

Château Rauzan-Ségla 1998

CSPC# 785925

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety
Appellation
Classification

65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot
Margaux

Second Growth. Deuxieme Grand Cru Classe in 1855.
1st Grand Cru Classe in 1973.

Previously called Chateau Rausan-Segla
<http://www.rauzan-segla.com/>

Website
General Info

Château Rauzan-Ségla and Mouton Rothschild were considered the leading 2^{emé} 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.

Vintage

After a mild and rainy winter, bud burst is noted by the end of March. Spring was wet but the good weather conditions during May and June gave a quick and homogeneous flowering. July was warm and cloudy, and the crop seemed to be generous. As far as August is concerned, the weather was extremely hot thus giving an exceptionally high concentration of tannins. The first two weeks of September were rainy but nice weather came back for the last two weeks which enhanced the grapes maturity.

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 57 % Cabernet Sauvignon – 41 % Merlot – 1 % Petit Verdot – 1 % Cab. 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

Merlot: From September 24th to 26th (young vines) – From September 28th to 30th
Cabernet Sauvignon: From October 3rd to 8th
Cabernet Franc: October 4th
Petit Verdot: September 26th (young vines)

Vinification

35 stainless steel and temperature-controlled vats# with capacities between 41-220hl which provide for single plot fermentation. 8 days alcoholic fermentation with pumping over is followed typically by a maceration of 20-26 days for the Cab Sauv, and 18-22 days for the Merlot.

Maturation

The wine is aged in approximately 75% new oak, medium toast from a variety of coopers, in French oak for 18 months. During barrel maturation, the barriques are topped twice weekly, and then racked every three months. Egg white fining, no filtration.



Tasting Notes	<p>It offers up a succession of delicate aromas of plums, blackberries, licorice and earthy notes on the nose. The wine is medium-bodied, silky tannin with well-balanced and excellent length on the finish.</p> <p>The wines of Rauzan Segla are meant to age. With time, the wine offers complex spice and floral aromatics, purity of fruit, refined textures, concentration and harmony that few other wines can deliver. These are the wines for consumers with patience for the complexities that come with age!</p>
Production	8,330 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2010-2025
Scores/Awards	<p>90 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2009</p> <p>90 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - January 31, 2001</p> <p>85-89 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 1999</p> <p>89 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #134 - April 22, 2001</p> <p>86-88 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #128 - April 20, 2000</p> <p>82-84 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - December 31, 1999</p> <p>89-91 points - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2001</p> <p>18 points - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - January 2002</p> <p>90 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)</p> <p>16+ points - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - March 2006</p> <p>16+ points - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - November 2001</p> <p>16 points - Farr Vintner - June 1999</p> <p>17 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)</p> <p>3 stars - Le Guide Hachette des Vins - 2002</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Dark color, with a ripe blackberry character and hints of minerals. Medium- to full-bodied, with lovely, integrated tannins and velvety, round mouthfeel. Lovely now. —'88/'98 Bordeaux blind retrospective (2008). Drink now. 8,330 cases made."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Very classy young wine. Black currant, mineral and cherry with hints of oak. Full-bodied, with a solid core of fruit and silky tannins. Long finish. Well done. Best after 2006. 8,330 cases made."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Impressive concentration for the Médoc this vintage. Full-bodied and round, with velvety tannins and a chewy mouthfeel. Slightly hollow midpalate, but damn good. Almost outstanding. Score range: 85-89"</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"A blend of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon and 35% Merlot, this classic, austere-styled Medoc exhibits medium to full body, true breed as well as class, and excellent aromas of subtle herbs, cedar, cassis, and new wood. Rich, medium to full-bodied, sweet on the attack, and moderately tannic, it will benefit from 4-5 more years of cellaring. Anticipated maturity: 2006-2018. "</i></p> <p>- RP, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"This wine is a paradox - impressively built, dense ruby/purple-colored, but ferociously tannic, and possibly out of balance when the tannin is measured against the wine's concentration and extract. It will require 8-10 years of cellaring, but I am not convinced there is enough harmony between its component parts to provide complex drinking. Time will tell. For now, I will give it the benefit of the doubt. Anticipated maturity: 2010-2025."</i></p> <p>- RP, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Moderate ruby core with faint aromas of sweet fruits. Medium tannins, supple red fruits, perhaps a bit hollow at the finish. A bit disappointing after the 1996 and 1997. Tasted June 1999."</i></p> <p>- NM, Wine Journal</p> <p><i>"Ruby-red. Penetrating, minerally aromas of raspberry, redcurrant and cedary oak. Denser and more structured than the '99; with its firmer acidity, this is more classic claret. Very rich, sharply delineated wine that will require at least seven or eight years of bottle aging"</i></p> <p>- ST, International Wine Cellar</p>

Reviews *“Nicely concentrated, fragrant, oaky, blackcurrant fruit. A bit supple and modern but good fruit finish. It will turn out very well”*
- SS, Decanter.com

“Now Comfortably established in the super second league. Huge efforts are being made here by owners Chanel to make great wine, with production of first wine less than half of the total harvest. Only 8000 cases of the 1998 are being made from 35 % Merlot, 65 % Cabernet Sauvignon. Despite the huge investments made, the pricing policy is modest when compared to some Chateau of similar quality. We rate it above Palmer as 2nd only to Chateau Margaux itself this year. Big, rich, blackberry fruit which more than stands up to the tannin. Lovely long finish. (FV 16) (WS 85-89)”
- Farr Vintners

“Showing the hue of early maturity here, although there is still a certain vibrancy to it. A lovely nose, pleasing, with good secondary characteristics from its six or so years in bottle. Medium weight on the palate, softly textured rather than plush, quite an elegant style. It has a soft tannic structure and a full, almost plump character. Good quality here. Just needs some more time - four to six years - to continue on the road to developing some really interesting secondary characteristics. Could be very good.”
- CK, The Wine Doctor

“A dense purple wine, looking vibrant and youthful. The nose is packed with fruit, and also smoke and coffee. Big, round and supple on entry, with a massive amount of tannins appearing midpalate, completely dominating the wine. Loads of powerful, spicy fruit. An impressive wine, although almost impossible to drink at the moment thanks to all those tannins.”
- CK, The Wine Doctor
