

Château Nenin 2009

CSPC# 749531

750mlx12

14.5% Alc./Vol.

SOLD OUT

Grape Variety

80% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

Pomerol

General Info

Château Nenin is quite a large property by Pomerol standards and sits located just outside the village of Catusseau on the south western slopes of the highest plateau in Pomerol. The château itself is a grand 18th century building set in a large park. It was owned by the Delze family and several generations of the Paillets until the 19th century. Château Nenin has long been a favourite of the British Royal Family. The château has belonged to the same family since 1840 as the Delon family acquired Nenin from their cousins – the Despujols in 1997. The Delon family also own Châteaux Leoville Las Cases and Potensac.

Vineyards

The 62 acre vineyard of Château Nenin lies on gravel and sandy soil over a limestone bedrock and the grapes planted are 70% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Harvest

The harvest is by hand, as you would expect, with the yields limited to around 30-35 hl/ha in most vintages (although as high as 59 hl/ha in 2004) by early pruning and then green-harvesting. The fruit goes into small baskets to avoid damage and these are then immediately transported to the reception and fermentation areas.

Maturation

Malolactic fermentation is in vat, in a dedicated room as mentioned above, before tasting, blending and transfer into oak during the winter months after harvest. The proportion of new wood used is not high, up to 30% new for the *grand vin*

Tasting Notes

The nose is all rich ripe black plum and the richness of the fruit packs out the palate. There are red fruits lying underneath helping to balance the fleshy ripeness and give some structure and brightness. The fruit power enriches and packs out the back palate, the plum flavour lingers. Drink 2020-2040.

Production

4,580 cases made

Cellaring

Drink 2014-2027

Scores/Awards

93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2012

93-96 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2010

89+ points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #199 - February 2012

91-93 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #188- April 2010

90 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - January 2012

89-91 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2010

94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - Web Only 2012

93 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 1, 2012

91-93 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - September 8, 2010

90 points - Stephen Tanzer, ST's International Wine Cellar - July 2012

89-92 points - Ian D'Agata, ST's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2010

17.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 20, 2010

16.5-17.5+ points - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - March 2010

17.5 points/4 stars - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2010

16.9 points/4 stars - James Lawther, Decanter.com - Web Only

98-99 points - Jane Anson, The New Bordeaux - April 2010

97 points/19 points - Jean Marc Quarin - March 2010

99 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2010

97 points/19 points - Alan Duran, Periodic Review - March 2010



Reviews *"This is a noticeably grippier style, showing a chunky edge to the bittersweet cocoa and charcoal notes which support the core of dark fig and blackberry fruit. This has good, racy structure though, so it should settle down with cellaring. Best from 2014 through 2027. 4,580 cases made"*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"What a nose of raspberry jam and violets. Amazingly rich and ripe, yet balanced and elegant. Full-bodied, with layers of ripe tannins and wonderfully ripe fruit. Opulent and sexy. Best since the 1950s? Score range: 93-96"
- JS, Wine Spectator

"The grand vin, the 2009 Nenin, is a blend of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc with 14% natural alcohol. This wine is the product of Jean-Hubert Delon, the proprietor of Leoville-Las-Cases and the excellent northern Medoc estate of Potensac. The wine has closed down considerably since I saw it from barrel, with a Medoc-like, structured minerality and backwardness. The tannins have moved to the front, and the wine displays loads of raspberry and black cherry fruit with a hint of earth in addition to floral notes. Give it 3-4 years of cellaring and drink it over the following 15-20 years."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"A blend of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc that achieved nearly 14% natural alcohol, the 2009 Nenin is the finest wine I have tasted since the estate was acquired by Jean-Hubert Delon (the family that also owns Leoville Las Cases). The full-bodied Nenin exhibits lots of cranberry and boysenberry fruit, a hefty, rich mouth feel, and a fresh, lively, long, rich style. It can be drunk young or cellared for three decades. (Tasted once.)"
- RP, Wine Advocate

"Tasted at Chateau Leoville Las-Cases. The Nenin 2009 has a well-defined, slightly clayey bouquet with hints of black truffle and creme de cassis. The palate is very succulent on the entry with fine tannins, good backbone and very pure, vanilla-tinged fruit. It is quite linear at the moment, strict towards the finish with a chalky note on the finish. Very fine. Tasted September 2011."
- NM, Wine Journal

"A blend of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc, with 11% pressed wine, delivering 13.9% alcohol and a pH of 3.68 and an IPT of 73, like the Fugue de Nenin, this is a little taciturn on the nose, demanding coaxing from the glass. Eventually, one finds notes of red cherries, boysenberry, wild hedgerow and a touch of iodine. The palate is full-bodied with rounded, quite toasty tannins, plush black fruits, boysenberry, a touch of pain grille and even some slight honeyed notes towards the finish. Ends up being quite an opulent Nenin, quite chewy on the finish though, where I am seeking some finesse. Tasted April 2010."
- NM, Wine Journal

"Structured, but so rich, with the tannins enveloped by sweet plum fruits and excellent acidity. The wine is juicy, sweet and darkly rich."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"91-93 Barrel sample. There is a good structure to go with the rich fruit and intense ripeness. The acidity compensates for the slight burn of alcohol"
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"(the label says 14.5% alcohol): Bright, full red-ruby. Musky dark berries, black cherry and underbrush on the fresh nose, complicated by a smoky minerality. Lush, smooth and minerally, with lively flavors of plum, chocolate and smoke; nothing heavy about this Pomerol. Finishes with ripe tannins and very good length. This tightened up with air, showing the structure to age."
- ST, International Wine Cellar

Reviews *“(an 80/20 blend of merlot and cabernet franc; 13.9% alcohol; pH 3.68; IPT 73; 30% new oak) Medium-deep ruby. Initially closed but deep nose opens slowly to reveal black cherry, blackberry jam, coffee and minerals. Dense and tactile, but with harmonious acids keeping the ripe black fruit flavors light and buoyant on the palate. Though it maintains some of that classic Nenin chunkiness, this is more refined than usual for this wine and perhaps the best Nenin at this stage of its development made under the ownership of the Delon family. Unlike La Fugue de Nenin, which comes from sandy clay soil, Nenin's flagship wine is made from grapes grown on sandy-gravelly and clay-gravelly soils in the western part of the vineyard.”*

- ID, International Wine Cellar

“Very dark crimson. Much more restrained than La Fugue. Quite a farm-yardy nose and then very rich and polished and dense. Lots of tannin obvious here – a much more long-term proposition than La Fugue. Serious stuff...”

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“Merlot 80%, Cabernet Franc 20%, and including 11% press wine. IPT 73, alcohol 13.9%. Dark but well defined plum fruit. Good flesh and substance on the palate, polished character, ripe tannins, damson and raspberry fruit. Good freshness, nice acids in the middle, supple fruit too. Appealing and grippy with its velvet coat of ripe tannins. Very good. From my 2009 Bordeaux primeur assessment. 16.5-17.5/20 (March 2010)”

- CK, The Wine Doctor

“A great success this year. The best of the Delon era. Rich and intense. Voluptuous texture. Fine, firm tannins. More Pomerol seduction than in the past.”

- SS, Decanter.com

“Bright, lifted and lovely nose of violet, spice and blackberry. Sleek, rich, ripe, fresh and elegant with lovely balance, light tannins and ample acidity. Graceful rather than powerful. A well-upholstered wine. Promising and fine. Drink: 2014-2020. Alc: 14.5%. (16.9 points)”

- JL, Decanter.com
