

Château Phélan Segur 2015

CSPC# 742352

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

SOLD OUT

CSPC# 880792

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 47% Merlot

Appellation

Saint-Estephe

Website

<http://www.phelansegur.com/en/millesimes/>

General Info

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. 2015 also marks the Gardinier family's 30th anniversary at the head of Phélan Ségur.

Winemaker

Fabrice Bacquey. Michel Rolland is the consultant.

Vintage

A cool winter, a warm spring, and a mixed summer; mild weather conditions for the harvest.

- From January to March: Temperature and rainfall close to the average.

- May and June: Mild.

- July: Hot and dry.

- August and September: Cooler than average with some stormy showers in August and a rainy spell from 11 to 15 September.

- Bud burst: A little later than usual followed by very regular growth.

- Flowering: First flowers on 25 May and Full flowering on 4 June

Despite a slow start to flowering, it was then rapid and even.

- Véraison: Mid-véraison on 4 August. As with the flowering, it was rapid and even.

- Leaf removal: Leaf removal between the end of June and beginning of July, adapted to the water stress of each plot, and even within plots.

General leaf removal on the "sun-set" side of the Cabernet Sauvignon from September, so as to favour the aeration of the bunch zones.

Harvest

From 29 September to 10 October 2015 While the month of September proved to be changeable, it was the search for optimum ripeness that decided the calendar for picking; the Merlots were picked over a period of 11 days. The decision was taken to wait for the Cabernet Sauvignon, and the result was convincing. At this stage it is possibly the best Cabernet Sauvignon ever harvested, unique for its concentration, intensity of flavour and the quality of its tannins.

The 2015 vintage was marked by the first crop of Petit Verdot. This gives us hope for very good potential in the years to come and it will be included in the blend for Frank Phélan.

Vineyards

70 hectares. Average vine age is 35 years. The sale reduced the Phélan-Ségur vineyard from 90 hectares to 70 hectares. These 70 hectares are spread over four locations, with one-quarter planted next to the *château* and *chai*, the remaining three more distant. The *terroir* 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.

Harvest

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.



Vinification/ Maturation	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 hectoliters down to 115 hectoliters, 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 for 18 months.
Tasting Notes	Appearance: intense and lively with ruby reflections. Nose: rich with notes of red fruits (strawberry, cherry) blended with subtle smoky and liquorice aromas. The delicate and delicious palate is supported by an unprecedented richness of taste. The wine is harmonious, it shows a perfect balance between the fat and sweetness of the Merlot and the powerful tannins of the Cabernet Sauvignon. A vintage characterised by its concentration, the intensity of the flavours and the quality of the tannins.
Serve with	Chateau Phelan Segur is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. Chateau Phelan Segur is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, stewed, and grilled dishes. Chateau Phelan Segur also makes a good match with several different Asian courses.
Production	15,000 cases made.
Cellaring	Drink 2021-2040
Scores/Awards	<p>89 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2018</p> <p>89-91 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2016</p> <p>90+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - February 2018</p> <p>91-93 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #224 - April 2016</p> <p>91 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - March 2018</p> <p>94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2018</p> <p>93-94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2016</p> <p>93 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 2018</p> <p>92-94 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2016</p> <p>17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - October 2017</p> <p>16.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2016</p> <p>90 points - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2016</p> <p>90 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2018</p> <p>86-88 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2016</p> <p>88-90 points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - March 2016</p> <p>93 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2016</p> <p>15.5 points - Farr Vintner - March 2016</p> <p>88-91 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2016</p> <p>91 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - May 2016</p> <p>92 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2018</p> <p>89-92 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2016</p> <p>91+ points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2018</p> <p>16+ points - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2016</p> <p>91-93 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - May 2016</p> <p>17 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - June 2016</p> <p>17 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - April 2016</p> <p>16.5 points - Gault & Millau (score only) - June 2016</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Light olive and lilac hints lead off, backed by a solid core of red currant and damson plum fruit. Ample tobacco and singed cedar notes show through the finish. Features a touch of austerity but also a bit more stuffing than most of the class in the AOC this vintage. Best from 2020 through 2030. 15,000 cases made."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"This offers a good core of dark currant and bitter cherry notes, with hints of warm stone and tobacco filling in on the finish. Shows solid grip. Score range: 88-91"</i> - JS, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Medium to deep garnet-purple in color, the 2015 Phélan Ségur has a nose of red and black currants with earthy notes of fungi, dried herbs, damp soil and tapenade. The palate is medium-bodied with a good fruit core, firm and chewy tannins and nice freshness."</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate</p>

Reviews

"The 2015 Phelan Segur, a blend of 53% Cabernet Sauvignon and 47% Merlot aged in 50% new oak, is certainly one of the better offerings from the Saint Estèphe appellation. For sure, the bouquet is restrained, kept on a leash, but it trots along with crisp blackberry and raspberry fruit, interwoven with an attractive pencil lead note. The palate is medium-bodied with ripe tannin. It is structured and quite bold, considering the storm that swept across the appellation during harvest, clearly a lot of sorting here that engenders a clean and pure wine with appreciable mineralité and tension on the foursquare finish. If released at a sensible price, then this would be a recommended Saint Estèphe to consumer over 10-12 years."

- NM, Wine Advocate

"The 2015 Phélan Ségur has a powerful and expressive bouquet, quite pure if not as complex as some of its peers. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, fresh and tensile with a fine bead of acidity, dovetailing into a conservative blackberry, cedar and tobacco finish that just needs to develop more persistence. Good potential, although it needs to develop more complexity to rank among the top tier this vintage."

- NM, Wine Journal

"This has an air of authority with pristine red fruits, cassis and leafy aromas that lead to a palate with a powerful core of fine, long and fresh tannins. Plenty of ageing potential here. Try from 2025."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"A full-bodied red with very dense and chewy tannins. Very persistent and intense. Very fine textured. One of the best Phelans ever?"

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This spicy wine shows how far the estate has moved from its over-use of new wood. In this bottling, the wood is subtle and doesn't mask the rich fruit and the juicy acidity. It still has the structure of a Saint-Estèphe while keeping everything in good balance. Drink from 2024."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"92-94. Barrel Sample. While there are strong wood flavors here, the wine is also packed with black fruits and ripe tannins. It has the potential to be a generous, full-bodied wine that also shows the fresh character of the vintage."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Very fresh and racy. Lots of St-Estèphe stoniness and great grip. Doesn't really have a weak point! Though maybe it's a bit too stony and doesn't have quite enough fruit for a long life."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Bright fruit and fine tight finish. Classic stuff though with an undertow of sweet oak. No one could object."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Has the smooth, slightly gamey fruit you'd expect from Phélan-Ségur. Very good vineyard expression and fine, elegant length. (SS)"

- SS, Decanter.com

"Another impressive St. Estèphe, especially given the late season rains in the appellation in 2015. Rich, dense and structured, with plush blackcurrant and bramble fruit, textured tannins and plenty of extract. Very true to its terroir. Drink: 2022-32"

- Tim Atkin MW

"Medium-bodied, forward in style, with more, freshness and red berries than black, the wine keeps you interested with its smoke, tobacco, cedar and cassis filled, elegant character. This should charm you early in its life. This is much better in bottle, then it was in barrel. The wine was made from a blend of 53% Cabernet Sauvignon and 47% Merlot."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

Reviews *"Medium-bodied, softly textured, showing fresh, elegant cassis and spicy, crisp, black raspberries in an approachable, user friendly style"*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Deep at core; purple at edge; attractive aromatics; solid feel here; fruitcake spices; seam of black cherry fruit beneath; creamy fruit but also minerality; wet rocks; good freshness on the palate. Intelligent wine. [53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 47% Merlot, 49hl/ha, 13.5%]. Drink 2023-2030. Tasted UGCB at Lafon-Rochet 5/4/16. 88-90"
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

"The vines of this 70-hectare top "cru bourgeois" are situated between Montrose and Calon Ségur. The vineyard is planted with 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc. Owned by the Gardinier family who also own the famous Taillevent restaurant in Paris. Recent vintages have been well up to classed growth standards. Deep ruby colour with a smoky, spicy nose of Christmas cake and black cherry. The palate is spicy with nutmeg and clove and is framed by firm Medocain tannins. This will need a little time to settle while the tannin integrates into the fruit but offers classic structure and a good level of ripeness."
- Farr Vintners

"The nose is fresh the start of the palate firm bramble freshness. Sweet and ripe on the mid palate more depth of flavour rich at the back but the finish is quite light, bright and fresh."
- Derek Smedley MW

"A generous, full bodied Phelan Segur that is quite fresh and elegant. There is vibrancy and lifted flavors here with the fruit that is more towards the dark berries and black plums. The tannins are firm but supple with a nice finish. Two sample of this wine was tasted and the second was much better than the first."
- JCL, asianpalate.com

"The 2015 Phélan Ségur has turned out beautifully. Muscular tannins wrap around a core of red cherry, plum, graphite, crushed flowers and mint. There is plenty of substance in the glass. In fact, this is one of the most polished recent young Phélans I can remember tasting. Floral notes add an appealing upper register, while silky, ripe tannins give the 2015 a good bit of early appeal. Perhaps most importantly, the 2015 is not penalized by the rustic tannins that have been an issue here in the past. 2022 – 2040"
- AG, Vinous

"The 2015 Phélan Ségur is one of the most impressive wines I have tasted here in a number of years. It is also a wine that developed considerably over the two weeks I followed it. Early tastings suggested a deep, powerful Saint-Estèphe, but over the course of a week, the aromatics and finesse seemed to become more apparent. Beautifully ripe, silky tannins wrap around a core of expressive dark red cherry, plum and exotic spices. The decision to pick on the late side certainly was right on the money. This is a pretty and promising wine from the team at Phélan Ségur."
- AG, Vinous

"I was able to taste the 2015 Phelan Segur on multiple occasion and it showed beautifully both times. Black currants, scorched earth, espresso and hints of chocolate all emerge from this medium to full-bodied, concentrated, firm, structured, dense Saint-Estèphe. It needs 3-4 years of bottle age but will see its 20th birthday in fine form. 2021 – 2036"
- Jeb Dunnuck

"Cool, calm and fairly long, the only thing that this wine lacks is complexity. It seems to want to show layers of fruit, but I cannot detect them yet. Bearing in mind the blend there ought to be more light and shade here and I trust it will come with time, but for now I think it is a little too simple and correct."
- MJ, matthewjukes.com
