

## Château Palmer 1983

CSPC# 772461

750mlx3

13.0% alc./vol.

### Grape Variety

53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 41% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot

### Appellation

Margaux

### Classification

Third Growth. Troisième Grand Cru Classé in 1855.

### Website

<http://www.chateau-palmer.com/?langue=en>

### General Info

3rd classified growth in 1855. Palmer could easily claim to the rank of a second. The vine stock of merlot occupies about half of the vineyard, what is odd in Margaux, and that explains in good part the round and smooth character of the high-class wine which sometimes makes it compare with a Pomerol. But do not think incorrect, Palmer has the depth and the complexity of the great Margaux.

The birth of Chateau Palmer dates back to 1814 when Colonel Charles Palmer arrived in France with the army of the future Duke of Wellington. The owner of the Margaux estate at that time was the recently divorced Madame de Gascq. She was trying to sell the Bordeaux wine producing property. When she met Palmer, she told him, "The Bordeaux wine we produce is as good as Château Lafite!" Palmer must have agreed as he quickly soon took over the Margaux estate and renamed it Chateau Palmer. Palmer believed in the Bordeaux wine he was producing. He began expanding the vineyards of Chateau Palmer. Between 1816 and 1831, the estate acquired more land and buildings throughout the Cantenac, Issan and Margaux sectors.

In 1843, Palmer, now a Major General was forced to sell Chateau Palmer. Emile and Isaac Pereire, two brothers had always wanted to purchase Chateau Palmer. They did not come from the Bordeaux wine trade. They were involved in railroad lines and banking. In 1853, they became the new owners of Chateau Palmer.

The brothers replanted and restructured the vineyards. In 1856, they constructed the legendary château and the village outbuildings of Chateau Palmer. Due to the phylloxera epidemic, wars and the great depression, the Pereire brothers' descendants were forced to sell Chateau Palmer.

In 1938, four families of some of the wealthiest Bordeaux wine merchants joined forces to buy equal shares of Chateau Palmer; Ginestet, Mialhe, Mahler-Besse and the Sichels. Their direct descendants are the major current owners of Chateau Palmer today. Two of the families left the company, but, for the Mahler-Besses and the Sichels, it remains an important asset.

The two majority shareholders of Chateau Palmer are both négociants. The Mahler family comes from the Netherlands. Successful in the wine business, they were joined by the Sichel family from England. The Sichel family were also very successful wine merchants. After World War II and the deterioration of the château by German troops, the 1950s saw the regeneration of the vineyard under the management of Jean Bouteiller (1913-1962), the son-in-law of Frédéric Mähler, the majority shareholder at the time.

Having spent forty-two years as the director of Chateau Palmer, Bouteiller retired and was replaced by the young, energetic agronomist and oenologist Thomas Duroux in 2004. This allowed Duroux to return to Bordeaux after spending time managing estates in Italy.

### Vintage

After cold, damp weather in the first 5 months of the year, June was warm and dry so that flowering took place in excellent conditions. A heatwave in July was followed by warm, damp weather in August that unfortunately encouraged the spread of diseases. Thankfully, September was dry and hot, allowing the grapes to ripen slowly and evenly. After a string of hot, sunny days at the end of the month and into early October, sugar levels were similar if not superior to those in 1982. Thanks to Palmer's exceptional terroir, 1983 produced concentrated wines with ripe tannins that have retained all their richness and vigour.



<b>Vineyards</b>	Palmer, with its gravel, sand and dirt terroir has deep roots, which is one of the keys to the wine's unique quality and style. Most chateaux plant merlot in clay soils. At Palmer, the merlot is planted in gravel soils. This is part of the reason for the elegance in the wines of Palmer. Located next to Chateau Margaux, Palmer can produce a wine of equal quality in select vintages. The 55-hectare Bordeaux wine vineyard Chateau Palmer is located in Cantenac. Most of the plots are situated on the plateau with a terroir of thin gravel from the Guntz period along the water. The vineyard is planted to 47% Merlot, 47% Cabernet Sauvignon and 6% Petit Verdot with vines that average 38 years of age. The vines are planted to a density of 10,000 vines per hectare.
<b>Harvest</b>	From 09/28/1983 to 10/13/1983
<b>Vinification/ Maturation</b>	The vat rooms and Chai were entirely refurbished in 1995, its 42 temperature-controlled, conical, stainless steel vats were designed to provide optimal conditions for precision winemaking. Chateau Palmer is equipped with two cellars the so-called "first year <i>chai</i> ," holds the barrels containing the most recent vintage for the initial year of ageing before being replaced by a new harvest and moving on to the recently renovated "second year <i>chai</i> ." Work is once again taking place in the vat rooms. In 2010, Palmer began work on installing a new harvest reception area of 350 square meters which should be finished by 2012. The old pumping system will be replaced by gravity force. They will also build a small cellar devoted to experimental winemaking projects like producing white wine and even vin de paille. A new barrel cellar will allow a vintage to age without being moved. The Palmer village was also refurbished. The fruit is always hand harvested and sorted 3 times. In the vineyard and the vat room before and after destemming. Palmer vinifies using temperature-controlled, cone-shaped stainless-steel vats. This is done on a parcel by parcel basis and by grape variety. The wine is put into barrels immediately after malolactic fermentation, fining with egg whites, racking by gravity
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	Tasting notes from Enrico Bernardo, 12/01/2011: Limpid, garnet-red colour. Complex, but still reticent. Good potential. Hints of mushrooms, red fruit jam, raspberry, sweet spices, rose petals, and gentle on the nose. Round, mature, smooth, and intense with excellent tannin. Long aftertaste with a gentle retro-nasal effect. An aristocratic wine. Tasting notes from Georges Lepré, 02/04/2009: The wine's garnet color is still quite intense, showing only faint reddish-brown hints. After being in contact with the air, the bouquet shows a large aromatic palate. Notes of mild spices, mocha, musk and cedar wood quickly follow the imposing aromas of blackberries, blueberries, and prunes. An opulent fruit and an impeccable freshness, which highlight the wine's mellow aspect, compliment the very mature tannin structure. It all comes together magnificently and shows real personality before finishing with notes of licorice and violets. The balance and irresistible charm of this vintage lets one imagine that it should keep until 2020...at the very least.
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink now-2022
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<b>91 points</b> - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - October 15, 1994 <b>91 points</b> - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - October 15, 1988 <b>98 points</b> - Robert Parker, Bordeaux Book, 4th Edition - January 2003 <b>97 points</b> - Robert Parker, Bordeaux Book, 3rd Edition - January 1998 <b>97 points</b> - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #95 - October 1994 <b>97 points</b> - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #88 - August 1993 <b>96 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - January 2012 <b>95 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2009 <b>93 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2007 <b>94-96 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - January 2000 <b>98 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - August 2014 <b>19 points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - December 2014
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<b>Reviews Only</b> - Decanter.com - 2010 & 1999 <b>91 points</b> - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) <b>98 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - July 14, 2014 <b>97 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - January 26, 2014 <b>97 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - August 15, 2013

**90 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - August 28, 2012  
**98 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 15, 2011  
**96 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - June 30, 2010  
**96 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - November 6, 2009  
**96 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - June 30, 2009  
**98 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - December 10, 2008  
**96 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - July 1, 2008  
**97 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 17, 2007  
**97 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - January 15, 2006  
**95 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 12, 2005  
**97 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - January 12, 2004  
**93 points** - Jamie Goode, wineanorak.com - October 2006  
**98 points** - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - May 2, 2014  
**90 points** - Falstaff Magazine (score only)  
**19 points** - La Revue du Vin France (score only)  
**16.5 points** - El Mundo Vino (score only)

**Reviews**

*"Greatness in subtlety. Clearly focused black cherry and vanilla character. It's full-bodied with medium tannins and a juicy, fruity finish. Drink now.--The Bordeaux 50."*  
- JS, Wine Spectator

*"Very rich and concentrated with layers of plum, cassis and currant flavors and woody, mahogany flavors. It's a bit clumsy at this stage but everything 's in place for long-term aging."*  
- JS, Wine Spectator

*"This wine goes from strength to strength and is certainly a candidate for "wine of the vintage." It has surpassed even Chateau Margaux in recent tastings. The color is an opaque plum/purple. The wine has a fabulously complex nose of smoked duck, white flowers, cedar, Asian spice, creme de cassis, melted licorice, and espresso. Super-concentrated, very powerful, full-bodied, and huge, this is undeniably, one of the biggest, most concentrated, and powerful Palmers made in the last 40 years. The wines have thrown off the rugged tannins that were so prominent during its first 10-15 years of life and has become increasingly seamless and compelling. Potentially this wine remains the most extraordinary Palmer after the 1961. Anticipated maturity: Now-2020. Last tasted, 10/02."*  
- RP, Wine Advocate

*"One of the superb wines of the vintage, the 1983 Palmer continues to display a saturated purple/garnet color, and an intense perfume of jammy black fruits, smoked meats, flowers, cedar, and Asian spices. Super-concentrated, powerful, and full-bodied, this huge, unctuously textured wine is approaching its plateau of maturity. Because of the high Merlot content, it can easily be drunk now, yet promises to last for another 20-25 years. I remain convinced that the 1983 will be the most powerful Palmer since the compelling 1961. Last tasted 9/97"*  
- RP, Wine Advocate

*"Tasted 14 Times Since Bottling with Consistent Notes. One of the superb wines of the vintage, the 1983 Palmer continues to display a saturated purple/garnet color, and an intense perfume of jammy black fruits, smoked meats, flowers, cedar, and Asian spices. Super-concentrated, powerful, and full-bodied, this huge, unctuously textured wine is approaching its plateau of maturity. Because of the high Merlot content, it can easily be drunk now, yet promises to last for another 20-25 years. I remain convinced that the 1983 will be the finest Palmer since the great 1961."*  
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- Reviews** *"One of the superb wines of the vintage, the 1983 Palmer continues to display a saturated purple/garnet color, and an intense perfume of jammy black fruits, smoked meats, flowers, cedar, and Asian spices. Super-concentrated, powerful, and full-bodied, this huge, unctuously textured wine is approaching its plateau of maturity. Because of the high Merlot content, it can easily be drunk now, yet promises to last for another 20-25 years. I remain convinced that the 1983 will be the finest Palmer since the great 1961. Last tasted, 5/93."*  
- RP, Wine Advocate
- "Tasted at the Amuse Bouche offline in Hong Kong. Compared to the First Growth next door, Palmer can be a little variable, but this is certainly and great example of the 1983. It has a beguiling Pinot Noir-like nose...as if this Margaux is toying with you, pretending to be something else. It has great purity, very floral with fresh violets, Bakewell tart and maraschino. The palate is medium bodied with filigree tannins, great balance and a velvety, lifted finish that fans out with style on the finish. Bon vin. Tasted November 2011."*  
- NM, Wine Journal
- "Tasted single blind at the Fine Wine Experience horizontal in London. This legendary Palmer has a deep garnet core with a mahogany rim. The bouquet has an attractive sweetness with hints of dark chocolate, coca, leather, raspberry coulis and hot bricks, with its savouriness coming through with time. The palate is medium-bodied, very harmonious and elegant, excellent definition with such freshness and vitality. It retains that sense of "conservatism" that I have always felt with cigar box and autumn leave mixed with a touch of mulberry towards the poised finish. This is a great Palmer. Drink now-2020. Tasted October 2008."*  
- NM, Wine Journal
- "A show stopping nose that has a distinct tang of anis amongst fresh red berried fruits. Medium-bodied on the palate with well-knit tannins. Quite conservative and "correct", you could almost describe it as being a little brusque. Notes of blackberry, cigar box and damson, stern on the finish. Very long and persistent. Classic in every sense of the word, though not quite as stellar as I anticipated. Tasted October 2006. Drinking -2020"*  
- NM, Wine Journal
- "Tasted blind at Chateau Palmer over dinner during Vinexpo. A very intense nose, with more lift than the 1989. Blackberry, violets, a touch of liquorice: very complex with brilliant delineation. The palate is very pure and intense with a beguiling balance and harmony. Natural and refined, more open than the 1989. Just reaching its prime, although it has the depth to suggest many pleasurable years ahead. Tasted April 2006."*  
- NM, Wine Journal
- "This is one of the all-time greatest Palmers for its complexity and finesse. Intense aromas of smoked meats and dark fruits plus hints of tobacco meet a silky, almost buttery texture of great yet beautiful concentration that combines in superb balance with a plateful of fruit and still mouthwatering acidity. The tannins are round and fat, and the finish is long and mesmerizing. This is crying out to be drunk now, yet the persistent acidity should provide for at least another 10 years of possible cellaring. 98 points."*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- "Strong ruby with a developed rim. Very subtle and delicate. This is fully mature wine! So gentle and gorgeous! Stunning sweet fruit and such concentration and length. Dense, with a hint of mint, but truly great. Strong. Drink 1995 - 2025."*  
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- "This has to be among my top three wines of the entire tasting, because it has the subtle refinement of the 1990, but with greater exuberance and underlying power. A complete wine, with tobacco and cedar notes giving way to an energetic orange rind-like finish that beguiles your senses; at least it did mine."*  
- Decanter.com
- "Deep red; muted nose; soft, rather loose, juicy but not that structured, quite cedary but a dry finish and not that concentrated, perhaps atypical as the wine showed very well 10 years ago; medium length. "*  
- Decanter.com
- Reviews** *"Pure silk and velvet in texture, there are no hard edges, rough patches or missing links, this is intense pleasure from start to finish. Drinking great today, it's only going to get better and better!"*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"This is a stunning tasting experience that brings together concentration, complexity, sensuous, silky textures, complex aromatics and the ability to continue to age and improve for at least 2 more decades, if well stored. It's the wine of the vintage. An hour in the decanter really helps the experience."*

*- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com*

*"Talk about all the right stuff, the wine is pure silk and velvet with an intoxicating perfume of caramel, spearmint, ripe blackberries, flowers, truffle and cigar box. The opulent textures make up reach for the bottle to refill your glass. But don't rush it, as it gets better in the glass. While this is pricey, for a mature Bordeaux, it's one of the top choices for quality and price. If you want to know why people go crazy for older Bordeaux, or you already know and just want a special bottle, this is one of the top wines in the market today."*

*- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com*

*"It's always disappointing when a wine you know normally offers thrills and chills takes a turn in the wrong direction. Keep in mind, every bottle is different, especially when a wine is in its 3rd decade of life. This particular bottle smelt and tasted unclear. There were marked dirty scents along with the tobacco, earth and blackberry notes. The wine did not show its normally, opulent nature and instead tasted far too earthy. My guess is, this bottle was not stored correctly at some point in its life, and while a nice Bordeaux, it was not a great tasting experience. However, do not let this note dissuade you from this wine, which is normally a stellar vintage of Palmer."*

*- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com*

*"Violets, cassis, truffle, earth, spice and Cuban cigar aromas fill your glass. Pure silk and velvet in the mouth, this sensuous, seductive wine is what great Bordeaux is all about. The wine fills your mouth and coats your palate with layers of deep, suave, elegant, pure sensations of plums, cassis and blackberry. This is drinking great today and time will continue being good to this special Margaux as well. It should continue getting better for decades."*

*- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com*

*"This still looks young! Cassis, dark berries, flowers, coffee and five spice aromas put the spring in the aromatics step. Full bodied and packed with layers of silky, elegant, ripe fruit. The tannins are ripe and round. The long finish fills your mouth with purity, intensity of flavor, velvet laced textures, freshness and balance. This stunning Bordeaux wine ends with a long, ripe, plush, fresh blackberry filled finish. This special wine keeps getting better every time I taste it. Still young, this will age and improve for decades."*

*- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com*

*"Aromatics filled with deep black cherry and black raspberry fruits, orange rind, flowers, spice and cassis introduced you to the wine. The wine flows like pure velvet. This is deep and concentrated, as well as elegant, round and refined. Few wines express elegance married to power as well as the 83 Palmer."*

*- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com*

*"Truffle's, smoke, olives, pipe tobacco, earth and flowers are what the taster first notices. Very long and intense. This full bodied, concentrated, elegant, polished wine finishes with soft, chocolate covered, blackberries."*

*- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com*

*"If I could use only one descriptor, "stunning" expresses how great this wine is. The perfume shoots from the glass like a bullet from a gun. Flowers, cassis, earth, truffles fresh black fruit with spices are only the introduction to this wine's ample charms. In the mouth, pure silk, satin, velvet and enough verve to give it lift. The long, fruit filled seamless finish is pure pleasure for the senses. Still young at close at over 25 years of age, this sublime wine will improve and offer amazing pleasure for decades. Keep in mind, this bottle was popped and poured from the cellar. With some air, this..."*

*- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com*

- Reviews** *"This cassis, earth and floral scented wine is a wonderful example of Margaux and mature Bordeaux. Very elegant in the mouth. This is at a great place, and it's only going to improve from here. It's odd that a wine this good with 25 years of age sells for about the same price as the 05! Markets move in mysterious ways."*  
- JL, [thewinecellarinsider.com](http://thewinecellarinsider.com)
- "A flashy array of black fruit, wet earth, coffee and a variety of spices explodes from the glass. Elegant, very sophisticated and sexy style of wine. Extremely concentrated with ripe fruit and a boatload of glycerin. As good as it was, it will still improve!"*  
- JL, [thewinecellarinsider.com](http://thewinecellarinsider.com)
- "The wine's aromatics explode from the glass. Black fruits, cassis, spices, cedar wood, floral and earth were in full force. Over the last few years, this has put on weight and rounded out. The multiple layers of perfectly silky fruit that cascade over your palate in wave after wave of plush textures is what great Bordeaux is all about."*  
- JL, [thewinecellarinsider.com](http://thewinecellarinsider.com)
- "Ruby with some bricking. Notes of cedar, black cherry, cassis, earth, spice, cinnamon and cloves. Full bodied with some tannin to resolve. On the palate a rich display of plums and black fruit. The texture is pure silk. The 83 Palmer is one of the most elegant wines I've tasted in ages."*  
- JL, [thewinecellarinsider.com](http://thewinecellarinsider.com)
- "Sweet black fruit, tobacco & cedar notes filled the air. Full bodied, elegant and graceful. Cherries and assorted red and black fruits caressed your palate. Rich, soft, silky and sexy is a great description for this stunning wine."*  
- JL, [thewinecellarinsider.com](http://thewinecellarinsider.com)
- "Dark, spicy palate is quite earthy and full with some tight red fruits, lots of earthiness and firm tannic structure. A firm, substantial wine that is a bit closed at the moment, but which shows potential for further development, even though it is already clearly quite old. 93/100 (Blend: 41% Merlot, 53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 4% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot)"*  
- JG, [Wineanorak.com](http://Wineanorak.com)
- "Gorgeous wine - one of Palmer's best vintages over the past 35 years. Delicate, floral, aromatic, elegant with a persistent finish. Still at its peak without any sign that it is starting to fade. Enjoy over the next 20 years. Tasted in: Tianjin, China. Maturity: Drink. (02-May-2014)"*  
- JCL, [asianpalate.com](http://asianpalate.com)
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