

Rosé & Clairet Wines (14)
Today's Bordeaux is Affordable Bordeaux

89

Château Pey La Tour 2014 Bordeaux Rosé \$13

Composed of 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Cabernet Franc and 23% Merlot, this is a "rosé de presse". That is, it is a rosé specifically made from grapes intended to go into a rosé rather than juice being bled off from a red wine, like most Bordeaux rosés. This wine is baby girl pink with salmon influences and shows a very reserved nose of hay and strawberries. Medium on the finish, this has terrific balance and vivacity of fruit.

88*

Château Lamothe de Haux 2014 Bordeaux Clairet \$12

This is a rosé with flavor! In fact, it is almost more red Bordeaux than rosé it is so intense in flavor. It's 50% Merlot and 50% Cabernet Sauvignon from saignée juice. It tastes of blood oranges and Marasca cherries, has a lightly viscous mid-palate and has an impressively long finish for a rosé/clairet style.

88

Château Pey La Tour 2015 Bordeaux Rosé \$13

Like its 2014 sibling, this wine has fantastic food friendliness thanks to its mouthwatering acidity and lightly textured mouthfeel. Strawberries, cantaloupe and watermelon mesh on the palate. This vintage showcases more Cabernet Franc than its younger sibling at 34% along with 50% Cabernet Sauvignon and 16% Merlot.

88

Château Vignol 2014 Bordeaux Clairet \$13

This wine is a bold, blood orange in color. It has a very vinous nose followed by a palate packed with watermelon, dried cranberries and spice cake. It's a bit soupy in texture with serious viscosity and moderate acidity, but its paper-like tannins give it some extra structure. This is 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Drink: 2016-17

88

Les Vignerons de Tutiac 2014 Bordeaux Clairet \$10

Round and medium-bodied, this is a rosé with personality. It tastes of red plums and pomegranate arils. Refreshing and polished, this wine has great flexibility to accommodate a wide variety of dishes.

87

Château Lestrille 2014 Bordeaux Rosé \$10

I tasted this wine as lunch hour was rolling around, and salmon blinis came to mind as a delightful pairing. Still, this would pair equally well with nothing more than a sunny patio. This

mineral rosé composed of 100% Merlot is delicate but not shy in its flavors of strawberries and rhubarb.

87

Château Turcaud 2015 Bordeaux Clairet \$12

Though the same combo of 50% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Sauvignon and 25% Cabernet Franc as the château's rosé, this wine sees three days (!) of maceration with the skins. In warm years, the maceration goes up to five. This tastes of watermelon, kirsch and savory spices. Its lusty, medium-bodied (13.2% abv) mid-palate is packed with fresh fruit that is nicely countered by low intensity tannins on the medium finish.

87

Les Hauts de Smith 2014 Bordeaux Rosé \$19

A very floral and fragrant rosé, this tastes of red currants and strawberries. The lingering finish shows earthy tones that add dimension and breadth to this focused palate. Only 4-5% of the wine sees barrique aging, and one can't help but notice the precision in the winemaking.

87

Mouton Cadet 2014 Bordeaux Rosé Le Rosé de Mouton Cadet \$9

The winery began changing its rosé style several years ago, and this is the second vintage in which they feel they really "nailed it". This is 74% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc and 11% Cabernet Sauvignon. Its pink grapefruit and watermelon flavors are kissed with smokiness. Tangy acidity nicely balances the wine's medium weight.

86

Château Turcaud 2015 Bordeaux Rosé \$15

Made of 50% Merlot and equal parts Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon, the fruit for this rosé was harvested quickly due to the quickness of the ripening. The aroma is clean and bright with smells of strawberries and watermelon. The light, 12.2% abv body feels delicate, yet its well-balanced acidity doesn't make the wine feel too mean and lean. The extremely spicy and flinty moderate finish gives this an air of seriousness.

85

Château de Lardiley 2014 Bordeaux Rosé Prestige \$13

Composed of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon and 40% Merlot, this light rosé with a pale salmon color has a spice-driven nose with aromas of turkey jerky, fresh watermelon, strawberries. This is advancing a bit, but there's still plenty of engaging freshness and a hint of pithy tannins.

85

Château Lauduc 2015 Bordeaux Rosé Classic \$12

This wine is baby girl pink in appearance. It smells of watermelon, strawberry and anise. A pleasant touch of leesiness creates a nicely round palate. This is a hearty rosé best with bigger dishes and made of 75% Cabernet Franc and 25% Merlot.

84

Château Lauduc 2014 Bordeaux Rosé Classic \$9

Alan Sichel said the focus with this château's rosé is to make a rosé that isn't simply a by-product of the red. Additionally, it wears a very trendy, pale pink color. It's clean and easy with a hint of strawberries and cotton candy. This is composed of 75% Cabernet Franc and 25% Merlot.

83

Château Grand Ferrand 2014 Bordeaux Rosé \$12

This wine smells of cotton candy, dried apricots, roses and old tealeaves. It's fine, but its freshness is slipping away, despite its nicely placed structure. Unfortunately, the finish feels a bit papery. This is made of 80% Cabernet Sauvignon and 20% Merlot.