

Château Clinet 2011

CSPC# 811818

750mlx6

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

85% Merlot, 12% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

Pomerol

Classification

Bordeaux AOC (*Appellation d'origine contrôlée*)

Website

<http://www.chateauclinet.com/chateau-clinet-pomerol/>

General Info

Chateau Clinet is a relatively small property in Pomerol, home of the best Merlots made in the world. Over the last decade or so, it has risen to be amongst the top wines of the region. Château Clinet is located in the heart of the Pomerol appellation, about 40 km from the city of Bordeaux. Posed on beautiful plots of the famous terrace serious Gunz, particularly suitable terroir for Merlot, it is one of the most prestigious area of the appellation. The estate wines, elegant and intense style parties are now the great wines of Pomerol.

Chateau Clinet once belonged to the Constant Family before it passed to the Arnaud family. The Arnaud's had good taste in wine. At the same time, they were also owners of the famed Bordeaux wine property, Petrus. Following the Arnaud's involvement, from 1900 to 1991, Clinet became the property of the Audy family.

They were best known as Bordeaux négociant's. When the managing director Jean-Michel Arcaute arrived in the early 1980s, Chateau Clinet began producing some of the best wine in their history. It was Arcaute's desire for Clinet return to the previous level of prominence it occupied in the early 19th century. Arcaute began leaf thinning, green harvesting, and more importantly, he strived to harvest fruit that was phenolicly ripe. The estate also reduced the amount of cabernet sauvignon vines planted in the vineyards. Clinet is one of the few Pomerol properties with a large percentage, (Large for Pomerol) of cabernet sauvignon vines.

In 1991, the chateau was sold to Gan insurance. Arcaute remained the director of the estate. Clinet was bought by Jean-Louis Laborde in late 1998. Tragically, Arcaute died in a boating accident in 2001. Today, the estate is managed by the young Ronan Laborde. Laborde could have been a competitive marathon runner if he was not a wine maker. Michel Rolland consults this Bordeaux wine property.

Vintage

Spring's extreme weather conditions caused concern that with such excessive heat this would be a tricky vintage to manage. In this particular climatic context, Château CLINET adapted its cultural strategy to make sure of an even ripening of the grapes. Summer was without excessively hot weather which helped the maturity to proceed homogeneously.

Vineyards

Only 9 hectares under vine, but the vineyard is located at the highest point of the Pomerol Plateau on the famous Gunz gravel terrace, origin of the appellation's most prestigious crus. 85% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon and 10% Cabernet Franc, this wine has an average age of 47 years.

Harvest

The harvest was the earliest ever recorded at the property. It began on September 7 and finished with the legendary 75-year-old vines on the Pomerol plateau. Château CLINET continued its policy of picking plot by plot, at perfect phenolic ripeness, spreading out the 7 harvesting days along a time-line of 19 days.

**Vinification/
Maturation**

Vinification takes place in wooden vats and stainless steel with thermo micro-oxygenation. 5 weeks maceration with vigorous pumping over. Malolactic fermentation in the bottles. Aged for 16 months in 55% new oak barrels, and 45% 1 yr old barrels.

Tasting Notes

Chateau Clinet 2011 displays an ink-purple color. Very exuberant and enchanting on the nose, it reveals aromas of wild raspberries and strawberries, together with blackberries and plums in syrup, mingling subtly with essence of vanilla and licorice. Silky and intense on the palate, its soft texture coats the freshly picked wild fruits sprinkled with spices.

Production

4,580 cases made



**Cellaring
Scores/Awards**

Drink 2015-2030

93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2014
91-94 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2012
95 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #212 - April 2014
92-94 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #200 - April 2012
93-95 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2012
92 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2014
92-93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2012
91-93 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 9, 2012
15.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - November 2015
17 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - February 2015
16.5 points - Richard Hemming, JancisRobinson.com - October 2013
16 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2012
89-92 points - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - May 2012
16.5 points - James Lawther, Decanter.com - April 2012
94 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2012
94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 20, 2014
92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - August 1, 2013
95-96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 21, 2012
92+ points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - October 2013
92-93+ points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2012
16 points - Farr Vintner - March 2012
87-90 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2012
17 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)
16 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)
16.5 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only)

Reviews

"This is alluring, with lovely blackberry, boysenberry and fig pâte de fruit flavors gliding along, lined with subtle charcoal and black tea notes and carrying through to a lush yet defined finish. A hedonist's delight on the surface, offering inlaid grip for balance. Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc. Best from 2015 through 2030. 4,580 cases made"
- JM, Wine Spectator

"This has solid range, with blueberry, loganberry and bergamot notes mixed together and framed by anise-infused toast. There's solid flesh through the finish, with lingering purity. Score range: 91-94"
- JM, Wine Spectator

"Clinet has produced a blockbuster wine, even in the lighter, less consistent vintage of 2011. It reveals a dense purple color as well as an abundance of black cherry, black currant and blackberry fruit intermixed with licorice, incense and a touch of camphor. Full-bodied, opulent and fleshy with a substantial finish, this showy, dramatic 2011 should drink well for 15-20 years. Brilliant!"
- RP, Wine Advocate

"Under proprietor Ronan Laborde, Clinet has returned to the high quality witnessed in 1989 and 1990 under the helmsman-ship of the late Jean-Michel Arcaute. Made from a final blend of 85% Merlot, 12% Cabernet Sauvignon and 3% Cabernet Franc that hit 14% natural alcohol, the inky, opaque purple-colored 2011 exhibits notes of blackberries, blueberries, espresso roast and subtle oak. Full-bodied, layered, opulent and flamboyant for a 2011, with loads of concentration and glycerin as well as a long finish, this is one of the most impressive wines of the vintage. It should drink well for two decades."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"Tasted twice the second time at the property with Ronan Laborde. The Clinet 2011 is a blend of 85% Merlot and 12% Cabernet Sauvignon and 3% Cabernet Franc picked from 7th September until 26th September. It has a ravishing bouquet with multi-layered, creamy dark fruit, blueberry, cassis and a touch of vanilla pod. It soars from the glass and takes no prisoners. The palate is full-bodied with rich saturated tannins, low acidity, rounded and sensual in the mouth with an intense, voluminous finish that leaves a touch of oyster shell as its calling card. A second sample at the chateau promoted the fine tannins, offering a much more delineated finish, much more precise but a little drier (possibly because of the cloudier weather.) Excellent Mon. Laborde! Tasted April 2012."
- NM, Wine Journal

Reviews *“Blackberry fruits dominate this ripe wine. It is already delicious, with a round and well-cushioned structure. Barrel Sample: 91-93”*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“This is a rich Pomerol for the vintage with plenty of berry, chocolate and toasted-oak character. Full body with round, soft tannins. Needs two or three years to come together.”
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“A silky wine with dark chocolate and currant character. Chewy tannins but polished. Full and complete. Very velvety textured. Hand crafted wine for the vintage.”
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“Ruby purple. Dark fruits and coffee on the musky, slightly reduced nose. Broad, ripe and dry, with a graceful texture to the deep flavors of cassis, black cherry and dark chocolate. Began rather monolithic but showed emerging sweetness and very good grip with aeration. Finishes with a firm spine of acidity and mouthcoating tannins, with lingering hints of ripe dark fruits and tobacco.”
- ST, International Wine Cellar

“Tasted blind. Crimson with a light nose. A bit salty and a tiny bit bitter.”
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“Black core with deep garnet rim. Coffee and dark fruit first impression, some graphite notes and sweet biscuit. Elegantly fragrant. Deep and dark and spicy but refined and cool on the palate. (JH)”
- JH, JancisRobinson.com

“85% Merlot, 12% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Cabernet Franc. Dense, heavy, dry. Glossy fruit with a finely ground tannic bite. Savoury dark chocolate on the finish. (RH)”
- RH, JancisRobinson.com

“Warm, spicy damsons on the nose. A bit dusty. Pretty ripe on the palate, the fruit more raisiny. Dense, dry and quite juicy, thick in the mouth. (JH)”
- JH, JancisRobinson.com

“Deep purple-crimson colour. Tight, firm and intense. Lots of chocolatey, liqueur de cassis extract. Finishes a little tough and drying.”
- JL, Decanter.com

“Undoubtedly one of the most ambitious Right Bank wines in 2011, this is a big, bold, concentrated red that is built for the long haul. It's got a lot of tannin and oak, but there's enough fruit and freshness for balance with sweet black fruits, some cassis and appealing underlying succulence. A wine to cellar. 12+ years.”
- TA, timatkin.com

“Fresh herbs, truffle, licorice, dark cherry and spice box aromas get the show started. The soft, polished, sensuous fruits are what you need to pay attention to. Already open, drink this young for the freshness and silky qualities in the sweet fruit or age it for more complexity. This is one of the stars of the vintage”
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Coffee, chocolate, plum earth and cherry jam aromas open to soft, sweet, fresh, cherry filled wine that will be perfect for near term drinking for consumers waiting for their 2009 and 2010 to mature. Bottling took place over three days, May 13, 14 and 15.”
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

Reviews *“From 85% Merlot, 12% Cabernet Sauvignon and 3% Cabernet Franc, the wine reached 13.5% alcohol and will be aged in 55% new oak, which is slightly less than the property used in recent previous vintages. Deep purple in color, truffle, chocolate, boysenberry, spice box and black cherry liqueur come alive with little effort. Sexy, rich, opulent and concentrated with pure chocolate-covered dark berries, this is a wine of pleasure and elegance.”*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Deep and saturated look; intense, ripe blackcurrant tones, ‘cool’ fruit tones; ripe palate; rich with some succulence; a very good effort in the circumstances. Chew on the finish. Very good. Drink 2014-2026. 92+ UGC Oct ’13”

- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

“[Earlier note] Deep and dense; strawberry red fruits, more layered, bit flashy and worked but very plummy aromas with spices; satiny palate as usually, layers and nice fruit; classy and good effort [as usual] in the typically seductive and modern Clinet style. Tasted UGC 4/4/12. 91-93+ UGC April 2012”

- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

“This small (8 hectare) property is situated at the edge of the plateau of Pomerol behind Clos L'Eglise. It shot to fame following a 100-point Parker rating in 1989 and then repeated this feat 20 years later. The wines here are serious, dense and powerful. The blend is approximately 85% Merlot, 12% Cabernet Sauvignon and 3% Cabernet Franc. 60% New oak. Michel Rolland consults here. A really black colour here. Rich and powerful, sexy, opulent but not over-extracted. This is full of black fruit and has a long sweet finish. An impressively concentrated Pomerol.”

- Farr Vintners

“The black fruited mix on the nose feels sweet with the mix of fruits giving richness in the middle. The tannins towards the back are firm tending to close down the palate and give a tight feel on the finish.”

- Derek Smedley MW
