

Château Sociando-Mallet 2000

CSPC# 785889

750mlx12

12.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

48% Cabernet Sauvignon, 47% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

Haut Medoc

Classification

Cru Bourgeois

Website

<http://www.sociandomallet.com/>

General Info

Sociando Mallet takes its name from two previous owners. A nobleman known as Sociando held the property in 1633. Over a century later, the second part of the estates name came from a captain in the navy who owned the estate by the name of Mallet. It was Mallet who put the two names together to form Sociando Mallet. The modern era of Chateau Sociando Mallet began in 1969, when it was purchased by Jean Gautreau from the Tereygeol family for 250,000 French Francs.

When Jean Gautreau purchased Sociando Mallet in 1969, the property had fallen into poor condition in both the wine making facilities and their Haut Medoc vineyards. In fact, parts of the vineyards had gone fallow, as they had not been tended for years. When Sociando Mallet was originally purchased by Jean Guatreau, less than 8 hectares were under vine. Today, the vineyard is almost 85 hectares of vines at Sociando Mallet. Jean Gautreau quickly began alternating the expanding of the vineyard with additional purchases and replanting selections of his newly purchased vines. He was also simultaneously remodeling and renovating the wine making facilities. He added new, temperature controlled stainless vats and repaired the older concrete vats. Jean Gautreau also constructed a new, modern, tasting room with natural lighting and an unobstructed view of the Gironde.

Château Sociando-Mallet produces full-bodied wines with a deep, dark colour. Their complex bouquet is usually dominated by black fruit aromas with a touch of minerality and well-integrated, elegant oak. Often somewhat "virile" when young, the wines gain in balance and complexity with age. They are fresh, straightforward, and have a wonderful length.

Château Sociando-Mallet has always been a wine with great ageing potential. A wine to be enjoyed even after 30 years in great vintages.

Notes

Winner of a tasting organized by the Revue du Vin de France in 2003, opposing Crus Bourgeois and Second Classified Growths for the vintage 2000.

First place in the ranking of the 100 best Crus Bourgeois for the vintages 2000 and 2001, at a tasting organized by the Revue du Vin de France in 2004.

Vineyards

The large, 85-hectare Sociando Mallet vineyard, located in the far north of Haut Medoc appellation. If the old adage is true, that all the best vineyards in Bordeaux have a prime view of the Gironde, Chateau Sociando Mallet, with its unobstructed view of the water from both directions has a privileged terroir. The vineyards are situated north of the Saint Estephe appellation. Being that far north means they have a cooler climate than even their neighbors, just due south in St. Estephe, so they would naturally harvest later in most vintages and perform well in the hot dry years. Although, cooler years would then, also make it difficult for the grapes to develop full ripeness.

The terroir is gravel, with a subsoil of clay, sand and limestone soils. The vineyard of Sociando Mallet is planted to 48% Cabernet Sauvignon, 47% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Franc. This represents a change in plantings. Previously, the vineyard included a higher percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon and less Merlot, as well as a portion of Petit Verdot. As you can see, the Petit Verdot vines have been removed and more Merlot has been planted. The vineyard is planted to a vine density of 8,333 vines per hectare. On average, the vines are close to 30 years of age.

**Vinification/
Maturation**

The wine of Sociando Mallet is vinified in a series of temperature controlled, stainless steel vats and a small portion of traditional cement tanks. Malolactic fermentation



Vinification/ Maturation	takes place in vat. Chateau Sociando Mallet is aged in a combination of mostly 100% new, French oak barrels and the remainder is aged in tank. On average, 95% of the harvest is aged in mostly new, French oak barrels, while the remaining 5% of the harvest is aged in tank for about 12 months.
Tasting Notes	The 2000 vintage is one of the very good recent vintages, but the wines are late bloomers taking many years to gain the elegance expected of a quality Bordeaux. The very intense nose on this 2000 is showing nicely now with black current, cigar box, licorice and earth, earth, earth. With more time in the decanter, dried fruit and smoke become prominent. There is great aromatic complexity and depth. The palate too is full of flavor. Medium body with a clean, crisp, clear mid-palette, you have only seconds to enjoy it before the tannins grip and overwhelm as you lunge for the water glass.
Serve with	Chateau Sociando Mallet is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. Young vintages can be decanted for 2-3 hours. This allows the wine to soften and open its perfume. The wine will also gently warm in the glass, releasing its aromatics. Older vintages might also need decanting, for both aerating and to remove the sediment. The wine of Chateau Sociando Mallet is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised and grilled dishes. Chateau Sociando Mallet is a perfect match with Asian dishes, hearty fish courses like tuna, mushrooms and pasta as well as cheese.
Production	26,040 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2010-2030
Scores/Awards	<p>91 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2003</p> <p>85-88 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2001</p> <p>92 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #189 - June 28, 2010</p> <p>93 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #146 - April 22, 2003</p> <p>90-92 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #139 - February 27, 2002</p> <p>90-91 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #134 - April 22, 2001</p> <p>86 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - March 2010</p> <p>92-94 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - April 2005</p> <p>93 points - Stephen Tanzer, ST's International Wine Cellar - May 2003</p> <p>91-93 points - Stephen Tanzer, ST's International Wine Cellar - May 2002</p> <p>18 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - September 2009</p> <p>88 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - December 6, 2011</p> <p>88 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 5, 2010</p> <p>18+ points - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - February 2008</p> <p>86 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)</p> <p>17 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)</p> <p>17.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)</p> <p>17 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only)</p> <p>3 stars - Le Guide Hachette des Vins - 2004</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Very smoky, with charcoal, almost lamblike aromas. Full-bodied, chewy and very rich, with a thick and velvety finish. Stylish and decadent young wine. Best after 2007. 26,040 cases made."</i> - JS, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Generous and velvety. Shows an impressive currant bush character, from high quality Cabernet. Full-bodied and velvety. Slightly herbal finish. Perhaps better next year. Score range: 85-88"</i> - JS, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"This is a beautiful wine and certainly one of the great sleepers of the vintage. I originally predicted that this wine would be at full maturity between 2007 and 2028, but I would push that back by a good 4-5 years. Still inky/purple, with notes of acacia flowers intermixed with wet rocks, black currants, and blueberries, the wine is full-bodied, displays no real evidence of any oak, and offers up terrific concentration, texture, and length. For those who bought this beauty at \$30-35 when it was available, this was a terrific buy, and it should continue to evolve for 20+ years."</i> - RP, Wine Advocate</p>

Reviews *"A breathtakingly beautiful Sociando-Mallet with a dense ruby/purple color and a bouquet of ink, mineral, graphite, vanilla, and creme de cassis, the 2000 boasts superb concentration, great definition and intensity, ripe tannin, and a long finish of more than 40 seconds. This is top-flight, classified growth-quality stuff. So what's new? This continues to be an over-achieving estate! It will be long-lived. Anticipated maturity: 2007-2028."*
- RP, Wine Advocate

"A superb, thick purple color accompanies a bouquet of licorice, intensely ripe, black currant fruit, and cedar wood. Extremely unevolved, impressively concentrated, massive, powerful, tannic, and unquestionably of classified growth quality, this large-scaled Sociando will require a decade of cellaring. Anticipated maturity: 2010-2030+"
- RP, Wine Advocate

"This great estate, with a sub-soil nearly identical to that of Pauillac, has fashioned another structured, massive wine that will require 8-10 years of cellaring. The 2000 exhibits a classic bouquet of cedar, black currants, and minerals, high tannin, gorgeous concentration, and a structured, tannic yet concentrated, powerful finish. Anticipated maturity: 2010-2025."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"Tasted blind at Bordeaux Index's 2000 tasting in London. This has a striking nose: blackberry, burnt match, cold tea, and green pepper. Incongruous to other 2000s, although it has individual charm. I am less keen on the palate, which contains that herbaceous element but it does not knit well with the rest of the palate, as if this wine wants to do two different things and cannot decide whether it was to be a 2000 or a leaner off-vintage. Hard, bitter finish, this is a disappointing showing. Tasted March 2010."
- NM, Wine Journal

"First tasted at en primeur in April 2001 when I said, "this tannic wine should be a long-term beauty". Still holds true four years later. A very dense, brambly nose. Blackberry leaf and black olives. Minerally. The palate is well-balanced, powerful and very tannic. Backward with a blackberry, black truffle finish. Yet you are left with the impression that it is an elegant wine. Superb, but wait until 2012. Tasted April 2005."
- NM, Wine Journal

"Bright ruby-red. Rich, perfumed aromas of black raspberry, blackberry, minerals and cocoa powder. Big, dense, lush and deep, but with lovely sappy vinosity; this expands impressively to fill the mouth. Finishes very long, with suave, broad tannins and a note of black olive. A gloriously successful vintage for Sociando-Mallet, offering a full range of Cabernet aromatics. (ST)"
- ST, International Wine Cellar

"Saturated, bright ruby-red. Perfumed aromas of cassis, black raspberry and exotic spices. Lush, sweet and complex, with considerably more structure and grip than the '01. A profound, densely packed Sociando-Mallet with considerable stylishness. The big, sweet tannins spread out impressively on the very long finish. A great showing for this young wine, which Jean Gautreau compares to his '82. This was a steal at its opening price, and in 10 or 15 years will make a great ringer in a flight or top classified growths of the northern Médoc."
- ST, International Wine Cellar

"Very dark smudgy mulberry colour. Very luscious on the nose and very Cabernet. But although it promises to be very thick, in fact it is delightfully limpid and luscious and fluid. Really a great success! You could enjoy this cocktail of fruit and minerals already, but it should also reward keeping. Lovely balance. Drink 2008-30"
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

Reviews

"I know many people that enjoy this throwback to how Bordeaux wines used to be made. The nose displayed too much vegetal and herbal notes for my taste . On the palate, the wine feels hard and austere. The tannic finish has some green mixed in with the red and black fruits along with cranberry. If you like this style of wine, give it another decade in the bottle."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Pepper, black cherry and BBQ spice notes were in the perfume. Concentrated with fruit, there were some green flavors and drying tannins in the finish."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"There is a lovely depth of aroma here, a nose full of leafy blackcurrant fruit, with a fresh and rather surprising seam of mint and a green peppercorn lift. Nice weight, softly composed, and still in possession of quite a grip and tannin beneath it all. There is very good substance here. The nose is a little awkward at present, but overall, I still think this has much potential for the future. Very good indeed."

- CK, The Wine Doctor

"Les vignes sont toujours aussi bien réglées, avec un rendement d'ensemble généreux mais en fait assez raisonnable par pied de vigne, et le supplément de complexité aromatique donné par des cabernets sauvignons d'octobre, souvent plus complexes que ceux de septembre. L'ensemble est magnifique, du niveau des quinze ou vingt meilleurs crus classés, avec l'ambiguïté Pauillac/Saint-Estèphe des très grands millésimes, Pauillac par le corps et la texture, Saint-Estèphe par le grain de tannin. L'intensité de la robe, le moelleux de l'enveloppe et la fraîcheur du goût montrent qu'on a vendangé pile poil. Attendre dix ou douze ans si l'on peut pour l'épanouissement total dans le verre. 18.5/20"

- Bettane et Desseauve

"The vines are always well regulated, with an overall yield generous but in fact quite reasonable per vineyard, and the additional aromatic complexity given by Cabernet Sauvignon October, often more complex than those of September. The whole is magnificent, of the level of the fifteen or twenty best crus classés, with the ambiguity Pauillac / Saint-Estèphe of the great vintages, Pauillac by body and texture, Saint-Estèphe by the grain of tannin. The intensity of the dress, the softness of the envelope and the freshness of the taste show that we have harvested hair piles. Wait ten or twelve years if we can for the full bloom in the glass. 18.5 / 20 "

- Bettane and Desseauve
