

Château Rauzan-Ségla 2012

CSPC# 771297

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

54.5% Cabernet Sauvignon, 44% Merlot, 1.5% Petit Verdot

Appellation

Margaux

Classification

Second Growth. Deuxieme Grand Cru Classe in 1855.

Previously called Chateau Rausan-Segla

Website

<http://www.rauzan-segla.com/>

General Info

Château Rauzan-Ségla and Mouton Rothschild were considered the leading 2eme Cru Classé Bordeaux properties during the 19th century. However, while the fortunes of Mouton prospered in the 20th century, culminating in its elevation to 1er Cru status in 1973, Rauzan-Ségla's reputation dwindled, and a succession of disappointing wines were produced.

In the early 80s the Rauzan-Segla was sold and the renaissance began. The eminent Professor Peynaud was appointed as a consultant and the proportion of Cabernet Sauvignon in the blend was increased, as was the proportion of new oak used in the maturation process. In 1986, a brand-new cuverie was built.

A succession of eye-catching wines was produced at Rauzan-Ségla in the mid to late 80s and early 1990s. Rauzan-Segla was bought by Chanel in 1994.

The wines of Rauzan Segla are meant to age, allowing the wine to develop complexity, aromas and textures. They do not offer much pleasure young. Tannic, rich, structured and full bodied, with time, the wine offers complex spicy and floral aromatics, purity of fruit, refined textures, concentration and harmony that few other wines deliver. 2005, 2009 and 2010 are all stunning examples of Chateau Rauzan Segla at its best.

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 52-hectare Margaux vineyard has increased in size over the years. Most notably in 2008, when they purchased 8.5 hectares from Chateau de La Bourgade. 52 hectares on deep fine gravel with clay at different layers planted to 6600-10000 vines per hectare. Plantings comprise 54% Cabernet Sauvignon, 41% Merlot, 4% Petit Verdot and 1% Cabernet Franc. Green harvest and leaf thinning. Grapes entirely hand-picked into twenty kilo boxes and then sorted on a vibrating table at the cellar. Grapes are de-stemmed without crushing.

Harvest

Grapes harvested between 27th September with respect to the young merlot vines and finished on 20th October with the Cabernet Sauvignon

Vinification

35 stainless steel and temperature-controlled vats# with capacities between 41-220hl which provide for single plot fermentation. 6-8-day alcoholic fermentation with pumping over is followed typically by a maceration of 12-20 days depending on the vintage.



Maturation	The wine is aged in approximately 50-60% new oak, medium toast from a variety of coopers, in French oak. During barrel maturation, the barriques are topped twice weekly, and then racked every three months. Egg white fining, no filtration. 10,000 cases of the Grand Vin produced and 10,000 cases of the second wine Ségla are made.
Tasting Notes	Château Rauzan Ségla is making wine with an impact - big, multi layered and multidimensional. The wines are very long lived and are usually at their best from 10 to 25 years after the vintage date. The best vintages can last decades longer. A youthful Château Rauzan Ségla can seem brawny and disconnected but patience is a virtue and they mature into heavyweights. Violets, blackberry, cherry and cedar can be found in the nose and taste of the younger wines and as the wine ages, cassis and spicy overtones appear.
Production	8,750 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2022-2052
Scores/Awards	<p>91 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2015</p> <p>89-92 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2013</p> <p>94+ points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #218 - April 2015</p> <p>93-95 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #206 - April 2013</p> <p>92-94 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2013</p> <p>93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2015</p> <p>92-93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2013</p> <p>93-95 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2013</p> <p>87-90 points - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2013</p> <p>16.5+ points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2013</p> <p>18 points - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2013</p> <p>94-95 points - Jane Anson, The New Bordeaux - April 2013</p> <p>90 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only)</p> <p>93 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)</p> <p>92-94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 13, 2013</p> <p>92-94 points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2013</p> <p>16+ points - Farr Vintner - April 2013</p> <p>89-93 points - Derek Smedley, MW - May 2013</p> <p>91 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2013</p> <p>92-94 points - Gilbert & Gaillard - April 24, 2013</p> <p>17 points - Adam Bilbey, Berry & Rudd Wine & Spirit Merchants - April 2013</p> <p>91-93 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only)</p> <p>17 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)</p> <p>14.5 points - Gault & Millau (score only)</p> <p>16.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"A toasty, fleshy style, with a cocoa note pulling and pushing the core of blackberry, black currant and plum fruit. Picks up more range through the finish, with black tea, alder and loam accents, boding well for cellaring. Best from 2016 through 2024. 8,750 cases made."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"A mix of dark plum, blackberry and fig fruit rumbles along here, with a charcoal note cutting a broad swath. Solid, if a bit blunt in the end, as bittersweet cocoa clamps down on the finish. Went for obvious extraction, and now we have to wait and see if this stretches out in time or stays landlocked by the square tannins. Score range: 89-92"</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The 2012 Rauzan-Ségla (54.5% Cabernet Sauvignon, 44% Merlot and 1.5% Petit Verdot) is a classic Rauzan-Ségla, still relatively backward and tannic, but concentrated and extremely promising. Dense blueberry, blackberry and cassis fruit along with some licorice, vanilla, foresty notes and spice are all present in this full-bodied yet structured and big, beefy style of Rauzan-Ségla. It may turn out to be somewhat atypical for this château in its size and masculine structure, but this is impressive wine, and one of the great successes of the vintage. Give it 5-7 years of bottle age and drink it over the following three decades."</i></p> <p>- RP, Wine Advocate</p>

Reviews *“The 2012 Rauzan Segla may turn out to be as strong an effort as their 2010. A brilliant blend of 54.5% Cabernet Sauvignon, 44% Merlot (which accounts for the wine’s ripeness and intensity), and the rest a tiny dollop of 1.5% Petit Verdot, it boasts an inky/blue/purple color as well as gorgeous aromas of black and blue fruits, spring flowers, and hints of background toast and forest floor. Well-integrated wood and acidity as well as moderately ripe tannins make for a medium to full-bodied, expansive, flavorful, rich, well-delineated effort. It will need 3-5 years of bottle age and should drink well for two decades thereafter.”*
- RP, Wine Advocate

“The Grand Vin was cropped between 27th September with respect to the young merlot vines and finished on 20th October with the Cabernet Sauvignon, so it was raining the last two days. The blend is 54.5% Cabernet Sauvignon, 44% Merlot and 1.5% Petit Verdot that is being raised in 75% new oak. It has a very perfumed, very harmonious bouquet that is fresh and vibrant. The palate is medium bodied with good structure. It is quite compact at the beginning with plenty of mineral-rich, Cabernet driven black fruit that lend it a Pauillac-like finish. The finish has an air of confidence about it, a second sample showing a little more compactness. This will be one of the top Margaux wines. Excellent. Tasted April 2013.”
- NM, Wine Journal

“A full and silky wine with a slightly hollow center-palate now but it's very pretty and chewy. Needs two or three years to soften. Very persistent and structured.”
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“Balanced and structured with lots of polished tannins. Full and refined with a lovely core and length. Goes on for a long time.”
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“93–95. Barrel sample. This is a chocolate-inflected wine with a full mouth feel, and a very dark character. The palate is concentrated in tannins and a powerful, extracted feel. The aftertaste brings out more black-currant fruitiness.”
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“Moderately saturated medium red. Blackcurrant, herbs and a hint of spicy chocolatey oak on the nose. Supple and vinous on the palate, with moderate flesh and depth to the flavors of blackcurrant, dried herbs and tobacco complemented by a wet earth nuance...”
- ST, International Wine Cellar

“Dark purplish. Lacks just a little freshness on the nose. Quite brutal fruit but some juiciness triumphs above the oak. Ambitious. Vibrant with good persistence.”
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“Dense colour, lovely expression of floral Cabernet fruit, density and fragrance from pure vineyard ripeness, already beautifully Margaux on the nose with the length of fruit and firm but ripe tannins to give it a long future, a classic, fine Margaux.”
- SS, Decanter.com

“Juicy, mouth watering on the fruits here, quite full extraction, some dark plum, fig, rich chocolate but fairly subtle - good oak use. Should develop well, you feel you are being held well in good hands, but nothing is too insistent, should have room to stretch. Absolutely love the toast on this one, it is modern and sexy without being intrusive. Really impressive – and as we already know, a good price this year. 94-95 18.25-18.5. Highly recommended to Outstanding. Drink 2019-2040.”
- JA, The New Bordeaux

Reviews

"With 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37.5% Merlot, 1.5% Petit Verdot and 1% Cabernet Franc, the wine reached 13.5% alcohol with a PH of 3.67. Sporting a deep, ruby color, the wine is fresh, sweet, soft and spicy. The ample tannins are silky. There is a polished core of cherries, licorice and cassis in the finish. 92-94 Pts"

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Deep and saturated; tight to the rim; creamy, layered nose; lushness here; seam of fruit; blackcurrants; nice palate with very good entry; focused and precise; some tannin at the end but very much in keeping with the fruit and structure of the wine. Serious but plenty of material. Very impressive. 92-94+ Tasted UGC Thursday April 11, 2013 [Earlier note] Deep and saturated looking; some spices, ripe fruits and layers; nice seam of fruit; nice entry, full, lush and layered with extract and material. A supple quality here too [usually a little stern and correct]. Well balanced and harmonious. 54.5% Cabernet Sauvignon, 44% Merlot and 1.5% Petit Verdot. 13 degrees 92-94+ Tasted UGC Tuesday April 9, 2013. "

- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

"Now comfortably established in the super-second league. Huge efforts are being made by owners Chanel to make great wine at Rauzan, with production of the first wine only around half of the total harvest and the rest used for their excellent second wine - Ségla. Scotsman John Kolasa, formerly of Château Latour, is in charge here. In our view this 2nd growth is consistently the top wine of the appellation after Palmer and Chateau Margaux itself. The frequent winner of Margaux appellation blind tastings in recent vintages. The 2012 was made from yields of 35 hl/ha with picking continuing to the 21st October. Only 37% of the crop will go into the Grand Vin this year with 43% into Segla and 20% used for a third wine. Attractive, open and forward nose with plenty of ripe red berry fruit and a perfumed, floral character. Smoky new wood and cedary notes compliment the ripe cassis and mulberry fruit. Fresh, with lively acidity and classically Margaux. There is elegance rather than power here. Beautifully balanced with a clean, enduring ripe finish. Complex and refined."

- Farr Vintners

"The nose has a complex mix of flavours more black fruits showing but underneath there is the freshness of red cherry. The fruit feels ripe the mid palate quite rich and although fresher towards the back and slightly tannin dominated the finish has sweetness, richness and depth. 2020-35"

- Derek Smedley MW

"John Kolassa has priced his wine extremely competitively this year with the opening price representing a 34% reduction on the 2011 vintage, which was released at £315.00. As such, this offers excellent value in 2012. Just below Ch. Margaux and Ch. Palmer in the Margaux pecking order, big John Kolassa, director of this historic estate, has done a sterling job in 2012. This is a jazzy little number. An exuberant and open knit nose with redcurrant fruit and a racy floral edge combines with sappy cassis fruit and more redcurrant notes on the palate. There is a lovely spice and creamy edge from the oak with enough flesh, roundness of fruit, balance and texture to suggest this will turn out very well in bottle. The 2012 Rauzan-Ségla is all about elegance."

- AB, Berry & Rudd Wine & Spirit Merchants

"Vibrant, very attractive Rauzan-Ségla with nice density and depth. This is a gorgeous red with layers of delicate floral and red berry fruits and very long finish. Congratulations to John Kolasa and his team for making a great wine in this challenging vintage. Tasted i: Bordeaux, France. Maturity: Young. (06-Apr-2013)"

- JCL, asianpalate.com

"Subtle nose dominated primarily by mineral and smoky tones. Robust palate framed by oak tannins with a wonderful sappy, fairly easy-drinking finish. A Margaux with good ageability. (16-Apr-2013)"

- en.gilbertgaillard.com
