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## Domaine de Chevalier 2020

CSPC# 888296

750mlx6

13.5% alc./vol.

**Grape Variety** 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot, 3% Cabernet Franc.  
**Appellation** Pessac-Léognan  
**Classification** Grand Cru Classé de Graves in 1959  
**Website** <http://www.domainedechevalier.com/>

**Sustainability** This 67-hectare estate in Pessac-Léognan is at the top of its game today, and the 2019 vintage is a striking success. When the Bernard family purchased Domaine de Chevalier in 1983, the vineyards amounted to only 20 hectares: expansion followed in the woodlands (much of which remain) that occupy this site, on the same stony gravel and black sand over iron-rich clay that defines the estate's historic vineyards. It's a cold site in winter, surrounded by trees, but warm in summer, as the stones reflect heat, and the black sands absorb it. Farming is now organic and biodynamic, with experiments with cover-crops and unhedged canopies, and drainage to improve more humid parcels. Sauvignon Blanc is planted in the estate's coolest sites, Cabernet Sauvignon on its warmest, and everything else is planted in between.

**General Info** 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 valour in battle against the English.

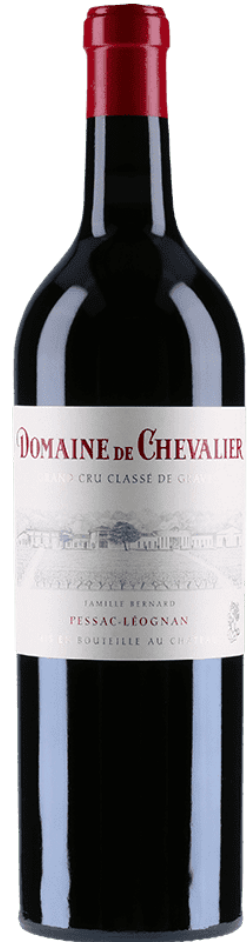
Domaine de Chevalier in the Graves/Pessac Leognan, appellation, was purchased in 1865 by Arnaud Ricard and his son Jean the Bernard family for 33,000 francs. At the time, the Ricards family were familiar with the Bordeaux wine trade as they worked as coopers, producing some of the best barrels used by 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.

**Winemaker** Rémi Edange. Stéphane Derenoncourt consults.

**Vintage** Despite the Covid crisis, we were able to organize our wine-growing work precisely, from pruning to harvest, and carry out a harvest of magnificent quality, fully ripened by this precocious, sunny, and hot year. A very advanced flowering, from mid-May, guaranteed us an equally early harvest. The vineyard, abundantly watered in spring, held up well to a very hot and very dry month of July. Only the young vines, less deeply rooted, had a few toasted bunches. The month of August, very sunny, interspersed with good rains, allowed a cycle of maturity in the best conditions. The great beautiful dry and hot weather in September, with wide thermal amplitudes, completely ripened the fruits and concentrated all the grape varieties. We all harvested by hand with 10 days in advance, by choice, without pressure. However, the very narrow pickup windows this year demanded great precision in action. It will certainly be on the podium as one of the most successful vintages in the estate's modern history.



<b>Vineyards</b>	<p>The 80-hectoliter vineyard of Domaine de Chevalier has 67 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, 7 hectares are planted to 70% Sauvignon Blanc and 30% Semillon. For the red wine, 60 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.</p> <p>Domaine de Chevalier has a complex terroir and soil that starts with the forest that surrounds the vineyards three sides.</p>
<b>Harvest</b>	<p>From September 11 to September 30. 38 hl/ha. Red grapes in baskets, with triple sorting: 1st in the vines, 2nd on the complete bunch on the sorting table and 3rd by optical sorting</p>
<b>Vinification/ Maturation</b>	<p>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.</p> <p>Ageing: 18 months (four months on the lees); New barrels: 35%.</p>
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	<p>Deep color, dark red, black in the middle, brilliant. Great nose, intense and distinctive. Flowery expression mainly on the fruit. Black cherry, blackcurrant, blueberry. Finely peppery and vanilla spices. Aromas of tannins and slightly peaty earth. On the palate</p> <p>impressive sensation of density, fleshy tannins and contained power. The flesh of the wine is fine, firm, fresh and fruity. The high-class tannins recall the earthy and peaty flavor of great vintages to keep. The fruit is everywhere, intensely.</p>
<b>Serve with</b>	<p>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.</p>
<b>Production</b>	<p>Approx. 10,000 cases made annually.</p>
<b>Cellaring</b>	<p>Drink 2028-2060</p>
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>95 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2023  <b>95+ points</b> - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2023  <b>95-97+ points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - May 2021  <b>96 points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent - March 2023  <b>96-97 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2021  <b>95-97 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 2021  <b>18 points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2021  <b>17 points</b> - James Lawther, JancisRobinson.com - April 2021  <b>96 points</b> - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - January 2023  <b>95 points</b> - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - May 2021  <b>95 points</b> - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - January 2023  <b>97 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2023  <b>96-98 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2021  <b>93-95 points</b> - Farr Vintners - May 2021  <b>95 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2023  <b>93-95 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - June 2021  <b>96 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2023  <b>95-97 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - June 2021  <b>98 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2023  <b>95-97+ points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - May 2021  <b>94 points</b> - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - March 2023  <b>94-96 points</b> - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2021  <b>97 points</b> - Andreas Larsson, Tasted - May 2021  <b>93-94 points</b> - Michael Schuster, The World of Fine Wine - May 2021  <b>92-93 points</b> - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - July 2021  <b>96 points</b> - Bettane &amp; Desseauve (score only) - July 2021  <b>18 points</b> - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - September 2021</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>“Well-built, pulling ample and weighty waves of cassis, plum reduction and blackberry preserves along, atop a broad spine of warm loam, smoldering tobacco, and singed alder. Long and deep through the fine-grained finish, with a warm paving stone note that won't quit, thanks to well-buried acidity—not an easy feat in this vintage. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc. Best from 2028 through 2038.”</i>  <i>- JM, Wine Spectator</i></p>

## Reviews

*“The 2020 Domaine de Chevalier is a touch more tightly wound than the brilliant 2019 out of the gates, but it seems likely to equal that vintage with a bit of time. Unwinding in the glass with aromas of minty blackberries and cassis mingled with notions of burning embers, spices, rose petals and orange rind, it's medium to full-bodied, fleshy and concentrated, with a deep core of fruit, powdery structuring tannins and a long, saline finish. As I wrote last year, this estate in recent vintages has arrived at a sort of stylistic contemporary classicism that evokes the great wines of yesteryear from this address, and the 2020 continues that trend. This 67-hectare estate in Pessac-Léognan is at the top of its game today, and the 2019 vintage is a striking success. When the Bernard family purchased Domaine de Chevalier in 1983, the vineyards amounted to only 20 hectares; expansion followed in the woodlands (much of which remain) that occupy this site, on the same stony gravel and black sand over iron-rich clay that defines the estate's historic vineyards. It's a cold site in winter, surrounded by trees, but warm in summer, as the stones reflect heat, and the black sands absorb it. Farming is now organic and biodynamic, with experiments with cover crops, unhedged canopies, and drainage to improve more humid parcels. Sauvignon Blanc is planted in the estate's coolest sites, Cabernet Sauvignon on its warmest, and everything else is planted in between. Since 1983, Domaine de Chevalier has naturally evolved; as new plantings came online, the wines lost some of the intensity-without-weight that had always been their signature. In the early 2000s, a concerted effort was made to attain fuller maturity and more concentration, and the wines became a little chunkier and more obviously oaky, too, but recent years have seen a return to seamless elegance, without any loss of depth or persistence. In many respects, indeed, the last few vintages of Domaine de Chevalier bear a closer stylistic kinship to the great wines produced at this address in the 1970s and before than they do to the vintages of the early 2000s. Olivier Bernard and his team, in short, are to be congratulated for ushering in a new golden age at an estate that produces one of Bordeaux's most singular and characterful wines.”*

- WK, Wine Advocate

*“Medium to deep garnet-purple in color, the 2020 Domaine de Chevalier comes skipping out of the glass with energetic scents of ripe red and black currants, fresh blackberries, and boysenberries, plus nuances of wild sage, cloves, and cedar with a waft of lavender. The medium to full-bodied palate surprises and delights with an unexpected richness and depth that remains locked away on the nose, revealing layers of fragrant earth and floral notions framed by fantastic freshness and firm, finely grained tannins, finishing with the most gorgeous, long-lingering perfume.”*

- LPB, Wine Advocate

*“Deep garnet-purple in color, it charges out of the gate with pronounced notes of blackcurrant cordial, juicy blackberries, and mossy tree bark, giving way to notes of licorice, crushed rocks, and pencil lead. The medium to full-bodied palate is taut with muscular black fruits and mineral accents, framed by firm, grainy tannins, and oodles of freshness, finishing long, and perfumed.”*

- LPB, Wine Independent

*“Iron, black mushroom and dark berry with some burnt orange peel. Flowers, too. It's full-bodied with round tannins that turn linear and tight at the end. Excellent energy. Brightness and purity.”*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*“This impressively rich wine is centered on great swathes of black fruits. The tannins, with their stylish swagger, are a fine complement to the fruit, giving the wine structure and the potential for elegant aging.”*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*“This Domaine de Chevalier 2020 effortlessly triumphs over the heat and drought of the 2020 vintage to produce a nuanced, promising wine that seems to have so much potential for future development without following any exterior trend – just expressing its location, with its trademark freshness. Bravissimo!”*

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*“Full bottle 1,360 g, Cask sample taken 6 April. Spicy nose. Pretty saline and mineral on the palate – non flashy but with lots locked in there. And there is no shortage at all of tannin but it's ripe enough. Very much a work in progress but with a certain lusciousness of embryonic fruit. 13.5%. Drink 2030 – 2050.”*

- JL, JancisRobinson.com

## Reviews

*"Bright red fruits, creamy and deliciously textured - full, ripe, and round but so well controlled. Vibrant and vivid yet balanced and sleek, you want to drink this now with great acidity and cool blue fruit touches and stony minerality. Tannins are present and mouth filling but grippy and supportive not overwhelming. Feels stylish and really so drinkable. A great effort!"*

- GH, Decanter.com

*"Concentrated ruby red colour, a little subdued on the nose, built with structure and power, concentrated, and should age well. Classical, powerful, not exuberant, an impressive Chevalier that has tannins and fruit and freshness, nothing shouting too loud. As it opens, you see a peony floral edge that is very attractive. Easily among the best in Pessac. Barrel Sample: 95."*

- JA, Decanter.com

*"Exactly as you hope to find a great Bordeaux at this stage, still very much firm in its tannic structure, rippled with clear cinnamon, turmeric and black pepper notes alongside creamy cassis, blackberry, bilberry, cigar box, smoked earth. A brilliant Chevalier."*

- JA, janeanson.com

*"Showing a solid depth of color, the moment the wine hits the glass you find a wealth of black raspberries, cigar box, mint, oceanic influences, smoke, licorice, black currants, blackberries, bay leaf, and black raspberries in the nose. On the palate, the wine exudes an incredible purity of fruit, dark chocolate, and layers of ripe, dense, sensuously-textured black, red, and blue fruits that unfold seamlessly across your palate, and linger for close to 50 seconds. There is lift, energy, volume, and depth on the palate finishing with waves of dark red currants, creme de cassis, tobacco leaf, blackberry, savory herbs, and a gentle wisp of spearmint on the backend. Clearly, this is one of the great vintages of Domaine de Chevalier that fans of the estate should run, (not walk) to buy! Drink from 2026-2055."*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"Dark in color, the wine pops with notes of Cuban cigars, smoke, black currants, flowers, blackberries, forest leaf and an intriguing hint of orange rind at the end of the nose. Full-bodied, plush, polished, and well-defined, every layer offers nuance with silk and velvet textures. There is lift, energy, volume, and depth on the palate, finishing with waves of dark red currants, creme de cassis, tobacco leaf, blackberry, savory herbs and a gentle wisp of spearmint on the backend. It is going to be quite a treat comparing 2018, 2019 and 2020 over the years. I am certain this will age and evolve for at least 3 decades or more from here. The wine blends 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 7% Petit Verdot and 3 % Cabernet Franc. 13.7% ABV."*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"The 2020 is a blend of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and 5% Petit Verdot that will be aged in barrel for 18 months. Deep ruby colour. Ripe, juicy cherry, plum and cassis on the nose. The palate follows, with toasty red and black fruit. Silky, ripe tannins bring a full but ripe structure to the wine. Persistent and juicy through to the finish."*

- Farr Vintners

*"The 2020 Domaine de Chevalier has a concentrated, well-defined bouquet with blackberry, raspberry, tobacco, hickory, and wild hedgerow. Touches of pressed iris flower surface with aeration. Generous, yet it maintains ample delineation. The palate is medium-bodied with sappy black fruit, white pepper and touches of tobacco, very fine depth, focused and perhaps a little more muscular than other vintages with a sapid finish that is surprising given the growing season. Superb."*

- NM, Vinous

*"The 2020 Domaine de Chevalier, which was cropped at 38hl/ha, is deep purple with glints of blue. The bouquet is very clean, precise and focused, not dissimilar to the impressive Malartic Lagravière that I tasted alongside, touches of wet granite and truffle emerging with time. The palate is medium-bodied with fine-grained tannins. This Domaine de Chevalier has a deeply impressive structure counterbalanced by equally impressive freshness and elegance, fanning out wonderfully on the finish, which is very persistent. Just a shade off the outstanding 2019... perhaps."*

- NM, Vinous

**Reviews** *“The 2020 Domaine de Chevalier is brilliant. Bright, poised and wonderfully pure, the 2020 Domaine de Chevalier marries the radiance of the year with tremendous freshness. Red cherry fruit, blood orange, mint, star anise and cinnamon all meld together. The 2020 is a wine built on aromatic presence and persistence, more so than heft, with all the elements very nicely balanced. What a wine! Tasted two times.”*  
- AG, Vinous

*“The 2020 Domaine de Chevalier is going to need a number of years to unwind. Rich, heady and super-concentrated, the 2020 is so impressive, right out of the gate. Crushed rocks, rose petals, cedar, pomegranate and mint all build as the 2020 shows off its vibrant, layered personality. Domaine de Chevalier remains one of the most under the radar wines in all of Bordeaux. The 2020 is an absolutely brilliant effort from Olivier Bernard and his team. Tasted two times.”*  
- AG, Vinous

*“The Grand Vin 2020 Domaine De Chevalier ratchets everything up another notch and will be one of the legendary wines from this address. Notes of pure cassis, graphite, lead pencil, and scorched earth define its incredible aromatics, and it hits the palate with full-bodied richness, ultra-fine tannins, no hard edges, and a great, great finish. This is pure, classic, regal Pessac-Léognan is as good as anything in the vintage. Give bottles 4-6 years and it will evolve for 50, 60, 70+ years. I absolutely love this wine. The blend is 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot, and the rest Cabernet Franc. 98+.”*  
- Jeb Dunnuck

*“From an estate that’s been on fire over the past decade, the 2020 Domaine De Chevalier is another brilliant wine in the making and checks in as 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot, and 3% Cabernet Franc. Offering impressive cassis and darker berry fruits, it has complex notes of crushed flowers, violets, and damp earth-like nuances. Medium to full-bodied on the palate, with ultra-fine tannins and a silky, layered, seamless texture, it shines for both its richness and its balance. It also shuts down quite quickly, so if you’re going to drink bottles, try one in its youth. Otherwise, be sure to give bottles 7-8 years in a cold cellar. It should have 30-40 years of overall longevity. Barrel Sample: 95-97+.”*  
- Jeb Dunnuck

*“Deep dark ruby garnet, violet reflections, delicate water edge. Attractive dark berry fruit, underlaid with ripe heart cherries, delicate hints of orange zest, fine precious wood spice, inviting bouquet. Juicy, elegant, fine fruit sweetness, cherry touch, good freshness, ripe, well-integrated tannins, mineral and persistent, reliable aging potential, fine roasted aromas in the finish.”*  
- PM, Falstaff Magazine

*“Great structure blending a wealth of ripe dark fruit with fine oak, plenty of super refined tannins, lovely freshness paired with dense dark fruit and marvelously long finish, excellent potential.”*  
- AL, Tasted.com

*“(65% CS, 27% M, 5% PV, 3% CF; 38hl/ha; 13.5% ABV; 35% new). Dense, tight, closed at present, but mineral, persistent, and fine to smell; rich but restrained, vital in acidity, very fine in tannin; a refined, poised, classy wine, long across the palate, packed with fresh, ripe red fruit, subtly infused with gravel aromas, graceful and very persistent. Another very fine Domaine de Chevalier red. 2028–50+.”*  
- MS, The World of Fine Wine

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