



Highlights from the September Releases on Bordeaux's La Place

The number of non-Bordeaux wines being debuted via Bordeaux's négociant distribution system grows in both size and stature every year. Jane Anson takes the temperature of this year's releases and selects 12 to seek out.

WORDS BY JANE ANSON
21 SEPTEMBER 2022

With first time releases from Piedmont, Veneto, Martinborough and Austria, plus a host of new names from Chile, Napa, Rioja, Oregon, Sicily and Champagne, the pressure to stand out amount the September Releases on the Place de Bordeaux is becoming intense.

This year, the number of non-Bordeaux wines choosing to throw in their lot with this archaic but productive selling system (more widely used for the annual Bordeaux en primeur releases) has expanded from around 70 a year ago to over 100 – with headline newcomers including Marque de Riscal from Rioja, **California's Luc Morlet** and Paul Hobbs (the latter with an Argentinian wine), and Champagne Barons de Rothschild.

You'll still find the original trailblazers of Opus One, Masseto, Inglenook, Almaviva and Seña – in fact this month has, more than ever, become a way to take a temperature check of vintages and wine styles from some of the biggest players in the industry. It is even, for those who want to look deeper, a way to track some of the changes and challenges facing the wine world, and some of its potential new directions.

This year, for example, Masseto – surely the most famous 100% Merlot wine in the world outside of Petrus – has added a touch of Cabernet Franc into the blend, for freshness. Is this a simple evolution in style, or a signpost of a warming climate even in coastal Tuscany? An over in Argentina, the brilliant Adrianna Vineyard from Nicolas Catena is signaling the huge potential of the cooler climate regions of South America, as well as the continued push towards winemaking that expresses a sense of place, moving away from super-charged, oak-driven styles a decade ago.

Here are 12 wines to look out for from the 2022 September Releases on La Place de Bordeaux (wines will be coming onto the retail market in the coming days and weeks).

Morlet Family Vineyards 'Cœur de Vallée' 2019

"I have long been a fan of this wine, and am happy to see it getting a wider distribution. Luc Morlet is one of the more restrained winemakers in Napa, and you see his European sensibilities in this wine. Great stuff."

Jane Anson, September 21, 2022

Tasted in Bordeaux a few months ago, and it is once again strikingly successful, with floral freshness, dense but velvety tannins, run through with juicy acidity, pure and focused damson and bilberry fruit, chocolate, sage and slate. Concentrated but with momentum and grace.

A wonderful vintage for this wine, so easy to recommend. Native yeast, unfined, unfiltered, 85% new oak, 600l oak casks for 2/3 of ageing, with the rest in stainless steel.

96 points



Jane Anson
November 8, 2022

