

Château Rauzan-Ségla 2015

CSPC# 771297

750mlx12

14.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety
Appellation
Classification

63% Cabernet Sauvignon, 33% Merlot, 3% Petit Verdot, 1% Cabernet Franc
Margaux

Website
General Info

Second Growth. Deuxieme Grand Cru Classe in 1855.
Previously called Chateau Rausan-Segla
<https://www.chateaurauzansegla.com/en/>

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

Simply put, 2015 Margaux is the result of a close to perfect growing season. Everything went right from start to finish. The winter was mild. Bud break and flowering were both quick, easy and uniform. Spring was warm and sunny most of the time. The summer months really helped make the vintage. July was hot and dry with temperatures averaging 10% higher than most vintages over the past 3 decades. The extended hot, sunny and dry conditions continued until late July. In August the thirsty vines were rewarded when the exact amount of rain needed arrived. Before the rains fell, the vines were becoming stressed, grapes were small and growers feared the results of continuing drought conditions for the 2015 Margaux vintage.

The rain triggered the start of the ripening period. From that point forward, the vines enjoyed almost picture-perfect conditions with continued warm, sunny days and cool, refreshing nights right through the harvest. The small amount of rain that fell October 2 ranged from 13mm to just under 20mm, depending on where your vineyard was located. When you compare that with the 100mm that fell in the northern Medoc, especially in and around St. Estèphe, you get the picture on what took place in Margaux, and how it compares to parts of the Northern Medoc. The continued period of pleasant daytime temperatures and cold nights could not have been better. Most growers started picking their 2015 Margaux crop by Monday, September 21, finishing by October 7, with a few stragglers completing their harvest a few days later.

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 22 September and 9 October 2015.



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	Wonderfully expressed Margaux fragrance, lovely texture and grip with minerality on the long finish. A great Rauzan-Ségla
Production	10,000 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2022-2052
Scores/Awards	<p>95 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2018</p> <p>92-95 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2016</p> <p>97 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - February 2018</p> <p>96-98 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #224 - April 2016</p> <p>97 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - March 2018</p> <p>97 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2018</p> <p>97-98 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2016</p> <p>96 points / Cellar selection - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 2018</p> <p>94-96 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2016</p> <p>17.5+ points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - October 2017</p> <p>17.5+ points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2016</p> <p>95 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - November 2017</p> <p>98 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2018</p> <p>98 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2018</p> <p>97 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - July 2017</p> <p>95-97 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2016</p> <p>93-95+ points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - March 2016</p> <p>94 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2016</p> <p>17.5 points - Farr Vintner - March 2016</p> <p>90-94 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2016</p> <p>95 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - May 2016</p> <p>96 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2018</p> <p>93-96 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2016</p> <p>95+ points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2018</p> <p>18+ points - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2016</p> <p>93-95points - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - May 2016</p> <p>18 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - June 2016</p> <p>18 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - April 2016</p> <p>18 points - Gault & Millau (score only) - June 2016</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Takes a very fresh approach, with an open-knit feel to the mulled raspberry and red currant fruit. Pretty lilac, incense and singed apple wood notes underscore the fruit, while silky but persistent tannins carry the finish. Shows latent depth and precise balance, so don't let this early charm fool you, as this should unfurl beautifully in the cellar. Best from 2022 through 2040. 10,000 cases made."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Juicy and bright, with lots of energy to the red currant and plum fruit, laced with savory, iron and black tea notes. A velvety edge pulls the finish together. Shows good character, with less reliance on flashy oak. Score range: 92-95"</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The 2015 Rauzan-Ségla (Rausan-Segla) is a blend of 63% Cabernet Sauvignon, 33% Merlot, 3% Petit Verdot and 1% Cabernet Franc and was matured in 65% new and 35% one-year-old barrels for 18 months. Medium to deep garnet-purple colored, it gives up a myriad of softly spoken fresh berry, floral and fragrant earth notes, including crushed red and black currants, black raspberries and menthol notes with touches of cigar box, lavender, violets, smoked meats, black truffles and chargrill. Medium to full-bodied with a firm frame of very finely grained</i></p>

Reviews *tannins and seamless freshness, the palate possesses an arresting quiet intensity of many tightly wound, subtle layers, finishing on a lingering mineral note. Very polished and precise, this Rauzan-Ségla is truly a triumph!*
- LPB, Wine Advocate

"The 2015 Rauzan-Ségla is a blend of 63% Cabernet Sauvignon, 33% Merlot, 3% Petit Verdot and 1% Cabernet Franc cropped at 40 hl/ha between 10 September with the young Merlot vines and finishing with the Cabernet Sauvignon, which was picked between 22 September and 9 October. It is matured in 65% new oak for around 18 months. It has a very intense, almost crystalline bouquet with blackberry, briary, flint and just a touch of violet petal. There is incredible delineation here and the new wood is seamlessly integrated. The palate is medium bodied with extremely fine tannin, perfectly judged acidity, otherworldly purity and a mineralité rarely seen in this Margaux estate. This is a brilliant Rauzan-Ségla, not necessarily more powerful than previous vintages, though enhanced by its precision, frisson and energy, perhaps longer on the finish. Winemaker Nicolas Audebert has conspired with the benevolent growing season to produce a benchmark wine for the estate."
- NM, Wine Advocate

"The 2015 Rauzan-Ségla (Rausan-Segla) was a magnificent wine out of barrel, but what matters, of course, is how you and I find this Margaux in bottle. Well, it has a disarmingly beautiful, almost haunting bouquet with pure black fruit laced with cedar, orange blossom and violet aromas that blossom in the glass. I cannot recollect a Rauzan-Ségla as delineated as this. The palate is medium-bodied but with ripe, quite bold tannin that lends this wine much more volume than in previous vintages. This just fills the mouth and satiates the senses. There is a fine line of acidity here and tints of black truffle. There is a wondrous mineral tension on the finish and yet this is a Margaux that is determined and succeeds in satiating all the senses...apart from sound. So, put your favorite musician on and savor this exceptional wine over the coming years. A benchmark."
- NM, Wine Journal

"Extremely aromatic with dried flowers, perfumed and sandalwood and blackcurrants. Full body, ultra-fine tannins, a gorgeous core of ripe fruit and blackcurrants and blueberries. Racy and very long. So impressive. This needs four or five years to come around but already so fine."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This is so sexy with superbly polished tannins that gives the wine super length and definition. Compacted and tight. Full body, tight yet flamboyant at the same time. Loving it."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Structure is the watchword for this wine. With dark tannins and concentration, it obviously has long-term potential. At the same time, the black-currant fruits are ripe and full bodied, giving rich contrast to the tannins. These two elements will allow this wine to age. It will be ready to drink from 2025."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"94–96. Barrel Sample. Already showing a fine balance, this is going to develop into a ripe, fruity wine. Currently, the tannins are at the service of the shining black fruits and bright acidity"
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Bright lustrous crimson. Very carefully made with real vitality. Fresh and much more lifted than most. Long with a wonderful undertow. Already quite complex. No rough edges."
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Very dark. This is turbo Margaux! By which I don't mean that it's forced but it has extraordinary concentration and impact. Very much set for the long term. Juicy and chock full of fruit that almost disguises the tannin. Amazing persistence."
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

Reviews

"Smooth, well-worked fine tannins with a touch of smokiness and some firm damson fruits. The fruit builds on the palate - cassis purée with pencil lead and liquorice to mitigate the sweetness, nicely balanced with a great feel of freshness. The alcohol is a touch evident on the finish, but it is an extremely confident and accomplished wine, very classy with a huge life ahead which showcases the continued excellence at Rauzan Ségla under Nicolas Audebert. 65% new oak. (JA)"

- JA, Decanter.com

"Incredibly polished and silky on the palate, the wine is deep, concentrated, luscious and sexy. Even though this is just a baby in terms of its evolution, the wine already offers flowers, spice box, licorice and sweet blackberry aromas. Full bodied, with the tannins and structure to age for decades, the wine offers purity of fruit, energy and complexity. The finish remains with you for at least 50 seconds! This could be the best wine the estate has ever produced."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"I've tasted this wine multiple times, from barrel and bottle, and each time it has shown improvement. Liquid silk on the palate, the wine is deep, concentrated, luscious and sexy. It is full bodied, with the tannins to age for decades. But these tannins are velvet textured. The wine offers purity of fruit, energy and complexity. This could be the best wine the estate has ever produced."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"On target to place among the top wines ever produced at Rauzan Ségla, this wine has it all. Florals, fruit, freshness, silky textures and a decadent, hedonistic personality. This should hit the top of my score range with ease."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Florals, licorice, tobacco, truffle, violets and ripe, sweet, fruits create the complex perfume. Soft, rich and polished, this wine feels like silk and velvet on the palate. Weight and density provide you with a concentration of raw materials while the finesse-styled finish lingers and expands. From a blend of 63% Cabernet Sauvignon, 33% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot, the wine reached 14.% alcohol with a pH of 3.7. Aging in 65% new, French oak barrels for 18 months before bottling, it represents 45% of the production. The harvest took place from September 10 to October 9. This is the debut vintage for the new director Nicolas Audebert. Bravo for your first effort! 95 - 97 Pts"

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Deep and saturated colour; tight to the edge; fresh and ripe berry aromas; pretty fruit; nicely lifted notes; pure Cabernet notes on the palate; structured and correct; minerality and intensity here; grip and a fresh finish. Classically structured Rauzan-Ségla. Reminds me of the 2010. [63% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot, 3% Petit Verdot, 1% Cabernet Franc, 14% alc]. Drink 2022-2040. 93-95+"

- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

"A delicious wine from this good value château, which has touched new peaks in recent vintages. Scented, balanced and very pure, with plum and cassis fruit, stylish oak and the tannic structure to age further in bottle. One of the wines of the appellation. Drink: 2022-32"

- TA, timatkin.com

"Now comfortably established in the super-second league. Huge efforts have been made by owners Chanel to make great wine at Rauzan, with production of the first wine only around half of the total harvest. The rest is used for their excellent second wine - Ségla. The 70-hectare vineyard is planted with 61% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Merlot with a touch of Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. In our view this 2nd growth is consistently the top wine of the appellation after Palmer and Chateau Margaux itself - and it is frequently the winner of the Margaux appellation in our blind tastings. This is the first vintage for new winemaker Nicolas Audebert who comes to Bordeaux following stints at Krug and making Cheval des Andes for LVMH in South America. The 2015 was produced from a blend of 63% Cabernet Sauvignon, 33% Merlot and 3% Petit Verdot with 1% Cabernet Franc. It will spend 18 months in oak - 65% of which are new barrels. Deep colour with a very perfumed, exotic nose of spring flowers and blackcurrant. The palate is silky, fleshy and soft with real polish to the floral black fruit core. There is sweetness of vanilla and new oak char and a touch of brown sugar to elevate the complexity further. This is a long and refined, elegant wine that maintains perfect poise on the finish."

- Farr Vintners

Reviews *“Sweet and ripe on the nose depth of flavour the palate has a rich mix of cassis and black cherry all backed by dark chocolate. Mid suppleness fleshy and velvety yet there is balance with fresh fruit at the back purity a mineral edge the finish sweet with rich fruit.”*
- Derek Smedley MW

“A beautiful, detailed Rauzan-Ségla that is among the best vintages they have produced thus far. The epitome of elegance, this medium bodied red has silky tannins, subtle, detailed, precise flavors that linger on the palate. A wine for long term aging.”
- JCL, asianpalate.com

“The 2015 Rauzan-Ségla is every bit as impressive as it was from barrel. Rich, sumptuous and super-intense, the 2015 envelops the palate. Super-ripe dark cherry, plum, licorice, leather, tobacco and menthol are all given an extra kick of richness in a dramatic, exceptionally beautiful Rauzan-Ségla that clearly swings for the fences. Although quite concentrated and sumptuous, the 2015 also retains considerable nuance. Readers lucky enough to own the 2015 can look forward to several decades of fine drinking. This is terrific effort from estate manager Nicolas Audebert, who wasted no time in sending a strong message about his ambitions in his first full-time vintage at Rauzan-Ségla. The 2015 is 63% Cabernet Sauvignon, 33% Merlot, 3% Petit Verdot and 1% Cabernet Franc. 2025 – 2045”
- AG, Vinous

“The 2015 Rauzan-Ségla is simply magnificent. Rich, powerful and intense, the 2015 exudes class. The flavors are dark, sumptuous and wonderfully expressive. In many ways, the 2015 captures both the finesse of Margaux and the intensity of the year. Specifically, the combination of power, freshness and delineation is compelling. The 2015 was blended just 4-5 weeks before I started tasting it. Over the course of two weeks the wine seemed to gain quite a bit of volume and depth. The 2015 is an intense, rich wine. It is also totally compelling. Don't miss it. Tasted four times.”
- AG, Vinous

“Powerful, structured and with considerable power and weight this is quite an arresting wine and it needs time to work itself out. Rather closed and oaky and also too introspective to shake any sense out of it in the glass this wine is a conundrum but given recent successes I can imagine it unravelling on cue and softening nicely hence my seemingly generous score.”
- MJ, matthewjukes.com

“I loved the 2015 Rauzan-Ségla and it's another sensational Margaux and is another data point showing Margaux was the most successful appellation in the Médoc. Deep purple/ruby-hued with an elegant perfume of currants, raspberries, dried flowers, and toasted spices, with ample background oak, this full-bodied, incredibly elegance, pure Margaux has sweet tannin, impressive mid-palate depth, and a great finish. It has awesome purity of fruit and promises to evolve for 30+ years. 2018 – 2048”
- Jeb Dunnuck
