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## Domaine de Chevalier 2017

CSPC# 765467

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

**Grape Variety**  
**Appellation**  
**Classification**  
**Website**  
**General Info**

75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot  
Pessac-Léognan

Grand Cru Classé de Graves in 1959  
<http://www.domainedechevalier.com/>

The owners of Domaine de Chevalier, the Bernard family, have a long history dating all the way back to the 1155! Documents are available stating that the Count of Angoulême awarded the Bordeaux wine property to Chateau-Bernard for his for his valour in battle against the English.

Domaine de Chevalier in the Graves/Pessac Leognan, appellation, was purchased in 1865 by Arnaud Ricard and his son Jean the Bernard family for 33,000 francs. At the time, the Ricards family were familiar with the Bordeaux wine trade as they worked as coopers, producing some of the best barrels used by many of the best chateau. In 1865, the estate began selling their wine under the Gascon name of "Chivaley". In those days, the 44-hectare property was used for mostly food crops and breeding animals. While there was a tiny Bordeaux wine making operation at the estate, it was not the main interest of the property.

Shortly after the elder Ricard passed away, the son discovered the outstanding potential of the terroir and soil at Domaine de Chevalier and transformed it into a full-time vineyard. The name was changed from "Chivaley" to the French "Chevalier". When Jean Ricard died, his son-in-law, Gabriel Beaumartin, took over and managed Domaine de Chevalier for the next 4 decades. At various times the Ricard family owned other top estates in the Graves appellation including Chateau Malartic Lagraviere and Chateau de Fieuzal.

When Gabriel Beaumartin died in 1940, no one was interested in managing the estate. After a few years, Claude Ricard, Jean's son, started at Domaine de Chevalier in 1948. He was only 21 years old. Under Claude Ricard, Domaine de Chevalier was included in the 1959 Graves Classification. When Domaine de Chevalier was purchased 1983, Olivier Bernard was not much older at 23 years of age. By the time Olivier Bernard arrived, Claude Ricard had already managed the estate for over thirty years.

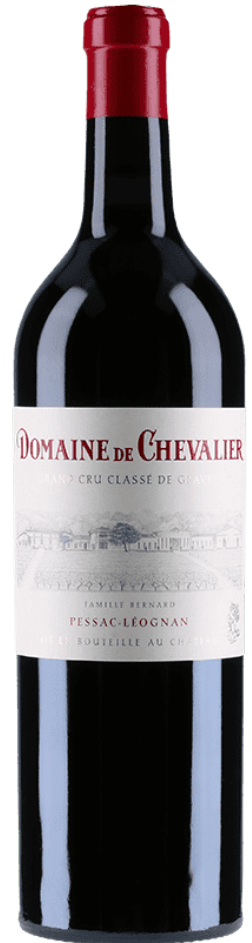
Domaine de Chevalier is fortunate to have such a fine team to run its affairs. Olivier, whose family business owns the estate, is the outgoing but canny administrator whilst Rémi Edange is hands-on, knowing every vine and every barrel. Whilst their white wines have always been amongst the very finest, the reds were simpler affairs. But from the 1995 vintage onwards greater flair and concentration was in evidence. The quality curve is now further accentuated by the team's bold move to appoint Stéphane Derenoncourt, of La Mondotte fame, as consultant winemaker. Domaine De Chevalier is classified as a Graves Cru Classé.

**Winemaker**  
**Vintage**

Rémi Edange. Stéphane Derenoncourt consults.

2017 Pessac Leognan suffered the most difficulties of the major appellations due to the frost. 2017 Pessac Leognan is not an easy appellation to understand for consumers. The vintage was even more daunting for the growers to produce. The frost damage here and in the Graves region was severe. As hard as it is to believe, in the Graves appellation, not only did growers have to endure the worst frost since 1991, they were also struck by hail in August. When it rains it pours, and that happened too!

Although the frost at the end of April 2017 did not spare Domaine de Chevalier, the climatic conditions afterward allowed the grapes to reach full phenolic maturity. The grape harvests took place from September 11 to 29, 2017, and the precocious nature of the vintage made it possible to harvest grapes with a perfect balance between sugar and acidity, and beautiful aromatic freshness.



**Vineyards** The 80-hectoliter vineyard of Domaine de Chevalier has 55 hectares under vine. The vines are relatively young due to replanting and the fact that the vineyard has frequently been hit by frost. The vineyard of Domaine de Chevalier is used to produce both red and white Bordeaux wine. For the white Bordeaux wine, 5 hectares are planted to 70% Sauvignon Blanc and 30% Semillon. For the red wine, 50 hectares are planted to 63% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc and 5% Petit Verdot. The vineyard is planted to a vine density of 10,000 vines per hectare. On average, the vines average 35 years of age. The vineyard management techniques used are sustainable farming methods. Only organic Fertilizers are used, and this is on a parcel by parcel basis. Approx. 40-60% of annual crop goes into the grand vin. Domaine de Chevalier has a complex terroir and soil that starts with the forest that surrounds the vineyards three sides.

**Harvest** The grape harvests took place from September 11 to 29, 2017.

**Maturation** Vatting gravity without pumping, alcoholic fermentation in stainless steel and coated steel temperature-controlled vats. Maceration for 2 to 3 weeks (30° C. max). Manual Pigeage; Ageing: 18 months (four months on the lees); New barrels: 35 %

**Tasting Notes** Elegant and refined, the red First Wine from Domaine de Chevalier displays the best of the Graves appellation. The color seduces with beautiful ruby and brilliant reflections. The blend is dominated by Cabernet Sauvignon (70%), supplemented by Merlot (25%) and Petit Verdot (5%), revealing the identity of each grape variety. The aromatic palette exudes a freshness and purity of fruit, while the palate offers finesse and elegance, guided by a tannic structure with a smooth structure, tender and tasty. Already displaying the qualities of a great wine in its youth, the Domaine de Chevalier 2017 will evolve plenty of refinement over the years to come and express the full extent of its personality after aging several years.

**Serve with** Domaine de Chevalier is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. Domaine de Chevalier Rouge is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised and grilled dishes.

**Cellaring** Drink 2023-2036

**Scores/Awards** **94 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2020  
**94 points** - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2020  
**93-95+ points** - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate #236 - April 2018  
**96 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2020  
**93-94 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2018  
**94 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2020  
**94-96 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2018  
**17+ points** - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - October 2019  
**17+ points** - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2018  
**94 points** - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2018  
**94 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2018  
**16 points** - Farr Vintner - April 2018  
**90-93 points** - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2018  
**93 points** - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2020  
**92-94 points** - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2018  
**88-91 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2018  
**95 points** - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2020  
**94-97 points** - Jeb Dunnuck MW - April 2018  
**17+ points** - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2018

**Reviews** *"Ripe and full in feel, with a swath of cassis, plum paste and fig preserve flavors that holds sway from start to finish, allowing roasted apple wood, licorice snap and black tea accents to chime in along the way. The fruit takes a solid encore on the finish. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Petit Verdot. Best from 2023 through 2036"*  
- JM, Wine Spectator

**Reviews** *“The 2017 Domaine de Chevalier is deep garnet-purple in color with a nose of baked plums, black cherry compote, fruitcake and violets plus wafts of fragrant earth and rosehip tea. Medium-bodied, the palate has loads of fruit with plush, rounded tannins and a lively finish. A blend of 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot and 5% Petit Verdot, this vintage spent 18 months in French oak, 35% new. 2022-2039.”*  
- LPB, Wine Advocate

*“Deep garnet-purple in color, the 2017 Domaine de Chevalier opens with a cedary waft giving way to a good core of crushed black currants, blackberries and mulberries with suggestions of black truffles, tilled soil and black olives plus a hint of smoked meats. Medium-bodied with a good, solid frame of ripe, fine-grained tannins and oodles of freshness, it is elegantly fruited yet well sustained on the mid-palate and long finish.”*  
- LPB, Wine Advocate

*“Lots of blueberry, hot-stone, slate and walnut aromas. Terracotta, too. Iodine. Full-bodied, round and dense with layers of fine tannins. Lovely depth and intensity. Extremely long and focused. Needs three or four years of bottle age just to start.”*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*“This is really delicious and round with soft and ripe tannins. Full body and juicy fruit. Shows ripeness and balance. A pretty wine to watch for the future.”*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*“Packed with ripe fruit, this shows juicy blackberry and spice flavors. They are balanced with the core of dry tannins that will allow this fruity, structured wine to age. Drink this wine from 2023.”*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*“This wine is rich with a powerful core of tannins is surrounded by dark fruits. The dense texture and tannins give the wine its concentration and longevity. Drink from 2024.”*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*“55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot. Deep crimson. Pure dark fruit, elegantly inviting. Smells as if there is some Cab Franc even though there isn't – that fine leafiness. Lovely depth of fruit, fully ripe but elegant and refined not bumptious or overripe. Pure fruit, cedary complexity and flowing tannins.”*  
- JH, JancisRobinson.com

*“Deep crimson. A little leafy, fragrant in an herbaceous style. Firm and chewy. Tongue-tied at the moment but there's finesse in the dark, dusty fruit and tender graphite notes. Smooth and polished yet compact tannins. Savoury, dry, subtle aftertaste. Drink 2024-2037”*  
- JH, JancisRobinson.com

*“This stands out among many of the Pessac's this year, with plenty of depth on evidence, and a more obvious personality than most. The liquorice root, cigar and grilled almond notes are perfectly woven through the cassis and bilberry fruit, and here you can feel a slight ripple through the palate, while the tannins have presence and are alive. This feels poised, like it can stretch its wings and go the distance. A great job in this vintage. (JA)”*  
- JA, Decanter.com

*“Smoke, incense, blackberry, dark cherry and a slight hint of fig in the background create an aromatic profile. This wine shows ripe fruits, sweetness, freshness and gentle tannins. In a perfect scenario the finish would be longer, but this is truly a very fine wine that will shine with just a few years in the cellar. Made from a blend of 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot and 5% Petit Verdot, the wine reached 13.5% alcohol. The higher than usual percentage of Cabernet in the blend is due to damage from the frost.”*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

## Reviews

*"35% of the Estate was hit by frost in 2017 so production will be around 100,000 bottles instead of 170,000 last year. The blend is 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot. Exotic and opulent on the nose thanks to well-judged use of new oak, though there is a light earthiness underneath. The palate reveals juicy cherries and blackcurrant and polished, refined tannins that complement the notes of cedar and tobacco. The fruit is lifted by fresh acidity, offering both red and black cherries through on a lingering finish that is sweet with vanilla and toasty with oak."*

- Farr Vintners

*"The nose has fragrance woodland violets the palate rich fruit depth breadth of flavour in the middle. Fine firm but ripe tannins underpin sweet black fruits show at the back power and depth the finish though lighter with fragrance, freshness and length. Drink 2024 - 2038."*

- Derek Smedley MW

*"The 2017 Domaine de Chevalier was impressive from barrel. Bottled since June 2019, it has clearly retained that gorgeous nose with delineated scents of blackberry, black olive, shucked oyster shells and orange rind. Wonderful vigour here. The palate is medium bodied with supple tannin, lithe and very focused. It is not a powerful nor indeed a long-term Domaine de Chevalier, ergo my lower score than 2016. Bottom line is that it is just a delicious wine to consume. Still, it will offer 20 years of drinking pleasure. Tasted twice with consistent notes. (NM)"*

- NM, Vinous

*"The 2017 Domaine de Chevalier Rouge was cropped at 34hl/ha between 11 and 29 September and is matured in 35% new oak for 18 months. It has a vivacious bouquet with quite generous black fruit, raspberry, brine and black olive that is well-defined and focused, if not possessing the complexity of the previous two vintages. The palate is medium-bodied with fine, slightly edgy tannin – layers of black fruit interlaced with melted tar and graphite, closing in a little towards the finish with a gentle grip. I appreciate the deft manner in which this fans out and leaves a mineral residue on the finish. A Domaine de Chevalier of refinement rather than power, one with "buyability" or "drinkability". Drink 2021 - 2045."*

- NM, Vinous

*"The 2017 Domaine de Chevalier is rather dense and powerful, but it is also not quite put together. Specifically, the focus and delineation that are such signatures of this wine are not present today. There is something about the wine's balance that is just not right. The coarse tannins and disjointed feel suggest fruit that may have been shocked during the April frost. Tasted three times."*

- AG, Vinous

*"A gem that readers should snatch up is unquestionably the 2017 Domaine De Chevalier, which is based on 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, and 5% Petit Verdot that spent 18 months in just 35% new French oak. This deeply colored effort offers classic blackberry and blackcurrant fruits as well as medium to full body, complex notes of tobacco, gravelly earth, and chocolate, beautiful tannins, and a great finish. This is a classy, flawlessly balanced 2017 that offers up pleasure even today, yet it will keep for 30+ years. Having just had the good fortune to drink a bottle of the 1920, now at 100 years after the vintage, the longevity of this cuvée should not be underestimated."*

- Jeb Dunnuck

*"Tasted no less than four times, the 2017 Domaine de Chevalier is going to be up with the crème de la crème of the vintage. Based on 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot, and 5% Petit Verdot aging in 35% new French oak, its deep purple color is followed by an incredibly classic bouquet of crème de cassis, crushed rock, pipe tobacco, smoked earth, and leafy herbs. Similar in style to the 2008, yet with more generosity and charm, it's medium to full-bodied, silky, and elegant, with ripe tannin. Give it a few years and enjoy over the following two decades or more."*

- Jeb Dunnuck

*"There is a touch of greenness on the nose which remains a faint annoyance on the palate, but apart from that the fruit is succulent and smooth and there is enough juiciness to romance the taste buds. The oak is a little incongruous at the moment, but this will mellow."*

- MJ, matthewjukes.com

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