

Château Malartic Lagraviere 2015

CSPC# 785895

750mlx12

12.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety
Appellation
Classification
Website
General Info

53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, 8% Petit Verdot, 5% Cabernet-Franc
Pessac-Léognan

Grand Cru Classé de Graves in 1959

<http://www.malartic-lagraviere.com/en/vintages/#malartic-rouge-2015>

Chateau Malartic Lagraviere started out life with a shorter name. Originally, it was known as Domaine de Lagraviere. The Malartic family obtained the Bordeaux vineyard at the close of the eighteenth century. In the 1850's, the chateau changed their name to Malartic Lagraviere. The name change was to honor the family's famous son, Comte Anne-Joseph-Hippolyte Maures de Malartic, who was a well-known French colonial Governor and French Navy Admiral. In fact, this explains the reason for the boat on their logo.

Chateau Malartic Lagraviere passed from the family of Maures de Malartic family to Arnaud Ricard. The Ricard family were quite well-known in the Graves region as they also owned Chateau de Fieuzal and Domaine de Chevalier . The Ricard family eventually sold the property in 1990 to the famous Champagne producer, Laurent-Perrier. In 1997, Chateau Malartic Lagraviere, became the property of Michele and Alfred-Alexandre Bonnie in 1997. Without prior experience in the wine world, the Bonnie family dove right in at Chateau Malartic Lagraviere, spending close to \$20,000,000 to modernize the estate.

Vintage

The cold, wet winter was followed by a historically warm, dry spring (with 56 mm of rain in May and June).

After a uniform bud break, flowering was fast and homogeneous in late May-early June. July was exceptionally dry (32 mm), creating early water stress by mid-July. However, thanks to our vines' deep roots, developed with the help of the regular ploughing that has been carried out at Malartic for several years, the stress was contained. Some welcome rain (25 mm on 3 August) contributed to a perfect start to the ripening phase in August. The grapes, which had been relatively small, gained in both size and aromatic concentration.

The humidity in August thus gave the vineyard a second wind and enabled an auspicious start for the white grapes with leaf removal on both sides in mid-August. The vines remained in an excellent state of health, displaying freshness and ripeness. The Sauvignon harvest began on 2 September and the Sémillon on 15th, in perfect conditions. The plots were uniform, with superb grapes.

There was a magnificent period of Indian summer weather, with September and October remaining fine and sunny. A few spells of rain in early September and mid-October did not harm the grapes' excellent state of health and the steady progression in their degrees of ripeness.

Uniformity and perfect health are the vintage's key characteristics. This result is a truly sublime expression of Malartic's mosaic of terroirs. Each plot has been able to reveal its full personality, offering an aromatic palette that suggests a blend of exceptional complexity and quality.

Vineyards

The 53-hectare vineyard of Chateau Malartic Lagraviere is planted to produce both red and white Bordeaux wine. 46 hectares are planted for red Bordeaux grapes with 45% Merlot , 45% Cabernet Sauvignon , 8% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot . The terroir for the red wine grape varieties is gravel and clay with limestone soils. Their best terroir is probably the parcel behind their cellars, with the really deep gravel soil that can be as deep as at 8 meters. All work in the vineyards is done using only self-sustaining, farming techniques.

7 hectares of vines are reserved for white Bordeaux wine varieties. For that, the vineyards are planted to 80% Sauvignon Blanc and 20% Semillon. For the white wine grape varieties, you find more limestone with clay and a slightly cooler micro-climate.



Vineyards	in the vineyards. On average, the vines are close to 25 years of age, but they have old vines too, some of which are more than 60 years of age. The vineyard is planted to a vine density of 10,000 vines per hectare.
Harvest	The harvest of the red grapes started on 21 September with a plot of young Merlot, but most of them was picked between 29/09 and 7/10. The Cabernet followed from 12 October in radiant sunshine. At the end of the harvests, on 16 October, we can say that 2015 is shaping up to be a great vintage for Malartic.
Vinification/ Maturation	To produce the red wine of Chateau Malartic Lagraviere, vinification takes place in a combination of 20 stainless steel vats and 10 oak tanks. The 30 different, conical shaped vats allow for parcel by parcel vinification. Malolactic fermentation takes place in barrel. Fermentation 3 to 5 weeks - 28 to 30° C Aged in traditional oak barrels: 80% new oak for 18 months
Tasting Notes	Uniformity and perfect health are the vintage's key characteristics. This result is a truly sublime expression of Malartic's mosaic of terroirs. Each plot has been able to reveal its full personality. The rich aromatic palate has been enhanced by a soft and tailor-made ageing that reinforced the expression of a very nice complexity.
Serve with	Chateau Malartic Lagraviere is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. Young vintages can be decanted for 1-3 hours. This allows the wine to soften and open its perfume. The wine will also gently warm in the glass, releasing its aromatics. Older vintages might also need decanting, for both aerating and to remove the sediment. The red wine of Chateau Malartic Lagraviere is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised and grilled dishes.
Production	10,000 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2005-2020
Scores/Awards	<p>92 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2018</p> <p>91-94 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2016</p> <p>92 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - February 2018</p> <p>94-96 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #224 - April 2016</p> <p>94 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - March 2018</p> <p>96 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2018</p> <p>96-97 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2016</p> <p>96 points / Cellar Selection - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 2018</p> <p>94-96 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2016</p> <p>17 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - October 2017</p> <p>17.5+ points - Richard Hemming, JancisRobinson.com - May 2017</p> <p>17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2016</p> <p>93 points - Decanter.com - April 2016</p> <p>94 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - March 2018</p> <p>95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2018</p> <p>95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2018</p> <p>94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - July 2017</p> <p>93-95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2016</p> <p>92-94+ points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - March 2016</p> <p>93 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2016</p> <p>16+ points - Farr Vintner - March 2016</p> <p>90-93 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2016</p> <p>94 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - May 2016</p> <p>96+ points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2018</p> <p>95-97 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2016</p> <p>92 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - November 2017</p> <p>17+ points - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2016</p> <p>92-94 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - May 2016</p> <p>18.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - June 2016</p> <p>17.5 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - April 2016</p> <p>16.5 points - Gault & Millau (score only) - June 2016</p>

- Reviews** *“A slightly high-pitched style, with a mix of red currant and raspberry fruit laced with rooibos tea and blood orange notes. A good snap of licorice adds weight on the finish, showing a flash of tar. Has sneaky depth and should evolve well in the cellar. Best from 2020 through 2028. 10,000 cases made.”*
- JM, Wine Spectator
- “Offers a sleek, fresh feel, with plum and cassis notes streaming along, carried by a tarry hint. Stays lively through the defined finish. Score range: 91-94”*
- JS, Wine Spectator
- “Aged 18 months in French oak barrels, 80% of which were new and 20% one-year-old, the 2015 Malartic Lagraviere is a blend of 53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc, and 7% Petit Verdot. Deep garnet-purple in color, it has notes of crushed black currants, fresh black berries and black raspberries with hints of tar, dried herbs and garrigue. The palate is medium-bodied, energetic and refreshing in the mouth with firm, grainy tannins and an uplifting finish.”*
- LPB, Wine Advocate
- “The 2015 Malartic-Lagraviere is a blend of 53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc and 7% Petit Verdot that was harvested between 21 September and 7 October at 43 hl/ha, matured in 80% new oak. It has a tightly wound bouquet, a little more reticent than its peers at first, opening gradually with blackberry, raspberry coulis and strawberry pastilles. The palate is medium-bodied with fine-grain tannin, a keen line of acidity, fresh and brisk with plenty of mineralité on the finish. This is a classic, serious Malartic with huge potential. Chapeau to the Bonnie family for creating a stupendous Pessac-Léognan.”*
- NM, Wine Advocate
- “The 2015 Malartic Lagraviere has enjoyed a fine run of form in recent vintages. This is a blend of 52% Cabernet Sauvignon and 35% Merlot with smaller portions of Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc. It has a comparatively flamboyant bouquet for the appellation with scents of raspberry, crushed strawberry, cedar and a touch of graphite that lends it a Pauillac-like veneer. The palate is medium bodied with fine tannin, crisp acidity, more black than red fruit infused with pencil lead and smoke. It fans out wonderfully toward the finish, completing a wonderful Malartic Lagravière that will age with panache.”*
- NM, Wine Journal
- “Deeper wine from the get-go with dark violets, mocha, cassis and blackberries. The palate has suave, smooth and sturdy tannins and terrific length. Very polished and seamless with flavors of fresh black cherries, blackcurrants and blue plums. Best from 2022.”*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- “This shows fabulous depth of fruit and ripe tannins that last for minutes. Full body. Insane finish. Powerful. Greatest ever from here.”*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- “Full of black-currant flavor, this firm wine has structure and a rich texture. Its bolstering tannins and vibrant acidity mark out an age-worthy selection. Spice tones and a dry core set the stage for a slow development into an even more complex and fulfilling wine. Drink from 2025.”*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- “94–96. Barrel Sample. This wine already has great balance. That comes from the firm, dark tannins that are cutting through the rich fruits and juicy acidity. Black and dense, it is obviously ready for the long haul.”*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- “Dark crimson. Smells deep and dark and promising. Rich, chewy and less typically Pessac but lots going on. Full and sturdy and with bags of fruit to fill out this relatively powerful Pessac. Long and embryonic. (JH)”*
- JH, JancisRobinson.com

Reviews

"53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, 7% Petit Verdot, 5% Cabernet Franc. Aged for 18 months in French oak, of which 80% is new. Tremendous fruit ripeness – blackcurrant and plum with oak just giving an echo of spice on the nose. It's the kind of ripeness that would have been unthinkable for Bordeaux of old. The tannin is still very punchy, although it has a softness that makes it drinkable even now. Excellent stuff! (RH)"

- RH, JancisRobinson.com

"Dark crimson. Lively, putty nose - very lifted on the nose but then rather rich and sweet on the palate. Appetising, really mineral finish. Good stuff."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Dark, rich, serious, well-extracted fruit; firm but with just the right pressure on the pedal. One that will age very well, continuing a run of strong vintages here. Cinnamon and black pepper spice from 7% Petit Verdot – increasingly common in Pessac-Léognan. 53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Franc, 80% new oak."

- Decanter.com

"One of only six estates classified in both red and white. This is great, with rich, smoky coffee grounds and not a hint of bitterness. It's easily one of the best Malartics I have tasted, hitting another level and showing improvement from its en primeur state. Very enjoyable with great persistency, it's not trying too hard but still makes its presence known. (JA)"

- JA, Decanter.com

"Luscious, silky, ripe, deep, dark red fruits are found from start to finish here. The wine is round, polished, full bodied and long. The fruit is sweet, ripe and leaves a lingering impression on the palate. In time, as the oak further integrates, this will be a super wine to enjoy over the next 2 decades."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Velvet drenched black cherry, plum and licorice, with side notes of smoke, incense, espresso and truffle, the wine is rich, concentrated, opulent and finishes with silky, round tannins. There is length, volume and intensity with the ability to age for decades. This could be the finest vintage of Malartic Lagraviere produced yet!"

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Still on target as the best vintage of Malartic Lagraviere yet, the wine is richly textured, lush, polished and smoky. There is a wealth of ripe, silky, soft fruits with depth of flavor and roundness in the tannins."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"This is probably the best vintage of Malartic Lagraviere to date! Soft, round and polished, with lush fruits and silky tannins, this wine has depth, texture and roundness -- but it is not for the oak averse. Produced from a blend of 53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, 7% Petit Verdot and 5% Cabernet Franc, the wine reached 13.8% alcohol. The harvest took place from September 21 to October 7."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Saturated looking; purple at edge; very glossy and ripe aromatics; lift; some cassis and jam; soft entry to the palate; cassis notes again; plenty of rich and ripe fruit; nice grip and texture. This is a great effort. [53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, 7% Petit Verdot, 5% Cabernet Franc 13.8% alc, TA 3.5]. Tasted UGCB 7/4/16. Drink 2020-2030. 92-94+"

- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

"The wines from this property, both red and white, are getting better and better, showing less oak and extraction than they used to. Structured, intense, yet refreshing and well balanced, this shows chalky minerality and fine, savoury fruit flavours. Drink: 2022-32"

- TA, timatkin.com

Reviews *"This Pessac Leognan Chateau has been making excellent wines in recent years under the management of owner Jean-Jacques Bonnie whose family purchased the property in 1997. The 46-hectare vineyard is planted with equal proportions of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot with 8% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot. A property on the rise where prices tend to be reasonable. Deep purple colour, with an elegant and perfumed nose of plums and blackcurrants. The palate is ripe, but with a fresh acidity that gives an unforced, elegant and floral character to the fruit. This vibrancy cuts through ripe cassis and sweet vanilla from the oak. The tannins are supple and smooth, giving a rounded mouthfeel. The finish is long and pure."*

- Farr Vintners

"The fruit is sweet and ripe the nose has depth and the palate dark chocolate richness. The ripe fruit on the mid palate is underpinned by bramble freshness balance with at the back rich sweet fruit and depth on the finish."

- Derek Smedley MW

"A vibrant, lifted red that has a lively core acid line running through it in this fairly dry concentrated vintage. Beautifully composed with precise flavors and lovely detail - this winery is improving every vintage and should be closely followed, both for its lovely reds and well-made whites."

- JCL, asianpalate.com

"The 2015 Malartic Lagravière is just as fabulous from bottle as it was from barrel. Rich, voluptuous and dramatic, it captures all of the natural intensity of the year. Black cherry, plum, mocha, chocolate, licorice and French oak build into a crescendo of stunning aromas, flavors and textures. This is in an especially dark, sumptuous style, but it all works beautifully. The 2015 was positively thrilling each of the three times I tasted it. 96+ points. (AG)"

- AG, Vinous

"The 2015 Malartic Lagravière is a total rock star. Deep, powerful and exotic, the 2015 sweeps across the palate with stunning richness and intensity. The creamy voluptuousness of the vintage is on full display. The blend of 53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, 7% Petit Verdot and 5% Cabernet Franc works beautifully here. Rich, unctuous and also super-expressive, the 2015 is bursting at the seams with intensity. Dark cherry, mocha, plum and spice notes meld into the huge, effortless finish. This is an utterly thrilling wine from Malartic Lagravière, but it is also tightly wound and in need of serious cellaring. This is another stellar showing from the Bonnie family and consultant Michel Rolland. Don't miss it!"

- AG, Vinous

"With a delicious scent of macerated berries and a good bright attack on the palate I can forgive the tannins because they are bound to fall into line. Good wine."

- MJ, matthewjukes.com

"The 2015 Malartic-Lagravière is also terrific and comes from a 46-hectare vineyard in Léognan. Made from 53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot and the rest Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot, it offers a smorgasbord of aromatics including red currants, ripe cherries, cassis, licorice, toasty oak, and spice. With full-bodied richness, building tannin, and a rounded, sumptuous style, as well as a great finish, it's going to benefit from several years in the cellar and keep for 15-20 years. Tasted three times."

- Jeb Dunnuck