

## Château LaGrange 2016

CSPC# 860776

750mlx12

13.4% alc./vol.

**Grape Variety**  
**Appellation**  
**Classification**  
**Website**  
**General Info**

70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot, 6% Petit Verdot  
Saint-Julien

Third Growth. Troisième Grand Cru Classé in 1855.  
<http://chateau-lagrange.com/en/>

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**  
**Vintage**

Matthieu Bordes

The year 2016 started off with the water tables full, thanks to the heavy rainfall from January to March. Three difficult months for the vineyard workers but which saved the day for this vintage! The mild temperatures in March ensured an early budburst but the colder, rainy mornings in April slowed down the growth cycle. The rainy spring weather encouraged the budburst although we cannot say this was an early vintage. The flowering took place the driest week of the spring. From mid-June to mid-October, rainfall was well below the seasonal average. During the first two weeks of August, the colour change was short and even on each of the properties. The grapes developed in radiant, dry weather conditions. Light showers appeared in mid-September to re-boost the ripening process on the terroirs offering less water retention, thus perfecting the maturation of the tannins. The absolutely perfect weather conditions during harvest time allowed us to pick grapes boasting remarkable quality. And 2016 was one of the hottest and driest summers ever.

**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**  
**Vinification/**  
**Maturation**

Late and long harvest from the 3rd of October until the 24th of October (21 days).

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.



<b>Tasting Notes</b>	Dark and deep with purple tint. Black cherry, blackcurrant, liquorice, and black pepper on the nose. Full-bodied, freshness with menthol, round, powerful and long finish. Enjoyable already this exceptional 2016 is able to age long time due to its silky tannins. Great and well balance 2016 Lagrange: nice harmony with classicism and modernity.
<b>Serve with</b>	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.
<b>Production</b>	20,833 cases made.
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2021-2045
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>94 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2019</p> <p><b>92-95 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2017</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - November 2018</p> <p><b>94-96 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #230 - April 2017</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2019</p> <p><b>95-96 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2017</p> <p><b>91 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 2019</p> <p><b>93-95 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2017</p> <p><b>16.5 points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - October 2018</p> <p><b>16 points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - May 2017</p> <p><b>16.5 points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - May 2017</p> <p><b>16.5 points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2017</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - October 2018</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2017</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 2019</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2018</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2017</p> <p><b>90 points</b> - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2017</p> <p><b>16 points</b> - Farr Vintner - February 2017</p> <p><b>89-93 points</b> - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2017</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - January 2019</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - January 2019</p> <p><b>90-93 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2017</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2019</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>"A textbook St.-Julien, with a fleshy yet focused beam of plum, blueberry and cassis flavors striding through, while warmed anise, sweet tobacco and iron notes play backup through the finish. Mouthwatering grip will allow this to cellar nicely. Best from 2024 through 2038. 20,833 cases made."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"This has some serious grip along the edges, with graphite and iron notes working together to support the core of cassis, blackberry and açai fruit flavors. The long finish has the pure, fresh character of the vintage. "</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2016 Lagrange sashays out of the glass with notions of candied violets, cassis, underbrush and warm black plums with waves of Black Forest cake, cedar chest and yeast extract scents. Medium to full-bodied, the bags of perfumed black fruits are solidly structured with super ripe, grainy tannins, finishing long and layered."</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The 2016 Lagrange is a blend of 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot and 6% Petit Verdot that is matured in 50% new oak. The yield came in at 46.5 hectoliters per hectare, lower than in 2015. It has a very well-defined bouquet with intense black cherry, red plum, touches of cedar and with continued aeration, a hint of blueberry. It certainly is one of the most expressive Lagrange that I have tasted (and I write that having tasted them all back to the early 1980s). The palate is extremely well balanced with tensile tannin, vibrant and animated with blackberry, crème de cassis, a hint of orange zest. This is a great Lagrange, one that almost "zings" around the senses, barely able to contain the energy. A superior Lagrange to the 2015, this may well rank as the finest produced."</i></p> <p>- NM, Wine Advocate</p>

**Reviews**

*"The best wine from this château in many years! A huge, dramatic, blackcurrant and wild-blackberry nose and the first impression on the palate is every bit as intense. Nice acidity lifts this massive structure and keeps the imposing finish so fresh. Drink or hold."*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"Powerful red with a rich and tannic center palate. Full body, lots of depth and a long and chewy finish. Indeed, this shows potential. Much better than the 2015."*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"Surprisingly light for the vintage, this is an attractive, black-currant-flavored wine. It is open, with tannins integrate easily into the fruitiness. All this suggests the wine will age relatively quickly, so drink from 2024."*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"This wine is ripe and balanced. The acidity and blackberry fruit are as much upfront as the tannins, promising a wine that will be finely balanced with time. The wine will age well over the long term - until 2028. (RV)"*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"Bright concentrated crimson. Heady nose with everything in its place – arguably just a little tight and pinched at this stage – but all the components are there."*

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*"Clean, piercing, fresh nose. Much more flesh and fruit than on the first sample I tasted. Brisk and a little skinny but very pure."*

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*"Mid purplish crimson. Much fresher nose than the samples I previously tasted though not that intense. Notably smooth tannins and suave fruit with lots of sucky-stony texture on the end. Far from opulent but a pure, fresh, quite delicate representative of the appellation"*

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*"Dark purple. Quite high apparent volatile acidity. Big and broad but lacks a bit of precision and focus. A tad scrawny on the end. Was everything ripe enough? Dilute finish. The winemaker Matthieu Bordes has since contacted me to assure me that the VA level is low, only 0.31g/l and I will try to re-taste this."*

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*"The acidities are more vibrant up in St-Julien than in the lower stretches of the Médoc. An excellent Lagrange, this is every bit as good as it was en primeur, with a similar fruit quality doing a lovely vertical trick through the mid-palate where you can feel each individual element's weight but cushioned on a bed of air. Ruby in colour with some violet around the edges, this wine is well made and built to last. Chewy tannins and black fruits make this fairly Pauillac in style. At 50% of total production in 2016, this represents the highest proportion of grand vin for years following replanting's back in the 1980s. Drinking Window 2024 - 2040 (JA)"*

- JA, Decanter.com

*"Château Lagrange is at 50% grand vin in 2016, which is its highest since the Suntory group became owners in 1983. They say that until now the percentage of Fiefs de Lagrange has always been higher, but in 2016 many plots planted in 1985 reached maturity. Together with the exceptional quality of the vintage and the intra-plot selection, this means more top-quality wine destined for the grand vin. There is lovely concentration in this wine, with spicy pepper and cinnamon notes coming to the fore before the blackcurrant takes over on the mid-palate. 2016 was the longest harvest ever, according to technical director Matthieu Bordes, right through to 24th October. No doubt this is a fantastic Lagrange, to be savoured. Drinking Window 2025 - 2045."*

- JA, Decanter.com

**Reviews** *“Clearly the best and most exciting wine ever produced here, the wine offers a serious depth of flavor, loads of freshness and a soft, elegant, yet, full-bodied and concentrated mouthfilling tasting experience. This will age for decades with ease.”*  
- JL, [thewinecellarinsider.com](http://thewinecellarinsider.com)

*“Tobacco, cedar, red currants and smoky earth notes create the character. Full bodied, fresh, clean and classic, the wine serves up a concentrated, elegant mouth full of deep, dark, red fruits with freshness. Give this at least a decade before popping a cork.”*  
- JL, [thewinecellarinsider.com](http://thewinecellarinsider.com)

*“A Truman Capote In Cold Blood kind of red, Zoe Saldana rolling the tobacco leaf, a bowl of dark red fruits with a few perfect stems of crunchy black currants. There is a freshness to the fruit and ripeness to the tannins that make this vintage a celebrity. The wine has crunch and zest and the finish offers a nice bite of tang and temptation. The wine was made from blending 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot, 6% Petit Verdot.”*  
- JL, [thewinecellarinsider.com](http://thewinecellarinsider.com)

*“Petit Verdot is back in a big way at Lagrange in 2016, adding some backbone to wines that tend to be quite forward in style. This is very grassy and fresh, with well handle 60% new oak, bright acidity and a foundation of tannin. 2024-30”*  
- TA, [timatkin.com](http://timatkin.com)

*“Quite a deep colour and with surprising ripeness and intensity on the nose. Juicy with damson and cassis on the palate, there are layers of ripe, velvety tannins providing the structure around a rich, kirsch finish. Quite a heady example of Lagrange, with is ripe and long on the finish.”*  
- Farr Vintners

*“The fruit on the nose is sweet and ripe the start of the palate has rich fruit depth the tannins firm but ripe. Tighter and fresher in the middle there is a mix of bramble freshness and cassis richness the fruit at the back sweet the finish has good length. 2025-39”*  
- Derek Smedley MW

*“The 2016 Lagrange has a tightly knit, focused bouquet of intense blackberry, briar and cedar aromas. This is impressive, and it gains intensity with aeration. The medium-bodied palate delivers grainy tannin, a fine bead of acidity and a vivacious, spicy, almost peppery finish. One of the most powerful Lagrange that I have tasted. A Saint-Julien that is consistently underrated, this 2016 will give a great deal of pleasure over the next 30-plus years.”*  
- NM, *Vinous*

*“The 2016 Lagrange (Saint-Julien) is super-expressive today. Soft and supple, the 2016 is quite open, even in the early going. Sweet tobacco, menthol, dried herbs and licorice appear with time in the glass, adding lovely shades of nuance. All the elements fall into place effortlessly. Lagrange is not especially complex, but it is absolutely delicious and will be impossible to resist upon release. A touch of blood orange, mint and red berry fruit adds freshness on the finish. Drink 2019-2031.”*  
- AG, *Vinous*

*“The 2016 Lagrange (Saint-Julien) is soft, pliant and inviting. A gracious midweight Saint-Julien, the 2016 is impeccably balanced. It is also one of the more sensual, graceful wines readers will taste in this appellation. Soft contours, pliant fruit and silky tannins add to that impression. Sweet tobacco, herbs, crushed flowers and dried cherries are all laced into the expressive finish.”*  
- AG, *Vinous*

*“It shows the fresher, elegant style of the vintage and offers beautiful black cherry and cassis fruits intermixed with tobacco leaf, damp earth, and cedar. Medium to full-bodied, beautifully pure, seamless, and layered, it has a vibrant, tight texture, terrific tannin quality, and a great finish. It's a quintessential expression of this vintage. Give bottles 4-5 years and enjoy over the following two to three decades. Drink 2022-2047.”*  
- Jeb Dunnuck

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