

Château Sérilhan 2016

CSPC# 813882

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

54% Cabernet Sauvignon, 46% Merlot

Appellation

St Estèphe

Classification

Cru Bourgeois

Website

<http://www.chateau-serilhan.fr/#>

General Info

Following 20 years in the high-tech industry segment, essentially for US vendors, Didier Marcelis took over the family property (9,5ha by then) in early 2003. Château Sérilhan had been created in 1982 by Didier's grandfather, then managed by his parents. As soon as he arrived, and with the full support of his brother Thierry, Didier invested rapidly in order to improve the quality of the domain. Since late 2007, Bernard Franc ex director Chateau Pontet Canet and Lafon Rochet, is the technical director to Sérilhan and in the same time Hubert de Bouïard rejoins them as the consulting oenologist.

Winemakers

Hubert de Bouïard consulting

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

Area - 24ha; Density of the plantation - 8,500 vines / ha; yield - 46 hl / ha; 57% Cabernet Sauvignon; 35% Merlot; 8% cabernet franc; Age of the vine 35 years

Harvest

Hand picked

Vinification/

Cold pre-closing maceration and micro-oxygenation during the

Maturation

fermentation. Malolactic fermentation in barrels. 14 months in barrels with 37% new wood.

Tasting Notes

The 2016 Serilhan is a special drinking pleasure. It has a wonderful and excellent bouquet of blackberry, cigar box and smoky aromas that unfold gently in the glass. The palate is medium bodied with juicy black and red fruits, very fine tannins, a touch of new oak and with more than enough fruit. The finish is long and sensual. Extremely tempting, this is a seduction from Saint Estèphe!

Serve with

An excellent accompaniment to red meats, particularly quality cuts of beef or full-flavoured lamb, this fine red would also pair well with a selection of soft and mature cheeses.

Production

85000 bottles annually

Cellaring

Drink 2021-2040

Scores/Awards

91-93 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #230 - April 2017

92-93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2017

15.5 points - Richard Hemmings, JancisRobinson.com - September 2018

16.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - March 2017

92 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2017

90 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2017

92 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - January 2019

85-87 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2017

89-90 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - May 2016



Reviews

"The 2016 Sérilhan is a treat. It has a gorgeous, beautifully defined bouquet with blackberry, cigar box and smoky aromas that gently unfold in the glass. The palate is medium bodied with succulent black and red fruit, very fine tannin, a veneer of quality new oak but with more than sufficient fruit underneath and a long sensual finish. Utterly seductive, this is a temptress from Saint Estèphe!"

- NM, Wine Advocate

"Layered and very intense with dark-fruit and spice character. Hints of chocolate. Full-bodied, juicy and fruity. Long finish. Best ever from here?"

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"66% Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc, 33% Merlot. Medicinal character, juicy black fruit, a touch of spice. Tame, straightforward and well structured. Strait laced. (RH)

- RH, JancisRobinson.com

"Hubert de Boüard consulting. 54% Cabernet Sauvignon, 46% Merlot. Blackish crimson. Minerally St-Estèphe nose. Great energy and life. Sinewy. "

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Plump, plush, and extremely seductive aromatics, this has the St-Estèphe vigour of the year. There are some soft cocoa-dusted bitter chocolate shavings and a silky, balanced character. It should be good value, and a great example of the appellation in this vintage. Lovely"

- JA, Decanter.com

"A burnished, ruby color, this wine has easy to find smoke, tobacco and dark, mouthwatering fruit. There is good concentration and a freshness ignited by a swift kick of zing at the end."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"The 2016 Sérilhan has a wonderful, quite high-toned and generous bouquet with ample blackberry and raspberry scents laced with violet and hints of iodine. The palate is medium bodied with gentle grip in the mouth, quite symmetrical and focused with impressive precision on the finish. This feels dialed back in terms of power to the benefit of this elegant Saint-Estèphe. Tasted at the Cru Bourgeois tasting in London."

- NM, Vinous

"The 2016 Sérilhan did not show very good balance on the two occasions I saw it. Awkwardly sweet and oaky, offers only limited depth and complexity. Tasted two times."

- AG, Vinous
