

# Château Nenin 2017

CSPC# 831119

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

**Grape Variety**

58% Merlot, 42% Cabernet Franc

**Appellation**

Pomerol

**Classification**

unclassified

**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**

2017 Pomerol produced stunning wines from those vineyards located on the peak of the plateau. 2017 Pomerol started out promising. However, the late April frost left its mark on the appellation. Producers with vineyards on the top of the plateau were spared most of the devastation from the frost. Estates located further from the plateau suffered damage to varying degrees, depending on their terroir. The frost for many producers will define the 2017 Pomerol vintage. The situation is much worse in Lalande de Pomerol, where several estates were so severely damaged, they were not able to produce any commercially viable quantity of wine.

Once past the frost, the vintage progressed with a dry, cool summer for the most part. June was a bit schizophrenic, offering rain and a torrid heat spell. July and August were cool, though August was warmer than July.

The summer was dry, so the initial rains in September brought life to the vines.

Overall, the amount of rain was less than usual during the growing season.

Coupled with a cool summer, frost, drought and an early harvest, 2017 Pomerol proved to be a vigneron vintage. The harvest was expected to be early, and it was. Some producers were picking by early September. 2017 Pomerol is the smallest harvest in ages. Overall, yields are lower.

The fruit that ripened features small berries with thick skins and a healthy skin to juice ratio. The wines are fresh, but not overly so. They offer intense aromatic characteristics with a sweetness to the fruits and soft, silky tannins.

The wines offer more dark red fruit character than black fruits. There is also less concentration and lower alcohol levels than you find in the more recent vintages.

**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 12th September to 29th September 2017

**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**

Through a subtle harmony, the Chateau Nenin 2017 brilliantly reveals the expression of each grape variety in a blend dominated by Merlot (58%), supplemented by Cabernet Franc (42%). The aromatic bouquet displays a nose full of expression, with pure notes of fruit and graphite recalling the minerality of the terroir. The palate is seductive with a deliciously creamy texture and a beautiful framework, presenting a silky touch on the mouth, as is typical of the wines of Pomerol. The wine finally unfolds into a beautifully long and persistent finish. A pure and distinguished expression of Pomerol, designed to be aged.



**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.

**Production** 1,666 cases made.

**Cellaring** Drink 2020-2032

**Scores/Awards** **92 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2020  
**90-93 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - April 2018  
**94 points** - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2020  
**87-89 points** - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate #236 - April 2018  
**93 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2020  
**93-94 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2018  
**91 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2020  
**91-93 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2018  
**17 points** - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2018  
**89 points** - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2018  
**92 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2018  
**16.25 points** - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)  
**92-94 points** - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only)  
**90 points** - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2020  
**89-91 points** - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2018  
**90-93 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2018  
**89-92 points** - Jeb Dunnuck MW - April 2018  
**18+ points** - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2018 (score only)  
**16 points** - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - April 2018  
**16.-16.5 points** - Bettane & Desseauve (score only)

**Reviews** *"Fresh and bright in profile, featuring red currant and raspberry notes, gilded with floral hints and backed by a light rooibos tea echo. The lively acidity of the vintage carries the finish. Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Drink now through 2032. 1,666 cases made."*

- JM, Wine Spectator

*"Round, polished and fleshy in feel, with good underlying acidity that lets the cassis, plum sauce and raspberry fruit play out. Light anise and singed vanilla shadings show on the finish, with a little latent grip. 1,666 cases made."*

- JS, Wine Spectator

*"Composed of 58% Merlot and 42% Cabernet Franc' the highest percentage of Cabernet Franc ever' the 2017 Nenin is deep garnet-purple in color and comes galloping out of the glass with exuberant notes of baked black cherries, plum preserves and black raspberries plus suggestions of licorice, candied violets and fallen leaves with a waft of melted chocolate. Medium to full-bodied, the palate offers bags of youthful black fruits with seriously spicy sparks and a beautifully plush texture, finishing long with a compelling mineral kick"*

- LPB, Wine Advocate

*"The 2017 Nenin is deep garnet-purple in color and has quite an earthy nose of tar, black soil and fungi notions over a core of cassis and black plums. The palate is medium-bodied, firm and chewy with a racy line and grippy finish."*

- LPB, Wine Advocate

*"The density and drive to this is certainly impressive for the vintage with blueberry and stone character to the dried violet and sandalwood undertone. Medium to full body. Tight and compressed with freshness and length. Bright and exciting. Linear. Salty, too. Try after 2021."*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"A creamy wine with a solid core of fruit and firm and silky tannins. Lots mineral and crushed-stone character. Full-bodied, rich and structured. Orange rind on the aftertaste. Less than 50% of the normal production. Solid finish."*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

- Reviews** *“This is a ripe blend of juicy Merlot and elegant Cabernet Franc. Fine tannins and a soft texture leave plenty of room for the succulent black fruits and final, almost sweet acidity. Drink the wine from 2022.”*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- “91–93. Barrel Sample. This wine is juicy, with layers of attractive black fruit and soft tannins. It offers hints of spice and toast balanced by plenty of acidity. Drink from 2023”*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- “Very dark with purple crimson. Lifted, lightly floral aroma and a charming dusty overlay. Quite dark on the palate, savoury and dark-fruited but also scented on the mid palate. Oak is well integrated. Creamy texture, elegant and beautifully balanced. Juicy finish and good freshness and length.”*  
- JH, JancisRobinson.com
- “With yields of just 15.5hl/ha, this wine suffered from the frost, but it has been carefully extracted and is well held together. As a rule, winemakers are really not over-extracting and are instead trying to fill in the mid-palate by carefully balancing oak with gentle, low temperature vinification that favours fruit expression. This is a case in point, a wine that's measured and elegant, and although the fruit is just a little too savoury, it has great poise. Not really at the same heights Nénin can reach in some years. Tasted twice. 3.75pH. “*  
- JA, Decanter.com
- “With an over-riding floral character, the wine also displays cherry, plum and truffles. Elegant and nuanced, there is a beautiful purity in the fruits and silkiness in the tannins. The finish allows you to savor the sweetness of all the soft, red fruits.”*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “In 2017 Nénin was affected by frost and it was cropped at just 15.5hl/ha. The wine contains a high proportion of Cabernet Franc in the blend compared to previous vintages (there is no Fugue de Nénin this year.) It has a delineated and focused bouquet with blackberry, thyme and subtle truffle aromas that feel seductive, even if I have encountered more complex Nénin's in the past. The palate is medium bodied with sappy red fruit. This is well balanced but compact at the moment, a slightly more muscular and more savory Nénin thanks to the addition of Cabernet Franc, which makes for an intriguing Pomerol that will be fascinating to watch develop.”*  
- NM, Vinous
- “The 2017 Nénin contains more Cabernet Franc this year because of the frost damage. The grapes were picked from 12 to 29 September although the team did go back to inspect the second-generation frosted vines two weeks later, but the tannins were unsatisfactory and the fruit abandoned. This means that the overall production was just 15.5hl/ha, matured in 35% new oak with the alcohol at 13.50°. The nose is fairly uncomplicated compared to the last two vintages: red fruit, briary and a touch of desiccated orange peel. The palate is medium bodied with soft tannin, moderate depth, gentle in the mouth but missing a little structure towards the airy finish. It is a decent, early-drinking Nénin in the making although it lags behind the previous two vintages.”*  
- NM, Vinous
- “The 2017 Nénin is terrific. Brilliant, focused aromatics and finely chiseled fruit give the wine vivacity and energy to burn. Pliant and succulent in the glass, with striking fruit purity, the 2017 Nénin has so much to offer. Because of the frost, the 2017 contains more Cabernet Franc in the Grand Vin than is typical, which gives the wine its very distinct red toned flavor profile and structural feel. Frost losses were much more severe (70%) in the plots dedicated to the second wine Fugue de Nénin. In 2017, Nénin is a winner.”*  
- AG, Vinous
- “Based on 58% Merlot and 42% Cabernet Franc, brought up in 35% new French oak, the 2017 Château Nénin sports a healthy purple color as well as classic sweet cherry and currant fruits, tobacco leaf, and loamy earth. It's rich, medium to full-bodied, and concentrated, with a rounded, sexy texture. It will keep for 10-15 years.”*  
- Jeb Dunnuck