

# Château Pape Clément 2017

CSPC# 790277

750mlx12

14.04% alc./vol.

## Grape Variety

55% Merlot, 45% Cabernet Sauvignon

## 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

2017 Pessac Leognan suffered the most difficulties of the major appellations due to the frost. But some of those that survived managed to produce good wine, especially dry, white Bordeaux wine.

2017 Pessac Leognan is not an easy appellation to understand for consumers. The vintage was even more daunting for the growers to produce. The frost damage here and in the Graves region was severe. As hard as it is to believe, in the Graves appellation, not only did growers have to endure the worst frost since 1991, they were also struck by hail in August. When it rains it pours, and that happened too! 2017 Pessac Leognan started out with the promise of an early harvest. But that early promise led to disaster when 2 nights of sub 4-degree Centigrade temperatures struck the nights of April 27 and 28. Large swaths of vineyard land was devastated. The vines were burnt by the frost.

Overall, for 2017 Pessac Leognan, the vintage was dry, but the lack of sunshine and the frost, along with the late season rains set the tone for the vintage.

## 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 region as a whole, as well as areas of clay and sand. The vineyards to the west are

## Vineyards

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 the 15th of September to the 3rd of October 2017.

## 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



<b>Maturation</b>	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.
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	With their smoky and spicy bouquet, the red wines are of an admirable quality and a very characteristic softness. The wine is both concentrated, fine and harmonious, with an aromatic palette as wide as it is precise. The depth and length in the mouth are exceptional. Quality of the terroir, sustained efforts and dynamism have borne fruit bringing Pape Clément to a level very close to that of the premiers' crus.
<b>Serve with</b>	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.
<b>Production</b>	Average 7500 cases made annually.
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2022-2038
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>95 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2020</p> <p><b>91-94 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - April 2018</p> <p><b>94+ points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2020</p> <p><b>92-94 points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate #236 - April 2018</p> <p><b>96 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2020</p> <p><b>95-96 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2018</p> <p><b>94 points/Cellar Selection</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2020</p> <p><b>90-92 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2018</p> <p><b>17 points</b> - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - October 2019</p> <p><b>16.5 points</b> - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2018</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2018</p> <p><b>96 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2018</p> <p><b>93-95 points</b> - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2018</p> <p><b>15.5 points</b> - Farr Vintner - April 2018</p> <p><b>89-92 points</b> - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2018</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2020</p> <p><b>92-94 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2018</p> <p><b>96 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2020</p> <p><b>94-97 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2018</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2020</p> <p><b>94-96 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - April 2018</p> <p><b>17.5+ points</b> - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2018</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>"Very rich, featuring warm cassis and plum puree flavors, laced with singed wood spice, melted licorice and black tea notes. Reveals a tarry hint, but this stays decidedly modern and polished in feel, with the fruit cruising through the finish with authority. Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"This has solid ripeness, with plum and cassis notes flowing through, along with an ambitious oak regimen that results in ample toasted vanilla hints. This clamps down a touch on the finish, but there's good purity and freshness, with fresh acidity buried within, leaving me optimistic."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Deep garnet-purple in color, the 2017 Pape Clement is composed of 55% Cabernet Sauvignon and 45% Merlot, with a nose that is slightly closed at this youthful stage—broody and earthy with baked plums, boysenberries and mulberries aromas plus touches of iron ore, tobacco, tapenade and charcuterie. The palate is medium-bodied and elegant with exquisitely ripe tannins, lovely energy and freshness and a long, mineral-laced finish. Drink Date 2022 - 2048 "</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The current blend of the 2017 Pape Clement is 55% Cabernet Sauvignon and 45% Merlot. Deep garnet-purple colored, it sings of crushed black cherries, black raspberries and mulberries with hints of lilacs and dusty soil. Medium to full-bodied with a firm, grainy frame and wonderful freshness, it possesses great elegance and effortless intensity with a mineral-tinged finish."</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate</p>

- Reviews** *“Beautiful spice, tobacco, wet earth and blackcurrants with some raspberries. Aromatic and complex. Full-bodied, refined and layered with wonderful length and power. Yet, there’s always class and pretty length here. Seamless.”*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- “This is very dense for the vintage on the center palate and then rolls out on the palate. Full-bodied, tight and tannic. Very polished and refined at the end. Precise. A little more cabernet sauvignon in the blend gives this the tension.”*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- “This solid, densely textured wine has fine tannins that match richness in the blackberry fruits. It is classically structured, suggesting an elegant, ripe and impressive future. Drink from 2023.”*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- “90–92. Barrel Sample. This is a hugely dense, extracted wine, possibly too much so, displaying a hard edge that smothers the ripe fruit. Giving it the benefit of the doubt, it certainly will not be drinkable before 2024.”*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- “Deepest crimson. Rich, ripe and generously fruited on the nose. Blackcurrant and blackberry. Chewy, deep fruited but no lack of finesse thanks to the smoothness of the tannins even though they are compact. Seems more delicate and fresher than the Pape Clément norm -- a good thing in my opinion. Long and should age well. (JH)”*  
- JH, JancisRobinson.com
- “Black with purple core. Dark and savoury on the nose. Pretty oaky but there's more freshness here and less dense extraction than I remember. Drink 2024-2034”*  
- JH, JancisRobinson.com
- “I have found that Magrez estates have done exceptionally well in 2017, pretty much across the board, but here I feel a reach towards the barrel that is just the slightest bit out of step with the ripeness of the fruit. The tannins are flexible and in control, but it just lacks a touch of the opulence in the black fruits that was so abundant in 2015 and 2016. There is no doubt that it has been very well constructed, and it will age confidently in the medium to long term. (JA)”*  
- JA, Decanter.com
- “Deep in color, the wine is floral with blackberry, boysenberry, licorice and espresso notes. Sweet with bright, crisp fruits, stylistically this is a bright vintage – tannin tensions paired with a fresh fruit edge. The wine was produced by blending 55% Merlot & 45% Cabernet Sauv the wine reached 14.04% alcohol with a pH of 3.6.”*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “Intense and rich spicy fruit aromas. Chocolate and coffee intensity and richness. Very deep concentrated fruit. Elegant and powerful, complex. No green, but a freshness. Long. Barrel Sample: 93-95”*  
- TA, timatkin.com
- “Only half the production of a normal vintage because of the April frost. 55% Merlot, 45% Cabernet Sauvignon. A deep colour, with wood smoke and rich cassis and baked plum on the nose. The palate is robust and firm with plentiful tannins and toasty new wood. The fruits are a mixture of red and black but slightly subsumed beneath the wood and tannin for now, only truly revealing their power on the finish. This should improve in time, but for now the winemaking rests a little heavy for the intensity of fruit.”*  
- Farr Vintners
- “The nose is firm and fresh the palate richer and sweeter with ripe black cherry in the middle. Black plums the fleshy richness is backed by bramble a mix of flavours and although fresher at the back the finish has an opulent richness. 2027-42”*  
- Derek Smedley MW

## Reviews

*"The 2017 Pape-Clément was tasted twice, firstly in September when it showed a lot of new oak. Returning in December 2019, I was pleased that some of that new wood has been subsumed into the blackberry, cedar and tobacco scents, rendering it quite classic in style relative to the nascent 2018. The palate is medium bodied with grainy tannins, well-judged acidity, and gentle grip with a poised finish. This is clearly improving in bottle and is turning into a very fine Pessac-Léognan that will give 20 years of drinking pleasure. Excellent. (NM)"*  
- NM, Vinous

*"The 2017 Pape Clément was not touched by the frost and was picked from 15 September to 3 October, manually de-stemmed berry by berry with some of the ripe stems added back into the blend (like Les Carmes Haut-Brion down the road). Malolactic is done in barrel where it aged for 18 months. It offers intense black cherry, raspberry, fig and sous-bois scents on the nose, tightly coiled at the moment with just a hint of cedar and tobacco. The palate is medium bodied with ripe tannin, a mixture of red and black fruit, touches of cedar and white pepper, leading to a structured and fresh finish that leaves a spicy aftertaste. Classic in style, this Pape Clément will benefit from several years in bottle. Drink 2022 – 2045"*  
- NM, Vinous

*"The 2017 Pape Clément is outrageously beautiful. Rich, deep and luscious on the palate, the 2017 possesses tremendous energy and richness from start to finish. Sweet red cherry, red plum, blood orange, spice and herb notes abound in an unctuous, racy wine of the highest level. The 2017 is deep, explosive and wonderfully persistent. It has been terrific on the three occasions I have tasted it so far. Drink 2025-2037"*  
- AG, Vinous

*"The 2017 Pape Clément is fabulous. One of the rare 2017s with a real sense of structure, Pape Clément possesses dazzling intensity from start to finish. A rush of dark cherry, plum, chocolate and grilled herb notes hits the palate as this majestic, towering wine shows off its personality. Time in the glass brings out a brighter and more floral set of flavors. The 2017 is the first vintage made with a portion of whole clusters, an inspiration Bernard Magrez takes from Châteauneuf-du-Pape, where he recently bought a small property. Quite simply, the 2017 Pape Clément is a magnificent wine by any measure. Don't miss it. The only problem with the 2017 is that yields are down 40% because of frost."*  
- AG, Vinous

*"Checking in as a blend of 55% Cabernet Sauvignon and 45% Merlot that was brought up in 60% new French oak, the 2017 Chateau Pape Clement is going to check in behind the brilliant 2015 and 2016, but it's nevertheless a brilliant wine from this estate worth having in the cellar. Great notes of blackcurrants, smoked tobacco, gravelly earth, mocha, and hints of licorice all flow to a medium to full-bodied wine that has remarkable purity of fruit as well as polished tannins. It builds nicely with time in the glass and reminds me of a toned-down version of the 2016. This complex, elegant, flawlessly balanced Pessac can be drunk today with incredible pleasure or cellared for 15-20 years"*  
- Jeb Dunnuck

*"The Grand Vin 2017 Château Pape Clément is 55% Cabernet Sauvignon and 45% Merlot still aging in 60% new French oak. Harvest ran from the 15th of September to the 3rd of October, and I was able to taste this beauty on three separate occasions. Its deep purple color is followed by a blockbuster bouquet of ripe black cherries, blackberries, blueberries, graphite, and licorice. One of the more powerful, concentrated wines in the vintage, this medium to full-bodied effort has terrific purity of fruit, a mouth filling texture, and present, ripe tannin. Too many 2017s lack excitement, but that's not the case here."*  
- Jeb Dunnuck

*"The oak is incredibly dense here and the power and extraction of the fruit is equally impressive and forthright. The only problem is that the tannins are monstrous, and they take over the entire back of the palate. I imagine that they will subside, but there is likely to be a residual austerity here which will forever haunt the finish on this wine."*  
- MJ, matthewjukes.com

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