

Château Labégorce 2012

CSPC# 771295

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

SOLD OUT

Grape Variety
Appellation
Classification
Website
General Info

53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc, 3% Petit Verdot
Margaux

Cru Bourgeois Exceptionnel as of the 2003

http://www.labegorce.com/labegorce/public_html/index.php?lang=en

Labegorce, like many chateaux in Bordeaux, takes its name from one of the estates early owners, the Grosse family who held an interest in the land that dates back all the way to the 14th century. For centuries prior to the French Revolution, Chateau Labegorce was a massive estate. In fact, it was one of the bigger properties at the time in the Medoc. The lands of their Margaux estate were ordered to be divided. This division created three separate estates. This included, Chateau Labegorce, what later became Labegorce Zede and the tiny property L'Abbe Grosse de Grosse. However, the vineyards of Chateau Labegorce remained the largest of the three Margaux properties.

The chateau of Labegorce remaining on the property was constructed in 1821. Chateau Labegorce passed through a myriad of owners before it was most recently bought by the Perrodo family in 1989. Hubert Perrodo fell in love with Bordeaux and especially the Margaux region. While wine held a big interest for Perrodo, his real interesting in Bordeaux came after spending time in the appellation enjoying polo matches that were held at Chateau Giscours, also located in Margaux.

Perrodo set out with the goal to reunite all three pieces of the original Labegorce estate. He purchased L'Abbe Grosse de Grosse in 2002. However, Hubert Perrodo was only able to buy the chateau and some land. The vineyards were sold to Chateau Margaux. He completed the final piece of the puzzle when he bought Labegorce Zede in 2005. Sadly, Hubert Perrodo was killed in a skiing accident the following year.

Today, the Left Bank estate of Chateau Labegorce is managed by Perrodo's daughter, Nathalie Perrodo. Nathalie also manages the families other Medoc Bordeaux property, which is also located in the Margaux appellation, Chateau Marquis d'Alsème

Vintage

2012 marked the return of a great climatic classicism: a cold winter, especially in February, followed by a very wet spring, then a very dry summer before a return to rainy weather as from September 20th. The heavy rain which lasted until July 15th, created very favourable conditions for the development of mildew. However this year we intensified our organic programme with great success: not only have we not used any insecticide on the estate for 10 years, but in 2012 we only used one chemical treatment, as opposed to the usual 7 or 8 on the great wine plots. We're almost there... From July 15th onwards, the weather was dry and moderately warm but punctuated by a few very hot days. Such conditions are typical of great Bordeaux classic vintages: they allow for the simultaneous ripening and concentration of the grapes. Only the less good terroirs and young vines suffered from the sudden transition from a very wet spring to a very dry summer. The weather changed again from the first day of autumn: the moderate rains, which fell regularly from September 20th onwards, arrived too late to greatly upset the ripening or health of the grapes, but probably prevented, by a few days, 2012 from being the great vintage it should have been.

Vineyards

The former 36-hectare Bordeaux wine vineyard of Labegorce is now 53 hectares and remains situated on the plateau just north of the town of Margaux, across the road from Chateau Lascombes. Delphine Kolasa is the director of communications for this Medoc property.

Chateau Labegorce is planted to 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot. The vines are planted to a density of 9,000 vines per hectare. On average the vines are 25 years of age. However, there are old vines at



Vineyards	Chateau Labegorce. A sizable portion of the vineyard was planted during the 1950's and there is a section of vines that is over 100 years of age! The terroir of Chateau Labegorce is composed of mostly sandy, gravel with some sand mixed with limestone in the soil.
Vinification/ Maturation	Vinification takes place in a combination of cement and stainless-steel vats. Malolactic fermentation takes place in barrel. The wine is aged in 55% new French oak barrels for an average of 15 months. There is a second wine, Zede de Labegorce. The average annual production of Chateau Labegorce is 12,000 cases per year
Tasting Notes	A red berry-soaked nose and a black berry-soaked palate - fascinating, sumptuous and forward.
Production	10,000 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2015-2025
Scores/Awards	<p>89 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2015</p> <p>89-92 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2013</p> <p>89 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #218 - April 2015</p> <p>88-90 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #206 - April 2013</p> <p>87-89 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2013</p> <p>89-90 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2013</p> <p>88-90 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 12, 2013</p> <p>87-89 points - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2013</p> <p>16.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2013</p> <p>16.5 points - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2013</p> <p>95 points - Jane Anson, The New Bordeaux - April 2013</p> <p>87 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only)</p> <p>86 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)</p> <p>89 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 11, 2015</p> <p>88-90 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 25, 2013</p> <p>88-90 points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2013</p> <p>88 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2013</p> <p>90-92 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only)</p> <p>16 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)</p> <p>16 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)</p> <p>17 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only)</p> <p><i>"Focused, if still a bit closed, with a strong cocoa frame around plum and blackberry fruit. Cedar, tobacco and graphite notes emerge on the finish. Should open up with a touch more cellaring. Best from 2016 through 2020. 10,000 cases made."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Vibrant, with a racy, well-stitched core of damson plum, raspberry and blackberry fruit supported by fruitcake and graphite notes. Displays range and energy. Solid. Score range: 89-92"</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Labégorce is a property on the upswing, and that is reflected in this very strong 2012. Dense ruby/purple in color, with loads of blackcurrants, plum, licorice and graphite, it is medium to full-bodied, with soft tannins and excellent concentration. This is a beauty and a major sleeper of the vintage. The final blend was 53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc and 3% Petit Verdot."</i></p> <p>- RP Jr., Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"A major sleeper of the vintage, the 2012 is a Labegorce that finally reflects the investments and change of staff and ownership that had held so much promise. A dense ruby/purple hue is followed by abundant notes of black currants, blackberries, licorice, a foresty/underbrush character and a hint of smoke. It also possesses a medium-bodied, silky texture. Drink it over the next 10-12 years. The final blend was 53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc and 3% Petit Verdot. Moreover, the new owners declassified 50% of the production into a second wine."</i></p> <p>- RP, Wine Advocate</p>

Reviews

"Tasted from a barrel sample at en primeur. The Labegorce 2012 (53% Merlot, 36% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Cabernet Franc and 3% Petit Verdot) was tasted twice. One bottle was rather muted on the nose, the other much more open with pure black cherry, raspberry and cassis aromas with well integrate vanillary oak. The palate is medium bodied with chalky tannins, plenty of supple blueberry and cassis fruit with a strict, masculine finish. It gets better as it goes on. Let's hope it settles down by the time of bottling. Tasted April 2013."

- NM, Wine Journal

"A wine that shows a pretty depth of fruit with soft and silky tannins. Very well done. Not quite the 2011"

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"88-90. Barrel sample. Juicy and ripe, this wine has rich fruitiness without the balancing structure. It profits from ripe Merlot flavors in the blend, yielding a fruity wine that will develop fast."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Good full, medium ruby-red. Enticing aromas of blackberry, violet, licorice and fresh herbs. Open-knit and verging on plush initially, then turns a bit less fruity and fleshy, offering uncomplicated dark berry and floral flavors. The bright finish features decent length but shows a youthfully unyielding character. This 2012 is projected to age for 15 months in only 30% new oak, which is likely to be a sensible decision in 2012. I firmly believe that the wines have improved greatly here since the Perrodo family (who have recently acquired Marquis d'Alesme), owners of both Labegorce and Labegorce Zede, decided to fold the latter into Labegorce beginning with the 2009 vintage. The paltry 35 h/h yield may also have something to do with this wine's quality in 2012. "

- ST, International Wine Cellar

"Very dark, intense colour. Sweet and lifted. The acceptable face of sweet 2012? Lots of energy and punch plus refreshment. Well-integrated Merlot and Cabernet. Real depth and length. Polished. Super appetizing. Lots of winemaking effort here. Drink 2022-2035 "

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Lots of richly extracted fruit, quite broad and plummy, still with Margaux lift and charm. "

- SS, Decanter.com

"Even when pouring out, one of the richest, most luxurious texture of all the Margaux. Tiny pritt stick on nose, but nothing masquant. Rich, pure, cassis extraction, this is supremely confident and poised, a major wine, very successful, a wine to absolutely last, holds itself with real confidence, takes you in a lovely tannic hold. A touch of 'strap yourself if, get ready to go' which is very rare in 2012. An intellectual wine, unlike many this year. A real result for me from this property. 95 / 18. Outstanding. Drink 2020-2040."

- JA, The New Bordeaux

"Medium/full bodied, round, soft and polished, the fruit is ripe, the wine is approachable and end with a supple, cocoa and black cherry finish."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"With an earthy nose, the wine is filled with fresh black raspberries and cassis. From a blend of 53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc and 3% Petit Verdot, the wine reached 13% alcohol. 88-90 Pts"

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

Reviews *“Deep and dense; lifted nose; some perfume; oak; layered and attractive; lots of fruit here; some violet lift too; nice palate; good balance; lush quality; little drying from the oak [40% new]. Chewy finish. 87-89 Tasted UGC Thursday April 11, 2013. [Earlier note] Deep and saturated; smoky, lush and very forward; some violet notes; cassis, plums; nice palate with lots of lush fruit but nicely done; elegance to a degree; plenty of extract and material but ripe and supple. Very good effort and length too. 53% Merlot, 36% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Cabernet Franc and 3% Petit Verdot. 88-90 Tasted UGC Tuesday April 9, 2013. Drink 2018-2028”*
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

“Juicy, vibrant red berry flavours with lively floral notes and freshness. There is real energy in this wine with no sign of the difficult weather conditions of this vintage. Tasted in: Bordeaux, France. Maturity: Young. (06-Apr-2013)”
- JCL, asianpalate.com
