

Château Malescasse 2015

CSPC# 801699

750mlx12

14.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

46% Merlot, 45% Cabernet Sauvignon, 9% Petit Verdot

Appellation

Haut Medoc

Classification

Cru Bourgeois

Website

<http://www.chateau-malescasse.com/en/>

General Info

Chateau Malescasse was founded by the Renouil Family in 1824. The original owners held the estate for more than fifty years until selling the vineyard to the Pineguy family in 1887.

Like all Bordeaux estates, the property has had its up and down periods, with some owners having the funds to maintain the estate and its vineyards better than others. By the mid 1970's, the vineyards were barely planted and only 4 hectares of vines remained.

Things started to improve, albeit slightly for Chateau Malescasse by the mid 1990's, when the Alcatel company purchased the property. They were quite experienced in Bordeaux, as they already owned Chateau Gruaud Larose in Saint Julien. In 2012, Philippe Austruy purchased Chateau Malescasse.

This was not the first wine investment for Philippe Austruy, as he already owned a vineyard in Provence, La Commanderie Peyrassol. One of the early moves made by Philippe Austruy after taking over the estate was to bring in the team of Stephane Derenoncourt to improve their wine making and vineyard management.

In an effort to improve the reputation of the estate, they were one of the first Bordeaux chateau to announce they were going to declassify their entire production from the 2013 harvest. It took a few years, but starting with the 2014 vintage, things have been on the upswing at Chateau Malescasse.

Vintage

The Haut Medoc is a sprawling appellation with close to 4,200 hectares planted with vines. When you include the Medoc, you are over 10,000 hectares in size. Moulis and Listrac add to the total. That is an incredibly large area with more than 500 active producers making wine! As you can easily imagine, an area of that size is going to have an array of different terroirs. And to honest, much of that terroir is not great, so in difficult vintages, for example 2015, where the growers had to deal with drought and overflows from too much moisture, the level of quality can be variable.

Still, there are estates that made successful 2015 Haut Medoc wines and also chateaux producing solid 2015 Medoc wines as well. Depending on where your vineyard was located this vintage really made a difference here. The warm, dry, drought conditions during the summer caused a lot of stress to the vines. The late season rains were a lot to handle for vineyards that not able to offer the necessary amount of drainage.

Vineyards

The 40 hectare Left Bank vineyard of Chateau Malescasse is planted to 54% Merlot, 39% Cabernet Sauvignon and 7% Petit Verdot. The terroir is gravel, clay, limestone and sandy soils. The vines are old with an average vine age of 35 years. The vineyard is located at about the midpoint between the Margaux appellation to the south and the St. Julien appellation to the north. Their best parcels of vines are found on their land with the gravelly slopes.

To produce the wine of Chateau Malescasse, vinification takes place in stainless steel tanks. Malolactic fermentation takes place in vat. The wine is aged in about 40% new, French oak barrels for up to 14 months before bottling.

Vinification

The grapes are fermented in temperature-controlled stainless-steel vats and the wine is then matured in oak barriques (25% new) for 14 months. These are medium-bodied, well-structured, fruit-driven clarets that show at their best with around 5 years of bottle age.



Serve with	Chateau Malecasse is a perfect match with Asian dishes, hearty fish courses like tuna, mushrooms and pasta, as well as cheese.
Production	5,417 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2019-2024
Scores/Awards	<p>89 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2018</p> <p>90 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #223 - October 2017</p> <p>92 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - February 2018</p> <p>93-94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2016</p> <p>92 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2018</p> <p>16.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - September 2017</p> <p>16.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2016</p> <p>89 points - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2016</p> <p>88-89 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2016</p> <p>86-88 points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2016</p> <p>91 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2016</p> <p>92 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2018</p> <p>91 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - September 2017</p> <p>89-92 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2016</p> <p>93 points - Wine Access - February 2018</p> <p>90 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2018</p> <p>88-90 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - May 2016</p> <p>16.5 points - Gault & Millau (score only) - June 2016</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Focused, with a mix of black cherry and red currant fruit lined with light tobacco and singed alder notes. Features a light graphite hint through the finish. Best from 2019 through 2024. 5,417 cases made."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Tasted at the Cru Bourgeois annual tasting, the 2015 Malescasse felt broody and saturnine on the nose, mulch-like aromas percolating through the black fruit. The palate is medium bodied with grainy tannin, quite austere in style and old-fashioned but it pulls it off well. Don't approach if you want bags of fruit, but personally I adore the pencil shaving finish and its old school sensibility. Tasted September 2017."</i> - NM, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Ripe dark plum fruits and baking spices in a cedary frame with background leafy complexity. This leads to a quite plush palate that delivers sinewy tannin with cassis and blackberry flavors to close. Try from 2020."</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"This is a fantastic example of this wine with wonderful richness and depth. Full body, chewy and rich. Goes on for minutes."</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"This estate, based in the Gironde port village of Lamarque, has produced a richly textured, chocolate and bitter-cocoa-flavored wine. That is only a problem at the moment, because ripe black-currant fruits are developing under the structure to give density, concentration and a serious wine as it ages. Drink from 2021."</i> - RV, Wine Enthusiast</p> <p><i>"46% Merlot, 45% Cabernet Sauvignon, 9% Petit Verdot. Deep, dark crimson with a glow. Inkiness and freshness on the nose. A very strong statement -- really quite luscious. Should deliver oodles of pleasure. *Very Good Value* (JR)"</i> - JR, JancisRobinson.com</p> <p><i>"A Stéphane Derenoncourt wine. Glowing dark purplish crimson. Pepper and vigour on the nose. Stands out from the crowd for its ambition. Well-made classic Médoc. Medium intensity but very good balance."</i> - JR, JancisRobinson.com</p> <p><i>"Very good expression of fruit with some florality and ripe tannins. Impressive for Malescasse."</i> - SS, Decanter.com</p>

Reviews *"Medium bodied, early drinking soft textured well priced wine with fresh dark red fruits tobacco earth and spice in the finish. This has good character and it sells for a song! 88 - 90 Pts"*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Deep and saturated; ripe and creamy aromatics; fruitcake spices; nice depth here; good fruit; excellent effort from Malescasse. Positive wine. Drink 2021-2028. Tasted Cru Bourgeois event at d'Arcins 7/4/16. 86-88+"

- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

"One of those wines that tends to fly under the radar, this comes from a large and underrated property. Dense, serious and aromatic, with the backbone to age, this is a considerable bargain. One for claret lovers. Apr 2016, www.timatkin.com, Drink: 2020-2028 "

- Tim Atkin

"One of the real sleepers of 2015, the Malescasse has turned out beautifully. Sumptuous, dark and brooding in its beauty, the 2015 is bursting at the seams with intensity. Crème de cassis, lavender, licorice and menthol are some of the many aromas and flavors that build in this exceptionally beautiful, vivid Haut-Médoc. The blend is 50% Merlot, 40% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Petit Verdot and 5% Cabernet Franc. The 2015 is a brilliant effort from Malescasse and consulting winemakers Frédéric Massie and Hannah Fiegenschuh."

- AG, Vinous

"Tasted at the Cru Bourgeois annual tasting, the 2015 Malescasse felt broody and saturnine on the nose, mulch-like aromas percolating through the black fruit. The palate is medium bodied with grainy tannin, quite austere in style and old-fashioned but it pulls it off well. Don't approach if you want bags of fruit, but personally I adore the pencil shaving finish and its old school sensibility. Tasted September 2017."

- AG, Vinous

"The 2015 Malescasse is terrific. A wine of energy and real class, the Malescasse is super-impressive today. Crème de cassis, violets, mint, licorice and plums are all beautifully delineated in this gracious, mid-weight Cru. Frédéric Massie Hannah Fiegenschuh are the consulting winemakers."

- AG, Vinous

"One of the most successful Cru Bourgeois I was able to taste is the 2015 Château Malescasse which comes from an estate located between Margaux and Saint-Julien. A rough blend of 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot and 5% Petit Verdot, this beauty boasts a deep ruby/purple color as well as loads of ripe dark fruits, chocolate, bay leaf and exotic spices. Medium-bodied, nicely concentrated, with ripe tannin and the upfront, sexy charm of the 2015 vintage, give bottles a couple years in the cellar and enjoy through 2027"

- Jeb Dunnuck

"Deep ruby-purple. Sexy, aromatic nose, featuring a plush mix of ripe blueberry, blackberry, violets, and mint. Pure, precise, and full-bodied, showing muscularity in the mid-palate, with chewy flavors of black and red fruits, licorice, and dried herbs accented by exceptional mineral persistence. This is a superb effort which will continue to improve over the next decade."

- Wine Access