

# Château Clinet 2021

CSPC# 811818

750mlx6

13.0% alc./vol.

**Grape Variety**

75% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Sauvignon

**Appellation**

Pomerol

**Classification**

Bordeaux AOC (*Appellation d'origine contrôlée*)

**Website**

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

**Sustainability**

The cultivation of the vine is carried out in the purest respect of the environment, giving preference to sustainable solutions rather than to chemical treatments, and to the human hand rather than to the profitability of the machine. Harvesting is always done by hand.

**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 Arcuate arrived in the early 1980s, Chateau Clinet began producing some of the best wine in their history.

It was Arcuate's desire for Clinet return to the previous level of prominence it occupied in the early 19th century. Arcuate began leaf thinning, green harvesting, and more importantly, he strived to harvest fruit that was phenolic 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. Arcuate remained the director of the estate. Clinet was bought by Jean-Louis Laborde in late 1998. Tragically, Arcuate 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**

Ronan Laborde. Michel Rolland consults.

**Vintage**

A "long-haul" vintage, with rather demanding weather conditions, marked by a quick start, a dull mid-season, and ending with a radiant homestretch, which proved to be a decisive factor in gradually and gently reaching just the right level of ripeness.

**Vineyards**

A plot of Merlot was grubbed up at the end of 2019, resulting in a production area of 10.2 hectares and an increased proportion of Cabernet Sauvignon in the vine population at 25%

**Harvest**

Merlot: September 27-30<sup>th</sup>.

Cabernets: October 12<sup>th</sup>. Yield 35 hl/ha

**Vinification/**

**Maturation**

Average vatting periods of 26 days, with gentle extraction of the phenolic components (pumping over and rack-and-return). Alcoholic fermentation did not take longer than in previous vintages and went smoothly. High total acidity levels, together with normal-to-low pH levels for our terroir, preserve the freshness of this vintage's wines. majority of new barrels (80%), including traditional "barriques bordelaises" (225 litres) and large-format "Burgundy" barrels (500 litres), and the remaining 20% in second-fill barrels.



<b>Tasting Notes</b>	Clinet 2021 displays gorgeous layers of deep, dark ruby. Wonderfully expressive on the nose, it unfolds well-defined aromas of ripe fruit (raspberry, blackberry, blackcurrant) and oriental spice, sprinkled with floral notes. Connoisseurs will recognize Clinet's signature style, albeit with a touch of originality in the proportion of Cabernet Sauvignon (25%), which is higher than usual in this vintage. With its soft mouthfeel and silky tannins, the wine is still beautifully intense and lingers pleasingly on the palate. One can but relish this wine's aromatic richness and precision and take delight in its grace and harmony.
<b>Serve with</b>	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>	3,850 cases made
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2028-2040
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>91 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - April 2024</p> <p><b>92+ points</b> - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - February 2024</p> <p><b>93-95 points</b> - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022</p> <p><b>90-92 points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent - May 2022</p> <p><b>93-94 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2022</p> <p><b>16.5+ points</b> - James Lawther, JancisRobinson.com - May 2022</p> <p><b>Review Only</b> - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - November 2023</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - March 2022</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Jane Anson, Inside Bordeaux - May 2022</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2024</p> <p><b>93-95 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2022</p> <p><b>92-94 points</b> - Thomas Parker, Farr Vintners - April 2022</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - December 2023</p> <p><b>92-94 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2022</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - December 2023</p> <p><b>92-94 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - May 2022</p> <p><b>93-96 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2022</p> <p><b>18 points</b> - Matthew Jukes - August 2022</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - April 2022</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2022</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Bettane &amp; Desseauve (score only) - May 2022</p>

**Reviews** "A frankly toasted style, with bittersweet cocoa notes draped over a core of black cherry and plum fruit. Reveals tobacco, licorice, roasted cedar, and a tug of warm earth through the finish. Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon. Drink now through 2034. 3,850 cases made."

- JM, Wine Spectator

"The 2021 Clinet opens in the glass with aromas of dark berries, plums and licorice mingled with hints of mint and orange zest, followed by a medium to full-bodied palate with a sweet core of fruit that's framed by a chassis of sweet, powdery tannins that assert themselves on the oak-inflected finish. Out of the gates, this remains quite structured by its élevage."

- WK, Wine Advocate

"At 75% Merlot and fully 25% Cabernet Sauvignon, the 2021 Clinet contains the highest proportion of Cabernet in the blend (excepting the 2003) since at least the 1980s. Ronan Laborde harvested late, picking into mid-October, to craft a medium to full-bodied, deep, and impressively seamless wine evocative of dark berries, baking chocolate, violets and spices. Concentrated and nicely integrated, it is one of the vintage's notable successes.

Ronan Laborde is producing the best wines of his career at this Pomerol reference point. Some eight hectares produce Clinet, much of the vineyards being located around the château in the lieu-dit that lends it its name, complemented by a parcel by the church and another not far from the headquarters of the syndicat viticole. Today, these holdings are planted with some 80% Merlot, but before phylloxera, Cabernet Sauvignon was widely planted in this sector, and today, Laborde is replacing Merlot with Cabernet Sauvignon (he retains a parcel of old-vine Cabernet Sauvignon dating back to 1950). Vines are hedged at 1.5 meters, and cover crops help to manage water in the iron-rich clays near the château, allowing access by tractor even after recent rainfall. In the winery, Laborde now employs small stainless-steel tanks that permit parcel-by-parcel vinification, and a vertical press has been the order of the day since as long ago as 2001. What's really evolved in recent years is the barrel program: oak is long-seasoned (four to five years), and some large formats have joined the classic 225-liter barriques; but above all, lighter, less impactful toasts are now chosen, meaning Clinet's 80% new oak is much

**Reviews** more discreet in its aromatic and textural contribution than was the case a decade ago.”

- WK, Wine Advocate

*“The 2021 Clinet is deep garnet-purple colored. It is a little reticent to start, soon unfurling to offer glimpses at black raspberries, redcurrant jelly, and warm plums scents, plus hints of star anise, Ceylon tea, and wild sage. The palate is medium-bodied, with oak tannins lending to the firm structure and plenty of densely laden black and red fruits, finishing with great length.*

*2027-2040.”*

- LPB, Wine Independent

*“Firm, lightly chewy yet creamy tannins. Savory bark and herb notes. Cloves and licorice, too. Medium body with a polished, lengthy, and firm finish. Compact.”*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*“Crimson-purple hue. Dark and spicy on the nose and palate. Round and gourmand but fresh as well. Firm tannic frame, the tannins present but ripe adding power and length on the finish. There’s potential here. Drink 2028 – 2040.”*

- JL, JancisRobinson.com

*“Dark-fruited and slightly charry on the nose. Savoury, dry, refined. Lovely tannins here – firm but polished, holding the fruit in shape. 2021 may have produced some more restrained right-bank wines but this has lovely balance. Best Pomerol of the tasting but don’t look for classic Pomerol plushness. (JH)”*

- JH, JancisRobinson.com

*“An exceptional Clinet in 2021. Richly scented, dark and roguish, a touch of sour cherry and perfume to the nose. Round, supple, generous, and vibrant on the palate - this has a lifeforce to it with nuance of red berry flavour and real persistency as well as juicy acidity. I love the upfront nature of this and the really quite vivid and expressive red fruits while the background gives the savoury, menthol, liquorice notes offering depth and wideness - lots of terroir and grape markers in the glass - particularly the high percentage (25%) of Cabernet Sauvignon in the blend. Tannins are firm and supportive with the overall freshness lifting the frame, delivering a full mouthfeel with a density of tannins and black fruit that doesn’t dip. Well worked and presented. A touch of wood on the finish but subtle and supportive. You also get the florality all the way through which is just so appealing. Supremely well worked, charming but also confident - I absolutely love it and it clearly stood out every time tasting it - four times in total. 45,000 bottles made, same production as 2020.”*

- GH, Decanter.com

*“This is gracefully handled, sculpted black fruits, with blueberry, plum, truffle and cinnamon spice. A touch of bitter black chocolate on the finish, not the exuberant power of most years at Clinet, but a great handling of the vintage, concentrated but not overly extracted. 38hl/h yield. Tasted twice. Drink 2026 – 2042.”*

- JA, janeanson.com

*“One of the wines of the appellation offers depth of color before you get to the flowers, tobacco leaves, espresso, truffle, mint, cedar, black cherries, incense, and chocolatey plums. Plush, supple, and with ample fruit showing sweet, and tart characteristics. The wine provides lift, energy, polish, length, and an edgy finish. The wine blends 75% Merlot, and 25% Cabernet Sauvignon. Drink from 2025-2045.”*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“Deeply colored, on the nose you initially find chocolate, flowers, mint, black plums, licorice, espresso, black raspberries, nutmeg, and black cherries. Medium-bodied, soft, polished, fresh and silky, with a vibrancy to the ripe, deep, dark red fruits on the mid-palate. There is ample ripe, plums, blueberries, and cherries in the refined, chalky finish along with length and vibrancy. The wine is a blend of 75% Merlot and 25% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13% AVB. The harvest took place September 27 - October 12. Drink from 2025-2044.”*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

**Reviews** “The 2021 is 75% Merlot and 25% Cabernet Sauvignon. Deep, dark purple in the glass. This is an opulent, dense 2021, full of banana bread, damsons, and wild berries on the nose, together with incense and liquorice. The palate starts supple with a dense core of black fruit, but rich extract and chewy tannin builds through the middle. This smoky, rich, and dense Pomerol is full throttle for 2021. An impressive feat without being overworked. This is a wine for those who like their Pomerol higher octane and dense.”  
- TP, Farr Vintners

“The 2021 Clinet has a relatively light nose compared to other vintages: blackberry, wild mint, touches of graphite and just a slight herbaceous note that becomes more accentuated with time. The palate is medium-bodied with firm tannins and fine acidity, quite spicy compared to its peers with, again, just a little greenness toward the finish (albeit less evident on a second bottle that shows more refinement). You feel that it's got something to offer a couple of years down the line, so give it some time in bottle.”  
- NM, Vinous

“The 2021 Clinet is a blend of 75% Merlot and 25% Cabernet Sauvignon, picked September 27–30 and October 12, respectively, and aged in 80% new oak. It has a well-defined bouquet of blackberry, graphite, and light tobacco scents, very Left Bank in style – unsurprisingly, given the contribution of the Cabernet. Medium-bodied and sappy on the midpalate, with pliant tannins and moderate depth, and a lovely touch of black pepper toward the finish. Not a powerful Clinet and certainly far from the style of 15–20 years ago, but there's a linearity and understated-ness about this Pomerol, a freshness that should guarantee it will repay 5–6 years in bottle. This is a very well-crafted Clinet even if I do not rank it as a classic. If it puts on more weight, it may well land at the top of my banded score.”  
- NM, Vinous

“The 2021 Clinet is bold, explosive, and dense. A blend of 75% Merlot and 25% Cabernet Sauvignon, the 2021 is a rich and ample wine of tremendous energy and tension. This represents a modern style of Pomerol that will drink well upon release and also age.”  
- AG, Vinous

“The 2021 Clinet is gorgeous. Soaring Cabernet Sauvignon aromatics lend presence to a deep, beautifully layered Pomerol that gets better and better with time in the glass. I especially admire the vibrancy here. At 25%, the Cabernet Sauvignon is high for Clinet, but it's an approach that works quite well in 2021. This is a fine vintage for Clinet.”  
- AG, Vinous

“Coming from a mix of clay and gravelly soils spread across a 10-hectare vineyard and 40-year-old vines, the 2021 Château Clinet is another brilliant success by Ronan Laborde, who continues to make one of the greatest Pomerols out there. A blend of 75% Merlot and 25% Cabernet Sauvignon (which is a high percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon for Pomerol), it sports a deep purple hue to go with brilliant notes of blueberries, blackberries, violets, and minty herbs. More medium to full-bodied on the palate, it shows the fresher, elegant style of the vintage yet still brings plenty of mid-palate depth, ripe, velvety tannins, no hard edges, and a great finish. It's a stunning success in the vintage that will drink nicely on release yet evolve for 20 years or more.”  
- Jeb Dunnuck

“With a punchy nose of black fruit and cinnamon spice that doesn't hold back and richness on the palate that is unusual in 2021, this is a very expressive wine and one that will delight those looking for a little more flesh on the bone than the more slender creations. This ebullience calms, and the fruit turns from pure black (Cabernet seems to control the kick-off) to red and black swirls as the finish unravels and the richness subsides into delicious savoury tannins. The finish is not super-long, but it is complete, and it certainly is a classic Clinet in its plushness. The tannins are crisp and dry, and so there is an engine here, too, so do not rush to open this bottle. 18+”  
- Matthew Jukes

“Vivid dark ruby with a purple tinge to the narrow rim. Fine wood savouriness, cloves and vanilla, dark cherries, a touch of plums, candied orange zest. Medium-bodied, plum fruit to the fore, integrated tannins, a touch of nougat and a mineral, dry finish; a somewhat static style.”  
- PM, Falstaff Magazine

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