

Château Pape Clément 2012

CSPC# 744973

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

SOLD OUT

CSPC# 753465

750mlx6

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	51% Cabernet Sauvignon, 46% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot
Appellation	Pessac-Léognan
Classification	Grand Cru Classe Graves
Website	http://www.bernard-magrez.com/en/content/chateau-pape-clement
General Info	<p>The red wine of Chateau Pape Clement is a classified growth. The vineyards were first planted in the 13th century by Bertrand de Goth, the youngest son of a noble family from Bordeaux. He was elected Pope in 1305, during the reign of Philippe le Bel, and took the name of Clément V. Château Pape Clément belonged to the Archbishop of Bordeaux until the French Revolution. Wine has been made here continuously for 7 centuries. Château Pape Clément is one of the brightest stars in the extensive range of vineyards Bernard Magrez owns worldwide. Based in Bordeaux, the great owner has made quality his personal battle, his strength in facing the increasing competition in the wine business. Hence, the care lavished on this land to exceptional qualities of which have made Pessac's reputation for over seven centuries. Pruning and leafing according to unusually demanding standards, hand destemming, vinification and maturation in accordance with the strictest rules, all implemented so that Nature can freely express the best she has to offer. With his grand Cru Classé de Graves, Bernard Magrez gives us a rare elegance and strength of which reminds us how unequalled the Bordeaux tradition remains. The production of the white Château Pape Clément has been increased some years ago. It is in general dry, rarely heavy, with spicy notes which are typical for graves from Pessac.</p>
Winemaker	Bernard Magrez
Vintage	<p>After a chaotic beginning of the vine cycle: early bud break and blockage in April (cold and wet); the vine found back a proper growing path with the beautiful weather conditions from May to September. However, the delay and heterogeneity undergone because of this difficult start of the vine cycle was to be felt all year long. Once more, the reality of great terroirs, the efforts made in the quest for the balance between the plant and the soil, the vitality of the soils and the low yield reduced greatly these gaps and induced a slow yet complete maturity of the grapes.</p>
Vineyards	<p>The vineyards today account for 32.5 hectares of the Pessac-Léognan <i>vignoble</i>, with three distinct <i>terroirs</i> across the estate as a whole. Over a limestone bedrock which originated in the Oligocene and Miocene eras, there are the gravels that typify the region as a whole, as well as areas of clay and sand. The vineyards to the west are more sandy, with a deep seam of gravel, whereas as those to the east have an increasingly significant amount of clay, and those to the north of the estate the soils are particularly thin and poor. The red vines, which cover 53 hectares, are 51% Cabernet Sauvignon, 46% Merlot, 2% Petit Verdot, 1% Cabernet Franc. Here knowledge of the <i>terroir</i> is important, as the former variety is planted mainly to the gravelly areas whereas Merlot is selected for those soils with more clay. The majority of these vines have more than 27 years of age, and many are over 40.</p>
Maturation	<p>Hand harvested in small crates with initial sorting in the vineyard. Grapes hand-picked from clusters. Transferal to oak vats by gravity. Low-temperature maceration prior to fermentation. Concentric hand-plunging. Directly run off into new barrels by gravity, with no pumping. Aged in 100% in new barrels for 18 months.</p>
Tasting Notes	<p>Ch. Pape Clément has one of the best terroirs in Bordeaux and the capacity to produce phenomenal wines. The style of the wine is definitely moving towards a more elegant and refined one. This vintage is a perfect example of where this property is thriving to achieve now and for the long term. Lots of dark cherries fruits on the nose, good concentration, lots of layer of sweet black fruits on the palate, very focused, complex, and balanced finish. One of the wines of the vintage. Pape Clément is back!!</p>



Serve with	Chateau Pape Clement is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. Chateau Pape Clement is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes.
Production	12,500 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2015-2040
Scores/Awards	<p>94 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2015</p> <p>89-92 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2013</p> <p>97 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #218 - April 2015</p> <p>92-95 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #206 - April 2013</p> <p>92-94 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2013</p> <p>93 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 1, 2015</p> <p>92-93 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - October 1, 2014</p> <p>93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2015</p> <p>92-93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2013</p> <p>87-90 points - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - April 2013</p> <p>17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2013</p> <p>17.5 points - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2013</p> <p>92 points - Jane Anson, The New Bordeaux - April 2013</p> <p>93 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2013</p> <p>92 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)</p> <p>93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 11, 2015</p> <p>92-94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 25, 2013</p> <p>94-96 points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2013</p> <p>16.5+ points - Farr Vintner - April 2013</p> <p>89-92 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2013</p> <p>89 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2013</p> <p>93-95 points - Gilbert & Gaillard - April 16, 2013</p> <p>16.5 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)</p> <p>92-94 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only)</p> <p>17 points - Gault & Millau (score only)</p> <p>17 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Densely packed, with lots of dark steeped currant, fig, and blackberry fruit, slowly melding with muscular licorice snap, bramble, singed bay and ganache notes. The long, dark, ganache-coated finish isn't shy, but an enticing rusticity keeps this honest. A large-scaled wine that has really powered up since the barrel tasting. Best from 2018 through 2027. 12,500 cases made"</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Nice black currant and anise notes mix with charcoal and roasted apple wood. Good fleshy feel. Has some exotic spice notes and clearly roasted woody notes but seems a touch shy on stuffing. Score range: 89-92"</i></p> <p>- JS, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The iconic 2012 Pape Clement is a candidate for near-perfection as well as one of the wines of the vintage. From proprietor Bernard Magrez, this is a blend of 51% Cabernet Sauvignon, 46% Merlot, 2% Petit Verdot and 1% Cabernet Franc. This extraordinary vineyard (a few miles to the west of Haut Brion and La Mission Haut Brion) has hit all the highlights of this vintage. Interestingly, the quality of the Pomerols and Graves wines in 2012 is closer to what one would consider a great vintage than the general image of 2012. This is truly great wine and not far off their magnificent 2005 and 2010. Full-bodied, with rich cassis, subtle burning embers and spice followed by velvety, well-integrated tannins, the wine is lush, expansive, savory and profound. This is a remarkable wine that could be drunk at a reasonably young age but should cellar brilliantly for a quarter-century. Yields were modest at 37 hectoliters per hectare from this 132-acre estate. The alcohol level came in at 13.5%."</i></p> <p>- RP, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The 2012 Pape Clement is one of the stars of the vintage, which is not surprising given this estate's performances over the last 10-15 years. A blend of 51% Cabernet Sauvignon, 46% Merlot, 2% Petit Verdot and 1% Cabernet Franc, it exhibits an opaque ruby/purple color along with a beautifully sweet, graphite-scented nose with hints of black currants, Asian plum sauce, soy, and forest floor. Impressively built with medium to full-bodied flavors, it has more layers than many wines from this vintage, an appealing density, and a velvety</i></p>

Reviews *texture. Yields were a modest 37 hectoliters per hectare and the wine finished at 13.5% natural alcohol. This 132-acre estate has once again produced a prodigious wine in a challenging vintage. Bravo to proprietor Bernard Magrez!"*

- RP, Wine Advocate

"Tasted from a barrel sample at en primeur. The Grand Vin is a blend of 65% Merlot and 35% Cabernet Sauvignon that was cropped between 4th and 18th October at 37hl/ha. There is a lot of oak to be absorbed on the nose, although there appears to be plenty of brambly dark berry fruit to soak it up. It is slightly broody compared to the 2011 last year and will hopefully open after bottling. The palate is medium-bodied with grainy, plump, ripe tannins and crisp acidity. It is harmonious and focused, good volume here, with a strict finish that displays good tension, although there is a slight dryness coming through on the aftertaste. Tasted April 2013."

- NM, Wine Journal

"Fresh wood dominates this powerful, rich wine. It's developing its fruitiness well, bringing out tropical flavors. A ripe full-blooded, no-holds-barred density suggests a fine future. Drink from 2018."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"This is rich and decadent with lots of wet earth, tobacco, berries and hints of cedar. Full body, round and velvety tannins and a long, long finish. Better in 2018. "

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This is already a gorgeous wine with spices, berries, dark chocolate and walnuts. Full body, soft and silky. Beauty. Better than 2011."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Concentrated and rich, this has fine tannins that are integrated into the big plum fruits. It's a black-fruited wine that has both the fruit and the structure to allow it to age well. Drink from 2020

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Deep ruby. Enticing spicy lift to the aromas of blueberry, peppermint, graphite, and violet. Juicy, spicy, and aromatic, showing moderate depth but good mineral intensity and definition to the dark berry fruit. Finishes quite dry, with a hint of greenness and building, slightly rough tannins."

- ST, International Wine Cellar

"Very intense dark purplish crimson. Super-clean refreshing-but-ripe black fruit aromas. Sweet palate entry and then rather refreshing and muscular. For the moment it's all ripe sweetness but it has the constitution for giving immense pleasure. All the constituents are in the right balance and the finish is most refreshing. Drink 2019-2032"

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Beautifully concentrated red and black fruits, an elegantly polished wine to be expected from Pape-Clement, satiny texture, very good future."

- SS, Decanter.com

"Nose has a touch of glue for me, but clears (I would like to see analysis, but again it is likely to be a sample issue, rather than something that will show up in the final bottle). This has very pleasant attack, plum, plush ripe fruits. A big wine, it's made with impact in mind, it has excellent tannins, firm but integrated (not at all surprised after tasting to see that it was Pape Clement – certainly this wine has a signature style, and for me it has worked well in this vintage). But hesitation is alcohol, and I question if it will dry out on ageing – oak regime needs to be watched over ageing period. 92 / 17.75. Highly recommended. Drink 2020-2035."

- JA, The New Bordeaux

Reviews *"A wine to admire rather than drink, at least in my view, this is super oaky, super dense and slightly cakey on the palate, with a hint of over-ripeness, even in a year like 2012. It's a very serious, inky blend with lots of concentration, but I can't help thinking it would taste better if it had been picked a few days earlier. Drink: 2020-30."*

- TA, timatkin.com

"Earth, truffle, tobacco and smoke work perfectly with the lush, sweet, ripe blackberries and espresso character that this soft, plush wine serves up in spades. There is good freshness and character to the fruit from start to finish. The wine was produced from a blend of 51% Cabernet Sauvignon, 46% Merlot, 2% Petit Verdot and 1% Cabernet Franc."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Inky in color; black and blue fruits, licorice, smoke and oak create the aromatics. On the palate, the wine is fresh, fleshy, rich, and bold, with a concentrated finish packed with ripe dark berries and licorice. For tasters that found more heralded vintages over the top, this is a wine they should look into. 92-94 Pts"

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Palest silver/gold; some candy, pear drop; grapefruit and zest but in check; elegance here; powerful palate with lots of depth; great mouthfeel and very long. Spicy and zesty finish. Brilliant effort. 55% Sauvignon Blanc, 30% Sémillon, 15% Sauvignon Gris. 94-96+ Tasted Monday April 8, 2013, Pessac-Leognan tasting at Chateau Olivier. [Later note] Pale straw/gold; quite full and fat, some lees and grapefruit citrus tones; very full and deep; palate has some pretty qualities and is also very round and full. Lots of weight ultimately here and length. 94-96 Tasted Wednesday April 10, 2013, at UGC"

- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

"Owner Bernard Magrez has made serious investments here since the late 1990's and recent vintages have been outstanding thanks to extremely low yields, labour-intensive sorting of grapes and modern wine-making techniques. Prices are moving up at Pape Clément but so is the quality, which bears no relation at all to the weedy wines of the early 1980's and before. The 42 hectares are planted with 50% Cabernet Sauvignon and 50% Merlot. There is intense ripeness on the nose here with attractive cassis and opulent vanilla and spice. Intense on the palate with genuine ripeness and a sexy, rounded, supple style. Silky tannins and touches of kirsch, coconut cream and cherries. Smooth and impressive without being extracted."

- Farr Vintners

"The nose is full and fat with lots of sweet fruit and the ripeness of the flavours gives a rich feel on the start of the palate. The mid palate is fresher with bilberry and bramble and the tannins are quite obvious. Sweetness is there at the back giving the finish a fleshy richness. 2020-35."

- Derek Smedley MW

"Juicy red with lush blackberry fruit and elegant profile. Pape Clement seems to be moving away from their former chunky, thick, and oaky style. Well balanced with a touch of restraint compared with previous years. This red offers good balance: the style is obviously turning towards more natural, elegant flavours showing its bones rather than makeup or flesh. Balanced and approachable. Tasted in: Bordeaux, France. Maturity: Young. (06-Apr-2013)"

- JCL, asianpalate.com

"Powerful nose with a predominant mineral and oaked note. Full-bodied, tightly-wound and dense palate with ripe and very upfront tannins. Huge ageability, still very muted. (16-Apr-2013)"

- en.gilbertgaillard.com
