was the perfect 100-pointer judged to be No. 1, but France has much more to offer. Here are the top 10 wines not to miss



4 CHÂTEAU MOUTON ROTHSCHILD PAUILLAC BORDEAUX 2014

Incredible iodine, oyster, currant, peat and cedar. Yet subtle. Full body, chewy yet polished tannins, and great depth and complexity on the finish. I love the spice and blueberry character on the finish. Vibrant. A sexy style of Mouton. Try drinking this in 2022. ● **99 points**



3 JOSEPH DROUHIN MONTRACHET GRAND CRU MARQUIS DE LAGUICHE BURGUNDY 2014

Clarity reminiscent of a mountain stream. Aromas of flowers, light apple, lemon and hints of hazelnut. Subtle. Full-bodied yet agile and so energetic. Dense and tight with superb depth and length. Very, very long. Such harmony. Perfect now but perfect later. It's just a great wine. ● **99 points**

**5 CHÂTEAU LATOUR
PAUILLAC
BORDEAUX 2014**

Violet, liquorice, pencil, flowers and currant define this on the nose before it moves to fresh mushrooms. It's full-bodied yet compacted with tension and a compressed centre palate. Incredible, fine-grained tannins and energy. The length is truly great. Should be even more beautiful in 2024. Give it time. ● **99 points**



**6 CHÂTEAU DUCRU-BEAUCAILLOU
ST-JULIEN BORDEAUX 2014**

Fabulous aromas of crushed berries such as blackberry and blackcurrant, not to mention spices. Wet earth and cedar, too. Complex. Full-bodied yet agile and complete. A dense centre palate. Ultra-round tannins. Everything in the right balance. Wonderful to taste but better to drink in 2022. ● **99 points**

**7 CHÂTEAU LA MISSION HAUT-
BRION BLANC PESSAC-LÉOGNAN
BORDEAUX 2014**

Lemon, pineapple and green-papaya aromas. Stone and salt block, too. Full-bodied, dense and layered, with a creamy and layered mouthfeel. Powerful and agile at the same time. Exceptional. Rivals the 100-point 2011 La Mission. Drink if you can find it. ● **99 points**

**8 LOUIS LATOUR CHARMES-HAMBERTIN
GRAND CRU BURGUNDY 2015**

This is a phenomenal wine with such depth and intensity in terms of aromas of black cherry, wet earth and orange peel. It's so deep it's like looking over the edge of a cliff. Full body, perfect tannin tension and resounding purity. It goes on for minutes on the palate with the dark fruit and creamy mineral character. The shame is that only 100 cases were made. Drink in 2022. ● **99 points**



**9 THIERRY ALLEMAND CORNAS
REYNARD RHÔNE 2014**

From older vines (40+ years), this has a deeper set of spices and darker fruit with strong, stony perfume, liquorice, dark plum, dark chocolate and pepper. The palate delivers a level of juxtaposed power and elegance seen only in the greatest wines. Tannins are saturated in dark plum and blackberry flavour. Acidity winds it tight. Dark, spicy finish. Can be approached young but will peak from 2025 onwards. ● **99 points**

**10 CHÂTEAU AUSONE
STEMILION BORDEAUX 2014**

Fabulous aromas of currant, rose petal, dried strawberry and hints of lemon rind. Wet earth and chalk. Full and dense and so compacted and squeezed. What a texture. Phenomenal. Needs five to six years to open, but it's a joy to taste. Amazing. Such energy. From organically grown grapes as well. I am in awe. ● **99 points**

T To see the top 100 French wines of the year, visit jamesuckling.com