

Château Pape Clément 2018

CSPC# 790277

750mlx12

14.50% alc./vol.

CSPC# 864282

750mlx6

14.50% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

Pessac-Léognan

Classification

Grand Cru Classe Graves

Website

<https://bernard-magrez.com/en/>

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

2018 Pessac Leognan is the product of a challenging growing season. Like the rest of Bordeaux, the vintage had an auspicious start as the vineyards were underwater. It was not just the non-stop rain that went on for months.

There were hailstorms to contend with as well. And if that wasn't enough, the devastating mildew attacks hit hard, especially in organically farmed vineyards.

However, it is important to note that mildew was much more prevalent in the south, in the Graves appellation.

Fortunately, by the middle of summer, everything changed for the better. With the gorgeous sunny, warm, and dry weather conditions, the vineyards managed to dry out. In fact, at one point, there was so much water stress due to the dry conditions that young vines in several vineyards were decimated.

Several vineyards began to suffer from hydric stress with so little moisture remaining in the soils. Clearly, Bacchus is a fan of 2018 Pessac Leognan because just when it was needed the most, much needed light rains fell the end of the summer, saving the vintage.

Following the warm, dry summer, September and October remained hot, dry and sunny as well, which was perfect for the red wine grapes. But it was a little too hot and dry for the white wine grapes.

The red wine grape harvest started as early as September 13 at some estates. While that's a little early, the ability to continue picking until the middle of October, allowing estates to produce the wine of their choice. The berries were small, thick-skinned and intensely flavored.

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 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



Vineyards	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.
Harvest	The 2018 Pape Clément was picked 20 September to 12 October.
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
Maturation	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 60% new oak barrels.
Tasting Notes	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 <i>terroir</i> , sustained efforts and dynamism have borne fruit bringing Pape Clément to a level very close to that of the premier's crus.
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	Average 7500 cases made annually.
Cellaring	Drink 2025-2038
Scores/Awards	<p>96 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - January 2021</p> <p>95-98 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - June 2019</p> <p>96+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2021</p> <p>96-98 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - April 2019</p> <p>97 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2021</p> <p>97-98 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2019</p> <p>96 points/Cellar Selection - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2021</p> <p>94-96 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2019</p> <p>17 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - October 2020</p> <p>16.5 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2019</p> <p>95 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - November 2020</p> <p>97 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2021</p> <p>96-98 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2019</p> <p>17+ points - Farr Vintner - April 2019</p> <p>94 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - March 2021</p> <p>93-95 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - November 2019</p> <p>96 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - March 2021</p> <p>93-96 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2019</p> <p>99 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2021</p> <p>95-97 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - May 2019</p> <p>17.5+ points - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2019</p> <p>94 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - February 2021</p> <p>93 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com (score only) - March 2019</p> <p>17.5 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2019</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"A warm mocha note drapes elegantly over a prodigious core of steeped red and black currant and blackberry fruit while waves of black tea, anise, fruitcake and applewood fill in on the finish. Structure is serious and well-imbedded. Really well put together. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Best from 2025 through 2038."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"This is really well put together, with waves of steeped plum, currant and raspberry fruit, bolts of licorice and tar and a long apple wood accent on the sappy finish. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The 2018 Pape Clement is a blend of 66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and 4% Cabernet Franc, aged for approximately 18 months in oak barriques, 60% new. Medium to deep garnet-purple colored, it rolls out of the</i></p>

Reviews *glass with vibrant notes of crushed black cherries, stewed black plums and black raspberries, followed by suggestions of violets, star anise, cardamom and camphor with a waft of iron ore. The medium to full-bodied palate delivers exhilarating energy, offering crunchy black berry and exotic spice layers with a solid frame of ripe, grainy tannins and loads of freshness, finishing long and mineral tinged. Still very primary, it will need a good 5 years in bottle to deliver that next-level experience and will drink over the next 30+ years.”*
- LPB, Wine Advocate

“Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2018 Pape Clement is a little closed, slowly unfurling to reveal fragrant earth, crushed rocks, iron ore and tobacco notions over a core of crushed red and black currants plus kirsch, red roses, and Ceylon tea. Full-bodied and wonderfully vivacious, it offers a solid line of firm and fine-grained tannins and amazing freshness, finishing very long and mineral laced.”
- LPB, Wine Advocate

“Aromas of wild blackberries, blueberries, dried lavender, cloves and eucalyptus with gravel and cocoa butter. It’s full-bodied with firm, powdery tannins. Polished and creamy with a core of ripe fruit that evolves to herbs, spices, and chocolate. Fantastic concentration and seamless integration. Try from 2024.”
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“This is a very driven Pape Clément with fantastic density and finesse at the same time. Linear and driven, the finish goes on for minutes with incredible tension and focus. More cabernet. Refinement with power.”
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“An oasis of green, this grand estate within the Bordeaux suburbs has produced a powerful, massively textured wine. It also has the fruit richness to partner the structure along with a fresher streak of acidity. The wine will age, so drink from 2026.”
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“The wine is firm in stature yet shot through with vitalizing acidity. Its structure and full-bodied density are memorable and powerful. It has the potential for lengthy aging.”
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“52% Cabernet Sauvignon, 43% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot. Black core with crimson rim. Darkest of black fruits, dark in oak spice too and yet there is also an inviting top note of red fruits that adds unexpected charm. Oaky char and sweetness on the palate, really generous in smooth dark fruit and smooth, firm tannins. Still needs time for the oak to recede but the fruit is moreish and the finish fresh. (JH)”
- JH, JancisRobinson.com

“66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc; 65% new oak. Barrel sample. Black core, purple rim. Plenty of lively black fruit on the nose, then really thick and chewy on the palate. The alcohol, high generally in this vintage, shows here. Dense, chewy and a bit monolithic. Tough finish at the moment. For lovers of power rather than elegance, though I think it would be too much for the table. (JH)”
- JH, JancisRobinson.com

“I love watching how Pape Clement is evolving with every vintage. There's still a bit of Venice Beach in its muscles but it has let some juice in between the firm tannins and it's all the better for it. There are ripples of freshness here too, with lots of fleshy fruit, and a slatey mineral finish that sits against chocolate and smoked cedar notes. It's clearly been carefully extracted yet still has the serious ageing ability and sense of confidence that is the signature of the property. 37hl/ha yield in 2018. Two-thirds new oak. Drinking 2026 – 2042.”
- JA, Decanter.com

“Deep in color, the wine is filled with smoke, licorice, tobacco, dark red fruits and cedar. Rich, full and with depth of flavor, the lush, round, ripe, sweet fruits hit the right notes you're looking for. Give it a decade before popping a cork and enjoy it over the next 20-25 years with ease. The wine was made from blending 66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and 4% Cabernet Franc.”
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

Reviews

“Opaque in color with shiny purple accents, the wine is loaded with smoke, tobacco leaf, cigar box and dark red fruits. The wine has depth and concentration but never feels heavy. There is enough acidity here to keep the wine lifted. The velvet tannins in the luxurious finish never feels over-blown this year. This is going to require at least a decade or more and will be worth the wait. The wine was made from blending 66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and 4% Cabernet Franc. The oak has been dialed back a bit and 5% of the harvest was aged in oak foudres, which helps aid in the freshness.96-98 Pts.”

- JL, [thewinecellarinsider.com](#)

“Deep ruby in colour with an explosive nose of clove, mint, black cherry and almond. The palate is silky smooth, with opulent, creamy vanilla and ripe blackcurrant. The tannins are supple but mouthcoating, framing the fruit and adding a savoury crunch. The toastiness builds through the mid-palate to leave quite a smoky finish. However, the depth of fruit more than copes with this, leaving an impressively long and harmonious - if hedonistic - impression.”

- Farr Vintners

“The 2018 Pape-Clément has a very intense nose of blackberry, briar, cedar and crushed flowers. That showiness that I commented upon in barrel has ebbed away to reveal a most sophisticated nascent wine. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin's, layers of graphite-infused black fruit and a keen thread of acidity. An attractive touch of pitted black olive toward the saline finish leaves you wanting more. This deserves a decade in bottle, but it is a classy Pape-Clément that should age well over the next 30–40 years. Very promising. Drinking window: 2024 – 2050.”

- NM, Vinous

“The 2018 Pape Clément was picked 20 September to 12 October. It has an intense bouquet with blackberry, bilberry, fig and crushed flowers, quite a showy and extrovert Pape Clément comparative to other vintages. The palate is medium-bodied with saturated tannins, fine acidity, very smooth in texture with a seductive black olive and cassis-tinged finish that is very persistent. It is a bold wine with ambition, although I wager that the 2016 Pape Clément will ultimately turn out to be the better wine. 2024-2050”

- NM, Vinous

“The 2018 Pape Clément is such a beautiful and inviting wine. Silky, perfumed and layered, the 2018 shows the more restrained, vibrant style that has become the norm here in recent years. Red/purplish fruit, lavender, rose petal and spice are front and center, while the oak - in the past so strong here - is really dialed back. The 2018 is going to be a fascinating wine to follow in the cellar over the next several decades. The purity of the flavors is just striking. 2026 – 2048.”

- AG, Vinous

“The 2018 Pape Clément is dense, powerful, and brooding. In most vintages, Pape Clément is much more showy and inviting, but the 2018 is in no mood to show all of its cards. Instead, we find a Pape Clément that explodes with vertical intensity and lift. Captivating scents of gravel, smoke, leather, tobacco, chocolate and incense add layers of complexity. I can't wait to see how the 2018 ages. Today, it is super expressive. The blend is 66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and 4% Cabernet Franc. New oak is 45%. Tasted four times.”

- AG, Vinous

“Coming from 66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, and the rest Cabernet Franc brought up in 60% new French oak, the 2018 Château Pape Clement from Bernard Magrez is a gorgeous wine that's performing even better from bottle than barrel, which is always a good sign. Deep ruby/purple, with stunning crème de cassis and blackberry fruits as well as kaleidoscope-like notes of graphite, scorched earth, smoke, violets, and spring flowers, it offers full-bodied richness yet stays light on its feet, graceful, and almost ethereal on the palate, with integrated acidity and building yet seamless tannin's. The Cabernet Sauvignon really sings at this point, and there's almost a Médoc-like regalness here. Reminding me of a slightly more elegant 2005 (it also has similarities to the 2016), it will benefit from 4-6 years in the cellar and keep for 30+ years.”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“From Bernard Magrez's flagship estate, the 2018 Château Pape Clément checks in as a tentative blend of 66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, and the rest Cabernet Franc that will spend 18 months in 60% new French oak. This ripe, full-bodied, opulent beauty knocks it out of the park and boasts a saturated purple color to go with a monster bouquet of cassis and blackberry fruits intermixed with notes of smoked earth, graphite, spicy

Reviews *oak, and spring flowers. Possessing ripe, silky tannins (and plenty of them), remarkable purity of fruit, a stacked mid-palate, and a great, great finish, it ranks in the top tier in the vintage, and despite having the fruit to drink nicely in its youth, it's going to age effortlessly. It might very well be the finest wine from this estate in the past decade or more. Tasted on three separate occasions.*
- Jeb Dunnuck

"Dry and powerful, the style of wine here is certainly long-lived and yet while the tannins are huge and there is powerful astringency on the finish, the fruit manages to control these two elements well because it is so rich and deep. You would have to like oaky wines to be able to appreciate this, and it is right at the extremities for me, but I think that this is a grand wine, and it will age for an eternity, too."
- MJ, matthewjukes.com
