Smart Passion

Bordeaux recent vintages: our top picks

Compelling acquisition prices across selected vintages | 5 November 2026

Following our recent tasting of Bordeaux 2022–2025, we compared eight estates' younger vintages versus their older benchmarks. For clients building a long-term collection, our priorities are Château Canon 2018, Château Rauzan-Ségla 2020 and Château Montrose 2019. Pontet-Canet 2023 offers a compelling younger addition. Each combines strong critic assessments with an attractive price relative to other vintages from the same estate.

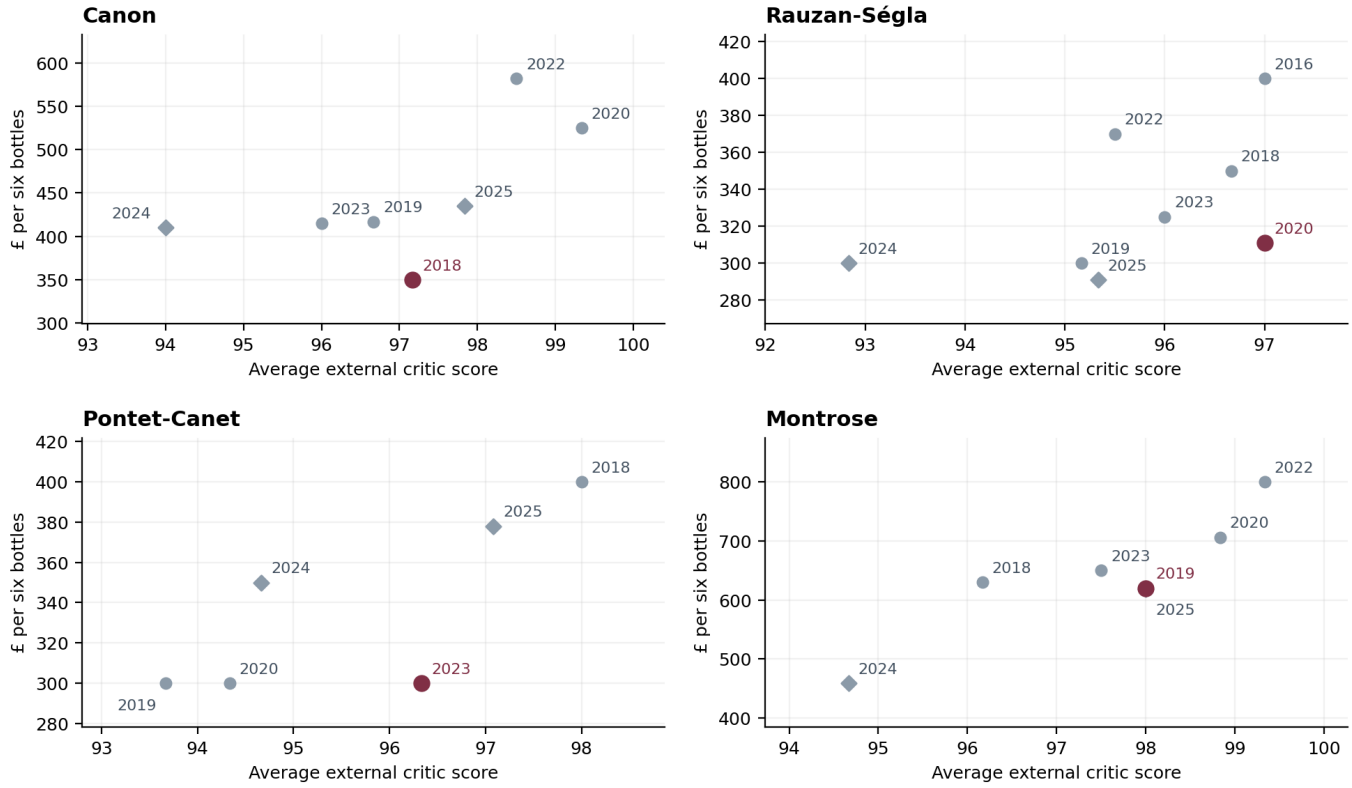
Canon 2018 at £350 and Pontet-Canet 2023 at £300 per six bottles stand out: they cost 19.5% and 20.6% less than their respective 2025 vintages, with average scores of 97.2 and 96.3. Pontet Canet 2023 is currently trading in line with 2019 and 2020, but with a higher average score. Chateau Montrose 2019 offers compelling value versus more recent vintages which are pricing in near perfection (100 points).

We recommend opportunistic acquisitions at these levels, subject to provenance and availability, with a holding horizon of at least ten years. The aim is to combine long-term appreciation potential with the pleasure and flexibility of owning wines you will want to enjoy too.



From our October tasting, left to right: Montrose 2024 and 2023; Canon 2023 and 2022; Canon-la-Gaffelière 2023 and 2022.

Quality at a more attractive entry price



WineCube analysis, 5 November 2026. Burgundy points mark preferred vintages; diamonds denote provisional 2025 En Primeur barrel assessments. Prices are indicative GBP per six 75cl bottles, treated as in bond. Critic coverage varies; Pontet-Canet 2022 is omitted because only one score is available.

What our recent tasting revealed

Our October tasting showed why vintage character matters alongside the numbers. Across these estates, we found substantial differences in fruit, freshness and tannin structure. The notes below describe the wines tasted across 2 recent sessions last month. Please note that our report excludes the First Growths which we will cover later.

2022 concentration with individual expressions of freshness

The most compelling wines combined depth with energy. Branaire-Ducru showed concentrated dark fruit, striking freshness and well-integrated tannins. Canon-la-Gaffelière was lively and spicy, while Gazin offered vivid red fruit and a fresh, crunchy palate. Canon impressed with a long finish and fruit moving from red to darker tones; Rauzan-Ségla brought smoky, flinty notes and generous, crunchy fruit. Montrose and Pontet-Canet were more closed, with concentrated dark fruit and substantial tannins.

Our acquisition view: Branaire-Ducru at £190 and Canon-la-Gaffelière at £275 translate that tasting appeal into accessible entry prices. Canon at £582 and Rauzan-Ségla at £370 offer considerable pleasure, but we favour Canon 2018 and Rauzan-Ségla 2020 for relative value.

2023 fruit and balance with a clear value candidate

Pontet-Canet combined cassis and dark-berry aromas with concentrated fruit and a long finish which suggests a very good evolution. Canon showed red-fruit intensity, acidity and a saline balance; Rauzan-Ségla was fresh and expressive, finishing with spice. Gazin's polished tannins and Léoville Poyferré's balance and salinity added to the impression of approachable young wines, although approachability is not the same as full maturity.

Our acquisition view: Pontet-Canet at £300 is the clearest younger-vintage priority. Its 96.3 critic average exceeds those of the equally priced 2019 and 2020. Léoville Poyferré at £312 is a lower-cost alternative to its 2019, particularly for collectors drawn to the style we tasted.

2024 Be selective about the wine in this vintage

Freshness and lighter structures were recurring themes. Branaire-Ducru stood out for its concentrated red fruit and saline finish; Gazin showed balance and good tannic structure. Canon and Pontet-Canet were lighter and less deep than other vintages while Montrose offered finesse and a good finish without the concentration of stronger years.

Our acquisition view: lower prices alone do not settle the choice. Branaire-Ducru 2024 at £177 is only £13 below the highly rated 2022; we prefer the latter. Montrose 2024 at £459 is a lower-cost route into the estate, while 2019 remains our recommended acquisition based on quality, maturity and relative price.

2025 promise that still needs to fully justify its price at some estates

Branaire-Ducru combined generous fruit with superb freshness. Canon showed floral notes, salinity and balance; Rauzan-Ségla was fresh and light on its feet, with a long finish and integrated tannins. Pontet-Canet's concentration and tannic structure suggested a wine for extended ageing. These are encouraging early impressions, with further development still ahead.

Our acquisition view: remain selective. Canon 2018 and Pontet-Canet 2023 cost around one-fifth less than their 2025 counterparts. Montrose 2019 costs just £2 more than 2025 and has the same 98 average score, with additional bottle age. The appeal of the new vintage is strongest when its price compensates for the provisional barrel assessment and lack of bottle ageing.

That said 2025 is unique in its appeal and volumes are much reduced as we mentioned in our 2025 En Primeur report.

Our preferred vintage for each estate

Indicative prices in GBP per six 75cl bottles, treated as in bond and subject to confirmation. Scores are recalculated external critic averages, rounded to one decimal.

Estate and vintage	£ / six	Score	Acquisition case
Canon 2018	350	97.2	Priority. Lowest-priced Canon in the comparison; 15.7% below 2023 (£415; 96), with a higher average score.
Rauzan-Ségla 2020	311	97	Priority at £311. Same 97 average score as 2016 (£400), at a 22.3% discount. Trading below 2018 (£350; 96.7), with a slightly higher average score.
Montrose 2019	620	98	Long-term collection priority. 12.2% below 2020 (£706; 98.8). Same price as 2025, with the same 98 average score and the benefit of 5-year bottle ageing.
Pontet-Canet 2023	300	96.3	Joint-lowest price with 2019 and 2020, but a higher average score. Our tasting showed concentrated fruit and length.
Canon-la-Gaffelière 2019 / 2022	250 / 275	95.3 / 95.3	2019 leads on price; 2022 offers the same average score for £25 more, with freshness and spice evident at our tasting.
Branaire-Ducru 2022	190	95.7	Quality and future drinking value. Trading at same level as 2025 EP release price (average score 94.7). Freshness and well-integrated tannins impressed at our tasting.
Léoville Poyferré 2019 / 2023	340 / 312	96.3 / 95.3	2019 offers the best average score. The balanced, approachable 2023 is a lower-cost alternative. They are different styles and equally enjoyable.
Gazin 2019	263	95	Highest average score in the Gazin comparison, including 97 from Neal Martin. Cheaper than 2020 and 2023 with more ageing.

Recommended averages use three equally weighted critic assessments, identified as Vinous Antonio Galloni, Wine Advocate and Neal Martin; these do not represent three separate publications. Missing comparator scores are excluded. Provisional barrel ratings and numerical conversions of score ranges remain indicative.

For a collection centred on future enjoyment, Branaire-Ducru 2022 and Canon-la-Gaffelière 2022 deserve particular attention. For long-term value, the strongest starting points remain Canon 2018, Rauzan-Ségla 2020, Montrose 2019 and Pontet-Canet 2023. The right balance depends on what you already own and when you expect to open it.

Attractive entry prices in historical context

Pontet-Canet 2023 and Rauzan-Ségla 2020 are approximately 24% and 22% below documented campaign or release prices. Canon-la-Gaffelière 2019 is 19% below its recorded release benchmark. These discounts strengthen the acquisition case, without establishing an all-time low or a future resale value.

Wine	Historical £ / six	Reference £ / six	Change
Pontet-Canet 2023	394.50	300	-24.0%
Rauzan-Ségla 2020	399.00	311	-22.1%
Canon-la-Gaffelière 2019	308.50	250	-19.0%
Branaire-Ducru 2020	186.00	160	-14.0%
Canon-la-Gaffelière 2020	326.00	300	-8.0%
Léoville Poyferré 2023	337.00	312	-7.4%
Montrose 2019	600.00	620	+3.3%

Historical benchmarks: JN Wine 2023 campaign; Wine Lister 2020 release; Liv-ex June 2021 report; Cru Montrose 2019. Twelve-bottle prices are halved. Nominal comparisons exclude storage, fees and selling costs; historical offers are not necessarily first-tranche releases.

Where future value could come from

Canon 2018 and Montrose 2019 combine strong critic assessments with additional bottle age. Pontet-Canet 2023 and Rauzan-Ségla 2020 compare favourably with lower-scoring vintages of the same estate. Those price gaps could narrow if collector demand increasingly recognises their quality.

Maturation and consumption support long-term value where demand persists. Acquisition price and holding period remain decisive. Branaire-Ducru and Canon-la-Gaffelière also offer accessible quality for near term future enjoyment

Discuss your next acquisitions

Reply to info@wine3.com with your preferred wines, indicative budget and quantities. Within 24 hours, we will respond with a tailored proposal and offer. We will help you select the cases that best complement your collection.

Tasting observations: WineCube, October and November 2026, covering selected 2022–2025 wines. Critic references: Vinous, Wine Advocate and Neal Martin. Reference prices reviewed for this report on 5 November 2026; availability, in-bond status and final acquisition costs require confirmation. Wine values can fall as well as rise; resale may take time, and storage, fees and buying/selling spreads reduce returns.