

! **Château de Malleret (Haut-Médoc) 2023:** The 2023 barrel sample from this highly ranked *cru bourgeois* property opens with a nose of sweet black fruits, polished with violets, sweetpea, liquorice and toast. This translates into a convincing palate, built around a core of salted and liquorice-laced black fruits, intertwined with toast and dark chocolate. This comes underpinned by a fine-grained substance of tannins, dry, firm but well knit, with great drive and energy beneath, with vibrant fruit and delicious acidity. A very impressive composition from de Malleret this year; fingers crossed this can be carried through into bottle. 90-92/100 🔍