

Château Phelan Segur 2014

CSPC# 742352

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

CSPC# 880792

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36% Merlot
Appellation	Saint-Estephe
Website	http://www.phelansegur.com/en/millesimes/
General Info	<p>In 1805, Bernard Phelan, an Irish wine broker settled in Bordeaux, acquired le Clos de Garamey, located in Saint-Estèphe, followed in 1810 by the Ségur de Cabanac estate to complement his first acquisition. The whole was called Château Ségur de Garamey. He thus created a magnificent wine-producing domain that remains practically unchanged today, apart the sale in 2010 of 20 hectares to Château Montrose. The particularity of Château Phélan Ségur is its original architectural design: the neo-classical main residence is not separated from the agricultural buildings but is extended by them. Since 1985, the vineyard has been running by the Gardinier family who bought it from the Delon family, owner since 1924.</p>
Vintage	<p>Bud break was normal, with some early plots. Observations on the earliest Merlot in the last few days of March. Regular occurrences of <i>filage</i>, when growth stops because part of the cluster forms a tendril rather than fruit. First flowers on 26 May. Peak flowering on 7 June. Flowering started slowly. Fine weather in early June enabled fast, uniform flowering. <i>Véraison</i> (change of colour of the grapes): mid-<i>véraison</i> on 9 August, and complete <i>véraison</i> by early September throughout the vineyard. Leaf removal: Leaf removal between late June and early July, adapted to the water stress in each plot, and even within the plots. General leaf removal on the "sunset" side for the Cabernet Sauvignon at the end of August to encourage ventilation around the bunches of grapes.</p>
Vineyards	<p>70 hectares. Average vine age is 35 years. The sale reduced the Phelan-Ségur vineyard from 90 hectares to 70 hectares. These 70 hectares are spread over four locations, with one-quarter planted next to the <i>château</i> and <i>chai</i>, the remaining three more distant. The <i>terroir</i> underfoot is an alluvial gravel mixed with a sandy clay, over a deeper bedrock of chalk. The vines are 55% Cabernet Sauvignon and 45% Merlot, and current replanting work is focusing on increasing the proportion of the former over the latter, although work in 2011 did include one small plot replanted to Merlot. The planting density is about 8500 vines per hectare.</p>
Harvest	<p>The yields are controlled with pruning and bud removal, with some leaf-thinning in July to improve ripening and aeration, and some green harvesting as required. The moment of harvest is based on tasting and technical analysis, and once underway the pickers transport the fruit in small open trays, moved around on wheelbarrows and small trailers to avoid crushing. Harvest from 29 September to 14 October 2014.</p>
Vinification/ Maturation	<p>Once in the winery the fruit receives a high-tech treatment, with table-sorting, destemming, optical sorting, pressing and fermentation on a plot-by-plot basis in thermo-regulated stainless steel vats; these were replaced in 2011, reducing their capacity from 210 hectolitres down to 115 hectolitres, thereby allowing more precise plot-by-plot vinification. Subsequently the wines undergo malolactic in a warmed room and then <i>élevage</i>, all undertaken in oak barrels, 50% new, sourced from five coopers, the principal source being Taransaud. 60% in new barrels during 18 months.</p>
Tasting Notes	<p>Intense colour with purplish glints. Pure and intense aromas, dominated by notes of very ripe red fruit. Palate: Powerful, rich and voluptuous, offering density and remarkable depth. Precise tannic structure that reveals a phenolic maturity worthy of a great vintage. Finish: Plenty of substance in the finish with good tannic and aromatic length.</p>
Production	12,500 cases annually
Cellaring	10-15 years



Scores/Awards **91 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2017
90-93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2015
91 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate Interim - March 31, 2017
89-91+ points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #218 - April 29, 2015
92 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - February 2017
91-92 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2015
94 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2017
93-95 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2015
15.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2015
90 points - Decanter.com - April 2015
89 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 2017
88-91 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2015
88-90+ points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - March 2015
93 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2015 (score only)
15 points - Farr Vintner - March 2015
86-88 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2015
91 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - March 2015
90+ points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2017
87-90 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2015
16.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)
18 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)
17 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only)
16.5 points - Gault & Millau (score only)

Reviews *"Pure and expressive, featuring a lovely beam of cassis gilded with light lilac, wet pebble and tobacco notes that should emerge more with cellaring. Shows textbook typicity for the AOC. Best from 2018 through 2028. 12,500 cases made."*

- JM, Wine Spectator

"This is alluring, with a velvety feel to the crushed plum and black currant fruit, while perfumy hints of espresso and singed sandalwood line the finish. Presents a pleasant loamy tug. Score range: 90-93"

- JS, Wine Spectator

"The 2014 Phelan-Segur has quite a punchy nose with blackberry, iris and iodine scents that shoot from the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with a pleasant chewiness on the entry. This segues into a well-balanced middle with well-judged acidity, crisp black fruit infused with graphite and a touch of sea salt towards the finish. It might not quite have the finesse of the top Saint Estèphe's, but there is clearly decent length and energy here. Tasted twice with consistent notes. Drink Date 2019-2035"

- NM, Wine Advocate

"The Château Phélan-Ségur 2014 has quite a high-toned bouquet with iodine-scented black fruit, touches of cassis and blueberry coming through with aeration. The palate is rounded and generous on the entry with fine tannin, though I feel it just lacks a little complexity and terroir expression towards the finish. I am aware that this Saint Estèphe improves a great deal by bottling, hence the plus sign. Tasted on three occasions, two showed a little rigidity towards the finish, but that will soften with élevage and bottle age. Drink: 2019-2032"

- NM, Wine Advocate

"The spice and floral characters are fresh and perfumed. Walnuts. Medium body, with firm and silky tannins and a linear and crisp finish. Orange peel undertone to the currants. Tight and racy. Needs two to three years to open up. Try in 2020."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Soft and silky with very pretty tannins and juicy fruit. Full body, succulent finish."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"The initial wood flavors in this wine rapidly give way to rich fruit. Spice and black-plum flavors are built by a firmly tannic superstructure. The aftertaste brings out the acidity. This wine should develop well over the long term. Drink from 2023."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

- Reviews** *"93–95. Barrel Sample. There is a strong wood character to this wine, balanced by ripe, full-blown fruitiness. It has a solid structure yet there is still ample freshness."*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- "Light charred note on the nose. Then something sweet and loose. Then astringent. Not a bundle of fun! Austere. Hollow. Drink 2023-2030"*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- "Fine florality and, as always, slightly gamey fruit with character and class, Very good ripe mid plate and rounded tannins. Will open early for a good future. "*
- Decanter.com
- "Ripe, dark and red fruits, a touch of oak, spice, wet earth and round, tannins open nicely. The round, medium bodied, ripe, fruit filled finish is easy to like as well. In time, with some bottle age, this could be an even better wine."*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "Crème de Cassis, fennel and freshly ground espresso on the nose, this wine was produced in an approachable, fleshy style. There is an easy softness to the tannins and a smack of blackberries in the finish"*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "Deep and dark; wet rocks; chalk; minerality; black cherries; palate has fragrance; blackcurrant fruit; tautness; acidity but also extract; correct on the palate; extract and grip; length and some chew currently on the finish. Goodish and will fill out I expect. [64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36% Merlot. 13.5% alc, 3.6TA 50% new oak, 85 IPT]. Drink 2020-2030. Tasted UGC 2 April, 2015. 88-90+"*
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com
- "The vines of this top "cru bourgeois" are situated between Montrose and Calon Ségur. The vineyard is planted with 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc. Recent vintages have been well up to classed growth standards. The 2014 is a blend of 64% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 36% Merlot with the elevage in 50% new oak. Deep purple colour. Intense, smoky nose of black fruits, ripe cherries, and toasty, high char new oak. Big and plush on the palate with a juicy red and black fruit core and then soft but cedary tannins giving structure. Well balanced with good vibrancy."*
- Farr Vintners
- "Bright and fresh on the nose the start of the palate is light with a mix of black fruits. It is richer in the middle lots of blackcurrant and black cherry but at the back the tannins are firm the back palate quite tight and the finish quite short. 2025-35"*
- Derek Smedley MW
- "A successful vintage for Phelan Segur with firm, well-handled tannins and vibrant dark berry fruit. Saint-Estephe's firm, sometimes tough tannins have been tamed and the fruit is savory and ripe. Lots of freshness in this vintage."*
- JCL, asianpalate.com
- "The 2014 Phélan Ségur is powerful and driven but also a bit compact. Bright red cherry, iron, leather, smoke, licorice and blood orange are nicely delineated in the glass. Ferrous savory notes add lovely complexity throughout. The 2014 has put on quite a bit of weight and darkness over the last year and half, but the tannins need time to soften. Tasted two times."*
- AG, Vinous

Reviews *“Iron, smoke, savory herbs, crushed flowers and blood orange are all laced together in the 2014 Phélan Ségur. The mid-weight style is quite classic, but the 2014 remains a bit of a mystery, as it presented considerable variation over the three times I tasted it. Even though the Gardinier family sold some of their vineyard holdings to Montrose a few years ago, I still think this estate and oenologist Michel Rolland should be able to do more here. Two recent vertical tastings were frankly underwhelming.”*
- AG, Vinous
