

## Château LaGrange 2005

CSPC# 742346

750mlx12

13.4% alc./vol.

CSPC# 891911

750mlx12

13.4% alc./vol.

### Grape Variety

46% Cabernet Sauvignon, 45% Merlot, 9% Petite Verdot

### Appellation

Saint-Julien

### Classification

Third Growth. Troisieme Grand Cru Classe in 1855.

### Website

<http://chateau-lagrange.com/en/>

### General Info

The vast vineyard of Lagrange spreads over 117 uninterrupted hectares in the Saint-Julien-appellation. In 1855, its passionate and visionary owner, the Count Duchâtel, ex-Home Secretary to King Louis-Philippe, who had introduced a drainage system in the vineyard, contributed to its classification as a third growth. The beginning of the 20th century was much less glorious as the economic conditions deteriorated. Despite several changes in ownership, the decline in business meant the estate had to be broken up: from 280 hectares in 1840, the domain had been reduced to 57 hectares by December 1983, when the Japanese group Suntory bought it from the Cendoya family, owners since 1925. By dint of more than twenty years of major efforts and investments, Château Lagrange is universally acknowledged as being back in excellent form after this restructuring which is considered as the most spectacular of the Medoc. In May 2007, Bruno Eycard succeeded Marcel Ducasse (1984-2007) as Director of Château Lagrange. In 2008 was realised a new refurbishing of the vinification room. In 2009, Château Lagrange innovated with the optical sort-out of the berries in order to face the great volume of berries to sort out in this big estate. The great care taken to the vineyard (yield control, harvest by hand) and the vinification plot by plot give birth each year to a rich and elegant wine, with a long ageing potential.

### Vintage

The harvest period was dry, sunny with normal temperatures. Fresh mornings allowing to preserve acidity. The harvest in red started on September 21st and ended on October 10th with up to 100 pickers.

### Vineyards

Located entirely within the appellation of Saint-Julien, our vineyard stretches in a single block over two North-South rises of Gunzian gravelly soil. In parts, large and coarse and in others finer, this gravel is combined with sand or iron-rich clay depending on the plots. With an altitude of 24 metres, the centre of the domain marks the highest point of Saint-Julien. The estate covers 157 hectares (390 acres), of which 115 hectares (284 acres) are under vine. Most of the plots benefit from a drainage system. The red grape varieties planted are those that typically thrive on the Médoc terroir, with 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Merlot and 7% Petit Verdot. The Cabernet Sauvignon contributes structure and ageing potential, the Merlot roundness and body, and the Petit Verdot fruit and complexity.

### Maturation

21 months in French oak - 60% new barrels

### Tasting Notes

Sweet, toasty, oaky notes interwoven with hints of black olives, blackberries, cassis, and spice box are found in this densely saturated ruby/purple-hued 2005. While rich, with impressive concentration and purity, it is also tannic, full-bodied, and painfully backward and foreboding. This is another long-term prospect that will require patience.

### Serve with

Chateau Lagrange 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

24,165 cases made

### Cellaring

Drink 2011-2030

### Scores/Awards

**93 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2008

**92-94 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - June 30, 2006

**91? points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #176 - April 2008

**91-93? points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #170 - April 2007



**Scores/Awards** **92-94 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #164 - April 2006  
**94 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - January 2012  
**94 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - July 2009  
**94 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - November 2008  
**88-89 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - April 2006  
**94 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 1, 2008  
**94-96 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 26, 2006  
**91 points** - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2008  
**17 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - January 2013  
**17 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - February 2009  
**16.5 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2006  
**18.5 points/5 stars** - Decanter Magazine - July 2008  
**91 points** - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only)  
**88-89 points** - Jane Anson, The New Bordeaux (score only)  
**94 points** - Jean Marc Quarin - March 2012 (score only)  
**92 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - December 17, 2012  
**15.5+ points** - Farr Vintner - April 2006  
**16 points** - Simon Staples, Berry & Rudd Wine & Spirit Merchants  
**89 points** - Connoisseurs' Guide to California Wine (no review)  
**16.5 points** - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)  
**17.5 points** - La Revue du Vin France (score only)

**Reviews** *"Currant, mineral, plum and light toasty oak follow through to a full body, with ultra silky tannins and a long, caressing finish. This is thoroughly beautiful. Super balanced and very pretty. 24,165 cases made."*  
 - JS, Wine Spectator

*"Aromas of currants, berries, licorice, and spice. Full-bodied and very velvety, with wonderful, high-quality tannins. Long finish. Balanced and classy. Score range: 92-94"*  
 - JM, Wine Spectator

*"Sweet, toasty, oaky notes interwoven with hints of black olives, blackberries, cassis, and spice box are found in this densely saturated ruby/purple-hued 2005. While rich, with impressive concentration and purity, it is also tannic, full-bodied, and painfully backward and foreboding. This is another long-term prospect that will require patience. Anticipated maturity: 2013-2027."*  
 - RP, Wine Advocate

*"Different samples of Lagrange appeared to be at various stages of development, but none of them revealed the flamboyance and richness I tasted last year. The tannins are extremely high, but the wine is big, full-bodied, and slightly rustic with less oak than last year. There are plenty of olive, blackberry, cassis, and cedar characteristics as well as a hint of barbecue smoke, good freshness and precision, and a long, pure finish, but, wow, what an excruciatingly high level of tannin. Anticipated maturity: 2015-2030?"*  
 - RP, Wine Advocate

*"Once again, the provocative words "the best ever made" appear in my tasting notes. In twenty-eight years, I have never tasted a Lagrange as amazing as this 2005. Its dense ruby/purple color is accompanied by pure notes of creme de cassis, cedar, spice box, and a hint of cherries. Full-bodied, powerful, and opulent, with high tannin as well as extract in addition to great freshness, definition, and length, this long-lived beauty should be at its finest between 2012-2030."*  
 - RP, Wine Advocate

*"Tasted at BBR's 2005/2009 tasting in London. The nose has great intensity with dark berries, dark chocolate, pastille and just a faint toffee-ish scent with good definition. It is certainly one of the more generous Saint Julien 05's at this stage. The palate is medium-bodied with a ripe, succulent entry: blackberry, black olive, crushed stone with a fine, precise finish and great persistency. There are cheeky hints of espresso and latte on the aftertaste. Tasted July 2011."*  
 - NM, Wine Journal

*"Tasted single blind at Southwold. A very fresh, well-defined nose with blackberry, damson, graphite, and cedar – natural and elegant. The palate displays superb concentration even compared to the strong line-up of Saint*

*Julien 2005s. Cedar and blackberry on the entry, a little earthiness that I have not noticed previously but still that superb balance and focus with a harmonious finish. Succinct. Wonderful. Drink 2012-2030. Tasted Jan 2009.”*  
- NM, Wine Journal

**Reviews** *"A blend of 46% Cabernet Sauvignon, 45% Merlot and 9% Petit Verdot, this has a blessed with a compelling nose of bright black berried fruits, wild hedgerow, damson jam and boysenberry. Wonderful definition and exuberance. The palate is full-bodied, beautifully defined, and very natural with a stunning, feminine finish. Just the precision and focus are amazing – wonderful length. Outstanding and very seductive. Grand Vin. Tasted September 2008."*

- NM, Wine Journal

*"This is a disappointment. The nose lacks vigor and definition, a rather dull mélange of black toasty fruits. The palate is better with blackcurrant, cedar, and redcurrants, with a firm, masculine grip on the finish. It just lacks a natural feel. Who knows, it may sort itself out after bottling. Tasted April 2006."*

- NM, Wine Journal

*"The tannins dominate this dark, brooding wine. At this stage, it seems to have closed up, leaving the fruit and acidity buried. But with this concentration, the future looks promising. There is a long aging potential here."*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"94-96 Barrel sample. Big tannins here, but balanced and equaled by very ripe, immensely black fruit. Acidity plays a good counterpoint to the sweetness of the fruit."*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"Medium red-ruby. Reticent but sweet nose offers plum, black cherry, minerals, and bitter chocolate. Thick and powerful but with excellent vinosity and sweetness as well as a slightly exotic character to the red fruit and spice flavors. Deep, slow-mounting wine that builds impressively on the back end. The tannins here make those of the 2006 seem a bit rigid by comparison. I was struck by the thought that Lagrange has done consistently well in the last three vintages, and that each effort is an accurate reflection of its year."*

- ST, International Wine Cellar

*"A great vintage just becoming ready to drink. Lovely, luscious crimson. Fine, scented, and energetic. Silky at first, then chewy, but well built with lots of ripe fruit. Classy stuff from a very reliable property revived by - Suntory of Japan! Drink 2013-2030."*

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*"Healthy and dark. Well balanced but light nose. Very broad intense fruit on the front palate. Lively - even a hint of alcohol on the finish"*

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*"Brilliant pinkish crimson. Rather simple fruit and no great structure. Nothing at all wrong with this but in the context of the vintage it's a bit dull and lacking energy. Drink 2013-22"*

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*"Lean, deep, rich. A very good wine, very young and tight, with so much to come. Good richness, power, and spice. Drink from 2015. Awarded 5 stars."*

- SS, Decanter.com

*"Concentrated, structured, tannic, firm and built to age, this powerful St. Julien is still young. Time and effort were needed before the earthy, coffee, blackberry, fresh herb, and tobacco personality began to emerge. This demands at least 5-8 years in the cellar for everything to come together."*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"An excellent Chateau that has quietly been producing top quality Saint Julien since the late 1980's including superb wines in 2000 and 2003. This quality level is partly achieved by the production of a very good second wine Les Fiefs de Lagrange - and a third label generic St Julien. 46% Cabernet Sauvignon, 45% Merlot, 9% Petit Verdot. A black colour with a ripe, roasted, exotic nose. On the palate, there is wonderful sweetness and opulence, but the ripeness is balanced by good structure and a minty finish."*

- Farr Vintners

**Reviews** *"The winemaker at Lagrange is the brother of the winemaker at Léoville-Las Cases, so family Christmases must be quite a treat. Unusually for the Médoc, this ever-impressive wine has been made with more Merlot than usual (45%), rather than more Cabernet (46%). The yields are down to a lowly 40hl/ha, which bestows the wine with*

*great concentration. The keynote here though is the incredible ripeness. The attractive nose is elegant and pretty, while the wine itself is pure and generous with polished blackberry fruit and real sex appeal. Another great wine from this Berrys' favourite."*

*- SS, Berry & Rudd Wine & Spirit Merchants*

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