

## Château LaGrange 2012

CSPC# 742346

750mlx12

13.4% alc./vol.

**Grape Variety**

67% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 3% Petit 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 restructuration which is considered as the most spectacular of the Medoc. In May 2007, Bruno Eycard succeeded to 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 total rainfall was not excessive, and the temperature were quite average. We might say a normal year: 2012 is close to the great vintage of 2009 and better than the immense 2010. However, the monthly details of temperature and rainfall reveal a complicated year to handle technically.

**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**

Elaboration in thermo-regulated stainless-steel vats of 66 to 220 hl. Traditional Bordeaux vinification at 28°C, maceration of two or three weeks. Selection and blending of the cuvee to create the « Grand vin » and the second wine, les Fiefs de Lagrange. in French oak barrels: (60% new for the Grand vin, 20% for the second wine, 30% for the white wine). Duration: 21 months for the « Grand vin» and 12 months for the second wine.

**Tasting Notes**

Lagrange is always honest claret. It is never particularly weighty and 2012 is no exception. This refined, tight knit and cool, with notes of graphite, cassis, cherry drop and sweet earth. It's not very broad - it never is, so if you want something sumptuous or rich, don't buy this, but if you like classic, as in a euphemism for lightweight and charming, do.

**Production**

20,000 cases made

**Cellaring**

Drink 2017-2032



**Scores/Awards** **87 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2015  
**85-88 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2013  
**86 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #218 - April 2015  
**86-88 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #206 - April 2013  
**88-90 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2013  
**92 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2015  
**90-91 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2013  
**93-95 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 11, 2013  
**87-90 points** - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2013 (score only)  
**16.5 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2013  
**17 points** - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2013  
**85 points** - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only)  
**94 points** - Jane Anson, The New Bordeaux - April 2013  
**90 points** - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)  
**89 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 11, 2015  
**89-91 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 23, 2013  
**87-89 points** - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2013  
**Review Only** - Farr Vintner - April 2013  
**84 points** - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2013  
**91-93 points** - Gilbert & Gaillard - April 16, 2013  
**87-89 points** - Falstaff Magazine (score only)  
**17 points** - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)  
**17 points** - Gault & Millau (score only)  
**16.5 points** - La Revue du Vin France (score only)

**Reviews** *"A roasted apple wood note lines the core of steeped plum and raspberry coulis flavors. The fruit struggles to absorb a charcoal accent fully on the finish. Best from 2016 through 2020. 20,000 cases made"*  
 - JM, Wine Spectator

*"A bit shy at midpalate, with supple cherry and plum notes coated in a light dusting of vanilla. Score range: 85-88"*  
 - JM, Wine Spectator

*"Soft berry and blackcurrant fruit with background earth and subtle oak is present in this medium-bodied, slightly austere and angular style of wine. It will benefit from another 2-3 years of cellaring and should keep well for 12-15 years."*  
 - RP, Wine Advocate

*"A solid, masculine-styled effort, the 2012 Lagrange lacks charm, but it does offer a muscular, medium-bodied, slightly rustic style with plenty of wood (a signature of this property), and an adequate mid-palate, texture and finish. The tannins and structured style suggest 2-3 years of cellaring are needed. It should age for 12-15 years."*  
 - RP, Wine Advocate

*"Tasted twice with consistent notes, the Lagrange is a blend of 67% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and 3% Petit Verdot, picked between 8 and 21 October. The sample at the UGC was showing a little disjointed on the nose compared to usual and I was seeking a little more harmony and oak integration. A second bottle offered more precision and clarity, showing a little more minerality. The palate is medium bodied with gently gripping tannins and cedary new oak to be integrated during barrel maturation. It is very smooth and almost understated on the finish. This should represent a fine, earlier drinking Lagrange. Tasted April 2013."*  
 - NM, Wine Journal

*"Firm and balanced with blueberries, blackberries and hints of citrus and minerals. Medium body, fine tannins and a fresh finish. Best after 2017."*  
 - JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"Lovely plums and berries and cherry character. Full body, with integrated tannins and a fresh finish. Hint of hollowness in mid-palate but outstanding"*  
 - JS, JamesSuckling.com

- Reviews** *“93–95. Barrel sample. Already a beautiful wine, this is showing fine, sweet fruits along with a solid structure. The palate is juicy and fruity with new wood flavors showing through. The aftertaste is full of the fresh aspect of the vintage.”*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- “Open but sappy, energetic nose. Sweet start. Then very chewy. Very youthful. Just a little raw with the merest hint of leafiness. Start to drink from 2013 to 2030”*  
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- “Fine expression of Cabernet fruit, a little discreet in the Lagrange style, with elegance and depth for the future.”*  
- SS, Decanter.com
- “Tight nose, a little closed, like the toasting here, it's latte rather than espresso, but with a bite, a double shot latte. Some real precision on the fruit, juicy, croquant, black fruits, feel cassis coulis, a pure extraction of the juice. This sit lightly on the palate, but you feel the power underneath, and this for once has a feeling of youthful vigour that might gain in sense and sensibility as it grows. 94. 18.25. Highly recommended. Drink 2021-2035.”*  
- JA, The New Bordeaux
- “Slightly strict, with a classic lean, the crisp, crunchy fruits and tannins should come together and could develop into a softer, more nuanced wine with a few years of age.”*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “Using 67% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and 3% Petit Verdot, the wine reached 13.5 alcohol. The wine was produced from the lowest yields in the history of the estate at 38 hectoliters per hectare. Only 35% of the harvest was used in the grand vin. Spicy blackberries, cedar and cassis notes end with a tannic, crisp, medium-bodied, cassis filled finish. 89-91 Pts*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “Deep and saturated; dumb, little dusty; palate quite tight and astringent; chewy and lacks appeal; may fill out [I certainly hope so] but not much joy here at present. 86-87 Tasted Thursday April 11, 2013 [Earlier note - better] Mid depth; some meal, earth and mineral; little neutral overall though; palate mid-weight; earthy notes; ripeness and nice-ish chew at the back. 67% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 3% Petit Verdot. 87-89”*  
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com
- “This Chateau is the largest of all the classed growths with 117 hectares of vines (4 of which are planted with white varieties). Top quality Saint Julien has been produced here since the late 1980's when it was bought by the Suntory group of Japan. This quality level is partly achieved by the production of a very good second wine Les Fiefs de Lagrange which in most vintages makes up more than 50% of production. Under the assured direction of Bruno Eynard, quality remains high.”*  
- Farr Vintners
- “A fairly simple Lagrange with a thin mid palate and flavours that are hollow rather than complex or deep. Upfront plummy fruit with short finish to enjoy young. Tasted in: Bordeaux, France. Maturity: Young.”*  
- JCL, asianpalate.com
- “Subtle nose of black fruits and morello cherries. Refined tannins. Quite lightweight. Fairly easy-drinking finish of fresh forest fruits.”*  
- en.gilbertgaillard.com
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