



## A Guide to Bordeaux Wine Classifications by Sub-Region

**Left Bank Haut Medoc** - 1855 Classification of Chateaux (ordered by Napoleon III for the best Bordeaux wines for the 1855 Exposition Universelle de Paris). The levels start at 1<sup>st</sup> Growth (Premier Cru) through 5<sup>th</sup> Growth (62 wines). The 1<sup>st</sup> Growths are: Chateau Lafite Rothschild, Chateau Latour, Chateau Margaux, Chateau Haut Brion (in Graves), and Chateau Mouton Rothschild.

**“Super Seconds”**- are those 2<sup>nd</sup> Growths of Haut Medoc that are close to being 1<sup>st</sup> Growths. Example: Léoville Las Cases.

Note: all other Left Bank wines are unclassified or **Cru Bourgeois** (Medoc) –Chateau that are examined and certified for quality.

**Left Bank Graves** - 1959 Classification: Chateaus are rated “Crus Classé” for red or white wine. Sub-region Pessac-Léognan is its own AOC (Appellation d’Origine Controlée).

**Left Bank Sauternes** - Classified in 1855, there are only 3 levels: Premier Cru Supérieur (solely for Chateau d’Yquem), Premier Cru (1<sup>st</sup> Growth, and Deuxiemes Cru (2<sup>nd</sup> Growth).

**Right Bank St. Emilion** - This is the only Right Bank location to classify wines. They classify 4 levels of wines: Premier Grand Cru Classé A (only 1 property – Ch. Pavie - currently as Ch. Ausone, Ch. Cheval Blanc; Ch. Angelus left the classification in 2021) & B (14 properties), Grand Cru Classé (64 properties), and Grand Cru (lowest classed level). The classification for 2022 is up in the air. St. Emilion is a UNESCO World Heritage site.

**Right Bank Pomerol** - This region has no official classification, yet Chateau Petrus is considered to rank with the 1<sup>st</sup> growths in Bordeaux.

**Graves-** The Graves wines were classified in 1953 and revised in 1959 by a jury of the Institute National des Appellations d’Origine (AOC) and approved by the Minister of Agriculture. In total 22 different wines from 16 chateaux with included and then given the label Grand Cru Classé.

**Pessac-Léognan** – This region is in the Northern part of the Graves wine geion which is famous for its red as well as dry white wines. The top wines are labeled Grand Cru Classé De Graves and include Château Pape Clément and Château Smith Haout-Lafitte. The wine appellation lies just South of Bordeaux city.

**Other Bordeauxr wines, including entry level** - There are 7 AOC’s (Appellations d’Origine controlee) for these wines: Bordeaux Rouge AOC, Bordeaux Supérieur Rouge, Bordeaux Clairet, Bordeaux Rosé, Bordeaux Blanc, Bordeaux Supérieur Blanc, and Crémant de Bordeaux.