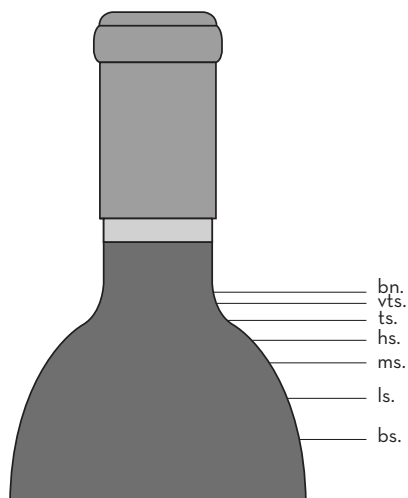


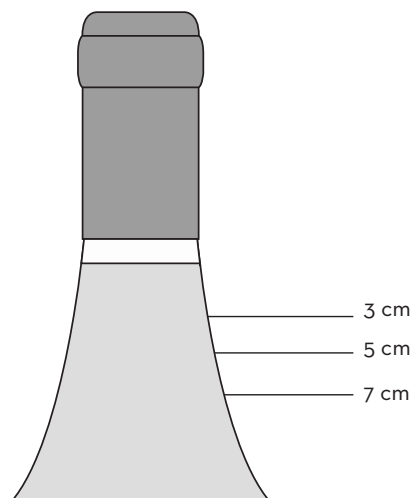
# Level / Ullage Descriptions and Interpretations



## Bordeaux Levels

For wines in bottles with defined shoulders, including Bordeaux, Port, and other wines, the level is measured and catalogued as follows:

- BN. **BASE NECK:** Perfectly good for any age of wine. Outstandingly good for a wine of 10 years in bottle, or longer.
- VTS. **VERY TOP SHOULDER**
- TS. **TOP SHOULDER:** Normal for any Bordeaux 15 years old or older.
- HS. **HIGH SHOULDER:** Slight natural reduction through the easing of the cork and evaporation through cork and capsule. Usually no problem. Acceptable for any wine over 20 years old. Exceptional for pre-1950 wines.
- MS. **MID SHOULDER:** Probably some weakening of the cork and some risk. Not abnormal for wines 30 - 40 years of age. Estimates usually take this into account.
- LS. **LOW SHOULDER:** Risky and usually only accepted for sale if wine or label exceptionally rare or interesting. Always offered with low estimate.
- BS. **BOTTOM SHOULDER:** Not acceptable for sale unless a rare sort of bottle. Wine will usually be undrinkable.
- U. **ULLAGE:** Level.  
*Example: (u. 2ts) means 2 bottles ullaged to top shoulder.*
- OC. **ORIGINAL CARTON**
- OWC. **ORIGINAL WOODEN CASE**
- RC. **RESERVE CHÂTEAU**



## Burgundy Levels

For wines in bottles with sloping necks, including Burgundy, German and other wines, the level between the cork and wine is measured and catalogued in centimetres.

The condition and drinkability of Burgundy is less affected by ullage than its equivalent from Bordeaux. A 5 - 7 cm ullage in a 50-year-old Burgundy can be considered normal, indeed good for age; 3.5-4 cm excellent for age; 7 cm rarely a risk.

*Example: (u. 3x5cm) means 3 bottles ullaged 5 cm.*

## Bottle Sizes

- HF. BT. **HALF BOTTLE** = 0.375 litres
- BT(S). **BOTTLE(S)** = 0.75 litres
- LTR. **LITRE**
- MAG. **MAGNUM** = 1.5 litres, or two regular bottles
- D. MAG. **DOUBLE MAGNUM (BORDEAUX, PORT)** = 3 litres
- JERO. **JEROBOAM (BURGUNDY, CHAMPAGNE)** = 3 litres
- JERO. **JEROBOAM (BORDEAUX)** = 5 litres\*
- IMP. **IMPÉRIALE (BORDEAUX)** = 6 litres
- METH. **METHUSELAH (BURGUNDY, CHAMPAGNE)** = 6 litres
- SALM. **SALMANAZAR** = 9 litres

*\*Up to 1978, jeroboams were generally bottled in 4.5-ltr. bottles.*

## Notes and Rating Sources

- WA **Wine Advocate**
- WS **Wine Spectator**

*Special notice: Though every effort is made to describe or measure the levels of older vintages, corks over 20 years old begin to lose their elasticity and levels can change between cataloguing and sale. Old corks have also been known to fail during or after shipment. We therefore repeat that there is always a risk of cork failure with old wines and due allowance must be made for this. Under no circumstances can an adjustment of price or credit be made after delivery except under the terms of the warranty stated in the Conditions of Sale.*

0.187 L  SPLIT

0.375 L  HALF

0.75 L  STANDARD

1.5 L  MAGNUM

2.25 L  MARIE-JEANNE

3.0 L  DOUBLE MAGNUM

5.0 L  JEROBOAM

6.0 L  IMPERIALE

9.0 L  SALMANAZAR

12.0 L  BALTHAZAR

15.0 L  NEBUCHADNEZZAR

18.0 L  MELCHIOR