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Anniversary Vintage Chart

Below you will find a summary of the vintages and recommended regions from 1900 to date. This chart acts only as a general summary and one should remember that a talented wine maker can make very good wine even in questionable years. The chart is based upon Bordeaux wines and in poor vintages may indicate an alternate and more favourable region.

Prior to 1900, and primarily due to the devastating effects of the phylloxera louse in Europe, no really great wines were produced on a large scale. 1878 is the last good vintage of the pre-phylloxera wines while 1899 marked the dawn of a new era in Bordeaux with what many consider history's greatest wine. Vintages prior to 1950 are all well past their prime and may present only symbolic or collectable value. In a good year, these wines are very expensive.

Where possible, the source of information is that of my own experience but of course this does have a limit and in general, post 1970 is my personal opinion while pre 1970 is that of others combined with historical weather data. Use the chart only as a guide to purchase anniversary bottles. Where alternate regions are indicated, they are always listed after or in place of Bordeaux.

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- 1900. The millennium and a favourable year in Bordeaux.
 - 1901. Uneven wines, poor overall.
 - 1902. Below average wines from a large crop. Low quality overall.
 - 1903. Poor vintage, thin wines.
 - 1904. A very good vintage.
 - 1905. A good year
 - 1906. A dry year, low yields but very good wines
 - 1907. For early drinking
 - 1908. An average year
 - 1909. For early drinking
 - 1910. Poor vintage
 - 1911. Difficult year but some very good wines
 - 1912. Below average year
 - 1913. Poor
 - 1914. Low yield but very good wines
 - 1915. A poor vintage
 - 1916. Highly tannic wines
 - 1917. An average year
 - 1918. An average year
 - 1919. Variable vintage. Generally good wines
 - 1920. An outstanding vintage. One of the best ever.

- 1921. A legend among wine enthusiasts. Great wines but well past their prime.
- 1922. Wet fall resulted in a variable crop of average to below wines
- 1923. Below average
- 1924. Good weather in the fall saved the vintage. Average wines
- 1925. A poor vintage
- 1926. An average year.
- 1927. Poor everywhere
- 1928. A great year for Bordeaux, Sauternes, Red Burgundy, and Champagne.
- 1929. Another highly collectable vintage, spectacular wine across France.
- 1930. Dismal.
- 1931. Almost as bad as '30
- 1932. Poor again. Rhone was okay.
- 1933. Below average.
- 1934. A good vintage, well made wine across the board.
- 1935. Below average.
- 1936. Below average.
- 1937. A good year, above average wines.
- 1938. Average
- 1939. Below average
- 1940. Average
- 1941. Poor with the exception of Champagne
- 1942. Dismal across France
- 1943. Above average
- 1944. Inconsistent but generally poor
- 1945. A great year
- 1946. Below average
- 1947. Exceptional wine made everywhere in France
- 1948. Well above average throughout
- 1949. Another exceptional vintage
- 1950. Again, great wines
- 1951. A tough year – poor wines
- 1952. Exceptional
- 1953. Exceptional
- 1954. Average
- 1955. Another Great year
- 1956. Generally poor
- 1957. Average and better in the cooler regions (Champ/Loire/Alsace)
- 1958. Average

- 1959. Exceptional
- 1960. Good vintage but faded now
- 1961. A legend and perhaps the greatest vintage of the century – drink up
- 1962. Very good and following a great vintage so prices are reasonable
- 1963. A poor vintage
- 1964. Generally a very good year. Some rain added risk.
- 1965. A poor vintage
- 1966. An above average vintage
- 1967. Irregular weather. Below average and for early drinking.
- 1968. A poor vintage
- 1969. Generally poor and for early drinking
- 1970. Very good Bordeaux but wines are fading. Great Rioja.
- 1971. Okay in Bordeaux, Great in Burgundy.
- 1972. Dismal in Bordeaux
- 1973. Poor in Bordeaux. Very good year for German Riesling
- 1974. Poor again - avoid
- 1975. A very good but tannic year
- 1976. Exceptional Champagne fading now, Great for Germany
- 1977. Top year for Vintage Port
- 1978. Exceptional Red Burgundy, Rhône, Piedmont, California
- 1979. Piedmont
- 1980. Poor vintage across Europe. Australia and California are good.
- 1981. An average year but bottles are inconsistent.
- 1982. The vintage that changed the world's perception of Fine Wine. Great but unreal prices.
- 1983. An average year
- 1984. Poor year
- 1985. Great year for Bordeaux, Champagne, Vintage Port, California
- 1986. Another great year across Europe, California also.
- 1987. An average year. White Burgundy and California also.
- 1988. Above average across France but exceptional Champagne and Germany.
- 1989. Above average Bordeaux – good prices. Exceptional Red Burgundy, Germany, Australia.
- 1990. Outstanding year across Europe, Spain the exception.
- 1991. Poor. Vintage Port. Very good in Australia and N. America
- 1992. Poor. Vintage Port. White Burgundy, Australia is very good.
- 1993. Poor again. Better in Australia, Italy, and N. America
- 1994. An average year. Exceptional Port. Exceptional in Spain
- 1995. A great vintage. Spain again. Exceptional Port
- 1996. Above average. Vintage year for Champagne. Great for Australia.

- 1997. Average. Exceptional Port, Loire, Italy, California
- 1998. Above average. Reasonable prices. Exceptional Australia
- 1999. A good year. To drink early. Exceptional in Burgundy, Tuscany, Piedmont, California.
- 2000. An incredible start to the new millennium. Expensive. Exceptional Port.
- 2001. Great wines. Like '62 shadowed by the 2000s. Spain, Germany, Piedmont, California.
- 2002. Average in Bordeaux but Exceptional in for Red Burgundy.
- 2003. Heatwave in Europe. Full-bodied rich wines. Expensive too. Exceptional Port.
- 2004. A cool wet summer. Average wines for early consumption. Italy very good.
- 2005. A great year – everywhere. Very pricey.
- 2006. A cool summer. White Burgundy is top-notch so is Italy.
- 2007. Average year. Vintage Port, exceptional Rhône, Piedmont, Niagara, California.
- 2008. Initially underrated but superb wines. Vintage Port
- 2009. Better than the great 2000 vintage? Likely to be the most expensive vintage in history.