

## Clos L'Église 2012

CSPC# 761721

750mlx6

13.5% alc./vol.

**Grape Variety**

80% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc

**Appellation**

Pomerol

**Classification**

Bordeaux AOC (*Appellation d'origine contrôlée*)

**Website**

<http://www.vignoblesgarcin.com/index.php?dom=vg&lang=en>

**General Info**

In the 18th century, Clos L'Église with its 14 hectares was considered to be a very big domain for Pomerol, ahead of about a dozen great wines which formed, and still form, the heart of Pomerol. The estate subsequently took the name of Clos L'Église. However, following succession problems, it was split into two with, on the one side, the original Clos L'Église (Rouchut family) and on the other, Clos L'Église-Clinet (Mauléon family). Clos L'Église therefore has a continuous wine-producing tradition spread of several centuries. It is the soil which gives a great wine its personality and it is the efforts of Sylviane Garcin-Cathiard that have developed it fully. She took over the property in January 1997, and using her experience at Château Haut-Bergey in Pessac-Léognan, she completely reorganized the chai. Today Helen Garcin-Leveque and her husband own and run Clos L'Église. They immediately stated a program of renovation and re-planting, after they took over which has come to fruition in a spectacular manner.

The property has a second wine, Esprit de L'Église.

**Vintage**

2012 was a challenging vintage in Bordeaux. But many winemakers in Pomerol, the appellation located within Bordeaux's Right Bank, were able to produce wines of depth, complexity, and character.

Like the rest of Bordeaux, Pomerol experienced chaotic weather in 2012. The spring was unpredictable and the summer brought heat and drought. Fortunately, the soils of Pomerol were able to hold on to moisture — and most producers were able to harvest their grapes just before rain showers hit in late September and early October. So the yields were naturally low. And the grapes produced wines of beautiful concentration and complexity.

**Vineyards**

The terroir of Clos L'Église is filled with rich clay and gravel based soil with iron deposits. Located on a sloping hill, with famous neighbors like Chateau Clinet, Chateau L'Église Clinet and Chateau Trotanoy, most of their 5.9 hectare, Bordeaux wine vineyard stretches to the south west of their wine making facilities. The Pomerol vineyard of Clos L'Église is planted to 70% Merlot and 30% Cabernet Franc. On average, the vines are 35 years of age. Although there is an old parcel of Cabernet Franc remaining that was planted in the 1940's! The vineyard is planted to a vine density of 7,150 vines per hectare.

**Maturation**

The wine is made according to traditional methods. It is for this reason that Sylviane Garcin-Cathiard chose wooden vats for Clos L'Église. Each batch is treated separately in a thermostat-regulated vat of 60 hl. Manual pigeage has been re-introduced; the pulp and mass of skins, known as chapeau, floats to the top during fermentation and is punched down manually several times a day. The wine is left in fermenting vats for a long time, and malolactic fermentation is carried out in 100% new barrels. Ageing lasts between 16 to 18 months depending on the vintage. Interestingly Clos L'Église uses as many as 12 different coopers to age their wine in. On average, close to 1,200 cases of Clos L'Église are produced every year.

**Tasting Notes**

Dark color and good intensity. Fine nose, fruity floral and especially more than usual at this age, pure, ripe. Juicy on the entry mouth, very tasty in the middle, bold, flavorful, energy and tenderness, the wine goes in the final and persists over a violet notes in a beautiful length and texture heavy for the vintage. A great success.

**Production**

1,250 cases made



**Cellaring** Drink 2013-2028  
**Scores/Awards**

**92 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2015  
**92-95 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2013  
**90 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #218 - April 2015  
**91-94 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #206 - April 2013  
**92-94 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2013  
**93-94 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2013  
**89-91 points** - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2013  
**15.5 points** - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2013 (score only)  
**16.25 points** - James Lawther, Decanter.com - April 2013  
**89 points** - Jane Anson, The New Bordeaux - April 2013  
**88 points** - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only)  
**94 points** - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)  
**92-95 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 26, 2013  
**85-87 points** - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2013  
**89-91 points** - Falstaff Magazine (score only)  
**15 points** - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)  
**16.5 points** - Gault & Millau (score only)  
**17-17.5 points** - Bettane & Desseauve (score only)  
**15.5-16.5 points** - La Revue du Vin France (score only)

*"On the chunkier side for now, with ganache and espresso notes lending a lightly firm frame to the crushed plum and blackberry fruit. There's plenty of flesh here as well, and a roasted earth accent on the finish. Should knit together with cellaring. Best from 2017 through 2025. Tasted twice, with consistent notes. 1,250 cases made."*  
- JM, Wine Spectator

*"Offers a fleshy, dark, licorice-framed core of plum paste and blackberry pâte de fruit, supported by dense grip and a long echo of fruitcake on the finish. Recalls '09 with the intense, fleshy fruit. Score range: 92-95"*  
- JM, Wine Spectator

*"The 2012 Clos l'Eglise is a beautiful blend of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc from H el ene Garcin (whose family owns Barde-Haut, Branon and Haut-Bergey, as well as the Malbec producer in Argentina called Poesia). She has done a phenomenal job at this estate since the late 1990s. Rich, chunky, coffee, mocha and berry fruit jump from the glass of this medium-bodied wine that shows excellent fruit intensity, soft tannins and a juicy, round, mouthfeel. Drink it over the next 10-15 years."*  
- RP, Wine Advocate

*"The 2012 possesses a creamy texture along with a big, sweet bouquet of mulberry and black cherry fruit judiciously touched by smoky oak, graphite and forest floor notes. Round and generously endowed with a dense plum/purple color, fragrant aromatics, a medium to full-bodied mouthfeel, and silky tannins, it should age effortlessly for 12-15 years. Proprietor Helene Garcin-Leveque has fashioned another gorgeous wine from her 15-acre vineyard planted with 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc. She also does a terrific job at her Pessac-Leognan estates of Haut-Bergey and Branon in addition to the St.-Emilion estate of Barde-Haut. This property has been on a qualitative hot streak since the late 1990s"*  
- RP, Wine Advocate

*"The Grand Vin was picked from 26th until 28th September, including 15% Cabernet Franc. It has a tightly wound bouquet that requires patience, opening with aeration to reveal marine-tinged red and black fruit, with subtle floral notes. The oak is very well integrated here. The palate is medium-bodied with a succulent entry, plenty of sweet red fleshy fruit laced with white pepper and a touch of spice on the finish. There is good substance here with fine grip on the finish. This will have long-term potential. Tasted April 2013."*  
- NM, Wine Journal

**Reviews** *“Wow. This is really gorgeous and sexy with super integrated tannins, juicy rich fruit and a bright acidity. It gives an impression of being seamless on the palate.”*

*- JS, JamesSuckling.com*

*“Deep purple-ruby. Brooding nose hints at dark cherry, violet and pepper. Starts sappy and juicy, with accessible, ripe black cherry, pepper and spice flavors, then turns mounting tannic on the back half. Finishes with firm, dusty tannins that will require considerable patience. This serious Pomerol will likely develop more slowly than many other Right Bank wines from this vintage.”*

*- ST, International Wine Cellar*

*“Ripe and dense but harmonious. Long finish. Solid and a little more restrained in style.”*

*- JL, Decanter.com*

*“80% merlot, 20% cabernet franc, Alain Reynaud consultant. Slight black peppery spice on the nose, touch of cinnamon, this is pretty good stuff, some chalky tannins, some good length, not entirely integrated, not perfect length, but overall a good Pomerol, worth sticking with and retasting in bottle – certainly potential here. 89/16.75. Recommended-Highly Recommended. Drink 2017-2027.”*

*- JA, The New Bordeaux*

*“Concentrated, dense, fleshy, rich, fat and flashy, this sexy Pomerol is packed with oak, ripe, riper and overripe plums, cherries and chocolate. Lush in texture, this is a decadent style of Pomerol. 92-95 Pts”*

*- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com*

*Mid depth; looser at the meniscus; little dumb at first, some dust and spice; chewy and gutsy palate which lacks finesse. Depth and guts but overall a bit rustic. 85-87 Tasted blind at the Cercle de Rive Droite, 7 April 2013”*

*- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com*

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