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## Domaine de Chevalier Blanc 2019

CSPC# 866101

750mlx6

14.0% alc./vol.

### Grape Variety

70% Sauvignon Blanc, 30% Sémillon

### Appellation

Pessac-Léognan

### Classification

Cru Classe de Graves in 1959

### Website

<http://www.domainedechevalier.com/>

### 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 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.

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 Deroncourt, of La Mondotte fame, as consultant winemaker. Domaine De Chevalier is classified as a Graves Cru Classé.

### Winemaker

Rémi Edange. Stéphane Deroncourt consults.

### Vintage

This vintage is characterized in particular by its aromatic intensity, excellent fruit maturity, density, freshness, very elegant tannins in red wines.

- A wet spring, with two frost attacks (April 13 and May 5) contained thanks to the means deployed (wind turbines, candles). Very good vine growth.
- Flowering slightly disturbed by weather instability, without preventing a good harvest volume.
- An exceptional summer which arrives precisely on the calendar date... and which will last from June 21 to October 15. During this period, we experienced two waves of great heat (June 26-27 and July 22-25)
- Expected precipitation, which occurs at strategic times: late July and early August, heavy rains triggered veraison. The vine did not suffer from the drought.
- The excellent conditions of September: great weather and, from September 20, small showers that rebalance the sugar / acid potential, perfect the maturity of the skins (aromas, color, tannins) and give the grapes a lot of freshness. All this going hand in hand with rather cold nights. This thermal amplitude is particularly beneficial for the quality of ripening of the fruit.



**Vineyards** The 80-hectoliter vineyard of Domaine de Chevalier has 42 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.

The vineyard is planted to a vine density of 10,000 vines per hectare. On average, the vines are close to 30 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. The forest enhances the extremes of temperature and increase the risk of frost. The terroir is also gravelly black sand soils that are on average 60-90 cm deep. The rich sub-soil consists of a clay-gravel base mixed with hardpan. The vineyard drainage system, built in 1962, important as it drains excess water. At Domaine de Chevalier, it makes a big difference because the sub-soil is prone to retaining humidity. A wind machine and even helicopters are also used to keep the vines dry on occasion. This works because the helicopter blades stir and blend the lower layers of cold air with warmer air and helps avoid damage from frost.

**Harvest** White grapes in baskets with successive picking through the vines, from September 9 to 23.

**Maturation** Slow pressing. Settlement (débouillage) and alcoholic fermentation in the barrel.

Ageing on the lees in the barrel with stirring, for 18 months. New barrels: 35 %

**Tasting Notes** Pretty gold pale-yellow tint, crystalline. Bright nose of various and exotic white fruits mixed with citrus and white flowers. Vineyard peach, nectarine, pear, apricot, mango, lychee, citrus, acacia flower, hawthorn, and honeysuckle. Ample palate, rich, tasty, gourmet, very refined and well held by an energetic liveliness.

Long finish with a great fruity finesse.

**Serve with** Domaine de Chevalier Blanc is a perfect wine to serve with all types of seafood, fish, shellfish, crab, lobster, chicken, veal, port and of course cheese.

**Production** 2,000 cases made.

**Cellaring** Drink now-2028.

**Scores/Awards** **93 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2022  
**96 points** - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022  
**94-96+ points** - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - June 2020  
**96 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2022  
**95-96 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2020  
**94 points** - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - January 2022  
**93 points** - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - June 2020  
**93 points** - Jane Anson, Insidebordeaux.com - January 2022  
**95 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2022  
**97 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - June 2020  
**94 points** - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2022  
**93-95 points** - Neal Martin, Vinous - June 2020  
**92-94+ points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - June 2020  
**97 points** - Jeb Dunnuck MW - April 2022  
**96-98 points** - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2020  
**95 points** - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2020  
**95-97 points** - Yves Beck (score only) - June 2020  
**95 points** - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - June 2020  
**97 points** - Terres de Vins (score only) - September 2021  
**16.5 points** - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2022  
**17.5 points** - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - September 2020

**Reviews** *"Plump and with good underlying juiciness, this lets white peach, lemon peel and fleur de sel notes move through at a steady pace, featuring flashes of acacia and brioche on the finish. Understated and nicely done for the vintage. Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon. Drink now through 2028. 2,000 cases made."*  
- JM, Wine Spectator

*"Domaine de Chevalier's 2019 Blanc is performing brilliantly, unwinding in the glass with notes of citrus pith, white currants, crisp orchard fruit, spring flowers, lemongrass, and beeswax. Medium to full-bodied, deep, and layered, it's concentrated and structured, with terrific depth at the core, racy acids, and a long, sapid finish. This is a white Bordeaux where the vulgarity of Sauvignon is sublimated rather than emphasized, and the result is a compelling wine of considerable complexity and aging potential."*

## Reviews

*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. 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

*"Blended of 70% Sauvignon Blanc and 30% Semillon, the 2019 Blanc was harvested from 3rd of September to 19th of September. The alcohol is 14%. It is aging on its lees in French oak barrels, 35% new, for an anticipated 18 months. The nose is almost completely shut down on first sniff, soon giving way to notions of freshly squeezed lemons and limes, green apples, and pear slices with nuances of orange blossom, fresh ginger, and marzipan. Medium-bodied, the palate has a beguilingly satiny texture with crisp freshness, packed full of zesty layers, finishing long and perfumed."*

- LPB, Wine Advocate

*"Very pretty with lovely apple, cream, lavender, pineapple, and light honey. Full-bodied, yet creamy and refined, with great length and polish. Fresh acidity, but the finish is polished and pretty. Subtle. 70% Sauvignon Blanc and 30% Semillon. Drink in 2024."*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"This is an opulent, dense white with dried-apple and honey character. Salty and hot-stone notes, too. Full-bodied, round, and phenolic. Formed and beautiful. Quite open. Intense length."*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"A round and inviting nose full of creamy lemon, green apple, and white peach aromas - smells pure. Gorgeous clarity on the palate, this is a serious wine with power and concentration. The palate is definitely marked by the wood in terms of texture and spice but there is also a crystalline aspect to the fruit which is appealingly presented. Juicy green apple, lime zest and orange touches. Still extremely youthful but so promising. Drinking Window 2025 – 2036."*

- GH, Decanter.com

*"Grip, power, nectarine, citrus, slate, this is an excellent Chevalier white that is clearly going to age extremely well. White flowers play around the edges, but it is the texture that appeals the most, reflecting its cooler terroir that works in hot summers like 2019."*

- JA, Decanter.com

*"Takes its time, even on the aromatics, to open and enlarge. Just such a confident white wine, with proven ageing ability, able to stand among the great whites of France. There is clear anise and fennel on the attack, white pepper spice, everything well defined and controlled, with white pear and fleshy citrus keeping things uplifted and moving forward. Great stuff. 35% new oak"*

- JA, Inside Bordeaux

## Reviews

*“Green apple, yellow citrus, honeysuckle, and a tropical orange note with a hint of white peach shine through in the nose and on the fresh, creamy, lively palate. The finish hangs with you with endnotes of lemon, lime, vanilla, rocks, and stones. This is already a treat to taste but wait a few years and it is going to be even better as Domaine de Chevalier is one of the longest-lived white wines from Bordeaux. Drink from 2023-2040.”*

- JL, [thewinecellarinsider.com](#)

*“Fresh pomelo, newly-squeezed lemons, honeysuckle and an intriguing orange tropical note with mangos and white peach. On the mouth, the wine pops with its freshness, zest, and energetic fruit. Lemon, lime, vanilla, rocks, and stones. This future rockstar will age for decades, getting better and better. But this is tasty now, I drank it at 9 in the morning! The wine was made from blending 70% Sauvignon Blanc and 30% Semillon.”*

- JL, [thewinecellarinsider.com](#)

*“The 2019 Domaine de Chevalier Blanc, matured in 35% new oak, has a divine bouquet of Mirabelle and (still) that hint of kaffir lime, displaying wonderful mineralité and energy. The palate is very well balanced with fine salinity, good concentration, a little more weight toward the finish than I remember from last year, and a tanginess that provides energy. It gains complexity with aeration. Noble, refined, and classy, this is a Domaine de Chevalier from the top drawer.”*

- NM, [Vinous](#)

*“The 2019 Domaine de Chevalier Blanc was picked from 3 to 19 September and aged on the lees for 18 months in 35% new oak. It has a crisp, delineated nose that gains intensity with aeration, offering enticing aromas of kaffir lime, yellow plums, and jasmine. A subtle crushed stone scent emerges with time. The palate is well balanced with a saline entry and just the right amount of piquancy. A very saline, marine-influenced finish that gets the mouth salivating. It just cries out for a heaving platter of shucked oysters!”*

- NM, [Vinous](#)

*“A wine of real personality, the 2019 Domaine de Chevalier Blanc has breadth and resonance to burn. Orchard fruit, citrus confit, white flowers, mint, and chamomile nuances all flesh out in white that balances radiance with energy. I can't wait to see how the 2019 develops during its élevage; it is one of the most promising wines of the vintage”*

- AG, [Vinous](#)

*“I loved the 2019 Domaine De Chevalier Blanc, which has the crisp, racy, yet concentrated style of the estate that few others can achieve. Gorgeous white peach, mandarin orange, honeyed minerality, and a kiss of toast all define the bouquet, and it hits the palate with medium to full-bodied richness, integrated acidity, plenty of concentration, and a great finish that picks up some obvious minerality. This stunning juice needs 3-4 years of bottle age and will evolve for 2-3 decades if stored correctly. It's probably the white of the vintage”*

- Jeb Dunnuck

*“The flagship white is the 2019 Domaine De Chevalier Blanc. It offers a richer, more concentrated profile that carries rocking caramelized citrus, mandarin orange, and honeyed flower notes as well as full-bodied richness, a layered, opulent texture, bright acidity, and a great finish. It's certainly more opulent and upfront than the 2015 and 2016 were at this stage, and I suspect it will have more upfront appeal as well. It should nevertheless evolve gracefully. Tasted twice.”*

- Jeb Dunnuck

*“Light green-yellow, silver reflections. Delicate coconut and lanolin, yellow tropical fruit, delicate mango, and tangerine zest, inviting bouquet. Medium complexity, delicate fruit sweetness, elegant, freshly structured, subtle blossom honey in the finish, a balanced food accompaniment.”*

- Falstaff Magazine

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