

Château L'Évangile 2018

CSPC# 886858

750mlx6

14.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

Merlot 80%, Cabernet Franc 20%

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

Charles Chevallier

Vintage

2018 will have something to mark the spirits at Château L'Évangile, since it will sign our first vintage with organic certification. However, the weather played tricks on us and put our nerves to the test, during the 10 days that flowering usually counts, we had 7 consecutive days of rain. Due to these heavy rains, mildew attacked our vine flowers, depriving us of a good part of the harvest.

It is impossible not to mention the mildew problem when we had been working so hard to build a viticulture without residues and with high environmental responsibility. Thanks to extremely meticulous work, our team was able to restore ideal conditions in the vineyard before ripening.

The effect of the heat was even stronger here than on the other bank, with ripening blocked for some young vines at the end of summer. We were saved by the 25 mm of rain on 7 September. Our greatest pride in 2018, even if our heart is still beating for Merlot. The excellent quality of our Cabernet Franc.

Fortunately, from mid-July, the weather was favorable to us allowing excellent conditions for ripening until the harvest. This first year in organic certification will have offered us grapes of extraordinary quality, the finest in the last 20 years.

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 Merlot was harvested September 19 to October 2, and the Cabernet Franc was harvested September 25 to October 1.

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

Dark, dense color with beautiful purple reflections. The intense nose reveals aromas of stone fruits with slightly vanilla and roasted notes. The ample and generous mouth brings us to an unctuous and silky finish due to the quality of the sublime tannins for this 2018 vintage.



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

Cellaring Drink 2025-2045

Scores/Awards

94 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2021
97 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - April 2021
97-99 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - April 2019
95 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent (score only) - February 2023
98 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2021
98-99 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2019
94 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 2021
16.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - February 2022
16.5 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2019
97 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2019
97-99 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2019
92 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - March 2021
96 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - March 2021
97+ points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2021
96-98 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - May 2019
18.5+ points - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2019
95 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - February 2021
98 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2019
97 points - Vert de Vin - March 2021
18.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2022
18 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - September 2021

Reviews

"Dark and winery, with a burly tobacco edge framing a core of steeped black currant, blackberry and fig paste flavors. Strong tug of warm earth through the finish, where bay, leather and chestnut notes also chime in. Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Best from 2026 through 2036."
- JM, Wine Spectator

"The 2018 L'Evangile is composed of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc. Deep garnet-purple colored, it comes barreling out of the glass with explosive scents of boysenberries, stewed plums and baked blackberries with hints of lilacs, candied violets, Indian spices and garrigue, plus a touch of black truffles. Full-bodied, rich and powerful in the mouth, this blockbuster coats the palate with layers of black fruit preserves and exotic spices, framed by plush tannins and wonderful energy, finishing long and savory. Decadently approachable now, give it 4-5 years in bottle for maximum impact and drink it over the next 20+ years. 2025 – 2045."
- LPB, Wine Advocate

"The 2018 L'Evangile is composed of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc. The Merlot was harvested September 19 to October 2, and the Cabernet Franc was harvested September 25 to October 1. This is the optimal blend—with more Cabernet Franc coming through this year, since it was amazing. Deep garnet-purple colored, it slips seductively out of the glass with glamorous notes of baked black cherries, warm blueberries, and raspberry tart plus wafts of kirsch, red roses, rose hip tea, espresso, licorice and sandalwood. Full-bodied, rich, concentrated and delivering opulent black fruit layers, the palate has a firm frame of lovely, ripe, rounded tannins and seamless freshness, finishing long and fragrant. Beautiful."
- LPB, Wine Advocate

"So attractive on the nose with blackberry, black olive, and a hint of brown sugar. It's full-bodied with layers of ripe tannins that flow across the palate. Rich, intense, and flavorful finish with flavors similar to the aromas. Fleshy and toned at the end. From organically grown grapes. Try after 2025."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"A very plush and exciting L'Evangile with polished, velvety tannins that set this up to be a classic. It's full-bodied with glorious fruit and a great center palate that has fantastic depth. It's so caressing and beautiful. So much here."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“Owned by the Rothschild family of Lafite-Rothschild, this estate has produced a richly delicious wine. The power of Merlot is tempered and perfumed by ripe Cabernet Franc. Tannins and acidity both point to aging potential. The wine's weight, cut with black fruits, is just right and well in balance. This wine needs time, so drink from 2027.”

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“Tasted blind. Neat, introvert nose without opulence. Quite rich on the palate, though, with alcohol and tannin. Big and bold. Maybe just a tad too much for some palates. 14.5%. Drink 2026 – 2043.”

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“80% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc. pH 3.9. Barrel sample. Inky core, deep crimson rim. Perfumed with black fruit and violets. Dense but not tough, many fine layers giving density but it's smooth and plush nevertheless with some dark chocolate on the finish. Fruit character is dark enough to be savoury, black olive and then becoming just slightly more floral with air. Changes a lot in the glass. It's a wine all in the future even though the tannins are smooth now. It's quite closed in on itself but should have a long life. Drink 2028-2035.”

- JH, JancisRobinson.com

“You feel the density and power straight off the nose here - this is really silky, sexy and smoky wine with a ton of complex flavours combining berry fruits with spices swirling through and finishing up with liquorice bean and coffee grounds on the finish. There's less lift perhaps than the 2016, but you feel the concentration, the depth to the flavour, and the balance. It has a beautiful texture and feels very classically Pomerol but with elegance and persistency. A small production in 2018 but a very beautiful one. 75% new oak used.”

- JA, Decanter.com

“Clearly, the most concentrated vintage ever produced here. The wine is incredibly dense. You can tell just by looking at your glass. But the blackened color is only an introduction to the story, as the tale is told you'll find orange blossom, bitter chocolate, plum liqueur, flowers, truffle, and black cherries. With concentration to match the intensity, volume to pair with length, purity and velvet tannins, the wine delivers even more complexity in the finish with a mix of stony, salty minerality and decadent plum. The finish builds and expands on your palate. If the wine softens and develops more silk on the palate, this could score much higher. The wine is made from 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc, which is the same as the vineyard plantings. The harvest took place September 19 to October 2. The wine reached 14.5% alcohol and is aging in 75% new, French oak. The Grand Vin was produced from 50% of the harvest. The wine was made from incredibly low yields of only 20 hectoliters per hectare.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“The 2018 L'Évangile is the vintage when Cabernet Franc (20%) returned to the blend after mildew reduced the percentage of Merlot. It has an almost identical bouquet to the one that I encountered from barrel, that attractive mélange of black fruit, briar and a lovely marine/oyster shell scent now accentuated in bottle. As I mentioned in my previous note, the Cabernet Franc shapes the aromatics. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannins, the 70% new oak still quite vocal and, to my mind, dictating the finish, rather than L'Évangile's exceptional terroir. There is a slight concluding bitterness that nags away on the very briny aftertaste. With aging I am certain this Pomerol will improve, but it just misses the charm of other vintages at the moment. 2025 – 2040.”

- NM, Vinous

“The 2018 L'Évangile is flamboyant, spectacularly beautiful. Mildew in June took out fully 50% of the potential crop, resulting in a dense, opulent wine that is going to need many years to shed some of that baby fat. The 20% Cabernet Franc is the highest on record. The 2018 is an epic, modern-day Évangile. Raspberry jam, mocha, licorice, spice and chocolate come together as the 2018 blossoms with time in the glass. Made with 80% new oak. Both hedonistic and intellectual, the 2018 is a total pleasure bomb. Don't miss it. A real wow wine - huge!”

- AG, Vinous

Reviews

“Made in the more lively, elegant style that seems to be favored these days, the 2018 Château L'Evangile is based on 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc, with the Cabernet Franc playing a much more lead role than normal. Beautiful blue fruits, green tobacco, violets, white truffle, camphor, and damp earth notes all flow to a gorgeously layered, full-bodied Pomerol with sweet, silky tannins, flawless balance, and a great finish. While I prefer the more opulent renditions of this cuvée, this is nevertheless a brilliant wine that has wonderful concentration, beautiful purity of fruit, and the class to evolve for 25-30 years in cold cellars.”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“The grand vin 2018 Château L'Evangile turns the intensity up substantially, offering a beautiful bouquet of blue fruits, violets, classy oak, spring flowers, and graphite. Rich, concentrated, and elegant on the palate, it has more Cabernet Franc than normal (20%) and this shows dramatically, with the wine staying more focused, straight, and fresh compared to the more massive and opulently styled 2015 and 2016. This is a regal, elegant yet still full-bodied L'Evangile that's going to benefit from 5-7 years of bottle age and keep for 25 years or more.”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“(80 Merlot, 20 Cabernet Franc) | 75% new oak | 14.5% alc | Production was 20000 bottles | 83 IPT A powerful, structured L'Evangile and a wine which is densely packed with fruit, but having said this, this is still a very introverted wine. This property changes so much with the sensitivity of the vintage and the 2018 will be an extraordinarily long-lived wine. The oak is well-judged, and the skin tannins are fit, lively and very well-balanced. Darker and more muscular and, funnily enough, a little like Lafite, this is a stronger and more square-shouldered wine than the past few vintages. There is no need to open this wine for at least fifteen years.”

- MJ, matthewjukes.com

“Dark ruby with an opaque core, purple reflections, and bright narrow rim. Multi-faceted bouquet with black cherry, fine nougat, a hint of noble wood and sweetish spices. Powerful and complex on the palate, the 20 percent Cabernet Franc give a great structure with firm, ripe tannins, finesse and a fresh, chocolaty touch. This is a sturdy food companion with 14.5 percent alcohol by volume, dark nougat on the finish. Excellent ageing potential.”

- PM, Falstaff

“The nose is racy, elegant, beautifully fruity, complex and offers deepness. This wine should be decanted. It reveals notes of bright blackberry, bright cassis, small notes of pulpy blueberry associated with touches of crushed strawberry, toasted as well as hints of camphor, violet, lilac, very discreet hints of spices, nutmeg, a subtle hint of fresh mild tobacco and an imperceptible hint of vanilla. The palate is fruity, precise, gourmand, well-balanced and offers a juicy/acidulous frame, freshness, minerality, a very beautiful definition/guideline as well as a beautiful fruit, purity, a fine grain, concentration, and a controlled power. On the palate this wine expresses notes of pulpy/fleshy blackberry, crushed cassis, small notes of fleshy blueberry associated with touches of cherry, raspberry, small notes of fleshy blueberry associated with touches of cherry, raspberry as well as hints of lilac/flowers, a discreet hint of pistil, mocha, toasted, fresh mild tobacco and a discreet hint of spices. Tannins are well-built and elegant. A persistence on notes of caramelization, vanilla, dark chocolate, pulpy/juicy fruits and offers a very fine chew.”

- Vert de Vin
