

Château Lagrange 2019

CSPC# 860776

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety
Appellation
Classification
Website
General Info

80% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Merlot, 2% Petit Verdot.

Saint-Julien

Third Growth. Troisième Grand Cru Classé in 1855.

<https://chateau-lagrange.com/en/the-wine/>

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 Médoc. 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

2019, just like 2018, will be remembered for its really contrasting weather. We had a cold, wet spring, and then a dry, hot summer with record breaking sunshine! This was the longest harvest we had ever seen. The berry weight was the lowest of the last 36 years at Lagrange. We took a gamble stopping for a while between the Merlot and the Cabernet, judging the latter's phenolic maturity not in adequacy with its technological maturity. It was important not to rush, tasting the grapes daily as the skins became gradually thinner and aromas were progressively revealed: we harvested the richest grapes in the Domaine's modern history.

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. Average vine age is 37 years.

Harvest

The 2019 Lagrange was picked from 24 September and finished with the Petit Verdot on 14 October - the longest harvest at 27 days.

**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: (50% new for the Grand vin) for 21 months. 54% of the production went into the Grand vin.

Tasting Notes

The character of our unique terroir and our technical team's expertise have allowed this vintage to surpass itself. It boasts both phenolic richness and freshness in the fruit. This is a powerful, creamy, smooth wine. With a record 80% Cabernet Sauvignon, the Lagrange 2019 blend will go down in history. The expressive, aromatic nose opens with



Tasting Notes	black cherry, blackcurrant, and licorice. In the palate, the entry is silky and plump with powerful, velvety tannins. This distinguished and elegant 2019 will take its place among our iconic vintages. The ageing potential is simply remarkable!
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	16,000 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2024-2050
Scores/Awards	<p>93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2022</p> <p>95 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022</p> <p>93-95 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - July 2020</p> <p>94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2022</p> <p>93-94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2020</p> <p>93-95 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 2020</p> <p>16+ points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - December 2021</p> <p>17 points - James Lawther, JancisRobinson.com - June 2020</p> <p>95 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - June 2020</p> <p>96 points - Jane Anson, JaneAnson.com - March 2022</p> <p>95 points - Jane Anson, JaneAnson.com - January 2022</p> <p>95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2022</p> <p>92-94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - June 2020</p> <p>93-95 points - Farr Vintner - May 2020</p> <p>95 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2022</p> <p>94-96 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - June 2020</p> <p>94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2022</p> <p>92-94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - June 2020</p> <p>95 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - April 2022</p> <p>92-94+ points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2020</p> <p>92 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2020</p> <p>95 points - Thomas Parker MW - November 2021</p> <p>93 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - June 2020</p> <p>94-95 points - Vert de Vin (score only) - April 2020</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Juicy and flush, with steeped red and black currant and plum fruit flavors, this has a generous edge from start to finish. Features notes of tobacco, singed cedar, warm earth, and iron throughout, with a seductive hint of incense curling around the tail end of the finish. This has a generosity that makes it approachable, but there's no rush at all to drink this one. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Petit Verdot. Best from 2023 through 2036. 16,000 cases made."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The 2019 Lagrange has turned out beautifully in bottle, wafting from the glass with aromas of cherries, blackberries and cassis mingled with hints of loamy soil, pencil shavings and bay leaf. Medium to full-bodied, fleshy, and enveloping, with an ample core of lively fruit, powdery tannins, and succulent acids, it's suave and seamless, concluding with a long, expansive finish. The result of an extremely rigorous selection, and incorporating fully 80% Cabernet Sauvignon, this is the finest wine this chateau has produced in the modern era. Remarkably, it was released at the same price en primeur as the 2005!"</i></p> <p>- WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Displaying a deep garnet-purple color, the 2019 Lagrange charges out of the gate with bright, shiny, classic cassis, cedar chest and clove oil scents followed by hints of ripe black cherries, mulberries, spice cake and menthol. The medium-bodied palate is tightly wound with taut, crunchy black fruits, supported by rock-solid grainy tannins and lovely freshness, finishing long and invigorating. 2025 – 2048."</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Aromas of blackcurrants, sandalwood and rose petals. Medium-to full-bodied with linear tannins that are racy and refined, yet forceful. Fine tannins at the end. Best after 2024."</i></p> <p>- JS, JamesSuckling.com</p>

Reviews *"A red with dark fruit and plenty of dark chocolate, as well as spice undertones. Full body. Juicy finish. Extremely balanced and refined. Barrel Sample: 93-94."*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This rich, smoky wine with wood-aged flavors and solid tannins is aging well. Flavors of spice, black pepper and dense black fruits promise a ripe wine for the future. Drink from 2024."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"This full-bodied wine is open in style, with lashings of rich black fruits alongside dense tannins. This is a wine for some long-term aging. Barrel Sample: 93-95."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"80% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Merlot, 2% Petit Verdot. Dense crimson. Dried herbs on the nose. Then rich, ripe fruit with some veggie notes on the palate. Harsh, drying finish though. 13.5%. Drink 2028 – 2042."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"80% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Merlot, 2% Petit Verdot. Barrel sample. Look at all that Cabernet in the blend! Classic graphite and cassis aromas. Deep and quite profound with layered fruit, freshness and a big but polished tannic frame. Long, firm finish. Solid and with staying power. (JL) Drink 2027 – 2045."

- JL, JancisRobinson.com

"Dark plum in colour, medium intensity, this is sleek, well-defined and has an extremely pure expression of cassis fruit. Just enormously elegant, with tons of St Julien balance, and fine tannins that are sure to take it through the next few decades with ease. I love this wine, one of the most enjoyable of the vintage in St Julien, with a strikingly seductive texture. Tasted twice two weeks apart, sure to become a standout with some bottle age. When you look at the figures (which I only did after tasting) you start to understand why this is so good - highest level of Cabernet in the estate's recent history, longest harvest ever through to October 14, and only 1/3 of overall production in the 1st wine, lowest amount to date. Whatever they are doing, they are getting it right."

- JA, Decanter.com

"Great St Julien character and finesse, this is well balanced and restrained, with juicy damson and cassis fruits, great quality. Lovely expansion through the mid palate, with cigar box spice and slate, and it hugs on at the end of the palate, stretching out the experience. Absolutely delivers on its En Primeur promise. Highest level of Cabernet in the estate's recent history, longest harvest ever from September 24 through to October 14, and only 1/3 of overall production in the 1st wine."

- JA, JaneAnson.com

"Inky, glass-staining in colour, this is richly textured and intense, easily rivalling the best ever vintages at the property. Filled with creamy damson and cassis fruit, with a sense of precision and restraint to the frame, held in by fine but plentiful tannins. 30% 1st wine, highest ever Cabernet Sauvignon, 50% new oak for ageing. An exceptional wine, marking 125 years since the founding of Suntory in Japan. Eric Boissenot consultant."

- JA, JaneAnson.com

"Medium-bodied, elegant and fresh, this is fabulous from the get go. The nose, with its display of cigar box, black currants and cedar is just great and the wine is even better on the palate with its display of soft-textured, vibrant, sweet, red fruits which show off their purity and freshness with ease. This is another gem showing much better in the bottle than it did in the barrel. They have really been on a roll here at Lagrange since 2015 and 2019 could be their best vintage yet! Drink from 2028-2055."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"A big, juicy, energetic blast of spicy, invigorating cassis is the first thing that sticks with you. The fruit is sweet, round, full-bodied and fresh. The fruit here really lingers on your palate, and the tannins are ripe and present, which is a good thing because that sensation of purity in the finish is something you want to hang on to."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

Reviews

"The 2019 is a blend of 80% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Merlot and 2% Petit Verdot, the highest ever proportion of Cabernet Sauvignon. The yield was close to average at 40hl/ha, but the berry weights were the lowest seen in 36 years, indicating rich grapes in concentration, sugars, and tannins. The wine will be aged in 60% new French oak for 20 months. Only 30% of the harvest went into the Grand Vin this year, the lowest proportion to date. Deep purple in colour with a rich nose of cassis and forest fruit, supported by savoury, peppery cedar notes. The palate is intense and tightly coiled, unfurling with notes of fresh blackcurrant and dark cherries. The tannins are chalky and mouthcoating but ripe, providing both freshness and structure. There is a smoky sweetness from the oak, adding a level of seduction. Despite this, the focus is the intense and driven core of black fruits - there is superb weight of fruit here. This lingers on a long, ripe yet fine finish. An excellent 2019."

- Farr Vintners

"The 2019 Lagrange, which was picked over the longest period ever, has a compelling bouquet of beautifully defined black fruit laced with cedar and light graphite notes. The palate is smooth, fresh, and vibrant, with great depth, perfectly judged acidity and a brilliantly focused finish. Winemaker Mathieu Bordes has crafted the best Lagrange in recent years, a benchmark for the estate."

- NM, Vinous

"The 2019 Lagrange was picked from 24 September and finished with the Petit Verdot on 14 October - the longest harvest at 27 days. It has quite a dense, powerful bouquet with black fruit, sous-bois and cedar, taking its time to open but somehow remaining more "distant" than previous vintages of Lagrange. That's not necessarily a bad thing. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannins, layers of black fruit with just a light citric touch. Quite a streamlined Lagrange in the context of a warm growing season, this feels agile and nimble on the finish. Excellent. 2025 - 2055"

- NM, Vinous

"A deep, fleshy Saint-Julien, the 2019 Lagrange builds beautifully with time in the glass. Sweet red/purplish berry fruit, rose petal, sage, mint, lavender, and cinnamon are finely delineated, and yet this mid-weight Saint-Julien impresses with its super finessed personality. The 2019 is so inviting. It is an especially fine Lagrange. Tasted two times. Drink 2026 - 2041."

- AG, Vinous

"The 2019 Lagrange is a dark, sumptuous wine endowed with tremendous textural resonance and pure power. Cedar, sweet tobacco, dried leaves, leather, and licorice all add nuance to a core of ripe red cherry and red plum fruit. I especially admire Lagrange's depth in 2019"

- AG, Vinous

"While I don't think the 2019 Château Lagrange matches the 2018, it's not far off, with a more elegant yet still concentrated style. Beautiful crème de cassis, spicy oak, tobacco, chocolate, and new saddle leather notes all emerge on the nose, and it stays tight, compact, and focused on the palate, with plenty of firm tannins. It opens up beautifully with time in the glass but merits 4-6 years of bottle age, and it should evolve for 20-25 years or more."

- Jeb Dunnuck

"The grand vin 2019 Château Lagrange ratchets up the intensity, revealing a deep purple hue as well as beautiful notes of crème de cassis, new saddle leather, spice, and cedary herbs. Medium to full-bodied, beautifully balanced, and elegant, it's very much in the style of this plush, seamless vintage. Barrel Sample: 92-94+."

- Jeb Dunnuck

"The 2019 is a blend of 80% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Merlot and 2% Petit Verdot, the highest ever proportion of Cabernet Sauvignon. Only 30% of the harvest went into the Grand Vin this year, the lowest proportion to date. Deep purple in colour with a sweet, seductive nose of blackberry, cassis, and summer pudding. Fine, intense vanilla and cedar come through together with the fruit. Full bodied with a mouthcoating structure of ripe tannins, this is powerful and dense. The rich texture is matched by ripe cassis and damson at the core. Muscular and built to last, the fruit power drives to the finish with real energy. Powerful but well managed to make a superb wine in this vintage."

- Tom Parker MW
