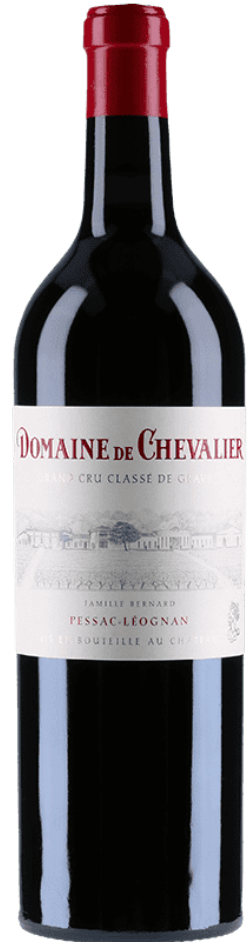

Domaine de Chevalier 2021

CSPC# 848139

750mlx6

13.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	80% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot, 5% Cabernet Franc
Appellation	Pessac-Léognan
Classification	Grand Cru Classé de Graves in 1959
Website	http://www.domainedechevalier.com/
Sustainability	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. Conversion to Organic with the 2024 label.
General Info	<p>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.</p> <p>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's. 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Winemaker	Rémi Edange. Stéphane Derenoncourt consults.
Vintage	<p>This 2021 vintage at Domaine de Chevalier will go down in history for two climatically opposed reasons: A chaotic climatic and viticultural season, severe frosts and heavy rains favoring mildew: At the start of spring, 7 waves of frost hit the vineyard between April 3 and May 3 (6-8-12-13-17-19/April and May 3) with temperatures down to -5°C. The damage is significant, particularly in Sauternes and Graves. Then a deluge, 320mm of rain between May and June (including 100mm on the flower in the 2nd decade of June...) and finally mildew on the grapes in July! (particularly noticeable on Merlot).</p> <p>A real training for all of our vineyards, on the way (conversion) to organic farming!</p> <p>October, the month of the Reds, gratifies us with a huge anticyclone, fully sunny, windy, dry, and cool. Such conditions prevent any hint of grey rot and ensure the best ripeness, especially for Cabernet Sauvignon, the King grape variety of our gravelly terroir.</p>
Vineyards	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



Vineyards	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 harvest took place September 28 - October 12. Yield 40hl/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
Winemaking	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	Shiny dark garnet colour, black in the middle. Pure, typical and fresh nose of ripe Cabernet Sauvignon in gravelly soil where wild fruits, plants and spices mingle: blackcurrant, blackberry, blueberry, sour cherry, peppermint, cedar, heather. On the palate: great unctuous and fresh structure, dense with silky, fine and elegant tannins. The Merlot brings a delicate and fruity flesh. The Cabernet Franc ensures refinement and elegance, and the Petit Verdot releases its fruity and spicy energy. A classy finish where the flavors of graphite and liquorice appear. The 80% of Cabernet Sauvignon are in balance in this blend and ensure a great wine for laying down, full of freshness.
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.
Production	8,500 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2028-2045
Scores/Awards	<p>89 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - January 2024</p> <p>94+ points - Yohan Castaing, Wine Advocate - February 2024</p> <p>93-95 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022</p> <p>89-91 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent - May 2022</p> <p>95-96 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2022</p> <p>96-98 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 2022</p> <p>17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - June 2022</p> <p>94 points - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - March 2022</p> <p>94 points - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - December 2023</p> <p>94 points - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - May 2022</p> <p>95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2024</p> <p>93-95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2022</p> <p>91 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2022</p> <p>93-95 points - Thomas Parker, Farr Vintners - April 2022</p> <p>93 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2024</p> <p>93-95 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2022</p> <p>94-96 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - May 2022</p> <p>93 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2024</p> <p>93-95 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2022</p> <p>18 points - Matthew Jukes - August 2022</p> <p>93 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - April 2022</p> <p>93 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2022</p> <p>95 points - Vert de Vin - July 2022</p> <p>95-96 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - May 2022</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Ripe, though still relatively sedate in feel, with black cherry compote laced with tobacco, worn cedar and savory notes. Features a flash of tar, which adds some weight to the finish. A nice effort for the vintage. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc. Drink now through 2030. 8,500 cases made."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The 2021 Domaine de Chevalier reveals a deep, complex bouquet with aromas of blackberries and blueberries mingled with spices, cigar wrapper and coniferous forest floor, followed by a medium to full-bodied, sweet, and concentrated palate animated by bright acids and framed by fine, powdery tannins. It's an impressive effort that will reward a bit of bottle age. Drink 2023-2040."</i> - WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The 2021 Domaine de Chevalier is full of promise, bursting with aromas of dark berries and plums mingled with loamy soil, bay leaf, licorice, potpourri, and spices. Medium to full-bodied, seamless, and complete, its</i></p>

Reviews *velvety attack segues into a lively, layered core, concluding with a long, nicely defined finish. Olivier Bernard doesn't think that this will surpass his 2018, but I tend to disagree."*

- WK, Wine Advocate

"The 2021 Domaine de Chevalier rouge is deep garnet-purple in color. It comes bounding out of the glass with bold notes of cassis, kirsch, and redcurrant jelly, plus nuances of pencil shavings, dried Provence herbs, and tree bark. Light to medium-bodied, the palate is delicately played with soft-spoken red and black fruits and a firm, grainy texture, finishing long and savory. 2026-2039."

- LPB, Wine Independent

"A medium-bodied DC with a pretty core of ripe fruit that shows licorice, blackberry, and some currant character. Spice box, too. Very long, with fine tannins and plenty of energy."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"96-98. Barrel Sample. This is a serious white wine. Its structure and its spicy fruit tones lend depth. The style is age worthy with ripe white fruits that are touched by apricots."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Deep purplish crimson. Savoury nose with something more complex than just fruit. Good density and depth though still a little oak evidence (hardly surprisingly). Tingly finish. Polished tannins. Really quite fine and not lacking anything. Bone dry and on the refreshing side but it really doesn't taste like a wine from a less-than-successful vintage. Good weight and balance in the mouth. Refreshing but not austere. Drink 2028 - 2045."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Aromatic nose, perfumed black fruits, bramble tones and a touch of sweet spice. Round and mouth filling, this has good density and depth for the vintage, tannins are on the juicy plump side with a dry grippy texture though satisfying not austere with the fruit powering through giving cherry and blackcurrant flavours. This has good persistency and doesn't let up - it's not a showstopper at this point but I love the quality of the fruit and the tannins and the lifted acidity as well as the darker more savoury elements of liquorice, black chocolate, graphite, and smoked cedar that come in towards the end. Lots are going on here with good potential. You get the impression nothing is hiding, and I love that. Really the grapes and the terroir on show. A good success and will be interesting to taste in the bottle. 2% Cabernet Franc completes the blend."

- GH, Decanter.com

"Great stuff, with momentum building from beginning to end, blueberry, black cherry fruits, delivered with an extra kick of liquorice and chocolate. Needs time to age but feels like it will reward a good five to six years in the bottle and is one of the few where you don't have to excuse the vintage - just enjoy an earlier-drinker, well sculpted year. 30hl/h yield. In organic conversion. An up score."

- JA, janeanson.com

"Inky purple in colour, powerful aromatics. Chevalier is often an estate to turn to in challenging vintages and is proving its mettle here. This is another league from much of 2021, extremely impressive in quality. Clove, saffron, turmeric, leather, complex layers of flavour that unroll slowly and get a sense of momentum building. The fingerprint of 2021 comes through in the savoury black fruits and austere tannins that need more filling out over ageing, but this is exceptional."

- JA, janeanson.com

"Medium-bodied, energetic, soft, elegant, and refined, this is a beautiful expression of Cabernet Sauvignon. Texturally, this is where the wine shines with its silky qualities blended with ample lift, purity, and freshness. This is quite an accomplishment for any vintage, but with the challenging 2021, it is really saying something! The wine blends 80% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot and 5% Cabernet Franc, making this one of the highest percentages of Cabernet even used in the blend here. This is the first vintage that was produced being 100% biodynamic in the vineyards, thus, yield were quite low. Drink from 2025-2050."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

Reviews

“Deeply colored, initially you find flowers, black and dark red pit fruits, Indian spice, black pepper, cassis, and black currants on the nose. On the palate, the wine is medium-bodied, sweet, fresh, and round, as well as a bit chewy, with loads of ripe berries accented with espresso and cocoa in the endnote. 13.% ABV. The harvest took place September 28 - October 15. Yields were low at only 30 hectoliters per hectare. This is the first vintage that was produced being 100% biodynamic in the vineyards. Drink from 2025-2048.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“The 2021 is strongly Cabernet led and impressively dense for the vintage. Deep ruby colour. Gravelly, earthy spice and rich black fruit burst from the glass on the nose. This same sweet and savoury blend follows on the palate. Plush oak and ripe tannin prop up the deep, savoury fruit. There is excellent fruit through the middle, persisting long into the finish. The structure builds to the finish, which is chewy and vertical. Very well made and one to consider in 2021.”

- TP, Farr Vintners

“The 2021 Domaine de Chevalier has a beautifully defined bouquet with blackberry, pencil box and light oyster shell scents that gradually unfurl in the glass. This is unashamedly classic in style but not old-fashioned. The palate is very well defined with a taut line of acidity, very fresh and focused, revealing just a dab of black pepper and clove toward the finish. This is a succinctly styled Domaine de Chevalier that will age gracefully in bottle.”

- NM, Vinous

“The 2021 Domaine de Chevalier was picked from September 28 until October 15 at 30hL/ha. Tobacco- and sous-bois-infused black fruit unfurl with a sense of assuredness on the nose, the best example, a third bottle toward the end of my tastings, being the most delineated. This has energy rather than horsepower. The palate is medium-bodied with pencil-lead-infused black fruit and a slightly powdery texture, certainly the most saline in recent years, leading to an almost Pauillac-inspired finish. Stylish and classic Domaine de Chevalier.”

- NM, Vinous

“The 2021 Domaine de Chevalier was terrific both times I tasted it. Potent and driving, the 2021 dazzles with Cabernet Sauvignon intensity in its aromas, flavors, and overall structure. Graphite, spice, menthol, spice, rose petals, mocha and flowers run through a core of red/purplish fruit. The Blanc gets most of the attention at Domaine de Chevalier, but these days I find the red more complete and more interesting.”

- AG, Vinous

“Looking at the Grand Vin, the 2021 Domaine De Chevalier is based on 80% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Merlot, and the balance Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc, with harvest not wrapping up until October 15. It's a terrific wine in the vintage offering ripe currant and darker berry fruits as well as classy oak, graphite, and scorched earth nuances. This medium-bodied, concentrated, balanced 2021 has ripe tannins, integrated acidity, and a great finish. It actually reminds me slightly of the estate's 2014, albeit in a slightly fresher package.”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“A true success in the vintage is the 2021 Domaine de Chevalier from the team of Olivier Bernard. Based on 80% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Merlot, and the rest Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc, it was harvested between the September 28 and October 12. It will spend 18 months in a mix of new and used barrels. Medium to full-bodied, concentrated, and focused, with the style of the vintage front and center, it has gorgeous cassis and darker fruits, notes of tobacco and violets, ripe tannins, a great mid-palate, and outstanding length. It's up there with the top wines in the vintage.”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“This is a superb 2021 with flamboyant fruit perfectly matched with careful oak and feisty tannins. I am very impressed because it shows more mid-palate integrity than many others in greater Graves. The notes are profound and accurate, and the length is uncommon. But, most importantly, the perfume is sensational, and it stands out from the crowd, not least because its grandeur and complexity are unmistakable. 18.”

- Matthew Jukes

Reviews *“Deep ruby red, purple reflections on the narrow rim. Floral, inviting cassis aromas, black cherry, a little liquorice, and tangerine zest; an attractive bouquet. A touch lean, subtle red cherry fruit, good extract, fine tannins, fresh, lightly-structured, mineral-citrus finish; already open but has some ageing potential.”*
- PM, Falstaff Magazine

“The nose is fruity, fresh, elegant, delicate and reveals a nice purity/pulpiness of fruit, nice definition and a fine multi-layered character. There are notes of bright sour cherry, pulpy blueberry and more lightly blackcurrant combined with hints of crisp raspberry, fresh flowers/fresh lilies, fine hints of fresh pine needle, a discreet hint of pepper, salinity and zan. The palate is fruity and reveals freshness, good definition, a certain gourmandize, some unctuousness/generosity of fruit, tension, a nice acidic backbone, a nice work on positive bitterness (discrete), tension and a nice finesse of the guideline. On the palate this wine expresses fresh/pulpy blackberry, blueberry and more lightly fresh/pulpy plum notes combined with hints of bright/chunky raspberry as well as fresh lily, pine needle/sense of place, fine zan, star anise, a subtle hint of dark chocolate, a discreet hint of salinity, green cardamom. Good length. The tannins are elegant, precise, fine, finely powdered, and racy. A nice sapidity on the finish/persistence.”

- Vert de Vin
