

ESTABLISHED 1883



ALLAN SICHEL LTD.

SICHEL & Co.,

HAMBRO HOUSE, VINTNERS' PLACE,
UPPER THAMES STREET, LONDON, E.C.4.
TELEPHONE NO: CENTRAL 8871/2

BORDEAUX OFFICE AND CELLARS: 19, QUAI DE BACALAN.

Bordeaux, February, 1963

BORDEAUX MARKET REPORT

Dear Sirs,

We have completed our preliminary tastings of the 1962 Clarets and have pleasure in submitting to you this interim report.

QUANTITY A large quantity of wine was made in Bordeaux - about 5,500,000 Hectolitres as compared with the average of 4,000,000 Hectolitres made in 1960. The bulk of this increase is accounted for by a roughly 50% larger crop in the vast areas producing cheap white wines and 100% increase in the small regions of Sauternes and Cérons and Graves Supérieures. St.Emilion and its satellite regions produced about 50% more than in 1960 whilst the Médoc and Red Graves produced about the same quantity as in 1960.

QUALITY The wines are not comparable in quality to the 1961's. They are dark coloured, well-flavoured, soft and, above all, remarkable for their breed and finesse. Their colour and flavour may make them seem to be bigger wines than they in fact are. We expect them to be ready for comparatively early bottling, to develop quickly in bottle, to be ready for drinking after three or four years in bottle but nevertheless to maintain their quality in bottle for seven and eight years. They show all the signs of becoming an attractive commercial vintage, true Clarets, pleasant to drink at an early stage and living sufficiently long to develop the attractive qualities of good Claret. We find them difficult to compare with any modern vintage but they are, perhaps, in constitution something like the 1949's with 70% of their quality.

PRICES Classed Growths of the Médoc are reasonable in price and should settle down between £130 and £170 per hogshead, all in. That is to say retail between 19/- and 25/- per bottle - excluding the first growths for which prices have not yet been determined.

HAUT MEDOC The best Bourgeois Supérieures wines and lesser wines from areas within the Médoc with expensive Appellation, Margaux, St Julien, St Estèphe and Pauillac are likely to cost from £80 to £120 and represent the relatively most expensive group whilst distinctly superior Bourgeois are available from other Médoc areas at about £70.

MEDOC We consider expensive in the cheaper categories. Only an average crop was made in this area and no doubt this fact, coupled with the value of the Appellation Médoc, has tended to keep prices high.

RED GRAVES Produced some 50% more than normal but the quality is very far from that of the 1961's and prices are too high for the quality.

ST. EMILION Prices are low and pleasant wines should be available at between £50 and £65 for St.Emilion proper and £40 to £45 for the St.Emilion satellites. Because of the larger quantity made in this area the wines are not all as full as is generally expected of St.Emilion.

We shall have a comprehensive range of 1962 Clarets to show at today's prices from the middle of March onwards. The best time to taste will probably be in April and July. Classed growths are being bought readily because of the reasonable prices and we think this is the only category in which prices are likely to increase steadily. Our own holdings of classed growths will be offered when the wines are ready for tasting.