

# Château Nenin 2016

CSPC# 813909

750mlx12

14.47% alc./vol.

**Grape Variety**

75% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Franc

**Appellation**

Pomerol

**Classification**

**Website**

[http://www.domaines-delon.com/en/nenin-chateau\\_nenin\\_vins.html](http://www.domaines-delon.com/en/nenin-chateau_nenin_vins.html)

**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.

**Winemaker**

Jerome Depoizier

**Vintage**

The year 2016 started off with the water tables full, thanks to the heavy rainfall from January to March. Three difficult months for the vineyard workers but which saved the day for this vintage! The mild temperatures in March ensured an early budburst but the colder, rainy mornings in April slowed down the growth cycle. From mid-June to mid October, rainfall was well below the seasonal average. During the first two weeks of August, the colour change was short and even on each of the properties. The grapes developed in radiant, dry weather conditions. Light showers appeared in mid-September to re-boost the ripening process on the terroirs offering less water retention, thus perfecting the maturation of the tannins. The absolutely perfect weather conditions during harvest time allowed us to pick grapes boasting remarkable quality.

**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**

From September 23rd to October 13th, 2016

**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. Aged for 18 months in 20% new barrels.

**Tasting Notes**

For the first time, Merlot and Cabernet Franc made between 1998 and 2001 are included in the great wine. Splendid color for this vintage seriously built, focused, carrying a feeling of high maturity but also very dynamic.

**Serve with**

Chateau Nenin is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. Chateau Nenin is best paired with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised and grilled dishes. Chateau Nenin is also good when matched with Asian dishes, hearty fish courses like tuna, mushrooms and pasta.

**Production**

2,500 cases made.

**Cellaring**

Drink 2021-2038

**Scores/Awards**

**93 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2019  
**91-94 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2017  
**93 points** - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - November 2018  
**92-94 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #230 - April 2017  
**96 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2019  
**95-96 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2017  
**93-95 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2017  
**17.5 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2017  
**93 points** - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2017



**Scores/Awards** **93 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2018

**93 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2017

**93 points** - Neal Martin, Vinous - January 2019

**93 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - January 2019

**90-93 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2017

**94 points** - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2019

**95 points** - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - May 2017

**17 points** - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - June 2019

**97 points** - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - April 2017

**Reviews** *"Features a core of dark boysenberry, açai berry and black currant fruit that is direct, pure and polished, carried by solid but integrated tannins through a slightly muscular finish. Offers a lingering licorice snap accent and a nice twang of iron-edged minerality. Well-built. Best from 2023 through 2033. 2,500 cases made."*  
- JM, Wine Spectator

*"This is enticing, with a raspberry ganache edge around the core of bright plum and blackberry fruit. Light anise hint through the finish, which is silky in feel but keeps good energy. Score range: 91-94"*  
- JS, Wine Spectator

*"Blended of 75% Merlot and 25% Cabernet Franc, the 2016 Nenin is deep garnet-purple colored and opens with beautiful Black Forest cake, baked blackberries and blueberry compote scents over a core of Chinese five spice, sandalwood and lilacs. Medium to full-bodied and laden with black fruits and spicy layers, it has a gorgeous velvety frame and just enough freshness, finishing long and vibrant."*  
- LPB, Wine Advocate

*"The 2016 Nenin is a blend of 75% Merlot and 25% Cabernet Franc picked from 18 September until 8 October at 37 hectoliters per hectare. For the first time, the Grand Vin includes the new selection of Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon from sections on the plateau that were replanted in 1999 and 2000 (last year, the 2015 included only part of the Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon). It has a lifted and generous bouquet with raspberry, wild strawberry and violet aromas, just a hint of clove emerging with time in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin that I feel are finer than I have encountered before at this property. There is a lovely savory/bell pepper note originating from the Cabernet Franc and there is very good depth and persistence on the finish. Whilst this Nenin does not possess the detail and precision of the finest Pomerol growths in 2016, it is certainly a very strong follow-up to the 2015 and suggests that there is better to come"*  
- NM, Wine Advocate

*"Aromas full of crushed blackberries and blueberries with fresh mushrooms and sandalwood. Full-bodied, very tight and focused with fabulous density of fruit in the center palate and a long, flavorful finish. Shows strength and, at the same time, finesse. Try after 2023."*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

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*"A linear and dense wine that sneaks up on you with fantastic depth of fruit and structure. Full and racy. Shows finesse and muscle. Better than 2015?"*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"Made by the winemaking team of Léoville las Cases in Saint-Julien, this is a densely structured wine, rich in generous fruit while also having balanced acidity. (RV)"*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"75% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Franc and only 35% new oak – same as in 2015. Some vines on sand suffered so they selected these out as well as the young vines and sold off in bulk. They have been working closely with their coopers as well as with plot specificity. Deep crimson. Very rich on the nose. Interesting blend of sweetness and savour. Very precise wine with great quality of tannins. Very round and polished. Long. Glamorous."*  
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

## Reviews

*"Here we have quite a different take on the vintage, where you get the family resemblance to the Delon's left bank properties. There is spiced fruit, cardamom and black pepper, and more physical tannins that close in on you. This is a big expression of 2016, extremely well delivered. It demonstrates how Nénin is taking things up a notch and challenging the more celebrated Pomerols, which it does through power not diplomacy. (JA)"*  
- JA, Decanter.com

*"This is easily the best vintage of Nenin produced in modern times. The wine is vibrant, soft, fresh and filled with ripe, earthy, sweet, mocha filled plums and black cherries topped with truffles."*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"Earthy, dark cherries, plum and licorice in the nose and on the palate, the wine is smooth and curvy, medium/full bodied with freshness and length. You'll find juicy black and dark red plums with spice on the back end. The wine was made from 75% Merlot and 25% Cabernet Franc and reached 14.47%."*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"The 2016 Nénin is matured in 40% new oak for 18 months. It has an intense bouquet of black cherries mixed with Cassis and violet aromas, gaining volume with each swirl. The palate is one of the most concentrated that I can remember in a Nénin, gripping the mouth while demonstrating impressive precision on the dark-chocolate tinged finish. Great potential here. A superb Nénin from Delon and his team."*  
- NM, Vinous

*"The 2016 Nénin is a gorgeous Pomerol. Supple and inviting, the 2016 offers quite a bit of immediacy. There is lovely freshness to the dark plum and blackberry fruit, while beams of supporting tannin give the wine its shape, focus and overall feel. There is a lot to like in the 2016. This is the first vintage that includes fruit from four hectares of vineyards on the plateau across the road from Trotanoy that were replanted a few years ago. Nénin is another terrific wine from Jean-Hubert Delon in 2016."*  
- AG, Vinous

*The 2016 Nenin offers quite a bit of depth and power. Dark cherry, plum, tobacco, violet and menthol give the wine its shape and overall feel. Although the fruit is quite intense and forward, there is an attractive underpinning of tannin as well. The malolactic fermentation was done in equal parts barrique and stainless steel. In 2016 the blend is 75% Merlot and 25% Cabernet Franc."*  
- AG, Vinous

*"Deeper colored, with a saturated purple color, the 2016 Château Nenin is 75% Merlot and 25% Cabernet Franc brought up in 35% new French oak. It gives up a terrific bouquet of black cherries cassis, graphite, and some gravelly minerality and damp earth notes. These carry to a medium to full-bodied, concentrated yet elegant wine that has fine tannins, good acidity, and a great finish. It's just a classic, beautifully balanced, elegant wine that does everything right."*  
- Jeb Dunnuck

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