

The world's best wine magazine

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# Decanter

## Lighter wines for summer

78 white and red buys under £20  
with 12.5% alcohol or less

### 14 GREAT CLARETS

*Guide to Bordeaux's new  
crus bourgeois exceptionnels*

### PLUS

- Top 20 Cape Cabernets
- Chardonnay: Oregon & Montagny
- Piedmont wineries to visit



Philippe Raoux  
and son Pierre,  
Château d'Arsac



## Château d'Arsac

### MARGAUX

The man clearly responsible for the rise of this property is Philippe Raoux. He bought d'Arsac in 1986 and set about restoring and enlarging what was then just 4ha of vines on an estate that dated back to the 12th century, with an abandoned château building that took 13 years to be made habitable. He also began lobbying to get d'Arsac, then a Haut-Médoc, included in AP Margaux. It took until 2007 for a 16ha plot to be given the right, meaning that today just over half of the estate is in Haut-Médoc and the rest (54ha) in Margaux – and it is the Margaux part that has been recognised as Exceptionnel in the 2020 ranking. Today run by Raoux with his son Pierre, this is well

worth a visit, as its gardens are pretty much only rivalled by Château Smith Haut Lafitte in Pessac-Léognan for sculptures and other art installations. The wine is a consistently impressive blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon to 40% Merlot, on black sand soils.

### Château d'Arsac, Margaux CB 2016 92

£14.17 (ib)-£23.33 Crump Richmond Shaw, Fine & Rare, Millésima, Montrachet

A lighter-framed Margaux with the emphasis on floral notes and raspberry fruits. Good quality, enjoyable, no need to wait before cracking this open, but it's full of pleasure. Drink 2020-2030 Alc 13.5%