

## Château Clinet 1995

CSPC# 753460

750mlx6

12.5% Alc./Vol.

SOLD OUT

### Grape Variety

80% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Cabernet Franc

### Appellation

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. Posing on beautiful plots of the famous terrace serious Gunz, particularly suitable terroir for Merlot, it is one of the most prestigious areas 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 Arnauts had good taste in wine. At the same time, they were also owners of the famed Bordeaux wine property, Petrus. Following the Arnauts' 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 to 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

The year began with a mild winter which favoured early budding and flowering on the vines. The summer did not disappoint: hot and dry producing a good concentration of aromas. The ripening of the grapes was once again favoured by a short period of rain just before harvesting.

### 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, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Cabernet Franc, this wine has an average age of 35 years.

### Harvest

Hand harvested started in sunny conditions on September 28, 1995.

Yield 40 hl/ha

### Vinification/

### Maturation

Vinification takes place in wooden vats and stainless steel with thermo micro-oxygenation. 6 weeks maceration with vigorous pumping over. Malolactic fermentation in the bottles. Breeding takes place over a period of 26 months in new oak barrels.

### Tasting Notes

Concentrated and rich with a touch of earthiness. Well balanced and full of finesse and a velvety mouth feel. A long finish.

### Production

3,800 cases made

### Cellaring

Drink 2006-2025



**Scores/Awards** **92 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2007  
**95 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - January 31, 1998  
**96 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #115 - February 1998  
**95-96 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #109 - February 1997  
**94-95 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #104 - April 1996  
**88 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2011  
**14.5 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - February 28, 2011  
**13.5 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - October 5, 2005  
**14 points** - Jean Marc Quarin - September 1, 2005  
**15 points** - Jean Marc Quarin - April 1, 1996  
**94 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - July 22, 2012  
**94 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - August 31, 2011

**Reviews** *"Wild aromas of forest fruits, coffee and toasted oak follow through to a rich and decadent palate with full body and a long chewy finish. This still needs time.--'95/'96 Bordeaux retrospective. Best after 2009."*  
- JS, Wine Spectator

*"Blockbuster. The essence of berry, cherry and tobacco character. Full-bodied and very tannic, yet incredibly opulent. Long aftertaste of smoke, game, chocolate and fruit. Best after 2002."*  
- JS, Wine Spectator

*"Another extraordinary wine made in a backward vin de garde style, the 1995 Clinet represents the essence of Pomerol. The blackberry, cassis liqueur-like fruit of this wine is awesome. The color is saturated black/purple, and the wine extremely full-bodied and powerful with layers of glycerin-imbued fruit, massive richness, plenty of licorice, blackberry, and cassis flavors, full body, and a thick, unctuous texture. This is a dense, impressive offering from administrator Jean-Michel Arcaute. This wine should continue to improve for another 10-25 years. Anticipated maturity: 2006-2025."*  
- RP, Wine Advocate

*"Since 1987, this estate has consistently produced one of the most concentrated and complex wines in Bordeaux. The decision by Jean-Michel Arcaute and oenologist Michel Rolland to (1) limit yields, (2) harvest physiologically ripe grapes with an element of sur-maturite, and (3) bottle the wine without fining or filtration has resulted in a bevy of splendid wines where the terroir and varietal composition are fully expressed. This wine may rival the perfect 1989 Clinet. The color is an opaque blue/black/purple. The wine displays fabulously sweet, pure aromas of licorice, cassis, framboise, vanilla, and Asian spices. Massively extracted (remarkably, even thicker and richer than the 1994), the unctuous 1995 displays less of the late harvest character possessed by the 1994, but phenomenal richness, layers of concentration, and a finish that lasts for nearly 45 seconds. This should turn out to be a profoundly great, awesomely endowed Pomerol for drinking between 2003-2028."*  
- RP, Wine Advocate

*"Readers will have a hard time choosing between the 1994 and 1995 vintages of Clinet. Both are great wines, with Clinet's tell-tale opaque black/purple color, gorgeous purity, sweet jammy black-raspberry, blueberry, and cherry scents and flavors with an underlying hint of violets, and layers of velvety texture. The profound 1995 possesses knock-out jammy aromas of black fruits and vanilla-tinged, toasty new oak. Fabulously rich and dense, with superior ripeness and lower acidity, this lush, fat wine will reach full maturity earlier than the 1994, and last for 20+ years. Anyone looking for a decadently rich, impeccably made Pomerol should have these limited production gems in their cellar.*

*Under the guidance of Jean-Michel Arcaute, Clinet has been making one of the finest wines of Bordeaux for nearly a decade (since the 1987 vintage). This is one of the few Pomerol wines that goes into the bottle with no fining or filtering. It is one of the showpiece wines that the famed Pomerol/St.-Emilion oenologist, Michel Rolland, can claim as a client.*

*All of the wines in this segment were tasted between March 19 and March 28 in Bordeaux. Most of the important wines from both the 1994 and 1995 vintages were tasted three separate times during my ten-day stay in Bordeaux."*

- RP, Wine Advocate

**Tony Kokoroyannis:** Nth AB:  
**Daryl Drainville:** Calgary & Sth AB  
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**Reviews** *“Tasted blind at Bordeaux Index’s Clinet vertical. With a wide tawny rim, this has a light but well defined nose with touches of beef stock, sage and juniper berry. It is quite elegant and retaining moderate vigour. With further aeration there is a touch of orange rind emerging and the aromatics gain cohesion. The palate is medium-bodied with a coarse, black pepper tinged entry, hard tannins and a rather forced, dry, pinched finish that detracts from the overall effect. Tasted February 2011.”*  
- NM, Wine Journal

*“In a year filled with numerous hard, austere wines, 1995 Clinet is one of the top wines that overcomes the style of the vintage. With its chocolate, floral, truffle, earth, black cherry, smoke and plum nose, the wine is pure silk and velvet, ending in a lush, sensuous, sweet, cocoa, earth and black raspberry finish. There is no hurry to drink this as it has the stuffing to age and develop for another 15-20 years. The wine was not decanted, just popped, poured and enjoyed!”*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“This is a sexy style of Pomerol. With a bouquet of chocolate covered flowers, plum liqueur, truffle, fennel, spice and black cherries, the wine coats your palate with opulently textured black plums and black raspberry jam. Packed and stacked with layers of ripe fruit, Clinet was able to avoid the harsh style of tannins that plagued so many wines from this difficult vintage. The delicious Bordeaux could still improve, but it is drinking so well now, if you have more than a few bottles, it's time to open one and see for yourself. This is the last great Clinet of the Arcaute regime. It was a long 13 year wait until 2008, when the new owner, Ronan Laborde produced another stellar wine at this level of quality.”*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

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