

Château Croizet-Bages 2011

CSPC#763542

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc

Website

<http://www.domaines-quie.com>

Appellation

Pauillac

General Info

Standing on the Plateau de Bages, the vineyard of Château Croizet-Bages, a Pauillac 5th Grand Cru Classé, grows peacefully and harmoniously. It is said that just beyond this ocean of vines planted on this majestic terroir which seems to have been made for contemplation and prayer, a charterhouse used to stand. During the first half of the 18th century, the Croizet brothers, purchased several small parcels of Bordeaux wine vineyards to put together their own estate. Following the custom of the day, they named the estate using their name and the area where the property was located and came up with Chateau Croizet Bages. In 1853, Julien Calve bought the Bordeaux wine chateau. The new owners changed the name to Calvé-Croizet. A few years later, they renamed the property, Chateau Croizet Bages.

After the first world war, an American, Jean-Baptiste Monnot, obtained Chateau Croizet Bages and kept the Left Bank property until 1942, when it was bought by Paul Quié, a Bordeaux wine merchant. Since 1968, his son Jean-Michel Quie has taken care of the Pauillac property and the production of their Bordeaux wine, Chateau Croizet Bages. Today, the Quie family also owns Chateau Rauzan-Gassies and Chateau Bel Orme Tronquoy de Lalande, a Cru Bourgeois estate. The Quie family began a renovation of the estate in 2013.

Vintage

2011 was a difficult year for Bordeaux wine makers located the Pauillac appellation. In some ways, the results are similar to what was achieved in 2001. Many 2011 Pauillac wines have charm, freshness and ripe flavors, but compared to more recent vintages like 2009 and 2010, 2011 feels light in weight and style. The wines are also lower in alcohol while being higher in acidity. 2011 Pauillac should appeal to fans of traditional Bordeaux. Several producers experienced drought, which caused problems with Cabernet Sauvignon. Coupled with the drought was the potential for botrytis. 2011 Pauillac was not an easy vintage. Careful winemakers who were willing to take severe measures during sorting and selection, had the best chance to produce fine wine. At their best, 2011 Pauillac wines are charming. There are also 2011 Pauillac with with hard, dry tannins. 2011 Pauillac is a year for consumers to take care when purchasing.

Vineyards

Chateau Croizet-Bages is located in the famous village of Bages, in Pauillac. The 30-hectare vineyard is on deep gravel soil which best suits Cabernet Sauvignon. Vineyards comprise 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot & 8% Cabernet Franc. Trellising has been enhanced in recent years to improve the exposure. Culture is made the traditional way with subsoiling, natural fertilizers, size double guyot, budding, leafing and green harvesting. On average, the vines are close to 35 years of age. Yields can be higher than at most other Pauillac estates as they are on average 55 hectoliters per hectare at Chateau Croizet Bages.

Harvest

Manual harvesting with sorting table

Vinification/

Maturation

The wine is vinified in traditional cement vats. Malolactic fermentation takes place in tank. The wine is aged in 25% new oak for 12 months. There is a second wine, La Tourelle de Croizet Bages, which made its debut in 1998.

Tasting Notes

Supple fruit here, overlaid with the scents of new oak. There is a purity to the fruit beneath the wood tough, with a fresh black cherry note and forest fruit sweetness. The palate shows a similar depth of fruit, with a rather soft frame all around it. The tannins are generous although this is true of quite a few Pauillacs in this vintage, with more gentle but balanced acidity.

Production

6,665 cases made

Cellaring

Drink 2012-2022



Scores/Awards **88 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2014
89-92 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2012
87 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #212 - April 2014
86-88 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #200 - April 2012
83-85 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2012
90 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 1, 2014
92-94 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - November 5, 2012
16.5 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2012
16 points - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2012
91-92 points - Jane Anson, The New Bordeaux - April 2012
86 points - Jean Marc Quarin - March 2012 (score only)
86 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2012 (Score only)
83-85 points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2012
78 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2012
15 points - Vinum Wine Magazine - April 2012 (score only)
89 points - Gilbert & Gaillard - May 10, 2012
17 points - Gault & Millau - April 2012 (score only)
90 points - Falstaff Magazine - April 2012 (score only)

Reviews *"Woodsy in feel, with dark cherry, currant and plum fruit coated with smoldering charcoal and warm tobacco notes that lend a strong smoky edge to the finish. Not quite as fresh as when tasted from barrel, but much improved over the troubled '08 and '09 vintages. Drink now through 2019. 6,665 cases made"*
 - JM, Wine Spectator

"Bold and spicy, with vivid anise, blackberry and linzer torte flavors and a hefty dose of roasted apple wood. Tarry finish is pretty solid. A surprise showing; have they cleaned things up here after the problematic 2008 and 2009? Score range: 89-92"
 - JM, Wine Spectator

"Another very good effort from Croizet-Bages, the 2011 reveals juicy red and black currant fruit, medium body, and good elegance and purity. It is not a big, muscular style of Pauillac, but one of finesse. It can be consumed now and over the next decade."

"A healthy dense ruby/purple color is followed by straightforward, plump, black and red currant, licorice, tobacco leaf and spice box characteristics. Medium-bodied and soft, this 2011 is best consumed in its first ten years of life."
 - RP, Wine Advocate

"The Croizet-Bages has an introverted, rather gravelly bouquet that is clean but difficult to awaken. The palate is medium bodied with pinched, rather dry chalky tannins and a slither of black fruit towards the finish. This just seems to lack substance more than anything although a second sample at the UGC offers up a chewy blackberry finish that might offer more after bottling. But it seems chunky and a little forced. Tasted April 2012."
 - NM, Wine Journal

"Still showing too much wood, this is a wine that needs a lot of time to outgrow its austerity. It's all structure at the moment, with black currant fruit obscured in the background. There is a mineral edge that promises to soften in a few years as well. Drink this wine from 2018."
 - RV, Wine Enthusiast

"92-94. Barrel sample. Mint, smooth fruit and new-wood flavors overlay the firm tannins. Juicy and attractive, this wine has structure, complexity and an innate fresh character. "
 - RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Rich, deep crimson. Sweet black cherry and sweet char. Surprisingly dry on the palate after the richness of the nose. Powdery but dense tannins. Nice freshness. Lots of energy even with the rather dry tannins."
 - JH, JancisRobinson.com

Reviews *“Good blackcurrant fruit and well-expressed Pauillac grip over the ripeness. Quite forward style. Drink 2014-2022.”*

- SS, Decanter.com

“Firm fleshy purple, some vibrancy on the rim, some serious depth to the colour here. On the nose, good full fruitfulness, a touch of toasted oak, some charring going on, but nothing jarring. This is good in fact; we are in liquorice and firmly closed black fruits territory here. Some good tannins that insist and restrained on the finish. This estate delivered in 2009, dipped down for me in 2010, but has put in a good showing in 2011. 91-92.”

- JA, The New Bordeaux

“Deep and dark; creamy nose, blackcurrant, some leather; bitter chocolate note; lacks the shining purity of some; palate tannic, feels disjointed and very chewy. Over-extracted and rustic I’m afraid. Tasted 3/4/12 and 5/4/12 at UGCB. 83-85”

- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

“There is little charm in this wine that has soupy, broad flavours with little definition and dry finish. Short and tart in the finish. Not a successful vintage for this chateau. Perhaps bad sample so need to try again. Tasted in Bordeaux, France. Maturity: Drink. (01-Apr-2012)”

- JCL, asianpalate.com

“EN PRIMEUR - Deeply-coloured. Ripe nose reminiscent of plum, raisin and a vanilla note. Warm, massive and stocky palate, still tightly-wound.”

- en.gilbertgaillard.com
