

Château Chasse Spleen 2019

CSPC# 880791

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	52% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, 6% Petit Verdot, 2% Cabernet Franc
Appellation	Moulis-en-Médoc
Classified	Cru Bourgeois Exceptionnel
Website	http://www.chasse-spleen.com/#!/millesimes
General Info	<p>Château Chasse-Spleen is the leading Moulis estate along with Château Poujeaux. Although it is classified only as a Cru Bourgeois, it regularly outperforms many of the Médoc's more renowned classed growths. There are two theories behind the château's rather unusual name: firstly, that, when Lord Byron visited the estate in 1821, he remarked 'Quel remède pour chasser le spleen'. Secondly, that it is named after Baudelaire's poem, Spleen.</p> <p>Chasse-Spleen's wines were always noteworthy, though the quality improved dramatically with its acquisition by the Taillan Group, which also owns Château Haut-Bages-Libéral, in 1976. It was run by Bernadette Villars until she and her husband were killed in an accident while hiking in the Pyrénées in 1992. The property is now run by her daughter Claire.</p>
Winemaker	Jacques Boissenot. Éric Boissenot consults.
Vintage	Winter 2019 is classic thus perfect, quite cold, and not too wet. February and March are very mild but very dry, followed by an April with very dense rains. No better with a few frost nights that heckle a few buds. A very regular rain floods June and the flower get out of it, almost. July sets records of heat. August and early September is more normalized. Alas, it is under a threatening and sometimes yielding sky that the harvest will take place. But once again, experience and cold-blood give birth to a very good wine, even exceptional.
Harvest	Merlot: from 26/09/2019 to 02/10/2019 Cabernet Sauvignon: from 02/10/2019 to 11/10/2019 Petit Verdot: 07/10/2019 Cabernet Franc: 03/10/2019
Vineyards	The vineyards of Chasse-Spleen are heavily parcellated, but lie not far from Arcins, to the south of the gravelly hill on which sits the village of Grand Poujeaux. The soils are mostly Garonne gravel, with some chalky clay mixed in, and the 80 hectares of vines, which average 30 years of age, are largely Cabernet Sauvignon (73%), with 20% Merlot and 7% Petit Verdot. The soils between rows are ploughed rather than planted, and harvesting is manual.
Maturation	The fruit is fermented in stainless steel and cement vats with temperature control, and then aged for between 12 and 14 months in oak barrels, of which 40% are new each year. The wine is fined with egg white before bottling.
Tasting Notes	Nose slightly vanilla with deep aromas of cherry, blackberry, blackcurrant, and old rose. Ample and wide attack. Voluminous and supple mouth with velvety tannins, marked by new wood at this stage. Long and fruity persistence. Wait 2025 to taste with an ageing potential to 2045.
Serve with	Chateau Chasse Spleen is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius. The wine of Chateau Chasse Spleen is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes. Enjoy with sticky spiced lamb shanks and mustard mash!
Cellaring	Drink 2029-2049
Scores/Awards	92 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022 92-93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2020 16+ points - James Lawther, JancisRobinson.com - March 2020 92 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - March 2020 90 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2022



Scores/Awards **89-91 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - June 2020

93 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2022

92-94 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - January 2020

88-90 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - June 2020

85 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2020

92 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - June 2020

17 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - September 2020

Reviews *"Offering up aromas of cassis, plums, pencil lead and licorice, the 2019 Chasse-Spleen is medium to full-bodied, with a fleshy core of fruit, lively acids and ripe, powdery tannins that assert themselves on the finish with a very civilized expression of Moulis-typical grip. Forget it for a decade and follow it for the next two."*
- WK, Wine Advocate

"A very polished red with notes of blackberries, chocolate, nuts and cured tobacco. Medium bodied with a juicy finish. Nice finesse and polish."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Attractive cassis and spice nose. Lots of lift and freshness. Tannins chalky and firm but sufficient fruit to coat them and fill the mid palate. Decent length on the dry finish."
- JL, JancisRobinson.com

"Showing much better in the bottle after the aging process, the medium-bodied, soft, fresh wine is focused on its core of ripe, sweet, currants, tobacco, and spice. Not very weighty, but it makes up for that with its elegance and finesse. Drink from 2024-2037."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Herbs, tobacco, red berries and cedar in the nose bring you to a medium-bodied, fresh, bright, lifted, sweet and tart, floral red plum and cassis-packed finish."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"The 2019 Chasse-Spleen is very perfumed on the nose, offering vivid brambly red fruit, leather, undergrowth, and cedar aromas that gain intensity with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied and cohesive, with a sappy opening and fine acidity. Lightly spiced, showing plenty of substance on the finish. While not the most consistent estate, Chasse-Spleen has it in its grasp to make great wines, and the 2019 is one of them. 2025 – 2050."
- NM, Vinous

"The 2019 Chasse-Spleen is tight-fisted on the nose despite leaving my sample three or four hours to open. But I do appreciate the fruit profile: blackberry, wild strawberry, cedar, and light tobacco scents almost reluctantly unfurling. The palate looks promising, classic in style, not reserved but not wanting to show off at this early stage. Fresh from the start, the acidity is well judged, and it has an appealing grainy texture. It is detailed with touches of graphite lingering on the aftertaste. Excellent."
- NM, Vinous

"The 2019 Chasse-Spleen is lifted and aromatic in feel. Crushed leaves, mint, dried herbs and sweet red cherry fruit all grace this attractive light- to medium-bodied Moulis. A wine of understatement, Chasse-Spleen will drink well right out of the gate."
- AG, Vinous

"Deep ruby, purple glints, faintly lighter at the rim. Cassis and wild berries, dark cherries, delicate savoury herbal nuances, mineral touch. Juicy, ripe sweetheart cherries, freshly structured, well-integrated tannins, mineral, and vibrant. A sophisticated supper companion."
- Falstaff Magazine
