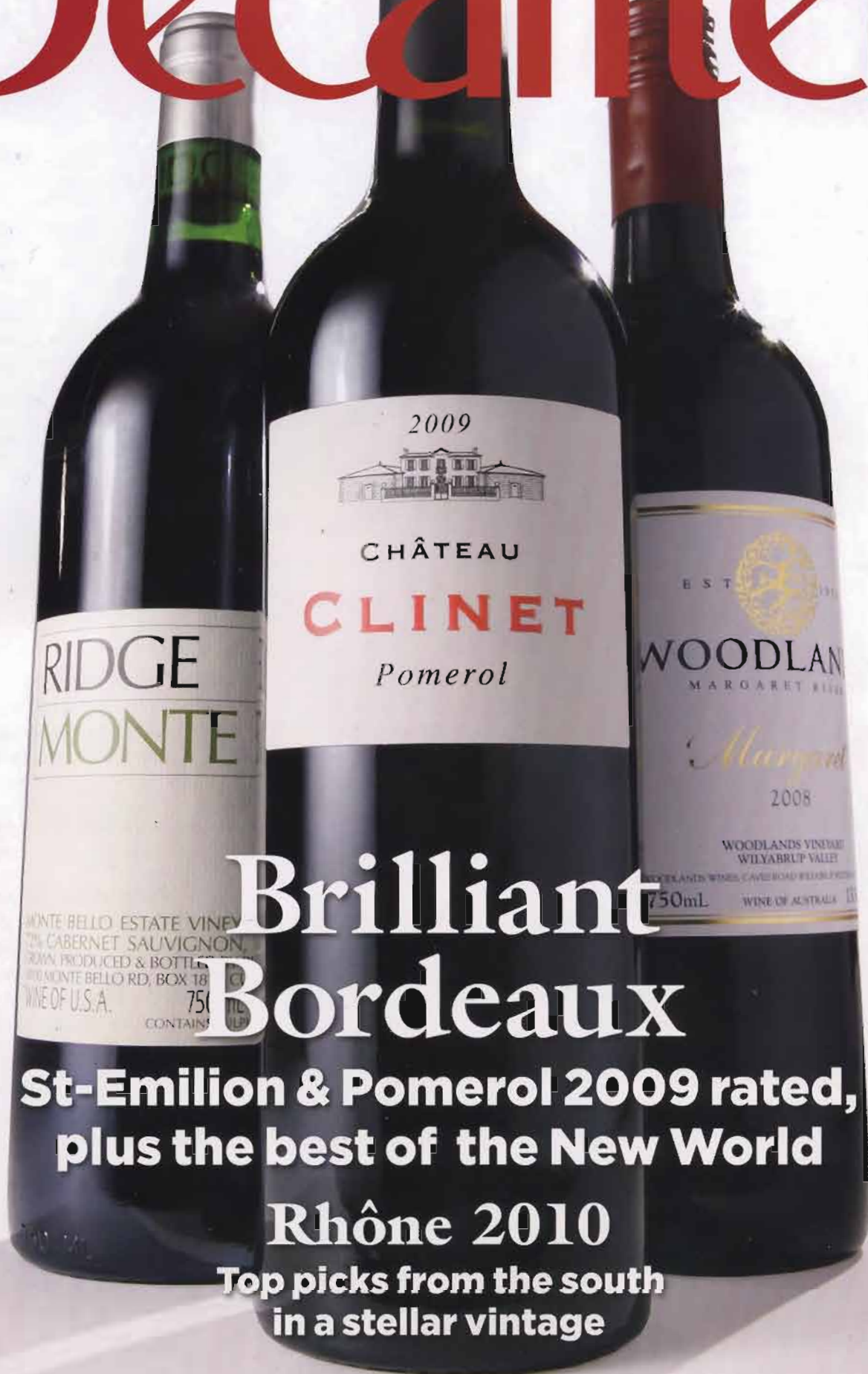


Cellaring  
special

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May 2012 £4.20

# Decanter



RIDGE  
MONTE

2009  
CHATEAU  
**CLINET**  
*Pomerol*

EST. 1898  
WOODLANDS  
MARGARET  
*Margaret*  
2008  
WOODLANDS VINEYARD  
WILLYABRUP VALLEY  
750mL WINE OF AUSTRALIA

**Brilliant  
Bordeaux**  
**St-Emilion & Pomerol 2009 rated,  
plus the best of the New World  
Rhône 2010**  
**Top picks from the south  
in a stellar vintage**

**Best Douro reds • Top storage tips • Sommeliers: an endangered species?**



## Highly recommended 16.5-18.49pts



### Quinta dos Murças, Reserva 2008

18.17

£24.50 Bat & Bottle, Charles Hawkins

Discreet, restrained nose of fresh mulberry. A youthful, promising and fine palate with firm, drying tannins. Fresh and balanced with a long sappy flavour and fragrant spice. Needs time. For fans of big stuff. **Drink:** 2013-2020. **Alc:** N/A



### Andreza, Grande Reserva 2009

18 N/A UK [www.winesandwinemakers.pt](http://www.winesandwinemakers.pt)

Quite showy on the nose with notes of pepper, cassis, elegant oak, plum, mulberry and smoky bacon. Very full and concentrated with soft, supple tannins, a full and firm grip, and a long, concentrated finish. One for the long term. **Drink:** 2012-2017. **Alc:** 14%



### Quinta do Vale Meão 2009

17.67 £60 Corks of Cotham, Handford

Ripe, lively violet and cherry bouquet. Juicy, mouthfilling fruit, a savoury, smoky complexity and careful oak influence. It has nice concentration and is well poised. Approachable and engaging. **Drink:** 2012-2016. **Alc:** 14.5%



### Castelinho, Argentea 2009

17.5 £14.20-£16.20 (2008) En Primeur, The Sampler

Youthful aromas of strong cyprus resin, violet, meat and herbaceous notes. Very elegant, uplifting palate with smooth and giving fruit, freshness and balance. Has a lovely, long, menthol finish. **Drink:** 2012-2014. **Alc:** 13.5%



### Quinta do Crasto, Douro Reserva Old Vines 2009

17.5 £22.95 Great Western Wine, Secret Cellar, Swig

Lovely berry fruit, violet, beetroot, earth and a generous lick of oak on the nose. It promises and delivers a velvety texture and has a well-covered tannin structure. It has lovely depth of flavour and just a hint of savoury oak. Elegant and linear. **Drink:** 2012-2018. **Alc:** 14.5%



### Quinta da Fronteira, Reserva 2009

17.42 N/A UK [www.quintadafronteira.com](http://www.quintadafronteira.com)

Pronounced oak, briary fruit, compote, fig and sweet spice on the nose. Very good concentration of fruit with quite soft, big, chalky tannins and evident new wood on the palate. Ambitious, ripe and juicy wine made in an international style. **Drink:** 2013-2019. **Alc:** 14.5%



### Douro Family Estates, Signature 2009

17.4 N/A UK [www.dourofamilylestates.co.pt](http://www.dourofamilylestates.co.pt)

Open, dark mulberry, blackberry and cassis aromas with floral perfume. Very firmly structured, it is full and enchanting with savoury, spicy notes and zesty acidity on the finish. **Drink:** 2012-2020. **Alc:** 14.5%



### Douro Family Estates, Quinta das Bajancas, Reserva 2009

17.33 N/A UK [www.dourofamilylestates.co.pt](http://www.dourofamilylestates.co.pt)

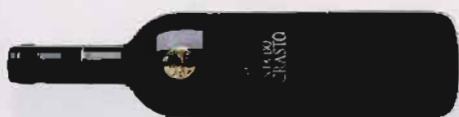
Elegant floral perfume with spicy plum, sweet oak and Porty notes. Very full style with massive concentration, full-bodied fruit and fine tannins. It has a concentrated finish and a ripe structure. **Drink:** 2012-2016. **Alc:** 13.5%



### Inquieto, Reserva 2008

17.25 N/A UK [www.douroprime.com](http://www.douroprime.com)

Dense aroma of young black cherry with a generous lick of oak. Attractive, sweet, juicy fruit is underpinned by a sophisticated structure. It has a concentrated creamy core and is very appealing. Accomplished modern style. **Drink:** 2012-2017. **Alc:** 14.5%



### Quinta do Crasto, Tinta Roriz 2009

17.17 £38.95 Great Western Wine, Secret Cellar, Swig

Very sweet strawberry, new oak and peppery, spicy, Douro fruit bouquet. Very good balance with well-handled tannins and attractively structured. It shows good Douro character. Well made. **Drink:** 2012-2016. **Alc:** 14%



### Vinhos Douro Superior, Quinta da Casa, Reserva 2008

17.17 N/A UK [www.vds.pt](http://www.vds.pt)

Rustic, earthy and ripe floral fruit bouquet. It has personality and improves on acquaintance. Honest, bright and balanced wine with full plum and cherry flavours framed by ripe tannins. Finishes well. Quite elegant and pretty. **Drink:** 2012-2016. **Alc:** 14%



### Sobredos, Aneto, Grande Reserva 2009

17.13 N/A UK [www.aneto.com.pt](http://www.aneto.com.pt)

Fragrant, plump and charming, berry-scented fruit aroma. It has good concentration and a chunk of oak in there. Rich and dense but not hot; it has been softened by creamy new oak. Rich and fulfilling. **Drink:** 2012-2017. **Alc:** 14.5%

4

star wines

## Highly recommended (continued) 16.5–18.49pts



### Andreza, Reserva 2009 17

N/A UK [www.winesandwinemakers.pt](http://www.winesandwinemakers.pt)

Soft, sweet ripe fruit nose of dark fruit liqueur, chocolate and Christmas spice. A big wine with a massive structure. Accessible, creamy style flirting between fruit and oak. It has firm, dark, berry fruit on the finish and good balance.

Drink: 2012–2017. Alc: 14%



### Domingos Alves de Sousa, Quinta da Gaivosa 2008 17

£35 Atlantico UK

Seductive and elegant aromas of ripe raspberry, cherry, violet, lavender, herb and plums.

Excellent composure and feel to the palate with fine tannins and an uplifting, spicy, complex finish. It is a spicy, fleshy and opulent wine.

Drink: 2012–2020. Alc: 14.5%



### Domingos Alves de Sousa, Tapadinha TTT 2008 17

N/A UK [www.alvesdesousa.com](http://www.alvesdesousa.com)

Attractive and inviting, soft, spicy, floral and blue fruit aromas. A densely textured, mouthfilling red with big fruit, a velvety smooth texture and a lovely complex finish. Smooth, rich and supple. Drink: 2012–2016. Alc: 15%



### Quinta da Touriga-Chã, Puro 2008 17

£14.50 Flourish & Prosper

Rose, violet, spice and earthy aromas. Good grip and clarity on the palate and has a cool elegance to it. It has sweet fruit and richness of flavour with chewy, structured, assertive tannins. Needs time but has complexity. Drink: 2012–2017.

Alc: 14%



### Quinta da Fronteira, 2009 17

N/A UK [www.quintadafronteira.com](http://www.quintadafronteira.com)

Fragrant, graceful nose of black fruits, bright briary notes, dark cherry and herb. It has a seductive florality of rose and a lovely textured depth. The tannins are seamless and it is deliciously balanced. Needs time.

Drink: 2012–2017. Alc: 14%

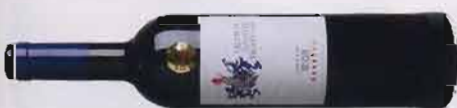


### Quinta do Infantado, Reserva 2009 17

£25.50–£28.99 Liberty Wines, Slurp

High-toned nose of smoky oak and mulberry. It has muscular tannins and penetrating flavours with a finely judged structure showing toast rather than sweetness from oak. Given a few years, this will be very good. Drink: 2013–2016.

Alc: N/A



### Quinta do Monte Travesso, Reserva 2009 17

N/A UK [www.quintadomontetravesso.com](http://www.quintadomontetravesso.com)

Dense, youthful and still vinous nose. Fragrant blue, black and plum fruit comes through on the palate which is nice and juicy. It has nice grip from its broad tannins and good depth. A very correct wine. Drink: 2012–2020. Alc: 14.5%



### Sobredos, Aneto 2009 17

N/A UK [www.aneto.com.pt](http://www.aneto.com.pt)

Lovely nose of fragrant, crunchy, creamy red and black fruit and violets. Tightly knit, silky palate with ripe, tarry, spicy and raisiny fruit. It has good integrity and elegant balance.

Well structured, lovely wine. Drink: 2013–2018.

Alc: 14.5%



### Wine & Soul, Pintas Character 2009 17

£24 Corney & Barrow, Tanners

Bergamot, blackberry, cassis, cream and lavender perfume. Firm and structured with soft forest-fruit flavours. It has lovely balance and finesse on the palate with a beautiful finish.

Drink: 2012–2015. Alc: 14.5%



### Barão de Vilar, Zom Reserva 2008

16.9

N/A UK [www.baraodevilar.com](http://www.baraodevilar.com)

Dark, intense aromatics of black fruit, leather, spice, flowers and lots of toast. Succulent black cherry fruit with a cinnamon edge. The palate has a silky feel, lovely complexity and real fruit purity. Will improve. Drink: 2012–2017. Alc: 14%



### João Brito e Cunha, Quinta de S José Reserva 2009

16.88

N/A UK [www.quintasjose.com](http://www.quintasjose.com)

Dark, spicy fruit, chocolate and cherry bouquet. Smooth and fresh with good flavour, depth and richness. The tannins are broad and it has creamy, integrated oak leading to a smooth, richly textured palate. Has a lot of finesse.

Drink: 2012–2018. Alc: 14.5%



### Niepoort, Vertente 2009

16.83

£18–£19 Bat & Bottle, Corks of Cotham, Tanners, Uncorked

Ripe, oaky fruit which is plummy and full on the nose. Soft and rich initially, with ripe tannins rising in the mouth. Very well made with lovely balance. Texturally it is sleek and silky so even though it is concentrated, it feels light.

Drink: 2012–2017. Alc: 13.5%