

Château LaGrange 2015

CSPC# 814273

750mlx12

13.3% alc./vol.

SOLD OUT

CSPC# 860790

750mlx12

13.3% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot, 8% 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.

Winemaker

Matthieu Bordes

Vintage

The dry and mild weather conditions of spring quickly promoted budburst without talking of early vintage. Blooming and ripening take place in excellent conditions.

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.

Harvest

Late and long harvest from the 21st September to 6th October.

Vinification/ 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 in French oak barrels: (60% new for the Grand vin) for 21 months.

Tasting Notes

Dark purple red with violet hues and almost black core. Aromatic nose with elegant character, dark berries, discreet oak spices, and very fine toasting aromas. On the palate full-bodied yet elegant, ripe tannins with velvety texture, with a long and fruity finish carried by the bold Cabernet Sauvignon. A powerful and well-balanced wine.

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

23,333 cases made

Cellaring

Drink 2019-2028



Scores/Awards **91 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2018
Review Only - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - June 2016
93 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate Interim - February 2018
90-92 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #224 - April 2016
94 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - February 2017
95 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2017
92-94 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2015
16.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - January 2019
17- points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - October 2017
16.5++ points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2016
93 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2018
94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 2017
95-97 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2015
92 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2016
16 points - Farr Vintner - March 2016
89-91 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2015
91+ points - Neal Martin, Vinous - July 2019
93 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - April 2018
91 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2018
88-91 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2016
92+ points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - November 2017
16+ points - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2016

Reviews *"A sleek, pure style, with violet and anise notes running in lockstep from the get-go, offering a beam of raspberry, blackberry and cassis flavors. Features a light tug of graphite through the finish, but this is relatively accessible already. Best from 2019 through 2028. 23,333 cases made."*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"Nicely packed, with enticing red and black currant fruit that is enlivened with anise, sweet tobacco and incense notes. Lightly toasty, with just a little tug of cedar at the end. 23,333 cases made."
- JM, Wine Spectator

"Medium to deep garnet-purple in color, the 2015 Lagrange gives up fragrant notes of chocolate-covered cherries, cassis and blackberry pie with touches of violets, forest floor, truffles and cigar box. Medium-bodied with plenty of intense black fruit and firm, grainy tannins, it has a racy line and long, mineral-laced finish."
- LPB, Wine Advocate

"The 2015 Lagrange is a blend of 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 17% Merlot and 8% Petit Verdot, continuing the estate's philosophy including more Cabernet in the Grand Vin (for example, in 2005 it was just 46%.) Cropped at 50 hl/ha and matured in around 50% to 55% new oak from six different cooperages, it has a tightly knit bouquet with blackberry, cedar and light rose petal scents, elegant in style. The palate is medium bodied with slightly grainy tannin, moderate weight in the mouth, not as intense as either the 2009 or 2010, although it is harmonious and graceful. There is a pleasant spicy, white pepper note that lingers on the aftertaste of what should be one of the earlier drinking Saint Julien wines."
- NM, Wine Advocate

"Anyone who thinks that modern Bordeaux has become too soft or easy should taste this seriously tannic yet sleek and vibrant wine. So much drive and energy that the weak of heart should better stand back. Better from 2020 and has a couple of decades of ageing potential."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"One of the furthest west of the Saint-Julien estates, this property has been greatly improved with investment from Japanese owner Suntory. The wine from 2015 is dense and impressively concentrated, perfumed black-currant fruits working well with the crisp acidity and solid structure. Drink from 2025."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"92-94. Barrel Sample. This wine is structured with concentrated tannins. The dry character of these tannins offers a counterpoint to the acidity and black currant flavors, with fruit tones lingering on the finish."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

Reviews *"Tasted blind. Not the freshest nose but dense and concentrated with masses of ripe tannin and some pretty dry (not sweet) fruit. Slightly drying finish."*

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Blueish crimson. Light and neat. A bit tight and restrained but certainly not flashy! A bit drying on the end but ambitious for the long term. A slightly minor key for the vintage. Drying end."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Lightly meat and two veg on the nose. Juicy – juicer than usual with the tannins well covered up by ripe fruit. Bone dry but not austere. Very correct even if not amazingly winning."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Deep, rich, taut and tightly drawn, this is a big wine that demands attention and displays some real St-Julien balance. Excellent aromatics, although it's just a little short on the finish compared to the brilliant 2016 at this estate. Much to enjoy here. 55% new oak. (JA)"

- JA, Decanter.com

"This is a great vintage for Lagrange, as it allowed the fruit to develop to its true potential. There is a true depth of flavor, softness to the wall of tannins, and a fresh, vibrancy to the layers of ripe, crisp red berries that stands out in the glass. This will age for years."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Deep ruby in color, this full-bodied wine is packed with crisp, crunchy cassis and black fruits. The tannins are present but ripe and the fruit has freshness and persistence in a slightly stoic but creamy finish. Only 35% of the harvest was placed into the Grand Vin. This wine was produced from a blend of 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 17% Merlot and 8% Petit Verdot, reaching 13.3% alcohol."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"The recent investments in the vineyard and cellar at this large, Japanese-owned property are starting to pay dividends. Fresh, aromatic and stylishly oaked, this is at the lighter end of the St. Julien spectrum, but has enough Cabernet backbone to age well. Drink: 2020-30"

- TA, timatkin.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. The red varieties are planted 67% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Merlot and 5% Petit Verdot. Deep purple colour. Black fruits with a hint of fresh mint and coriander seed. The palate is rich and full with plenty of plush, velvety tannin to provide the structure surrounding a core of black cherry fruit. A good level of ripeness that balances the savoury tannin on the finish."

- Farr Vintners

"The nose has depth the palate has a concentrated mix of black fruits. Firm in the middle but sweeter at the back black cherry and cassis is backed by liquorice and dark chocolate."

- Derek Smedley MW

"The 2015 Lagrange could perhaps benefit from a little more freshness and brightness on the nose, though it has a mineral drive that surfaces with aeration. The palate is medium bodied with sappy red fruit, a fine bead of acidity, moderate depth but very strict and showing slight attenuation toward the finish. It does quite deliver on the improved showing in bottle compared to barrel, although, like Gruaud Larose, I suspect this is just entering an awkward phase. Tasted blind at the Southwold 2015 Bordeaux tasting."

- NM, Vinous

Reviews

"The 2015 Lagrange, a blend of 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 17% Merlot and 8% Petit Verdot, has an expressive bouquet with blackberry, raspberry, hints of balsamic and autumn leaves that unfolds with time. This is clean and precise, nothing flamboyant but engaging all the same. The palate is medium bodied with a very seductive and fleshy opening, the acidity very well judged, with a pure and harmonious finish that caresses the senses (partly thanks to the contribution of the Petit Verdot). There is a citrus-like freshness infusing this Lagrange that makes this irresistible. This surpasses my expectations from barrel, hence the higher score. Anticipated maturity: 2020 - 2040."

- NM, Vinous

"The 2015 Lagrange is terrific. A rush of red plum, blood orange, menthol and pomegranate flesh out in a bold, succulent Saint-Julien that has really come together nicely since I first tasted it. During the en primeur tastings, Lagrange and Fiefs were not all that different. Aging, and perhaps further selection, has addressed that nicely. This exotically ripe, racy Saint-Julien will drink well for the next 15-20 years or more. 2020 – 2035"

- AG, Vinous

"The 2015 Lagrange is quite powerful and deep, but the tannins are also imposing. It will be interesting to see if the Lagrange fleshes out with time. Today, it is a bit austere and compact. Stylistically, the Lagrange is quite different from the second wine, the Fiefs, but from a purely qualitative standpoint I don't see a meaningful difference today. In a second tasting, the Lagrange showed more fruit, but also a riper, more stewed profile. Tasted two times."

- AG, Vinous

"The 2015 Château Lagrange is a heavenly little Saint-Julien that seriously delivers the goods. Based on 75% Cabernet Sauvignon and the rest Merlot and Petit Verdot brought up in around 50% new oak, its deep ruby/purple color is followed by notes of cassis, toasty oak, black licorice and nori (the dried seaweed wrapper used for sushi). With medium to full-bodied richness, beautiful concentration, and ripe tannin, it's still tight and reserved on the palate and will benefit from 3-5 years of bottle age. 2021 – 2041"

- Jeb Dunnuck

"There is quite a lot of dryness here and the oak is blunt and firm, which is somewhat of a signature for Lagrange, and while I keep wishing it would go away, it doesn't, and this tips the wine out of balance and loses it any chance of appealing to my palate. I can sense great Cabernet here which makes my disappointment all the more acute."

- MJ, matthewjukes.com
