

## Château Clinet 2017

CSPC# 811818

750mlx6

13.0% alc./vol.

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

92% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Sauvignon

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 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 phenologically 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!

**Winemaker**  
**Vintage**

Ronan Laborde. Michel Rolland consults.

Ronan Laborde, head of Château Clinet, mentioned, "We lost in total around 15% of the crop at Clinet in 2017. We received a little damage on the last night of the frosts—going down the plateau toward Feytit-Clinet." The final lithe, energetic blend came in at just 13.1% alcohol. "We don't use any concentration methods here," Laborde said. They are also using more 500-liter barrels for the élevage, wanting "the impact of oak to be as soft as possible." I have to say, I've been incredibly impressed with the subtle evolution of Clinet in recent years, revealing an incredibly elegant and sensuous side to the site with incredible purity and depth.

**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. Harvest took place September 19 to September 29

**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 22 months in 50% new oak barrels, and 50% 1 yr. old barrels.



**Tasting Notes** Château Clinet 2017 is dressed in a beautiful dark purple colour with ruby tints. Shy on the first nose, it gradually opens up to aeration and reveals a rich and charming bouquet of small, ripe red and black fruits as well as floral notes, touches of wood and smoke and a subtle hint of minerality. On the palate, Château Clinet 2017 offers a moderately full-bodied attack and a supple, round mid-palate. The aromas of red and black fruits are concentrated and supported by a straight and granular tannic line. The juicy fruits grow and evolve in the mouth, bringing incredible tension and powerful aroma to the blend before ending with a deliciously fruity and mineral finish.

**Production** 2,000 cases made

**Cellaring** Drink 2022-2038

**Scores/Awards** **95 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2020  
**92-95 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - April 2018  
**92-94 points** - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate #236 - April 2018  
**93 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2020  
**92-93 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2018  
**95 points/Cellar Selection** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2020  
**16 points** - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - October 2019  
**16 points** - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2018  
**90 points** - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2018  
**92 points** - Decanter.com - April 2018  
**95 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2018  
**93 points** - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2018  
**15+ points** - Farr Vintner - April 2018  
**87-89 points** - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2018  
**93 points** - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2020  
**92-94 points** - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2018  
**90-93 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2018  
**93 points** - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2020  
**93-95 points** - Jeb Dunnuck MW - April 2018  
**18.5+ points** - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2018

**Reviews** *"This is brimming with raspberry and boysenberry compote flavors, while mouthwatering anise and pain d'épices notes fill in the background. Reveals a flash of ganache, a streak of tar and an echo of bramble through the finish, adding range while the gorgeous fruit holds center stage. Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon. Best from 2022 through 2038. 2,000 cases made."*

- JM, Wine Spectator

*"Alluring, offering fleshy layers of fig, boysenberry and plum compote notes lined with anise and roasted apple wood accents, this is nicely integrated already, with fresh acidity embedded throughout. 2,000 cases made."*

- JM, Wine Spectator

*"Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2017 Clinet opens slowly to reveal vibrant red and black fruits: red currants, black cherries, plums and cassis with touches of roses, yeast extract, wood smoke and crushed rocks. Medium-bodied with firm, grainy tannins and a taut, muscular palate of tightly wound fruits and compelling mineral accents, it finishes long with wonderful purity and fragrant earth accents"*

- RP, Wine Advocate

*"A fresh and fruity Clinet with tangy acidity highlighting the plum and cherry character. Reserved style. Medium body, creamy tannins and a delicious finish. Linear and focused in general."*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"Some green-olive and herb character. Medium body, firm tannins and a fresh finish. Shows some solid and linear length on the finish."*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"This wine is stacked with tannins and concentrated fruits, with a dense texture. The wine's future is assured and long term. Drink from 2024."*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

- Reviews** *"92% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Sauvignon. Deep garnet. At last a wine that really smells of my stereotype of Pomerol: ripe, dark and a little bit meaty (but not bretty). Firm, perhaps a bit rustic, but lots of flavour and character, if not a lot of depth. (JH)"*  
- JH, JancisRobinson.com
- "Black core. Lovely dense aroma of black fruit and graphite, really savoury/mineral, with graphite dominant at the moment. Much more juicy than I expected on the palate. Plenty of dark fruit but only just fresh enough. (JH)"*  
- JH, JancisRobinson.com
- "High colour extraction with grilled damson on the nose, but the intensity through the palate is a few notches below the brilliant levels they have been achieving at Clinet over the past few vintages. They suffered around 15% frost to their vines, although did not use any second-generation fruit in the first wine. Appreciate their extremely careful extraction, and lovely soft black fruits. (JA)"*  
- JA, Decanter.com
- "The wine has deepened and taken on character during ageing, although it still doesn't have the power and intensity of the vintages on either side, but this is going to be delicious drinking over the coming 10 to 15 years. Clinet is always a safe bet for precision and it delivers this again. Drinking Window 2024 – 2040"*  
- Decanter.com
- "Deep purple ruby colour. Warm and herbal spices and black fruit. Complex and inviting aromas. Quite woody somehow, but with massed tannins, fresh acidity and balance. Deep spicy, and very traditional style. Long rich tannic finish. For the long term. Barrel Sample: 91-93"*  
- TA, timatkin.com
- "The depth of color is impressive, and the level of concentration is remarkable. Full bodied with lush, ripe, juicy plums coupled with spice box, cherry, smoke, licorice and espresso, the wine is elegant, fruity, polished and long. This is going to offer fabulous drinking after seven to ten years of bottle age. From a blend of 92% Merlot and 8% Cabernet Sauvignon, the wine reached 13% alcohol with a pH of 3.74 and is aging in 72% new, oak barrels. The harvest took place September 19 to September 29 and the Grand Vin consists of 70% of the harvest."*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "The oak on the nose here is somewhat off-putting at the moment, with showy vanilla, bonfire and a hint of coconut. On the palate the fruit comes through more, albeit underneath a heavy roasted coffee and brioche note from the oak that still coats the palate. The blueberry and blackberry fruit are there and lingers on the finish. The tannins, too, are refined and silky. This wine could well improve, but for now it is a little too marked by the oak, even for a barrel sample."*  
- Farr Vintners
- "The nose is firm with fresh black fruits the start of the palate quite light. Ripe plum gives more depth sweetness in the middle and although fresher at the back there is sweet fruit on the finish. 2025-35"*  
- Derek Smedley MW
- "The 2017 Clinet was bottled at the end of June 2019. It has a more understated bouquet than the 2015 or 2016. Tightly wound, brambly black fruit with traces of pressed violet and iodine, gradually open with orange rind notes. The palate is medium bodied with firm tannins. This is classic in style, firm grip and a little rigid in its youth, although it will flesh out with bottle age. I admire both the freshness and salinity in this Clinet, especially its linearity on the finish. Excellent. (NM)"*  
- NM, Vinous

**Reviews**

*"The 2017 Clinet was picked from 19 to 26 September for the Merlot and on 29 September for the Cabernets at 35hl/ha. It is matured in 72% new oak and the remainder one year old. The alcohol is 13.1° compared to say 14.4° for 2016. It has a perfumed bouquet with mainly red berry fruit, top notes of loam and a touch of violet. It is certainly well defined. The palate is medium bodied with supple tannin, well delineated, and saline in the mouth. It is quite open towards the finish, perhaps with less grip than other Pomerols that I have tasted, but it is undeniably elegant and well balanced with a hint of cured meat cropping up on the aftertaste. Classic Clinet! Drink 2022-2040."*

- NM, Vinous

*"The 2017 Clinet packs a serious punch. Dense, rich and explosive, the 2017 offers tons of pure power, but it also comes across as oaky and lacking the detail of the best years, at least at this stage. A rush of black cherry jam, inky fruit, grilled herbs, lavender, licorice and smoke builds into the pliant, enveloping finish. The 12% Cabernet Sauvignon in the blend speaks with a loud voice. Tasted two times."*

- AG, Vinous

*"The 2017 Chateau Clinet checks in behind the 2015 and 2016 (and I suspect the 2018), yet it does well in the vintage. Based on 92% Merlot and 8% Cabernet Sauvignon brought up in 72% new barrels (the estate has moved to using more 500-liter barrels), representing 80% of the production, its deep purple hue is followed by classic Clinet dark, chocolatey fruit and tobacco notes. This gives way to a medium to full-bodied Pomerol that has firm tannins, solid mid-palate density, and outstanding length. The tannins here will need 4-5 years of bottle age, and I'd lean toward drinking bottles over the following decade."*

- Jeb Dunnuck

*"Reminding me of the 2014, the 2017 Château Clinet is a beautiful, dense, concentrated wine that has terrific notes of blueberries, spring flowers, and chocolatey oak. It's very much in the style of the vintage with its cool, perfumed aromatics and sensational purity of fruit, yet it also has richness and weight. It's a brilliant Pomerol."*

- Jeb Dunnuck

*"The nose signals a superbly pretty, fruit-driven wine with lovely freshness and drive. The oak is present, but it sits within the fruit as opposed to on top and this is a wine which has already found harmony. The palate is rich and creamy, and it is not heavy or strong but smooth and slippery. The tannins sit right at the back of the wine and they are crisp and tarcy as opposed to being dry. Exotic and rather showy and bit of a crowd-pleaser in every respect, this is a thoroughly delicious wine."*

- MJ, [matthewjukes.com](http://matthewjukes.com)

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