

# Château L'Évangile 2016

CSPC# 890688

750mlx6

14.5% alc./vol.

**Grape Variety**

92% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc

**Appellation**

Pomerol

**Classification**

Bordeaux AOC (*Appellation d'origine contrôlée*)

**Website**

<https://www.lafite.com/fr/les-chateaux/chateau-levangile/>

**Sustainability**

Organic

**General Info**

Château L'Évangile has always been considered among the first great growths of Pomerol. Located on the noble part of the Pomerol plateau between Pétrus and Cheval Blanc, the vines grow on a soil and subsoil in which sand and clay alternate with layers of pure gravel. The resulting wine is powerful, distinguished, and has an incomparably fine bouquet. It is appreciated around the world. For many wine lovers, the hallmarks of L'Évangile are subtlety and elegance. In 2004, Château L'Évangile renovated their cellar to reflect the progress made in the vineyard (gradual replanting, plot-by-plot vineyard management, rigorous sorting of grapes, etc.) and aim for even higher quality. The new vat room makes it possible to ferment grapes from different parcels separately, and the circular underground cellar makes maximum use of gravity flow. Château L'Évangile produces approximately 3,000 cases of wine a year, all of which is aged in new oak barrels for 18 months.

**Winemaker**

Jean-Pascal Vazart, winemaker. Jérôme Pons, Vineyard Manager.

**Vintage**

The year began with mild, rainy weather, and then gradually, as the months passed, proved to be exceptional. The winter of 2016 was the warmest and rainiest ever recorded! Bud break took place at the end of March and mid-flowering was on 5 June. The summer was hot and very dry. Fortunately, the water reserves accumulated during the winter enabled the vines not to suffer any stress, but as a result yields at Évangile were quite low for this vintage. The grapes finished ripening in September inclement weather, with a little rain and cool nights, preserving the grapes' freshness and producing an exceptional vintage.

**Vineyards**

The southeast Pomerol plateau features a long line of stones. Three vineyards, including L'Évangile, share this rare soil. The estate occupies a very strategic position. It is bordered to the north by the vineyards of Château Pétrus and is separated from Cheval Blanc in Saint-Émilion to the south by nothing more than a secondary road. The surface area is of 16 hectares composed of sandy clay soils with pure stones, with the bedrock featuring iron oxide. The grape varieties are made up of Merlot (80%) which contributes to the fruity flavour and body, as well as the unmistakable suppleness; Bouchet, the local name of Cabernet Franc is included (20%) for its finesse. Traditional techniques are used. Production is limited and harvesting, and other work carried out throughout the year is done manually.

**Harvest**

The harvest took place from September 26 to October 10.

**Maturation**

Pumping over and maceration times were adapted to each vat, according to the plot and the level of ripeness of the tannins. Alcoholic fermentation on average 10 days in cement and stainless-steel vats with temperature control. Maceration time 26 to 29 days. Malolactic fermentation: 100% in new barrels. Ageing 18 months in 70% new barrels from the Tonnellerie des Domaines Barons de Rothschild (Lafite)

**Tasting Notes**

A great sensuality emanates from this deep garnet Pomerol, whose bouquet evokes very ripe red and black fruits, as well as spices. The grain of the tannins is so silky and the freshness so relevant that an impression of smoothness prevails on the palate. However, the material is indeed dense and ample, powerful even on the finish, structured to stand up to time.

**Serve with**

Chateau L'Évangile is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. Chateau L'Évangile is best paired with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes.

**Production**

250 cases made.

**Cellaring**

Drink 2024-2040

**Scores/Awards**

**96 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2019

**97 points** - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - November 2018

**94-96 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #230 - April 2017



**Scores/Awards** **96 points** - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent - December 2022  
**99 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2019  
**98-99 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2017  
**94 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 2019  
**17.5 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2017  
**17.5 points** - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2017  
**98 points** - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - October 2018  
**97 points** - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2017  
**98 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2017  
**97 points** - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2017  
**96 points** - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - January 2016  
**94-96 points** - Derek Smedley MW - April 2017  
**94 points** - Neal Martin, Vinous - January 2019  
**96 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - January 2019  
**94-97 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2017  
**98 points** - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2019  
**19+ points** - Matthew Jukes - April 2017  
**96 points** - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2019  
**97 points** - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - June 2017  
**97-98 points** - Vert de Vin - May 2018  
**100 points** - Andreas Larsson, Tasted - May 2018  
**18.5 points** - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2022  
**96-97 points** - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - March 2017  
**17.5 points** - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2019  
**3 stars** - Le Guide Hachette des Vins - 2020

**Reviews** *"Features a wide swath of espresso, loam, and smoldering tobacco flavors out front, followed by a tighter beam of black currant and blackberry paste. Dense and fleshy in feel, with echoes of warm earth and bittersweet cocoa scoring the finish. This wine flaunts its muscle. Best from 2024 through 2040. 250 cases made."*  
- JM, Wine Spectator

*"The 2016 L'Evangile is made from 92% Merlot and 8% Cabernet Franc. It has a deep garnet-purple color and opens with notions of plum preserves, Black Forest cake, red cherry compote and black raspberries with touches of menthol, chocolate box, licorice, and tobacco leaf. Medium to full-bodied, the palate features fantastically ripe, velvety tannins and beautiful freshness, lifting the generous, brightly fruited mid-palate and giving bags of energy to the very long-lingering, mineral finish."*  
- LPB, Wine Advocate

*"The 2016 L'Evangile is a blend of 92% Merlot and 8% Cabernet Franc; the latter suffered more stress than the Merlot this year, especially the younger three and ten-year-old plantings. It was picked from 26 September until 10 October, which is earlier than many other Right Bank properties. It has a clean and precise bouquet with mineral-infused black fruit, more "distant" than the 2015 last year. With time, that small proportion of Cabernet Franc becomes more evident. The palate is medium-bodied with firm and grainy tannin. This is very structured as this Pomerol is wont to be, a gentle grip in the mouth, touches of tar and tobacco towards the finish that needs a little more flesh. I feel that this will develop during its élevage. This is excellent, although I do miss the contribution of the Cabernet Franc."*  
- NM, Wine Advocate

*"L'Evangile 2016 is deep garnet in color. The nose is seriously closed at first, eventually opening to show notes of prunes, blackberry preserves, and Christmas cake, followed by hints of licorice, menthol, sauteed herbs, and tapenade. Full-bodied, the palate is taut and muscular, featuring firm, chewy tannins and balancing freshness, finishing on an earthy note."*  
- LPB, Wine Independent

*"So ethereal and great on the nose with glorious fresh flowers, such as violets, together with black olives. Dark berries, too. But the archetypal Pomerol nose. Full-bodied yet, at the same time, so refined and structured. Glorious tannin tension and focus. Vibrant finish. Shows energy and focus. Try after 2024."*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

- Reviews** *"This is a remake of the great 2015 but it's much finer and more sophisticated. Such great quality and very sexy. Full body and ultra-polished and clean tannins. Salty, dark fruit. Superb length. Want to drink it!"*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- "Ripe black fruits and rich tannins mark out this wine, almost entirely made from Merlot. It is succulent, crisp and fresh while not losing sight of the essential richness and structure of the vintage. Drink this generous, full wine from 2023."*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- "Extremely deep colour. Very intense, concentrated wine. Sweet start. Very muscular. Almost like cassis cordial! A massive 14.5% alcohol. Exotic and distinctive. Big and muscular. Brooding. Savoury. 17.5/20 points."*  
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- "Average yield 29 hl/ha, reduced by very low yields on their heavy percentage of young Cabernet Franc vines. 8% Cabernet Franc. They cooled the must to 5 °C for 5-10 days until the alcohol had reached 10%. Extremely deep colour. Very intense, concentrated wine. Sweet start. Very muscular. Almost like cassis cordial! A massive 14.5% alcohol. Exotic and distinctive. Big and muscular. Brooding. Savoury."*  
- JH, JancisRobinson.com
- "For me, this is going to be every bit as great as the 1989 and is a worthy follower to the 2015. It's tight and reserved on the nose, with powerhouse Pomerol Merlot lurking behind. There's a creamy side to the raspberry and blackberry fruits in the mouth, and the power and intensity tells you that this wine has an amazing future. The texture is silky-smooth, attesting to great freshness balanced by well-ripened fruits and seductive tannins. A serious wine."*  
- JA, Decanter.com
- "This absolutely stands up to be counted amongst the greatest of the Pomerols this year. It has shots of minerality and elegance darting right through its autumnal fruits, and touches of sexy, bitter chocolate. Persistent, rich, and succulent. 92% Merlot and 8% Cabernet Franc. Drinking Window 2026 – 2050."*  
- JA, Decanter.com
- "Incredibly deep in color, the truffle, the flower, the dark chocolate, and black cherry liqueur aroma is impossible to avoid. Dense, rich, and full-bodied, this wine has crossed over to the dark fruit side of the style range. It's masculine, powerful and tannic. The freshness is there, the fruit is there, and the long finish is packed with black fruits, fig, plum and chocolate. This is the most powerful and concentrated wine I've ever experienced here – this could be a legend in the making. That being said, consumers will need patience as this is going to demand a decade in the cellar. Made from a blend of 92% Merlot and 8% Cabernet Franc, this is the highest amount of Merlot used in the history of L'Evangile. The wine is 14.5% ABV with a pH of 3.8 and the harvest took place from September 26 to October 10."*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "The balance of this wine was hard to get right, according to Jean-Pascal Vazart, but it doesn't show on the nose or the palate. Using half of the normal percentage of Cabernet Franc, it's a fine, sculpted, elegantly poised wine with a winning combination of texture, ripe fruit, and balancing acidity. 2026-36."*  
- TA, timatkin.com
- "Sumptuous rich fruit the nose has a powerful mix of black fruits the palate sweet with ripe fruit creamy and supple. The tannins are discreet enclosed in the fruit there is enough freshness to balance and give a lighter more elegant feel to the finish."*  
- Derek Smedley MW
- "The 2016 L'Evangile has a sumptuous, generous bouquet of copious wild strawberry and cranberry aromas laced with veins of blue fruit. The oak here is neatly integrated, and this L'Evangile is perhaps a little more open at this stage than other vintages I have tasted. The palate is silky-smooth on the entry, very harmonious and certainly fresh and tensile, displaying a fine bead of acidity. It perhaps does not quite deliver the riveting complexity of*

**Reviews** *some of its peers toward the finish, where it needs more body and persistence, but otherwise this is a very finely crafted L'Évangile that should age well over the next 20 or 30 years."*

- NM, Vinous

*"The 2016 L'Évangile is just as captivating from bottle as it was from barrel. Huge and explosive in the glass, the 2016 possesses stunning depth and textural resonance. At first a bit somber, the 2016 needs time in the glass to open up. Once that happens, all the elements fall into place in an effortless, gracious wine. Floral overtones add brightness to the dark cherry, chocolate, leather, and spice flavors, while silky tannins round things out in style. Jean-Pascal Vazart describes 2016 as a late year. Harvest started on September 26, about ten days later than normal. The 2016 spent 16 months in French oak, 85% new."*

- AG, Vinous

*"Jean-Pascal Vazart has done a magnificent job with the 2016 L'Évangile. Silky and caressing on the palate, the wine soars out of the glass with extraordinary perfume. Somehow it manages to be incredibly dense and deep yet stay light on its feet. Perfectly ripe, silky tannins add to an impression of total finesse. Captivating and riveting in its beauty, the 2016 L'Évangile is without question one of the most brilliant and memorable wines of the year. Vazart gave the 2016 lots about 31 days on the skins, with a gentle extraction, followed by malolactic fermentation in barrel."*

- AG, Vinous

*"The grand vin 2016 Château L'Évangile is more primordial than the second wine, sporting a deep purple color and a huge nose of blueberries, scrub brush, violets, graphite, and lead pencil shavings. Deep, massively textured, with building minerality, a brilliant mid-palate, I'd imagine this is a modern-day version of the 1982. A sexy, sexy, wine, it should drink well in 4-6 years but is capable of last for 2-3 decades."*

- Jeb Dunnuck

*"(92 Merlot, 8 Cabernet Franc) | 100% new oak | 14.6% alc. | 79 IPT | 32 hl/ha. (the old vines provided 45 hl/ha!) Much darker than the 2015, with dense, blackberry fruit and superbly suave tannins this is a wine with considerable length and winemaker Jean-Pascal Vazart was justifiably thrilled with his wine's performance. This is a superb, swarming L'Évangile with a dark, soy, richness and it will age forever. With superb glossiness and weight, the power is delivered over minutes and not seconds. Stunning."*

- Matthew Jukes

*"Deep dark ruby, opaque core, purple reflections. Subtle nutty wood on the nose, cinnamon, sandalwood, and dark chocolate. Great volume on the palate, rich and creamy, lots of drive, full and yet not heavy, ethereal, and quite relaxed despite the powerful tannins. Charming, seductively creamy, and seamlessly harmonious. Finishes with sweet fruit and silky-juicy structure, finely mineral in the background and salty with the tannins remaining almost in suspension."*

- PM, Falstaff Magazine

*"The nose is fruity, elegant, racy and offers a beautiful definition and a beautiful finesse of the grain. It reveals notes of fleshy blackberry and fleshy cassis associated with small touches of fleshy raspberry, small blue fruits, ripe / crushed redcurrants as well as slight touches of racy minerality, slight toasted touches / caramelization as well as discreet hints of tonka bean and coffee (in the background). The palate is fruity, well-balanced, beautifully elegant, velvety, gourmande, very discreetly tight and offers a very beautiful grain, depthness, a beautiful definition, an aerial side, a beautiful finesse, and tension. On the palate this wine expresses notes of fleshy blackberry, fleshy blueberry / blue fruits and small notes of strawberry associated with fine touches of crushed raspberry, racy minerality as well as hints of chocolate, toasted hints / caramelization, subtle hints of spices and very discreet hints of almond. Tannins are elegant and very slightly chewy. Good length. Beautiful persistence (with hints of chocolate). Keep it in cellar."*

- Vert de Vin

*"Pure nose, floral with darker fruit, wild berries, violet, nuanced spiciness of clove, liquorice, black truffle, and fine oak. Very dense but grainy tannin, intense with ripe dark fruit flavours, chocolate coated plum and cassis with some raw meat, floral and spicy with a tremendously long finish, very dense and powerful, yet fresh and elegant with lovely harmony."*

- AL, Tasted.com

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