

Château Prieuré Lichine 2019

CSPC# 849001

750mlx12

13.6% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, 3% Petit Verdot

Appellation

Margaux

Classification

4th Grand Cru Classé

Website

<https://prieure-lichine.fr/en/the-prieure-lichine-wines/chateau-prieure-lichine/>

Sustainability

Château Prieuré-Lichine, certified high environmental value in 2019, is engaged in a sustainable certification procedure.

General Info

Originally a priory of Benedictine monks who cultivated grapes for service at dinner and at religious ceremonies, practices gradually evolved by the 18th century to establish sales of the wine under the name Le Prieuré de Cantenac. As a consequence of the French Revolution, the property was seized, divided and sold in 1789 to several surrounding estates, including Château Palmer. A portion was bought by Monsieur Pagès who passed on the estate to his widow, when due to its reputation and broker prices received a fourth growth classification in 1855. Several changes in ownership resulted in changes to the name, such as Le Prieuré and Prieuré-Cantenac, and when the late wine writer and authority Alexis Lichine arrived to buy the estate it consisted of 11 hectares of neglected vines.

Alexis Lichine bought the vineyard in 1951 (shortly after having purchased the Margaux estate Château Lascombes with a consortium) and work began to group and reconstitute the property on the ideal slightly-rising ground. With the money, he was garnering from the import business and a few partners, Alexis Lichine bought the Prieuré for 11,000 pounds, at the time about \$16,000. In 1953, with the help of Count Lur-Saluces of Château d'Yquem, Lichine renamed the Prieuré to Château Prieuré-Lichine.

With the estate renamed in 1953, the following year Cantenac wineries were entitled to use the appellation of Margaux Sacrificing quantity for quality, trades in portions of desirable land at a loss of two to one were made with third growth neighbours Palmer, Ferrière, Kirwan, Giscours, Issan, Boyd-Cantenac and second growth neighbours Durfort-Vivens and Brane-Cantenac, adding up to 47 acres (19 ha) of vineyards by the mid-1960s. With an aim to produce a wine well beyond its classification, extensive replanting and repairs and investments were made to the equipment, and by the 1970s the estate amounted to 58 hectares dispersed across the communes Cantenac and Margaux.

After Lichine's death in 1989, the estate was run by his son Sacha for several years, with oenologist Michel Rolland acting as consultant, until the estate was sold to the Groupe Ballande in 1999. The winery currently employs Stéphane Derenoncourt as its consulting oenologist.

Winemaker

Étienne Charrier winemaker, Stéphane Derenoncourt consultant

Vintage

In 2019, the great terroirs of the plots making up the Château Prieuré-Lichine vineyard once again combined harmoniously to produce aromatic, fleshy and velvety wines, of hallmark Margaux style.

Free of major climatic setbacks and with a very welcome episode of weather at the end of the season, the vintage was both generous and of high quality. A rollercoaster season in a vintage that was full of surprises. Following a quite mild and dry winter, the 2019 vine cycle at Château Prieuré-Lichine began with a bud-break in normal conditions at the end of March. The potential crop size was large with good, even vine shooting. The few episodes of frost experienced in the Médoc had no effect on the potential volume of the crop.

Particularly rainy spring weather in April and June ensured sufficient water reserves for the vines. Vine disease pressure was at a reasonable level. The flowering process benefited from the good weather conditions.

Summer weather suddenly set in at the end of June with a heat-wave, followed by a second and more intense one, around 25th July. Just as the net shortfall in the season's rainfall was starting to challenge the end of the ripening process, a welcome downpour arrived on 22nd September, the trigger for the harvesting to start in the young Merlot vines, whose grapes had now re-swelled thanks to this welcome rain.



Vintage	Because the plots of the Prieuré-Lichine vineyard are spread across the whole of the Margaux appellation, the ripening and harvesting dates were staggered accordingly over more than three weeks. The health of the grapes was very satisfactory. The last Cabernet Sauvignon, harvested on 15th October, showed fabulous balances. The vinifications went very smoothly with long macerations for the vats destined for the First Wine. The Merlot was ripe and displayed great roundness on the palate. The Cabernet Sauvignon, which benefited from the mid-September rains by reaching full ripeness levels, offered juicy grapes with noble pedigree that would contribute to perfection their energy and their dense, silky texture in the blend. Underpinned by the brilliant freshness of the Cabernet Sauvignon, the 2019 vintage affirms a potential for ageing and a capacity to develop over time all the complexity of a Great Growth.
Vineyards	The Prieuré-Lichine vineyards are naturally, in view of Lichine's many acquisitions, very widely spread across the Margaux commune. Most lie to the north of Cantenac, on one of the gravel ridges that characterise the Médoc. The vines are 54% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot and 1% Cabernet Franc, and are planted at a density of 8500 vines/ha.
Harvest	Merlot: 23rd Sept. – 4th Oct. Cabernet Sauvignon: 7th – 15th Oct
Maturation	After manual harvesting followed by a meticulous sorting (on a sorting table and then optically), the fruits are fermented in vats without crushing for about 30 days before being aged in oak barrels (40% new and 60% one wine).
Tasting Notes	Prieuré Lichine is only really good in big, warm years. Brilliant the last time in 2016. With 2019, the high level of maturity that we already had in 2016 and 2018 is accompanied by an amazing kick of Frio minerality, which gives the wine wings! The nose is very fine, little sweet, very polished. Predominantly black fruit, very delicate. The mouth amazingly fresh and delicious and fine. Superb, polished tannins. Here we have a wonderful potpourri of black fruits, highlighted with sour cherries, a nice freshness, everything is very fine, stylish, with a great straight line. Finely woven, very chic, aromatic Margaux with totally polished tannins. That's really stylish! A fine and chic Margaux.
Serve with	Prieuré Lichine is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes. Chateau Prieuré Lichine is a perfect match with Asian dishes, hearty fish courses like tuna, mushrooms, and pasta as well as cheese.
Production	18,000 cases made.
Cellaring	Drink 2022-2034.
Scores/Awards	<p>92 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2022</p> <p>93 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022</p> <p>92-94+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - June 2020</p> <p>95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2022</p> <p>93-94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2020</p> <p>94-96 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 2020</p> <p>16.5+ points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - December 2021</p> <p>93 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - June 2020</p> <p>93 points - Jane Anson, Insidebordeaux.com - January 2022</p> <p>94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2022</p> <p>92-94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - June 2020</p> <p>93 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2022</p> <p>91-93 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - June 2020</p> <p>95 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2022</p> <p>93-95 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - June 2020</p> <p>92 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - April 2022</p> <p>91-93 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2020</p> <p>88 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2020</p> <p>94 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - June 2020</p> <p>93-94 points - Vert de Vin - April 2020</p> <p>16.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2022</p>
Reviews	<p><i>“Presents lush plum and blackberry preserve flavors that gush through, flanked by a twinge of singed sandalwood to give it form. The finish is dotted by dark licorice, ganache, and earth accents. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Petit Verdot. Drink now through 2034. 18,000 cases made.”</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p>

Reviews *"The 2019 Prieuré-Lichine is supple and generous, bursting with aromas of blackberries, currants, licorice, spices, and creamy new oak. Medium to full-bodied, broad, and fleshy, it's round and enveloping, with ripe acids and a rich, seamless profile. This is showing well out of the gates. This heavily morcellated estate (amounting to some 125 different parcels) is clearly benefitting from a more rigorous selection and better attention to detail regarding harvest dates. - Drink 2021-2045."*
- WK, Wine Advocate

"Deep garnet-purple in color, the 2019 Prieuré-Lichine bursts from the glass with notes of warm black plums, blackcurrant cordial and ripe blueberries plus hints of camphor, violets, cardamom, and star anise. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is packed with juicy black and blue fruit layers, framed by finely grained tannins and tons of freshness, finishing long and perfumed. Impressive showing!"
- LPB, Wine Advocate

"Wonderful aromas of dried orange, blackcurrant and crushed stone follow through to a full body with beautifully polished tannins that are composed and fine. Lots of subtle and complex character on the finish. Extremely well done here. Drink after 2025."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Dense and layered red with blueberry and currant aromas and flavors. It's full-bodied, focused, and intense. Nice balance of fruit and tannins. Curious to see if 2019 will be better than the 2018 in the end."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This wine is poised between great ripeness and a mineral, textured character, while also showing a robust tannic structure. Its richness is tempered by the freshness of the vintage. There is plenty of long-term aging potential in this wine that continues the great improvements at the estate."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, 3% Petit Verdot. Blackish crimson. Subtle blackberries on the nose. Light and polished tannins. Some rather agreeable softness though possibly a lack of ambition? But it's a very agreeable, rounded wine with fragrance and is certainly no disgrace to the appellation! 13.6%. Drink 2028 – 2044."
- JH, JancisRobinson.com

"Plump black fruits, medium to full intensity plum colour with a violet rim and slate-edged tannins that slow things down on the end of the wine. The trick with a Margaux wine is to get concentration without losing elegance, and they have pulled that off here. It's an excellent Prieuré, with a slow build through the palate, if not quite at the height of the wines that have been produced at this estate in 2016 and 2018 but you are not going to be disappointed here. Tasted twice two weeks apart. Stéphane Derenoncourt consultant."
- JA, Decanter.com

"Concentrated inky depths to the colour, powerful plum and damson fruits, stretches out through the palate with impressive persistence. So much life to these slate-edged tannins. The oak has settled in over ageing, although still smoky with vanilla bean edging, Stéphane Derenoncourt consultant."
- JA, Inside Bordeaux

"Medium-bodied, soft, supple, and polished, the wine opens with a mix of ripe, red fruits, flowers, espresso, licorice and a hint of cocoa. Round, ripe, polished, and fresh, the finish loads you up with its layers of sweet, fresh, polished, lively, elegant, sensuously-textured fruits. This will age quite nicely. Drink from 2027-2050."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Quite perfumed, with flowers, licorice, smoke, espresso, and fresh red fruits on the nose. The wine is supple in texture, full-bodied, rich, round, and lush, with polished tannins and layers of sweet, red, and black fruits with lift in the finish. This will age quite nicely."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

Reviews

“The 2019 Prieuré-Lichine is very perfumed on the nose, offering ample red berry fruit, cranberry and undergrowth scents; more rose petal aromas emerge with time. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannins and gentle grip. As I suggested in my primeur note, it appears to show a little more judicious extraction, so that the finish feels more substantial. Excellent. 2026 – 2060.”

- NM, Vinous

“The 2019 Prieuré-Lichine has a dense and assertive bouquet with blackberry, loamy earth and touches of crushed violet. There is a pastille-like element that comes through with time. The palate is sweet and candied on the entry, a pinch of sea salt sprinkled over the black fruit that grips the palate. I wonder if this underwent a bit more extraction this year? Grippy and solid on the finish, this is a broad-shouldered Margaux that will need 4-5 years in the cellar.”

- NM, Vinous

“The 2019 Prieuré-Lichine is impeccable. Creamy, layered, and resonant in the glass, the 2019 hits all the right notes. Sweet red cherry/plum, lavender, rose petal, spice, mint, and blood orange all build effortlessly. Over the last handful of years Prieuré-Lichine has been the single most under the radar wine in Margaux. The 2019 is another fine edition. Class, polish, and sensuality make Prieuré-Lichine absolutely irresistible.:

- AG, Vinous

“The 2019 Prieuré-Lichine soars from the glass, showing tremendous aromatic depth and tons of pure drive. Silky and plush on the palate, the 2019 has so much going on. Super-ripe red cherry, red plum, blood orange, mint, wildflowers, and sweet spice give this racy Margaux tons of class. As good as the 2019 is today, my impression is that there is more wine than I am seeing from these barrel samples. Tasted two times.”

- AG, Vinous

“Readers looking for a complex, nuanced Margaux should check out the 2019 Château Prieuré-Lichine. Giving up a beautiful floral bouquet that includes red and blue fruits, sappy herbs, and flowery incense, it hits the palate with medium to full-bodied richness, plenty of mid-palate depth and sweet tannins, and a great finish. This complex, layered Margaux needs just 2-4 years of bottle age and should see its 20th birthday in fine form. Best After 2024.”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“This Margaux estate fashions a classic, dependable red, and I think the 2018 and 2019 are the finest vintages I've tasted from this address. The 2019 Château Prieuré-Lichine is impressive, showing lots of spiced red and black fruits, sandalwood, and dried flower notes as well as medium to full-bodied richness on the palate. As with the 2018, it has a terrific floral and spicy character, ripe tannins, and beautiful balance. 91-93+.”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“Deep dark ruby garnet, opaque core, violet reflections, delicate ocher edge. Ripe black berry fruit with a hint of nougat and precious wood, a hint of liquorice and cherries, fresh orange zest. Complex, juicy, extract-sweet, and freshly structured, ripe, supporting tannins, touch of chocolate on the finish, shows good length, is not inferior to the previous vintage.”

- Falstaff Magazine

“The nose is racy and offers power (in finesse), intensity (full of balance) as well as deepness and elegance. It reveals notes of wild cassis, blackberry and small notes of small wild fruits associated with fine touches of raspberry, iris, lily, small touches of toasted, toasted hazelnut as well as hints of sweet blond tobacco and slight hints of chocolate. The mouth is fruity, mineral, well-balanced, elegant and offers racy minerality, freshness, finesse, deepness as well as minerality. On the palate this wine expresses notes of juicy / bright blackberry, juicy cassis and small notes of violet associated with small touches of lily, iris as well as fine hints of mocha, blond tobacco, and very discreet hints of camphor / spices. A discreet hint of toasted hazelnut on the finish / persistence. Tannins are racy.”

- Vert de Vin
