

# Château Ormes de Pez 2017

CSPC# 866064

750mlx12

13.42% alc./vol.

<b>Grape Variety</b>	51% Merlot, 42% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot
<b>Appellation</b>	St. Estèphe
<b>Classification</b>	Cru Bourgeois Exceptional
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.jmcazes.com/en/chateau-ormes-de-pez/aoc-saint-estephe">http://www.jmcazes.com/en/chateau-ormes-de-pez/aoc-saint-estephe</a>
<b>General Info</b>	<p>The origins of Château Ormes de Pez, date back to the eighteenth century. Château Les Ormes de Pez is one of St-Estèphe's leading Cru Bourgeois properties. It was bought by Jean-Charles Cazes in 1936 and is now owned and run by Jean-Michel Cazes. The latter owns Lynch-Bages Situated on the edge of the hamlet of Pez in the northern part of the Saint-Estèphe commune, the property takes its names from a beautiful copse of great elm trees long since disappeared. The vineyard and winemaking techniques combine the best of tradition and modernity to give birth to harmonious wines of spicy and voluptuous character, true expressions of the terroir in their appellation.</p>
<b>Winemaker</b>	Daniel Llose
<b>Vintage</b>	<p>St Estèphe had a geographical advantage in 2017: its proximity to the widest part of the Gironde Estuary. Being so close to such a large body of water afforded the commune good frost protection. Its clay soils were also an excellent vessel for the June downpour, and this water helped sustain the vines through the dry July and August period. Many estates waited for the September rain to pass before picking their Cabernet Sauvignon in the October sunshine, and the best wines have a luminous, silky quality.</p>
<b>Vineyards</b>	<p>The vineyards are located in two plots north and south of the village of St Estèphe, on the sand and gravel that is typical of the commune. There are 33 hectares in all, with 70% of the vines Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Cabernet Franc and 20% Merlot. They have an average age between 25 and 30 years and are planted at a density of 9000 vines/ha.</p>
<b>Vinification/ Maturation</b>	<p>All vats were used for "traditional" vinification: rapid alcoholic fermentation and vatting over a 20-day period on average. The first pumping over revealed a bright, rich colour and both a powerful and velvety tannic structure. Running off confirmed the promising quality of the wines tasted during alcoholic fermentation – the 2016 vintage had everything it took to become a great vintage. Malolactic fermentation occurred in good conditions, with the last of it ending at the beginning of December. We could then begin blending before leaving the wines to age in barrels. French oak barrels for 16 months (45% new wood)</p>
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	<p>Château Ormes de Pez 2017 is a fine and elegant full-bodied wine with a nose marked by aromas of fresh black fruit. Its structure is harmonious, despite its young age, with aromas of blackcurrant and black cherry typical of the Merlot varietal, along with toasted notes. Beautiful aromatic persistence.</p>
<b>Serve with</b>	<p>Chateau Les Ormes de Pez is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. Chateau Les Ormes de Pez is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, stewed and grilled dishes. Les Ormes de Pez also pairs well with several different Asian dishes.</p>
<b>Production</b>	18000 cases made annually
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink now-2024
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>87 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2020 <b>88-91 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - April 2018 <b>90 points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2020 <b>87-89 points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate #236 - April 2018 <b>92 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2020 <b>92-93 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2018 <b>93 points/Editor's Choice</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2020 <b>91-93 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2018 <b>16 points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - October 2019 <b>16 points</b> - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2018</p>



**Scores/Awards** **92 points** - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2018  
**90 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2018  
**15 points** - Farr Vintner - April 2018  
**88-90 points** - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2018  
**88 points** - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2020  
**91-93 points** - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2018  
**86 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2020  
**88-90 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2018  
**92 points** - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2020  
**89-91 points** - Jeb Dunnuck MW - April 2018  
**17+ points** - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2018  
**91 points** - Falstaff Magazine (score only)

**Reviews** *"Blood orange, bitter cherry, lilac and savory notes mingle in this gentle-edged, light-bodied version. A subtle twinge of iron at the very end keeps this going. Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. Drink now through 2024."*  
- JM, Wine Spectator

*"Open-knit, with a core of plum and cherry fruit carried by light cedar, tobacco and warm stone notes. Shows a light smoky echo at the end."*  
- JM, Wine Spectator

*"Medium to deep garnet-purple colored, the 2017 Ormes de Pez features black cherries and cassis notions over a core of fragrant earth, stewed tea and tobacco plus a waft of forest floor. Medium-bodied, the palate is packed with juicy black fruit with a grainy texture and long, mineral-tinged finish."*  
- LPB, Wine Advocate

*"A barrel sample blended of 51% Merlot, 42% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot, the 2017 Ormes de Pez has a deep garnet-purple color and gives up notes of freshly crushed redcurrants, red and black plums and mulberries with touches of rose hip tea and tilled soil. Medium-bodied and elegantly styled, with approachable, chewy tannins, it delivers nice harmony with plenty of character."*  
- LPB, Wine Advocate

*"A beautiful red with aromas and flavors of plums, spices and burnt chocolate. Medium-bodied, creamy and fruity. Juicy finish. A blend of 51% merlot, 42% cabernet sauvignon, 6% cabernet franc and 1% petit verdot."*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"The density for the vintage is impressive with dark-berry and cherry character. Medium to full body, velvety tannins and a fresh and bright finish. Linear and driven."*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"A smoky as well as fruity wine, this stablemate of Lynch-Bages shows fine tannins as well as rich fruits. The wine is sure to develop well, so drink from 2024."*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"91-93. Barrel Sample. This finely structured wine is balanced with nothing in excess offering attractive acidity and a light touch of tannin. It is fruity, bright and developing quickly. Drink from 2023."*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"51% Merlot, 42% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot. Amazing to see a preponderance of Merlot! Much rounder and sweeter than most of its peers. I'm not 100% sure I would guess the commune blind. Pleasing, easy wine without that much local character."*  
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*"Very dark crimson. The aroma is equal parts black fruit and graphite. On the palate, some sweetness of oak spice but there's a slight lack of fruit richness on the palate so that overall, it is relatively light. Persistent though, and the tannins are fine enough not to dominate. 16/20 points. (JH)"*  
- JH, JancisRobinson.com

## Reviews

*"Ormes has managed another good vintage after a run of them. This is a lovely wine and a buy for me. Succulent, bristling and charming, it has juicy brambled fruit extraction and tension. It doesn't take itself too seriously, just asking to be loved. The fruit spectrum is rich with blueberries and damsons, with integrity and a swirl of vanilla bean oak. Includes 6% Cabernet Franc in the blend. No need to wait too long for this. 45% new oak. (JA)"*

- JA, Decanter.com

*"Spicy and grounded with fertile soil and the reddest of fruit, here you'll find cedar, tobacco and blackberries. Timelessly crisp, fresh and lively with herbs, olive and pepper on the palate and in the finish, this wine is 51% Merlot, 42% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot."*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"42% Cabernet Sauvignon, 51% Merlot, 6% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot in 45% new oak. Medium-deep purple in colour, this has a muscular and rich nose of cassis and toasty new oak. The palate is chunky with ripe but chewy tannins framing the compact but juicy black fruit core. This is quite big and structured, but the tannins fall away nicely towards the finish to allow the cool black cherry and plum to shine through with the toasty, generously creamy oak. Polished on the finish, this is a well-made wine that will offer as much approachability as any wine from St Estèphe in 2017."*

- Farr Vintners

*"Concentrated rich black fruits the nose has depth the palate richness lots of black cherry and black currants. The tannins are structured but ripe the sweetness at the back-giving way to fresh minty black fruits. 2024-34"*

- Derek Smedley MW

*"The 2017 Les Ormes de Pez was matured in 45% new oak with 13.42% alcohol. None of the vines were touched by frost. Cropped at round 50hl/ha, it has a clean, pure red cherry, blackcurrant and cedar-scented bouquet, more Pauillac in style than Saint-Estèphe. The palate is well balanced with ripe tannin that feel more malleable than previous vintages at this stage, a little saline in the mouth with a silky-smooth finish. This will be delicious over the next couple of decades and I suspect it will be more approachable than the 2016. Don't ignore this. (NM)"*

- NM, Vinous

*"The 2017 Les Ormes de Pez has a tightly wound bouquet with tertiary, slightly ferrous red berry fruit, perhaps needing a little more cohesion that should evolve with bottle age. The palate is medium-bodied with a balsamic-tinged entry, moderate depth, good density but just missing a little flair and nuance on what feels like a conservative finish. Drink 2023-2035."*

- NM, Vinous

*"The 2017 Ormes de Pez comes across as light and easygoing, with only modest depth and nuance. There just isn't much to the 2017, in terms of either body or complexity. Drink it up. Drink 2020-2025"*

- AG, Vinous

*"The 2017 Ormes de Pez comes across as a bit light in both body and structure. Spice, leather, dark red stone fruit and new French oak are nicely pushed forward. Easygoing and open knit, the 2017 is likely to offer its best drinking sooner rather than later. Jean-Michel Cazes told me yields were surprisingly generous in 2017, along the lines of 2009. Merlot plays an especially prominent role in a blend composed of 51% Merlot, 42% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot."*

- AG, Vinous

*"A blend of 42% Cabernet Sauvignon, 51% Merlot, and the rest Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot, brought up in 45% new oak, the 2017 Chateau Ormes De Pez sports a healthy ruby color as well as classic notes of black cherries, mulberries, and blackcurrants interwoven with green tobacco and lead pencil notes. With medium to full body, ripe tannins, and good acidity, it's as classic as they come. It has some charm and approachability already (no doubt due to the high Merlot content) yet should evolve for two decades or more"*

- Jeb Dunnuck

**Reviews** *“This solid Saint-Estèphe estate has made a promising 2017 Les Ormes de Pez. Ripe black cherry and currant fruit, medium to full body, ripe tannins, and a charming, rounded style all make for a delicious, textbook 2017 that will keep for 15+ years. Barrel Sample: 89-91”*  
- Jeb Dunnuck

*“Chiseled and firm, this is a stern wine with a very forceful demeanor and a slight touch of greenness which might not melt away. I like it a lot, but you will have to be forgiving in due course.”*  
- MJ, matthewjukes.com

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