

Château la Chenade (Durantou) 2015

CSPC# 801693

750mlx12

14.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

80% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc.

Appellation

Lalande de Pomerol

Website

<http://www.eglise-clinet.com/>

General Info

La Chenade is produced by Chateau Les Cruzelles in Lalande-de-Pomerol, which is owned by Denis Durantou - better known for his famous Pomerol estate, Chateau L'Eglise Clinet. Located in the commune of Neac, the Lez Cruzelles vineyards are only about 1 kilometer from Chateau L'Eglise Clinet - in fact, they are so close you can see Les Cruzelles from L'Eglise.

Elegant and aromatic, this is a classy charmer. Mostly Merlot from sandier soils, it reveals brighter aromatics of wild strawberries, with Cabernet Franc touching the background with darker fruit and some structure. La Chenade is in Lalande-de-Pomerol and only 1 Kilometer from its parent estate in Pomerol - the famous Chateau L'Eglise Clinet. With serious pedigree and obvious pleasure in the glass, La Chenade is perfect for the dinner table now (especially decanted) or to lay down a while in cellar.

Vintage

2015 Pomerol wines are the stars of the vintage. 2015 Pomerol at its best can easily be described bottled decadence, hedonistic thrill rides of almost unequaled sensual pleasure. They are often close in quality to the best 2009 Pomerol wines. There are also several chateaux that have really kicked their game up to an entirely new level with this vintage. Those producers made better wine in 2015 than they did 6 years ago, in the 2009 vintage. 2009 has been my personal benchmark vintage for Pomerol, so that is saying something.

2015 Pomerol is the product of a near perfect growing season. A mild winter led to a warm, spring. Budbreak took place slightly later than usual in mid-April. The spring was sunny and warm. The flowering, in early June was quick and even, two very important factors that need to take place in a great vintage. Perhaps the hot, dry, almost drought conditions from June 15 to July 22, with absolutely no rain had the biggest impact on the 2015 Pomerol wines. Had those dry conditions continued, the vintage could have turned out completely different. But the August rains provided the necessary moisture for the growth cycle to continue. With one exception, the best 2015 Pomerol wines were all produced from estates with deep clay soils.

With 2015 Pomerol, most of the growers started picking Merlot by September 15. With very few exceptions, the Cabernet Franc was brought in by the start of October.

Harvest

The Merlot was picked between September 15-25 and the Cabernet Franc was picked on October 5, 2015

Vineyards

The 10 hectares of Les Cruzelles are planted to 60% Merlot and 40% Cabernet Franc. This could be the highest proportion of Cabernet Franc in the appellation. The terroir is clay and gravel soil.

Maturation

There is a second wine, Chateau La Chenade, which is aged in an average of 30% new, French oak barrels. Chateau La Chenade is produced from the estates young vines and includes more Cabernet Franc in the blend. La Chenade also includes more Cabernet Franc in the blend to give it more structure. La Chenade is aged in an average of 25% new, French oak barrels. On average, the production of Chateau Les Cruzelles is close to 1,200 cases of wine per vintage.

Tasting Notes

A very impressive La Chenade with a longer finish than usual and more layers and tension. There are some refreshing herbal / mint notes which break up the density of the fruit and the overall feeling is refreshing which is exciting given the depth of sooty fruit in the mid-palate.

Serve with

Chateau La Chenade is best paired with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised and grilled dishes.

Production

2,125 cases made

Cellaring

Drink 2018-2032



Score/Awards **91 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2018
92-93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2016
91-93 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #224 - April 2016
90 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - February 2018
93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2018
16 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2016
86 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2016
86-88 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2016
91 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2016
16+ points - Farr Vintner - February 2018
15.5 points - Farr Vintner - March 2016
89-91 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2016
91 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - March 2016
87-89 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2016
91-93 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - May 2016

Reviews *"A fresh, ripe style, with a bright core of raspberry and plum coulis flavors lined with refined structure, backed by light rooibos tea and mineral threads on the finish. Stylish. Drink now through 2022. 2,125 cases made."*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"Very fresh, with a bright mineral edge holding sway, followed by enticing blood orange and cherry flavors. The toast is moderate, relying more on freshness in the end. Score range: 90-93"
- JM, Wine Spectator

"The 2015 La Chenade, which was so impressive from barrel, has retained that gorgeous, pure bouquet that is floral in style, still with that candied tincture. The palate is medium-bodied with succulent red berry fruit, touches of Early Grey and a sweet, candied finish that lingers nicely in the mouth. Just plain delicious. Anticipated maturity: 2019 - 2027."
- NM, Wine Advocate

"The 2015 La Chenade is a blend of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc picked between September 15-25 and on October 5 respectively, cropped at 45 hectoliters per hectare and matured in 30% new oak. This Lalande-de-Pomerol moves towards red fruit on the nose, crushed strawberry and raspberry pastilles, candied and somehow...joyful. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin, very fine in the mouth with a keen line of acidity. This is a very cohesive La Chenade, elegant and composed with a touch of salinity towards the finish. This is a graceful La Chenade that should drink early, but clearly has the substance to offer 12-15 years of drinking pleasure. "
- NM, Wine Advocate

"This shows plenty of wet earth and blueberry and black-olive character. Full body, fine and round tannins and a juicy finish. Hot stones and gravel. Intense. Yes. Drink now or hold."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Purplish crimson. Quite sweet and meaty. Gentle - obviously not top drawer but fun and easy. A bit tart and dry on the end. Needs food. Wait awhile? Fine sandy tannins in abundance. Sweet oak."
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"A Denis Durantou (L'Eglise-Clinet) wine. Forward and perfumed on the nose in the red fruit spectrum. Lighter tannic frame but attractive. A touch dry on the finish."
- JA, Decanter.com

"Ripe, sweet and fruity, with a happy-to-meet-you, open, easy, black cherry character."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Denis Durantou's wine comes from gravel soils and tends to have a mineral note to it. This is scented, attractive and full of succulent blackberry, raspberry and bramble fruit flavours, supported by tannins that creep up on you and provide structure. Drink: 2020-28 "
- TA, timatkin.com

Reviews *“With sweet plum, mulling spices and pure black cherry on the nose, this is very enticing. The palate is juicy and packed with red and black fruits, tamed by savoury spices and complemented by earthy but ripe tannins. The acidity lifts the finish to cooler red cherry and even cherry blossom. Polished and round, this is a superb wine that is already drinking well.”*

- Farr Vintners

“Made by the brilliant Denis Durantou of Chateau L'Eglise Clinet. The fruit is sourced from a section of the Les Cruzelles vineyard with gravel soil. 80% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc, 30% new oak. 1500 case production. This has probably been Farr Vintners' biggest selling Bordeaux wine en primeur over the last 15 years. Year on year La Chenade delivers the goods but the price remains reasonable. A wine that never lets you down. Elévage in 30% new oak barrels. Medium ruby colour with a ripe red cherry and redolent redcurrant fruit nose. Very fresh with red fruits and cherry blossom on the palate. This is silky, plump and round with no hard edges and sweetness from new oak. Immediately approachable, forward, and effortless.”

- Farr Vintners

“Violets, black fruits the nose has lots of charm the palate is sweet fruited with fleshy black plum. Brighter and fresher in the middle but at the back there is richness and depth fleshy and ripe. 2021-32”

- Derek Smedley MW

“Perfumed, incredibly aromatic and pretty - violets, jasmine and red roses. Both delicate and linear with freshness despite the ripeness and sweetness of ripe fruits. A mix of red and black fruits with sweet spices.”

- JCL, asianpalate.com

“The 2015 La Chenade, Denis Durantou's entry-level Lalande de Pomerol, hits the palate with a rush of intense ripe red fruit, smoke, leather, tobacco and exotic spices. This juicy, exuberant red will drink nicely with minimal cellaring. The flamboyance of the year comes through loud and clear. Chenade is 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc taken from the gravelly portion of Durantou's Lalande de Pomerol property. Harvest started on September 15 with the Merlots and wrapped up on October 5 with the Cabernet Franc.”

- AG, Vinous
