

Château Rauzan-Ségla 2016

CSPC# 813895	750mlx6	13.5% alc./vol.
CSPC# 785925	750mlx12	13.5% alc./vol.
CSPC# 870071	750mlx12	13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety 68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 2% Petit Verdot
Appellation Margaux

Classification Second Growth. Deuxième Grand Cru Classé in 1855.
Previously called Chateau Rausan-Segla
Website <https://www.chateaurauzansegla.com/en/>

General Info

Château Rauzan-Ségla and Mouton Rothschild were considered the leading 2^{em} Cru Classé Bordeaux properties during the 19th century. However, while the fortunes of Mouton prospered in the 20th century, culminating in its elevation to 1^{er} 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.

Winemaker Nicolas Audebert (since 2014)

Vintage

The Medoc vineyards "enjoyed" continuous rain from 1st January to the beginning of June! The drainage work carried out in 1995 on the Chateau d'Issan estate, makes it possible to regulate the amount of water irrigating each plot. The vines' roots reach down very deep, which makes their water supply regular. The rain stopped in the first week of June and flowering was uniform and abundant.

Lasting sunshine began from 20th June onwards. The whole summer was dry and hot until 13th September, when heaven-sent rain brought much-needed water to the vines. 33 mm of rainfall covered the estate evenly, waking up the vines and kick-starting the ripening process.

The strength of the Château d'Issan estate: 85% of the vines that grow here are more than 25 years old. We noticed no stress from lack of water and the vines' growth cycle was uninterrupted. Thanks to the water reserves contained in the soil that had built up during the first half of the year, the vineyard was ready for harvesting to start with no precipitation. The Indian summer that followed, the reliability of the weather forecasts and the substantial variation between daytime and night temperatures throughout September, peaking at a difference of 20°C, all enabled the grape tannins to ripen slowly step by step.

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

The harvest took place from September 20 to October 4 for the Merlot and from October 10 to October 15 for 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	This is sleek, poised and well controlled, demonstrating deep extraction with clear cassis notes. Nicolas Audebert takes more risks with the wine than his predecessor John Kolasa did, and the opulence, finesse and forward motion is clear. Big framed for the vintage, this resembles the 2015, even the 2010, and is a wine for long ageing.
Serve with	Chateau Rauzan Segla is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. Chateau Rauzan Segla is best paired with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised and grilled dishes. Chateau Rauzan Segla is also good when matched with Asian dishes, rich fish courses like tuna, mushrooms and pasta.
Production	10,000 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2021-2046
Scores/Awards	<p>95 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2019</p> <p>92-95 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2017</p> <p>97+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - November 2018</p> <p>95-97 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #230 - April 2017</p> <p>98 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2019</p> <p>96-97 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2017</p> <p>97 points/Cellar Selection - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 2019</p> <p>96-98 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2017</p> <p>17 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - October 2018</p> <p>17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - May 2018</p> <p>17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2017</p> <p>95 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - October 2018</p> <p>97 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 2019</p> <p>96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2018</p> <p>97 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2017</p> <p>94 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2017</p> <p>17.5 points - Farr Vintner - February 2017</p> <p>90-95 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2017</p> <p>97 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - January 2019</p> <p>97 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - January 2019</p> <p>94-97 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2017</p> <p>98+ points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - November 2017</p> <p>18+ points - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2017</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"This has a lovely core of creamy anise-infused plum, blackberry and boysenberry flavors that showcase themselves a bit more vividly than many Margaux peers in this vintage do, with substantial but velvety grip and lots of extra violet, graphite and black tea notes adding to the long flow of a finish. Really beautiful feel. Best from 2023 through 2038. 10,000 cases made"</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"This has nice vivacity, featuring plum and cassis notes laced with bay, pepper, tobacco and iron accents. Stays fresh and racy through the finish. On the right track. With some added weight, this could move up. Score range: 92-95"</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p>

Reviews

"The 2016 Rauzan-Ségla is blended of 68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and 2% Petit Verdot aged in 60% new and 40% one-year-old barrels for 18 months. Medium to deep garnet-purple colored, it sings of lifted red and black cherries, black raspberries and cassis with a rose hip tea and lilacs undercurrent plus sparks of tobacco, pencil shavings and tilled earth. The palate is medium-bodied, elegant and mineral laced with firm, fine-grained tannins and beautiful freshness, finishing with great length and depth."

- LPB, Wine Advocate

"The 2016 Rauzan-Ségla (Rausan-Ségla) is a blend of 68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and 2% Petit Verdot picked between 20 September and 15 October at 45 hectoliters per hectare. The wine is being aged in 60% new oak for 18 months. It has 13.2% alcohol. It has a very powerful and intense bouquet with layers of blackberry, kirsch, cedar and a touch of mint. The palate is medium bodied with plenty of fruit concentration: layers of ripe blackberry and boysenberry, segueing into what feels like a very spicy and peppery second half that seems to calm down and attain more nuance with aeration in the glass. It is a wonderful follow-up to the 2015 last year, although not quite with the same audacity and bravado. Tasted twice with consistent notes."

- NM, Wine Advocate

"The aromas of blackcurrants, sweet tobacco and sandalwood are tantalizing. Then it turns to subtle, dried fruit. Full-bodied with dense and powerful tannins yet ending with finesse and vertical nature. Very deep. Power with finesse. Try after 2025."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"A solid red with currant and blackberry character. Full body, soft tannins and a flavorful finish. Shows richness and excitement. Juicy and sexy undertone to this."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"Dark tannins work with the sophisticated structure of this wine. The very fine tannins are an important element of the wine, giving shape to the ripe black fruits and acidity. This wine, rich and structured, is set for a long development. Drink from 2026. *Cellar Selection*"*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"This wine is ripe, perfumed and firmly textured. It has balance, concentrated tannins and already just the right sense of wood and structure. It will obviously last; try it in 12–15 years. (RV)"

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Much more fragrant than the Ch Prieuré-Lichine just tasted. Cassis fruit and leaves and pencil shavings. Fresh, lively and in perfect harmony. Juicy, balanced if not dazzling. (JH)"

- JH, JancisRobinson.com

"68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 2% Petit Verdot. Luminous crimson. Nicely integrated nose. Very juicy and sappy. You really want to drink this even though it is clearly not pushed to any limit. Nicely judged. Proper satiny Margaux. Bravo."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Really lifted, savoury nose. Well mannered. Nothing out of step. Could do with a bit more acidity and drive? A bit too diplomatic on the palate?"

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"There's an array of flavours and complex aromatics on offer here. It's powerful and brooding, with a lyrical acidity that helps to lift up the relatively foursquare tannins on the attack. After a few minutes in the glass, it begins to ripple with menthol, liquorice root, grilled cedar and sweet spices. It needs time to settle, of course, but is extremely classic, and will go the distance and then some. Matured in 60% new oak. (JA)"

- JA, Decanter.com

Reviews

"Depth of flavor, complexity, energy and concentration are easy to see. And so is the gorgeous, floral, red berry, licorice, earth and gentle smoke tones. Silky, sweet and fresh, this is going to need 12-15 years before it really starts opening."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Concentrated, fresh, lively, clean and pure, with loads of floral, earth, tobacco and black cherry nuances. The wine is multi layered, full-bodied, silky and vibrant, requiring 12-15 years in the cellar or more to show its best."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Deep in color with violets and licorice that take no effort to find, this wine is luxurious and concentrated and feels like ripe black fruits polished with velvet. There is a sweetness combined with a quintessence of fruit that will send your mind to Bordeaux no matter where you take your first sip. The wine was produced from blending 68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and 2% Petit Verdot, reaching 13.5% alcohol with a pH of 3.6 and is aged in 60% new, French oak barrels for 18 months before bottling. The harvest took place from September 20 to October 4 for the Merlot and from October 10 to October 15 for the Cabernet Sauvignon. The wine represents only 50% of the harvest."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"A wonderfully assured wine in 2016, this delivers the balance and complexity that we've grown to expect from Rauzan-Ségla. Grassy, elegant and hauntingly perfumed, with stylishly integrated oak, caressing tannins and scented red berry fruit. 2024-32"

- 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 62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36% 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 second vintage for new winemaker Nicolas Audebert who comes to Bordeaux following stints at Krug and making Cheval des Andes for LVMH in South America. He certainly had a terrific debut here with an outstanding 2015. Cropped at 42hl/ha, the 2016 is a blend of 68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, and 2% Petit Verdot. The Grand Vin will be raised in 60% new oak barrels. Intensely perfumed on the nose - violets, cherries, and blackcurrant with a hint of sweet spice. The palate is smooth and silky in tannin structure, but pure in cassis flavour which showcases the high percentage of Cabernet in the blend. Classic and svelte with a cool and savoury edge to the fruit core, the fresh fruit blends well with spice box and cedar through to the finish. Refined and elegant, this is a wine of precision and proportion rather than power and is all the better for it."

- Farr Vintners

"Lush the nose has rich fruit the palate depth of flavour velvet smooth supple in the middle. The richness is underpinned by freshness layers of flavour lots of complexity the tannins fine and discreet. There are sweet black fruits at the back, yet the finish is precise with great length. 2026-40"

- Derek Smedley MW

"The 2016 Rauzan-Ségla has an intense bouquet, one of the most perfumed that I encountered during my round of tastings. Violets infuse the ebullient black fruit, and traces of pencil lead emerge with time. The palate is medium-bodied, very pure and supple, displaying wonderful balance and a satiny texture that belongs in a lingerie shop. This is an utterly seductive Margaux, one of the finest in recent years as this estate continues its upsurge in quality. Few 2016s will dole out such inhibited pleasure"

- NM, Vinous

"The 2016 Rauzan-Ségla is simply stunning. Ample and generous in the glass, the 2016 is a positively stellar wine that will leave readers, weak at the knees. The flavors and textures are generous as this sublime Margaux shows off its alluring personality. Sweet red cherry, plum, pomegranate, blood orange, spice and rose petal are some of the many notes that run through this absolutely exquisite wine. The 2016 is just as impressive from bottle as it was from barrel, maybe even more! (AG) 97+"

- AG, Vinous

Reviews *“The 2016 Rauzan-Ségla is a more-than-worthy follow-up to the stellar 2015. The flavors are dark and boldly sketched, with stunning intensity to fill out the wine's vertical, soaring frame. A deep, complex wine, the 2016 Rauzan-Ségla is built to deliver pleasure for many decades to come. This is stunning, multi-dimensional wine of the highest level. Wow! Tasted four times.”*

- AG, Vinous

“An evocative nose of crème de mure is followed by a beautiful, fully inflated palate which stays aloft for minutes. This is a lovely wine, and it is oaky and rich, but balanced and also impressive. There are complex flavours here as well which unravel in the glass. This is a superb Rauzan-Ségla”

- MJ, matthewjukes.com

“The monumental 2016 Château Rauzan-Ségla is up with the crème de la crème in the vintage and is a brilliant, brilliant wine that readers should snatch up. Based on 68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, and the rest Petit Verdot, all raised in 60% new French oak, it's a powerful, full-bodied Margaux that has thrilling notes of crème de cassis, blueberries, spring flowers, new leather, and obvious minerality as well as a Château Margaux-like sandalwood and exotic floral quality. Deep, beautifully concentrated, and as seamless and elegant as it gets, it needs 4-5 years of bottle age (it's brilliant even today) and will keep for 30+ years. Bravo! Drink 2023-2053.”

- Jeb Dunnock
