

Château Meyney 2016

CSPC# 814276

750mlx12

14.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

49% Merlot, 33% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Petit Verdot

Appellation

St.-Estèphe

Classification

Cru Bourgeois

Website

<http://www.meyney.fr/en/wines>

General Info

Château Meyney is located in St. Estèphe and is owned by Domaines Cordier. The 49-ha property produces on average 30,000 cases per year. Located in the east of the St. Estèphe appellation, next to Château Montrose, Meyney has a similar climate to that enjoyed by the Médoc: maritime, with the Gironde estuary and the Bay of Biscay combining to act as a climate regulator and the coastal pine forests sheltering the vines from the westerly and north-westerly winds.

Meyney is classified as a Cru Bourgeois.

The history of Château Meyney dates back to at least the 17th Century (although it is almost certainly much older) and was originally the site of a convent entitled the *Prieuré des Couleys*, occasionally also referred to as the *Couvent des Feuillants*.

For much of the 20th Century the estate was part of the Cordier portfolio, quietly turning out good value wines, many of which were of remarkably high quality. No doubt this was in part due to the skill of Georges Pauli, better known for his sterling work at Gruaud-Larose, another Cordier property, who from 1978 oversaw the activity in the *chai* at Meyney.

As such the estate eventually came under the umbrella of Cordier-Mestrezat when the two *négociants* amalgamated. Here it formed part of a small portfolio of top estates also including Grand-Puy-Ducasse and Rayne-Vigneau. Over the years there have been many interested parties, most recently including the Vignerons de Val d'Orbieu, a leading Languedoc co-operative, who held a significant share in the business. In 2004 the Mediterranean investors sold out, and Cordier-Mestrezat saw some fresh and seemingly much needed investment from the French bank Crédit Agricole. This famous French financial institution acquired more than 400 hectares of vineyards, including Meyney, in exchange for 95 million Euros, leaving Cordier-Mestrezat one of the few debt-free businesses in Bordeaux. Today Meyney is thus under the ownership of *Crédit Agricole Grands Crus*, alongside Ducasse, Rayne-Vigneau and a handful of Cru Bourgeois estates also acquired by the French bank.

Winemaker

Anne la Naour & Denis Rataud. Consultant Oenologist Hubert de Bouard.

Vintage

2016 Bordeaux will be remembered for its schizophrenic weather conditions. John Nash would have felt right at home. This first half of the year set records for the amount of water in the vineyards. With its gravel and clay terroir, vineyards in the Saint Estèphe appellation were able to remove the excess moisture. Starting in June, Bordeaux came close to setting another record, for the extreme dry period that lasted until September 12. This is no problem for the soils in St Estèphe, because they were adept at holding ample moisture, allowing the grapes to fully ripen. Capped by the warm, sunny days and cool nights, and stress at the just the right moment for the Cabernet Sauvignon, and Merlot, along with the late summer rains was perfect! The long growing season ended in mid-October for most of the estates. The growers might be all smiles now, but they were more than nervous at several points during the season.

Vineyards

Superbly located on a mound overlooking the Gironde estuary, the château lies at the centre of a single block vineyard of 51 hectares (126 acres). Château Meyney looks down onto the Gironde and the presence of the estuary protects the estate from frosts. The vineyard is planted on Garonne gravels. The vines are an average age of 35 to 40 years, divided between 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and 10% Petit Verdot. The vines climb to an altitude of 20 metres up, quite a steep slope, ensuring good natural drainage of the soil. Similar to "Pétrus", a layer of blue clay about 3-



Vineyards	meter thick lies at a depth of 2,6 metres below the surface. These remarkable natural factors give the wine an exceptional richness.
Harvest	Following hand-picking and selection of the grapes on the vine, the grapes are, again, carefully selected in the winery, passing through a brand-new optical sorting machine. The grapes are then fermented in vats of varying capacities, which allow us to adapt to the size of each batch. The fermentation starts after a few days of cool soaking. After fermentation, maceration continues for an average of 30 days before the wine is run off. Part of the wine goes through malolactic fermentation in new barrels. The wine is aged in French oak barrels from 18 to 24 months depending on the vintage. 40% of the barrels are renewed each year
Vinification/ Maturation	Following hand picking and meticulous sorting in the winery, the grapes are fermented in vats of varying capacities which allow us to adapt to the size of each batch. Fermentation is preceded by cool soaking. After fermentation, maceration continues for an average of 20 days before the wine is run off. Some of the wine is even fermented in new oak barrels. Then all the wine is aged in French oak barrels, between 30% and 40% of which are renewed each year, according to the potential of that vintage.
Tasting Notes	The wine is powerful and aromatic with a strong tannic structure. In good vintages, it has a great potential for aging but may require a wait of ten years. He can then get closer to his big neighbors and offer an interesting quality / price ratio.
Serve with	Chateau Meyney is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. Best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised and grilled dishes.
Production	15,000 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2010-2020
Scores/Awards	<p>92 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2019</p> <p>89-92 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2017</p> <p>87 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - November 2018</p> <p>90-92 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #230 - April 2017</p> <p>96 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2019</p> <p>95-96 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2017</p> <p>16.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2017</p> <p>94 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - October 2018</p> <p>92 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2017</p> <p>93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2017</p> <p>15.5+ points - Farr Vintner - February 2017</p> <p>86-89 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2017</p> <p>93 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - January 2019</p> <p>90-93 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2017</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Solidly built, with a dark and juicy core of currant, plum and blackberry reduction flavors, inlaid with charcoal and smoldering tobacco notes. Offers a pleasant loamy tug through the finish. Gutsy wine. The better of two bottles tasted. Best from 2022 through 2032. 15,000 cases made."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Very fresh and rather open in feel, with gently crushed plum and black cherry fruit, gilded with a hint of warm paving stone. Stays bright overall through the finish. Score range: 89-92"</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The deep garnet-purple colored 2016 Meyney has a nose of cassis, tar, earth and bay leaves with redcurrants. The medium-bodied palate is a little lean and herbal, with firm, grainy tannins."</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The 2016 Meyney has quite an opulent and flamboyant bouquet, which is something I do not expect from this Saint Estèphe. It seems to calm down in the glass and attains more delineation and poise. The palate is sweet on the entry with impressive precision, quite linear in style with blackberry, graphite and smoky notes, leading to a finish that offers satisfying persistence. Excellent."</i> -NM, Wine Advocate</p>

- Reviews** *“Wild nose. Impressive, deep hue and a wealth of fresh, violet-like aromas, as well as cassis, graphite and dark cherries. The palate has a very sleek, fine, powerful core of tannins that bring a lot of depth and deliver rich dark-fruit flavor. A classic Meyney. Best since 1961! Try from 2023.”*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- “Solid and incredible depth reminds me of the Meyney of the 1960s that were so structured and incredible. Full body yet polished and refined. Super structure.”*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- “Very deep crimson. Sweet and perfumed. Very luscious with a hint of camembert! Much riper and lusher than the average St-Estèphe. Very dry end. Only on the end does the appellation impose itself.”*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- “Rich and full, this is very St-Estèphe: round through the mid-palate, with an amazingly tasty balance of richness and freshness leading to salinity and minerality on the finish. It will need another five to eight years before being ready to drink, but it has to be one of the value picks of the vintage. Drinking Window 2021 - 2036. (JA)”*
- JA, Decanter.com
- “Winemaker Anne la Naour and consultant Hubert de Bouïard are clearly working very hard on upping the quality of Meyney, which is just starting to push beyond its normal price category. Of the triumvirate of great vintages, for me the 2014 was incredible and punched above its weight, but this is also a very good wine. It's a terroir of clay and gravel that takes a long time to come around, but already we have freshness, colour and spice with big bristling tannins and well-placed damson and black cherry fruits. Powerful upfront with a good round mouthfeel, this has depth and solidity, a serious wine. 49% Merlot, 33% Cabernet Sauvignon and 18% Petit Verdot. Drinking Window 2024 – 2040”*
- JA, Decanter.com
- “Almost opaque in color, this is a beauty! The wine is rich, concentrated and has depth of flavor with length. The fruit is unadulterated purity and unreal deliciousness; the finishes builds into a sensory experience of taste and feel. This is the best vintage of Meyney ever produced.”*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “This Saint Estèphe Chateau makes wines that are true to the appellation with impressive depth and concentration. Always modestly priced en primeur. Recent vintages have impressed us here. Deep, opaque purple colour. Toasty, spicy nose with roasted coffee bean, liquorice and ripe black cherry. The palate is firm and powerful, with black fruits providing the core, which is framed by sturdy, chewy, structured tannins. Though chewy, they are ripe and start to yield through on the finish, revealing more ripe cassis, cedar and graphite. Classically structured with great purity.”*
- Farr Vintners
- “The fruit on the nose is fresh the palate firm black cherry and cassis underpinned by tight tannins. It does fill out towards the back sweeter fruit, but tannic firmness tends to dominate and hold back the fruit on the finish. 2025-38”*
- Derek Smedley MW
- “The 2016 Meyney is a bold, powerful wine. Tobacco, menthol, chocolate, spice and torrefaction notes all add shades of darkness. Meyney is potent and quite broad in feel, and yet everything is very nicely balanced. Although not especially subtle, Meyney delivers the goods, and then some. (AG)”*
- AG, Vinous
- “The 2016 Meyney is powerful and absolutely delicious. Black fruit, torrefaction, smoke, licorice and bittersweet chocolate flavors are dark and boldly sketched. Beams of firm tannin add to the wine's imposing, brooding personality. All the elements fall into place effortlessly in this ample, broad Saint-Estèphe.”*
- AG, Vinous