



fruit on the nose with a note of leafy cassis. Layered fruit on the palate, tannins ripe, firm. **2008-15.**

Château de Francs, Les Cerisiers ★★★
Blackcurrant, blackberry fragrance. Sweet-fruited attack. **2008-12.**

Château Marsau ★★★
Plenty of fleshy matière, open fruit, firm, slightly robust tannic finish. **2007-12.**

fronsac & canon fronsac

by James Lawther MW

A pleasurable rather than great vintage. As in the rest of Bordeaux the harvest was late (October) and yields naturally high with depth and intensity a little shy. Comparisons have been made with 1999 but in 2004 producers generally did not make the mistake of over extracting (which gave that hard edge to many 1999s) and have opted for the expression of fruit. The wines below (mostly members of the group l'Expression de Fronsac) should provide decent mid-term drinking at a fair price.

Château Moulin Pey Labrie ★★★
Poised, classic with a classy edge.

Palate long, fresh and tightly structured with fine but firm tannins. **2008-16.**

Château Dalem ★★★★★
Rich, luxurious, modern style. Lovely dark cherry aroma and flavour. Good density. Fine tannic structure. **2008-14.**

Château Les Trois Croix ★★★★★
Really attractive wine. Expressive dark fruit aromas. Nice pitch of ripeness. Palate shows good depth. Firm, fresh tannins on the finish. **2008-12.**

Château Fontenil ★★★★★
Firm, balanced with a good expression of fruit. Dense, dark fruit on the nose. Palate full and gourmande. **2008-14.**

Château du Gaby ★★★★★
Flattering ripeness with a dose of terroir. Lively dark fruit aromas. Palate rich with fruit extract. **2008-14.**

Château Canon de Brem ★★★
Smooth, modern-classic in style. Elegant fruit aroma. Ripe, velvety texture. On the brink of four stars. **2008-12.**

Château Barrabaque Prestige ★★★
Compact, harmonious. Attractive ripeness of fruit. **2008-12.**

Château Moulin Haut Laroque ★★★
Plenty of fruit extract. Palate round

and full with a glow of alcohol on the finish. Some spicy oak. **2008-12.**

Château Haut-Ballet ★★★
Ripe, dark fruit on the nose. Firm extract with a fresh, long, chalky finish. Calcaire terroir in evidence. **2008-14.**

Château Haut Carles ★★★
Ripe character, soft fruit, freshness and length. Complete. **2008-14.**

Aria ★★★
Dense, firm and brooding but less a signature of the vintage. Lacking in a little charm and nuance. **2008-14.**

Château Cassagne Haut-Canon La Truffière ★★★
Nose shows a minty Cabernet influence. Palate round and supple and a crisp tannic structure behind. **2008-12.**

Château Villars ★★★
Attractive fruit expression with a certain lift and complexity. Palate round and full. Tannins firm. **2008-12.**

Château Chadenne ★★★
Compact. Good ripeness but misses a little zest and complexity. Spice and berry fruit aromas. **2008-12.**

Château Haut Lariveau ★★★
Accent on the fruit. Finely aromatic. Quite good depth. A certain ripe, fleshy sweetness on the palate. **2008-12.**

Château Tour du Moulin ★★★
Aromatically edgy. Lots of dark fruit, though. Tight, firm structure. Virile. **2008-12.**

Château La Dauphine ★★★
Soft, round and fruity in style. A little one dimensional but has charm. Light tannic structure. **2007-10.**



Sauternes

by David Peppercorn MW

Rain and warm weather in August favoured the development of grey rot and caused early anxiety, before perfect Sauternes conditions (morning mists