

Château Pape Clément 2016

CSPC# 790277

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

CSPC# 891904

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety 60% Merlot, 36% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3.0% Petit Verdot, 1% Cabernet Franc

Appellation Pessac-Léognan

Classification Grand Cru Classe Graves

Website <http://www.bernard-magrez.com/en/content/chateau-pape-clement>

General Info The red wine of Château Pape Clément 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.



Winemaker Bernard Magrez

Vintage The unquestionably successful 2016 vintage is due to the conjunction of several important factors.

A rainy period lasting from the 1st of January to the 20th of June replenished water reserves and paved the way for a large potential crop. The significant precipitation between January and late June enhanced vine growth in spring and built up essential water reserves in our gravelly well-drained soil. Quasi-miraculous flowering guaranteed a large crop. A window of opportunity – a spell of splendid weather from the 4th to the 11th of June – miraculously opened in the context of a "spring monsoon". This led to perfectly-fertilized flowers producing well-formed, sizeable bunches. An exceptionally dry period from the 1st of July to the 13th of September was conducive to richness and power.

Summer was warm, but not excessively so, and also extremely dry. In fact, this was one of the driest summers in a hundred years... In early summer, our deeply-rooted old vines were fortunately able to draw on water reserves accumulated in spring. The month of August was ideal for developing tannic structure in our red wine varieties and sugar levels in the white wine ones. However, these drought conditions were very trying for our young vines with relatively shallow roots. This necessitated the highly unusual step of watering them.

We were really in need of rain by early September! This finally arrived, on the 13th of that month. These 40 mm of rain did a world of good, giving a boost to ripening and refreshing the vines. An Indian summer from the 15th of September to the end of October provided finesse and elegance. The Indian summer, combined with diurnal temperature differences due to cool night-time temperatures, ensured a good end to ripening of the various grape varieties, as well as refined red wine tannins, while maintaining fresh fruitiness.

Vineyards The vineyards today account for 32.5 hectares of the Pessac-Léognan *vignoble*, with three distinct *terroirs* 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

Vineyards region as a whole, as well as areas of clay and sand. The vineyards to the west are sandier, 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 *terroir* 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.

Harvest	From
Maturation	First sorting in the vineyard, manual harvest in crates. Manual destemming berry by berry and use of a sorting table. Transfer into 30-70 hl wooden vats by gravity flow. Low temperature pre-fermentation maceration. Manual punching down. 30-40-day maceration. The wine is run off into French oak barrels by gravity flow. Malolactic fermentation in oak barrels. Aging for 18 months in oak barrels.
Tasting Notes	<p>The wine is ruby red with good density, with brown highlights, mahogany, tuile. Brightness and clarity are preserved. The disc is quite thick. The tears are fine and well-marked, abundant and regular. It seems at once expressive, frank and complex. There are all kinds of fragrance families: fruits, flowers, and spices.</p> <p>The attack is frank, round and suave, even caressing. Intense aromas first recall the complex sensations perceived on the nose. There is a fragrance of slightly burned leather and wood, notes of roasting. The beauty of this vintage reveals' elegance, more than volume. The wine shows a nice aromatic amplitude. As for the finale, it is remarkably elegant.</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 2022-2042
Scores/Awards	<p>96 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2019</p> <p>94-97 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2017</p> <p>96 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - November 2018</p> <p>95-97 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #230 - April 2017</p> <p>98 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2019</p> <p>97-98 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2017</p> <p>95 points/Cellar Selection - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 2019</p> <p>95-97 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2017</p> <p>17.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - October 2018</p> <p>16.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2017</p> <p>94 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2017</p> <p>95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 2019</p> <p>97 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2018</p> <p>96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2017</p> <p>93 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2017</p> <p>17 points - Farr Vintner - February 2017</p> <p>87-90 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2017</p> <p>96 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - January 2019</p> <p>96 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - January 2019</p> <p>93-96 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2017</p> <p>97 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - November 2017</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"This takes a slightly different tack than many of its Pessac colleagues, relying less on bramble and tar and more on alluring toast, with mocha, anise, wood spice and black tea notes draped liberally over the core of sappy kirsch and cherry preserve flavors. Plush and suave through the finish, though this needs a bit of time for the wood elements to be fully integrated with the fruit. For fans of the flashier, cashmere-textured style. Best from 2023 through 2037. 12,500 cases made."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Intense, with vivacious cassis, blueberry and boysenberry confiture notes, while tar, anise and warm fruitcake flavors pulse underneath. Offers seriously flashy toast at the end but has the density to soak it up. A big wine. Score range: 94-97"</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Blended of 60% Merlot, 36% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Petit Verdot and 1% Cabernet Franc, the 2016 Pape Clement has a deep garnet-purple color and quite a serious, earthy nose with truffles, tilled soil, underbrush and smoked meats over a cassis, baked plums and redcurrants core plus a touch of lavender. Medium to full-bodied, firm and grainy, the palate is built like a brick house, supporting muscular black fruit and earthy notions and finishing very long and mineral laced."</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Advocate</p>

Reviews

"The first bottle that I tasted with Bernard Magrez and his team felt a little overdone, but I had a strong suspicion that it was not a representative bottle. A second bottle was more restrained on the nose with blackberries, red plum, a touch of cloves and a light iodine influence. I love the delineation and detail here. The palate is medium-bodied with a graphite-infused entry, plenty of black fruit, saline in the mouth with great depth and cohesion on the long and tender finish. It continues Pape-Clement/Bernard Magrez' move towards a more classic style compared to the previous decade. Tasted four times, once as I mentioned, unnecessarily richer in style, but the other three consistent."

- NM, Wine Advocate

"Stunning concentration of perfectly ripe blackcurrants here with a delicate whiff of vanilla oak and extremely fine tannins that are almost perfectly integrated on the seductive and delicate palate, right through the almost literally breathtaking, super-long and very polished finish. Try from 2022."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This is phenomenal with a density and finesse that are hard to remember for this wine. Full-bodied, tight and polished. Seamless texture and salty undertones. Goes on for minutes. Truly great. What a barrel sample."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This rich, warm wine offers tannins cushioned within layers of black fruits. It is dense with structure and fruit while also having the freshness and acidity typical of this vintage. The wine will age for several years, becoming richer and more opulent. Drink from 2025."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"This is a serious, structured wine with fine tannins as well as acidity. There is a depth of flavor in this elegant wine, with black currant fruit and great structure. A wine for the long haul. (RV)"

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Deep crimson. Cedary black fruit, cassis and cassis leaf and less ripe in aroma than I expect from this estate. Ripe but very fresh. Powerful, almost sweet/sour on the palate but the fruit fills out the purposeful tannins and there's balance as well as power. Deep and long but polished. (JH)"

- JH, JancisRobinson.com

"Very luscious nose with enormous opulence. Then on the palate there is no great sweetness but drying tannins on the finish. Something not quite fully ripe phenolically on the palate. Hint of greenness. Falls away on the end. It's definitely front-loaded! "

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Pape Clément retains its customary oak and black fruit impact on the nose in 2016, but without doubt they have sculpted the body. This has thrillingly bright dark berry fruits and a sharp shot of vitality that takes you through from beginning to end. Beautiful touches of minerality on the powerful palate, wrought into an elegant style without losing its texture and sense of depth. This is a step-change in many ways from the vintages where Pape Clément went all-out for power. Drinking Window 2027 – 2050."

- JA, Decanter.com

"Deeply colored the wine is fleshy, fruity, full bodied, concentrated and filled with ripe, sweet, lush, smoky blackberries, cigar box and licorice. The fruit has vibrancy, and freshness, with lower alcohol and better integrated oak, allowing the wine to be enjoyed earlier than other, more recent vintages. I am really liking the elegance and restraint found here."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Inky, dark in hue, the wine offers its lush, smoke-filled, black fruits and tobacco notes with ease. Dense, rich and concentrated, the tannins are silky, and the finish displays layers of ripe, richly dark red fruits. The wine combines elegance, complexity and refined characteristics that will only show its best with 12 -15 years or more of age."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

Reviews *“Very dark ruby in color, the smoky blackberries, cigar box and licorice aromatics are singing. There is a lot of freshness to the fruit, and the lower alcohol levels make the wine feel lighter and refreshing on the palate, especially in the silky finish. This vintage shows elegance, complexity, and restraint. The wine was produced from a blend of 50% Merlot and 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, reaching 13.5% alcohol. The wine is being aged in 60% new, French oak barrels. The harvest took place from September 13 to October 19.”*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“This is the best young Pape-Clément I’ve tasted for a long time, partly thanks to the vintage conditions, which made it hard to produce ultra-ripe wines. The oak is better integrated, too, complementing the rich, glossy, spicy fruit flavours and refreshing acidity. 2022-30”
- TA, timatkin.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. Quality bears no relation to the weedy wines of the early 1980's and before. The 42 hectares are planted with 45% Cabernet Sauvignon and 55% Merlot. A 50:50 blend in 2016, with the second wine 73% Merlot. A very deep colour for the vintage, with a classic sweet smoke, incense, and clove spice nose underneath pure black cherry. The palate is rich and chewy, dense in both fruit, tannins, and oak, presenting as a modern but not over-extracted style. Sweet vanilla and cinnamon, kirsch, and blackcurrant and just a hint of cedar. The fruit gets a lift of acidity at the finish, offering savoury scorched earth and flowers as an additional layer. A well-made wine, true to the Pape Clément style.”
- Farr Vintners

“Sweet ripe fruit the nose has depth the palate fleshy black fruits mid richness. Lighter at the back there is an underlying freshness, the finish is quite tight and lacking a bit of length. 2025-38”
- Derek Smedley MW

“The 2016 Pape Clément bursts out of the glass, offering ripe blackberry, raspberry coulis, fresh mint and hints of licorice on the well-defined nose. It is perhaps a little more opulent than its peers, but unlike in the past, I don't find it excessive. The palate is well balanced with supple tannin. There is a killer line of acidity and real panache toward a velvety, almost Pauillac-like finish armed with shimmering black fruit laced with graphite. Superb. Drink 2024-2050.”
- NM, Vinous

“The 2016 Pape Clément is fabulous. Racy and sumptuous in the glass, the 2016 captures the style that now characterizes Bernard Magrez's wines from his estate in Pessac. Specifically, the 2016 is wonderfully deep in the glass, and yet retains terrific freshness as well. A rush of dark cherry, plum, smoke, scorched earth, grilled herb, leather and menthol builds as the 2016 shows off its compelling, inviting personality. I would prefer to give the 2016 at least a few years in bottle to allow its full breadth of aromatics to develop. Even so, there is so much to like. Pliant, supple and super-expressive, Pape Clément is gorgeous in 2016. (AG)”
- AG, Vinous

“The 2016 Pape Clément exudes class and is one of the raciest, silkiest wines I have ever tasted here. The purity and intensity of the flavors is striking. Dark cherry, chocolate, spice and leather open up first. The full range of aromatics has not developed yet - that will come with time. Today, it is the wine's balance that is most remarkable.”
- AG, Vinous

“Tasted on two separate occasions, the 2016 Château Pape Clément never failed to disappoint, offering a huge, powerful, full-bodied personality as well as beautiful notes of cassis, graphite, high-class cigar tobacco, asphalt, and graphite. About as sexy as it gets in the vintage, with silky tannins and loads of fruit, it's perfectly balanced and has a great finish. The 2016 is a blend of 60% Merlot, 36% Cabernet Sauvignon, and the balance Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc, all raised in 60% new barrels.”
- Jeb Dunnuck
