

Château Charmail 2021

CSPC# 801687

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety 45% Merlot, 37% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13% Cabernet Franc, 5% Petit Verdot
Appellation Haut Medoc
Classification Cru Bourgeois Exceptionnel
Website <https://chateau-charmail.com/en-da>

Sustainability Conversion en Agriculture Biologique
HVE from 2018-2022

General Info Charmail has to be one of the best wine values in Bordeaux. A wonderfully made Haut-Médoc; fresh, full of life and flavour which in certain vintages, like 2000, 2005 and 2009, Charmail operates at the level of the classed growths – quite remarkable for a relatively inexpensive wine. In 2008 Bernard d'Halluin bought the property from Olivier Sèze.

Charmail takes its name from its history that dates back to the 16th century, namely the Trevey family of Charmail who settled at that time in the Médoc. Built in the middle of the 19th century, Chateau Charmail commands a charming estate overlooking the Gironde on the northern side of Saint-Estèphe. Surrounding the chateau, the vineyard is all of a piece, situated on gravel crests and at present covers some twenty-eight hectares. It is planted to Cabernet franc and Cabernet-Sauvignon, Merlot and Petit Verdot.

The owner Bernard d'Halluin strives to create wines of balance, and since 2017 has HVE3 certification for sustainability. Winemaking is performed by the former owner, Olivier Sèze, a trained agronomist, well-versed in the latest enological methods. Sèze has become a veritable pioneer ("maverick" might be the more accurate term) in the Médoc. Since 1991, his successful development of the technique called, "pre-fermentation, cold maceration" has roused interest throughout the Médoc, in Saint-Emilion, and even at the Institute of Enology in Bordeaux. The technique is similar to that widely employed by the Burgundian enologist, Guy Accad, although much less sulfur dioxide is used at Charmail. It results in deeply colored, "fatter" wines with softer tannins than might otherwise be the case using traditional fermentation techniques.

In 2021, an association takes up the torch of the Grand Charmail project, which aims to reconstitute the original Charmail. The association is composed of Bernard d'Halluin, the Goudet-Liquard family, and Sébastien Pineau, the great winemaker of Charmail.

Winemaker Sébastien Pineau

Vintage 2021 is different from the sun-drenched trilogy of vintages of 2018, 2019 and 2020. It is a vintage of terroir, in a more classic style, produced from a growing season made complicated by the vagaries of the climate and high vine disease pressure. It was also marked by the freezing nights of 7th and 8th April, during which temperatures plunged to below minus 5°C, which impacted the crop size. The tireless work put in by the whole team, the meticulous knowledge of the vineyard, and the estate's warmish sandy-gravel soils enabled, despite challenging conditions, the harvesting of grapes that were phenolically fully ripe and in very good health.

Vineyards 52 hectares on a single plot on sloping terrain with a southerly aspect looking out to the Gironde estuary. Soils are clay gravel, sandy gravel, and colluvium. 48% merlot, 30% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot. The average vine age is 31 years. The vineyards are situated not that far from Chateau Sociando Mallet in the northern part of the Left Bank. The vineyards of Chateau Charmail are planted to a vine density that ranges between 6,666 to 8,700 vines per hectare. Newer plantings are done at the high level of vine densities.

Harvest Manual harvest

Winemaking Cold pre-fermentation maceration. Gentle extraction. The wine was aged for 12 months, 85% in 500-litre barrels (50% of which were new wood) and 15% in concrete eggs



Tasting Notes	The 2021 vintage presents fresh, graceful, well-built fruit, with a still tight heart that will age well. This is once again a great success, and we salute the price level allocated in relation to the quality. Deep garnet. On the nose, fruity notes dominate. This is a modern wine from this modest appellation where the search for fruit and purity are the guiding principles. The balance on palate makes for a wine that can be drunk young although it can still benefit from ageing. Of good length, this wine expresses the qualities of a good Bordeaux.
Serve with	The wine of Chateau Charmail is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes. Charcuterie, meats, grilled meats, spicy dishes, game, lamb, hard cheeses, soft cheeses.
Cellaring	Drink 2023-2027
Scores/Awards	<p>80-82 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent (score only) - May 2022</p> <p>89-90 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2022</p> <p>90 points - Jane Anson, Inside Bordeaux - April 2022</p> <p>88-90 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2022</p> <p>88 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2022</p> <p>88 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2024</p> <p>91 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2022</p> <p>94 points - Terre de Vins - April 2022</p> <p>92 points - Vert de Vin - July 2022</p> <p>90-91 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - May 2022</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Some juicy fruit with berries and currants on the center-palate, together with fine tannins. Savory."</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"Fully expressive on the nose, richly scented and fruit forward. Beautiful expression here, you get that lightly framed palate in terms of weight with such clarity of strawberry and raspberry fruit - piercing from the acidity almost but it's reined in by the texture and hefty grip of the fine stone tannins and the more savoury elements of bitter black chocolate, liquorice and vanilla that balance out all the elements. Precision, refinement, and character. A delicious wine this year that will soften and continue to give over ageing. Easy pleasure."</i> - JA, janeanson.com</p> <p><i>"Dark currants and herbs on the nose, the wine is medium-bodied, earthy, herbal, and olive, centric on the crisp, red berry palate. Drink from 2023-2036."</i> - JL, thewinecellarinsider.com</p> <p><i>"The 2021 Charmail has a well-defined bouquet of blackberry and raspberry fruit, the oak well integrated. The palate is medium-bodied with good fruit concentration, and well balanced and delineated, leading to a brisk, focused finish. This is a superb Haut-Médoc."</i> - AG, Vinous</p> <p><i>"Dark ruby garnet, violet reflection, delicate edge brightening. Dark wild berries, delicate tobacco nuances, fresh plums, a hint of licorice, mineral touch. Juicy, elegant, ripe berry fruit, round tannins, mineral and well-lingering, subtle sweetness on the finish, fresh aftertaste, has aging potential."</i> - PM, Falstaff Magazine</p> <p><i>"The nose is fruity, racy and offers a certain harmony, a fine reductive edge at the moment of tasting. There are notes of fresh strawberry, fresh cherry and more lightly violet combined with fine hints of pulpy blackcurrant, a touch of balsamic and hints of violet and fine pepper. The palate is fruity and offers freshness, minerality, unctuousness, good definition, a nice minerality, a nice expression of fruit and gourmandize. On the palate, this wine demonstrates notes of fleshy/pulpy cherry, violet and, more slightly, juicy blueberry combined with touches of fresh red berries, racy minerality (almost discreetly iodized) as well as fine points of fresh blond tobacco, vanilla, and a discreet hint of grey pepper. The tannins are soft."</i> - Vert de Vin</p> <p><i>"The nose is very intense, on blueberries, blackcurrant, and wild strawberries. It's fresh and pure. From the attack, this wine confirms this state of purity with deliciousness in balance. Aging carries the wine, never suffocates it. Charmail delivers a 2021 under the sign of elegance and pleasure."</i> - Terre de Vins</p>
