

Château Sénéjac 2012

CSPC# 811815

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot, 12% Cabernet Franc, 4% Petit Verdot

Appellation

Haut Médoc

Website

<https://www.chateau-senejac.com/>

General Info

Ch. Sénéjac is one of the better known Crus Bourgeois of the Haut-Médoc, located near to the vineyards of Margaux, just outside Parempuyre in the far south of the Haut-Médoc region. Sénéjac is a historic estate of 150 hectares, of which only 38 are under vine, and even in the middle of the 19th century produced 100,000 bottles, not far short of its modern-day total. Its reputation for making high quality wine blossomed in the 1980s and then in 1999 it entered a new era when it was bought by Lorraine Cordier, whose family also owned the famous St Julien property, Chateau Talbot. Recently the estate has changed hands and is now owned by Monsieur Rutsman.

Vintage

The problem with the appellation of Haut-Médoc is that they are so dependent on Cabernet Sauvignon, the late ripening variety that had such difficulty achieving full ripeness in 2012. The whole season, in stark contrast to 2011, was so late, with horrid weather during flowering resulting in very uneven ripening even on the same bunch. Lots of unsettled weather in spring and early summer was followed by an unusually hot, dry summer - so much so that the ripening process shut down completely at times. By early September Cabernets were a long way from achieving not just phenolic but even sugar ripeness.

Vineyards

Chateau Sénéjac is located in the Haut Medoc appellation, spread out over 150 hectares. The property has 39 hectares under vine, planted with 48% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Merlot, 11% Cabernet Franc and 4% Petit Verdot. The average age of vine is around 35 years.

Vinification/

Maturation

Grapes are hand-picked and sorted, then after the final wine is blended, matured in French oak barrels for 12-15 months, using at least 30% new oak.

Tasting Notes

This wine is characterized by a deep color, almost black in its younger years. The expressive nose shows aromas of black fruits and spices. In the mouth has intensity while remaining smooth and civilized with its fine tannins. This is a charming and distinguished wine to drink young to its fullness and fruit, or even better to age slowly to find the characteristics of its terroir.

Production

15,500 cases made

Cellaring

Drink 2015-2021

Scores/Awards

84 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2015

86 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #218 - April 2015

86-88 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2013

89-90 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2013

89-91 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2013

16 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2013

16 points (86) - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2013

87-90 points - Derek Smedley, MW - December 2013

90 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2013

87 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2013

87 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only)

15 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)

15 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)

14.5 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only)



Reviews *“Soft-edged, with relatively gentle mulled plum and cherry fruit flavors, backed by modest tobacco and sandalwood notes. Drink now. 15,500 cases made.”*

- JM, Wine Spectator

“This dark ruby/purple 2012 from Sénéjac exhibits a slight astringency to the tannin, but good ripeness, loads of blackcurrant fruit as well as earth, and very good depth. Drink it over the next 5-6 years.”

- RP, Wine Advocate

“The 2012 Sénéjac has a modest blackberry and raspberry leaf nose with fine definition if not quite the vigour of its peers. The palate is soft and supple on the entry with herbaceous, slightly dusty red fruit and a graphite-tinged finish that appeared more focused in the second bottle tasted at a négociant. Fine. Tasted April 2013.”

- NM, Wine Journal

“Intense aromas and flavors of black cherries and juicy plums with cedar notes. Full body, soft tannins and a long, silky finish. Firm and juicy. Better in 2017.”

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“This is a solid effort that’s packed with blackberry fruits and dark tannins. The wine has weight and structure that is balanced with the fruitiness. Barrel Sample: 89-91 Points”

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“Refreshing pure cassis and pretty cedary. Smooth, savoury and still juicy. Lovely dry fine-grained finish. Attractive, relatively delicate, in a leafy style. Great Value (JH)”

- JH, JancisRobinson.com

“Good supple cassis fruit and all the balanced elegance of this cru from the southern Medoc.”

- SS, Decanter.com

“Medium/full bodied, with good color and an earthy, tobacco, thyme and dark red berry character, finishing with fresh, crisp black raspberries and spice in the endnotes.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Medium bodied, fresh, bright, black raspberry filled wine that starts out soft, ending with a dusty, tannic finish.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Sweet ripe black fruits give a fleshy richness on the nose and fill out the palate. Cassis is underpinned by black plum the layers of fruit giving complexity with the underlying chocolate enriching the back palate and finish. 2017-27”

- Derek Smedley MW

“Well made Haut-Medoc red with juicy flavours and well managed tannins. There is ripe plums and cassis flavours along with firm tannins and freshness. A balanced wine with medium weight and elegance. Tasted in: Bordeaux, France. Maturity: Young.”

- JCL, asianpalate.com
