

## Château Clinet 2012

CSPC# 771548

750mlx12

13.2% alc./vol.

**Grape Variety**  
**Appellation**  
**Classification**  
**Website**  
**General Info**

90% Merlot, 9% Cabernet Sauvignon, 1% Cabernet Franc  
Pomerol  
Bordeaux AOC (*Appellation d'origine contrôlée*)  
<http://www.chateauclinet.com/chateau-clinet-pomerol/>

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 negociant'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 phenolically 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. Clinet has been improving slowly but steadily since the Laborde family purchased the estate. 2008 was a big jump in quality and their 2009 Bordeaux wine is even better!

**Vintage** Pomerol (800ha) undoubtedly looks like being one of if not the major success in 2012. Given the climatic vagaries of the year, the appellation's warmer, earlier-ripening soils were a key factor, allowing the Merlot to ripen fully and be picked at the end of September/beginning of October before the heavy rain. Colours are good, alcohol levels higher than last year (13.5% to 14.5%), the fruit expressive and the tannins ripe and firm. Certainly the Merlot seems to have performed well, providing power, balance and charm. On the whole, the Cabernet Franc was not deemed quite as successful as in 2011, the percentage in the blends a little less and mainly issuing from older vines. Of course, at this level, selection and investment in the vineyard also played a part. There are plenty of recommendations but finding 'good value' may be more difficult.

**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** Hand harvested by hand. Yield 40 hl/ha  
**Vinification/** Vinification takes place in wooden vats and stainless steel with thermo micro-  
**Maturation** oxygenation. 5 weeks maceration with vigorous pumping over. Malolactic fermentation in the bottles. Aged for 22 months in 50% new oak barrels, and 50% 1 yr old barrels.



<b>Tasting Notes</b>	Black-purple in colour. Full of charm on the nose, it exudes aromas of wild raspberries and wild strawberries. The lush fruit intertwines subtly with flavours of cocoa, toast, vanilla and Madagascar pepper. Silky and intense on the palate. Its rich, smooth mouthfeel oozes an intricate blend of ripe fruit and warm spice. A lingering flavourful finish.
<b>Production</b>	3,800 cases made
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2013-2028
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>93 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2015</p> <p><b>91-94 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2013</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #218 - April 2015</p>
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>92-94+ points</b> - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #206 - April 2013</p> <p><b>91-93 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2013</p> <p><b>90-92 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 9, 2013</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2015</p> <p><b>90-91 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2013</p> <p><b>15.5 points</b> - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2013</p> <p><b>89-91 points</b> - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - April 2013</p> <p><b>17 points</b> - James Lawther, Decanter.com - April 2013</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2013</p> <p><b>89-91 points</b> - Jane Anson, The New Bordeaux - April 2013</p> <p><b>90 points</b> - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 11, 2015</p> <p><b>91-93 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 26, 2013</p> <p><b>93-95+ points</b> - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2013</p> <p><b>17+ points</b> - Farr Vintner - April 2013</p> <p><b>89-92 points</b> - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2013</p> <p><b>89 points</b> - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2013</p> <p><b>18 points</b> - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)</p> <p><b>90-92 points</b> - Falstaff Magazine (score only)</p> <p><b>17.5 points</b> - Gault &amp; Millau (score only)</p> <p><b>16.5 points</b> - La Revue du Vin France (score only)</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>"Gorgeous plum cake, melted licorice and steeped currant and blackberry fruit is inlaid with notes of fruitcake and singed vanilla bean. Long and plush through the finish, with a buried charcoal spine that adds needed cut. Best from 2017 through 2027. 3,800 cases made."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Features a thick, ripe feel, with plum sauce and blackberry paste notes that drip slowly as licorice snap and roasted apple wood fill in the finish. A more overtly hedonistic style of Pomerol, retaining good balance. Score range: 91-94"</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"With a dense purple color and gorgeous levels of fruit, especially black raspberry and blackcurrant, this full-bodied, opulent style of wine is another great success for Clinet, a château that has been on top of its game for the last decade. This is stunning stuff, and whatever new oak has been used – and there is plenty – it is totally disguised by the luxurious and extravagant fruit level. This full-bodied, opulent Pomerol should drink well for 15 or more years."</i></p> <p>- RP, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Although hardly comparable to what Clinet achieved in both 2009 and 2010, the 2012 Clinet is another star of the vintage. A powerful, full-bodied, muscular Pomerol, it reveals a dense purple color in addition to lots of opulence, a layered, full-bodied richness (somewhat atypical for the vintage), beautiful density and plenty of mocha, black cherry, truffle and graphite notes. It is a surprisingly full yet accessible Clinet that will be drinkable long before the 2009 and 2010 hit their plateaus of maturity. Drink the 2012 over the next 15 years."</i></p> <p>- RP, Wine Advocate</p>

**Reviews** *"The Clinet was started early on 8th September for the young vines, picked at just 12hl/ha and returning on the 14th to tackle the young vines. It was then picked 10th, 20th, 26th and 27th September for the Merlot, the 9th October for the old Merlot vines and the Cabernets the following day. That means it was picked over 32 days, the teams of pickers returning several times to the same plot in order to pick at the optimal ripeness. The alcohol level is 13.2%, more the 1-degree less than the 2010 and it was cropped at 34hl/ha. Clinet was expanded in 2011, so the blend is now 90% Merlot, 9% Cabernet Sauvignon and 1% Cabernet Franc and Ronan told me that he is considering increasing the percentage of Cabernet in the future. There is fine precision on the nose with marine influences – hints of Japanese nori and seashells developing in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied and very natural with fine tannins. This is a less hedonistic Clinet for sure, but very well balanced and full of character, perhaps reflecting the terroir with more clarity. With modest length, this is a well-crafted Clinet for medium-term drinking. Tasted April 2013."*  
- NM, Wine Journal

*"90–92. Barrel sample. This firmly tannic wine is solid and potentially quite complex. The structure is paramount, exhibiting substantial weight, while still hinting at the juicy fruity acidity on the finish."*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"Fabulous nose of orange peel, blueberries and blackberries. Full body, firm tannins and a cocoa, cedar and berry finish. Little austere now but so fine. Truly outstanding for the vintage. Better after 2016."*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"This is racy and austere but in a very good sense. It's full-bodied, and very integrated with orange peel and a juicy, salty finish."*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"Opaque purple. Very ripe, slightly high-toned aromas of black cherry, roasted plum, licorice and violet, plus a hint of coffee. Supple on entry, then increasingly firm in the middle, but with enough creaminess of texture to the dark berry and spicy oak flavors to avoid seeming excessively over-extracted. Still, this wine's serious tannins currently cut off its fruit, leaving an impression of chunkiness and rigid structure."*  
- ST, International Wine Cellar

*"Inky with black core. Very ripe damsons and something meaty. Leaner on the palate than I expected and slightly hard. Dry, fine grained but a little flat at the end. (JH)"*  
- JH, JancisRobinson.com

*"ntense nose. Dark fruit and chocolate notes. Plump mid-palate. Fresh and lively on the palate. Good length. Harmonious, even a little restrained."*  
- JL, Decanter.com

*"Ronan Laborde invited me to go and taste his wine via Twitter this year, which may well be a first. I'm glad I dropped in, because this confirms the improvements in recent years. The Cabernet gives the wine a little lift and a touch of graphite to complement the oaky, but elegantly detailed Merlot. Drink: 2020-30"*  
- TA, timatkin.com

*"Dark, blackberry, autumnal fruits, good impact, seems a real crowd pleaser. My only concern is that the finish is on dried fruits, figs, prunes, so I query if the fruit was just a touch overripe, which will in no way take away from the pleasure over the next decade, but would cast a doubt about the long-term ageing potential. Would like to re-taste in bottle. 89-91/16.75-17.5. Recommended-Highly Recommended. Drink 2017-2028."*  
- JA, The New Bordeaux

*"One of the top Pomerol wines from the vintage, with a nice display of chocolate covered black cherries, juicy, sweet, ripe, fleshy plum, espresso and earthy notes that carry through to the soft, round, sweet, fruit filled finish."*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

**Reviews** *“Blending 90% Merlot, 9% Cabernet Sauvignon and 1% Cabernet Franc, reaching 13.2% alcohol, the wine will be aged in 50% new French oak. From low yields of 34 hectoliters per hectare, the wine opens with licorice, earth, plums and herbal scents, followed by sensuous, fresh and spicy fennel, black raspberry and cherry. Lighter in style than 2008, 2009 and 2010, the wine ends with layers of sweet kirsch, cocoa and plum notes. 91-93 Pts”*  
- JL, [thewinecellarinsider.com](http://thewinecellarinsider.com)

*“Deep and dark; colour tight to the rim; tight but clearly very deep on the nose; serious, not its usual flattering self; layers here which show themselves on aeration but this is a pretty dense Clinet. Lots of depth on the palate and structure too. Pretty formidable effort. Excellent length. 90% Merlot, 9% Cabernet Sauvignon, 1% Cabernet Franc. 93-95+ UGC 10 April, 2013.”*  
- JW, [winewordsandvideotape.com](http://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. This is sumptuous, sexy stuff with super-sweet, ripe, plummy fruit. White chocolate and creamy vanilla notes. The palate is full of dark cherries, toasty new oak and ripe, polished tannins. A very voluptuous and inviting Pomerol.”*  
- Farr Vintners

*“The nose has a brooding black fruited power and the palate has the richness of ripe black plum. It feels fresher towards the back bramble and some red fruited and the finish has less concentrated power. 2017-26”*  
- Derek Smedley MW

*“Beautifully crafted, elegant Pomerol with velvety tannins, balance, red fruit profile and fairly long length. This wine has medium weight and a lightness which will make it approachable fairly young. Fresh, balanced and supple. Tasted in: Bordeaux, France. Maturity: Young. (09-Apr-2013)”*  
- JCL, [asianpalate.com](http://asianpalate.com)

---