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## Château Lagrange 2020

CSPC# 742346

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

CSPC# 888343

5000mlx1

13.5% alc./vol.

### Grape Variety

74% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot, 2% Petit Verdot

### Appellation

Saint-Julien

### Classification

Third Growth. Troisieme Grand Cru Classe in 1855.

### Website

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

### 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.

### Winemaker

Matthieu Bordes

### Vintage

2020, a unique year in so many ways, will forever remain in our memories. Our work routines were upset by the pandemic and our capacity to adapt to the situation, and stay on track, was essential both for the property and the staff. As in 2019, we had record annual rainfall. The mild winter provoked an early budburst and this advance continued right through to the harvest. The grapes were small, with skins rich in polyphenols. The Merlots are magnificent, boasting an opulence accentuated by the historically low yields. The decision was made to stop for 4 days before picking the Cabernets, to allow the tannins and aromas to develop to perfection: this variety brings power, freshness and length to the wines.

### 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 plot. 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

Grapes are handpicked into individual crates. Harvest from September 16th to October 2nd, 2020. A first selection is done by hand on whole bunches, and a second one grape by grape with an optical camera.

### Vinification/ Maturation

Plot by plot and intra plot vinification. 102 thermoregulated stainless steel vats for 103 vine plots. Variable capacity of the vats: 36 to 220 hl. Selection of batch conducted according to the varietal, age of vines, terroir and grapes maturity. Traditional vinification at 26-28 °C during 18 to 25 days. Moderate pumping over every day, or pigeage or délitage. Malolactic fermentation through co inoculation. Blending in January. Maturation for 21 months. 50 % of new oak barrels. Fining in barrel with fresh egg whites. Final blending before bottling

### Tasting Notes

The 2020 is a vintage of contrasts, a vine grower's vintage. We harvested the smallest crop in 30 years. The extraordinary freshness in this wine, produced in the hottest vintage in modern history, is real proof of the buffer effect of our terroir. The precision of the fruit transpires, with lovely notes of black cherry, blackcurrant, and



<b>Tasting Notes</b>	liquorice. The tense tannic structure is reminiscent of the great 2010, with a more creamy, smoother mid-palate. A truly classic vintage that will be enjoyable earlier yet maintain a remarkable ageing potential. A focused, finely tuned, expressive wine showing great purity.
<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>	11,200 cases made
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2024-2036
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>92 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2023</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2023</p> <p><b>94-96 points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - May 2021</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent (score only) - March 2023</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - January 2023</p> <p><b>93-94 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2021</p> <p><b>16 points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2021</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - May 2021</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2023</p> <p><b>93-95 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2021</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2021</p> <p><b>93-95 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2021</p> <p><b>91-94 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - June 2021</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2023</p> <p><b>94-96 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - May 2021</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Wilfred Wong, Wine.com - January 2023</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - March 2023</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2021</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Vert de Vin - May 2021</p> <p><b>92-94 points</b> - Michael Schuster, The World of Fine Wine - May 2021</p> <p><b>17 points</b> - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - September 2021</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>"Very sleek, with a racy iron edge driving through in lockstep with cassis and cherry coulis flavors. Reveals a subtle black tea accent on the finish, with the minerality eventually holding center stage. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Petit Verdot. Best from 2024 through 2036. 11,200 cases made."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The 2020 Lagrange is a fine follow-up to the excellent 2019. Offering up aromas of crème de cassis and plums mingled with hints of violets, licorice, pencil shavings and vanilla pod, it's medium to full-bodied, fleshy, and layered, with a deep core of ripe but vibrant fruit that's framed by powdery tannins that assert themselves with gentle grip on the finish.</i> <i>When Matthieu Bordes arrived at Château Lagrange in 2006, he had the good fortune to take over a vineyard that had been extensively replanted in the 1980s and was just arriving at maturity. Since Suntory acquired this estate, no expense has been spared, nor has any selection been considered too severe. As the fruits of that investment over the years met Bordes' talents, the results have been exceptional."</i> - WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Deep purple-black in color, the 2020 Lagrange leaps from the glass with vibrant notes of redcurrant jelly, ripe blackcurrants, and minted blackberries, followed by nuances of dark chocolate, star anise and mossy tree bark. The medium-bodied palate is both super intense and super elegant, featuring exquisitely ripe, fine-grained tannins and seamless freshness to frame the bright, crunchy black and red fruits, finishing long and mineral laced."</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Dark fruits with a spicy character and licorice, dark chocolate, and black olives. Some wet earth, too. Medium-bodied, polished, and textured with fine-grained tannins and a juicy fruit core underneath. Flavorful and attractive with a creamy finish."</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"Blackberry and currant with light graphite undertones. It's medium-bodied with fine, creamy tannins and a flavorful finish."</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p>

**Reviews** *"Cask sample taken 2 April. 74% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot, 2% Petit Verdot, aged for 21 months in barrels of which 60% were new. Bright, deep crimson. Nose a little smudgy with a hint of acidity and then sweetness. Tannins notably well masked. Very dry, even austere, uncompromising finish. Drink 2028 – 2043."*

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*"A perky, bright, and enjoyable Lagrange, showing some angularity and austerity to the tannins but at the same time it is bright with clarity of direction, firm, and concentrated fruits and juicy on the finish. A little subdued, but this is a quality Lagrange with extremely carefully placed fine tannins and fruit - it shows the essence of St-Julien balance, and one that will not need the full 10 years to come around."*

- JA, Decanter.com

*"The perfume kicks off with mint, cigar box, black and red currants, black cherries, and tobacco leaves. And with all that, the wine is just getting started because it is even better on the palate with its multiple-layers of supple, fresh, vibrant, sweet, ripe fruits, elegant silky tannins, length, and purity. Starting with the 2016 vintage, Lagrange has been on a hot streak and 2020 could be their best vintage yet. If you haven't tasted what they are doing, you need to grab a bottle and pull a cork! Drink from 2027-2055."*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"Dark garnet in color, the nose, with its tobacco leaf, cedar, cigar box, forest leaf, flowers and cassis are enthralling. Full-bodied, concentrated, big, juicy, and fruity, there is a lot of life here. The fruits are ripe, creamy, spicy, long and vibrant and they not only work on the mid-palate, they carry through to the extended finish. Starting with the 2018 vintage, Lagrange has been on a hot streak."*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"The 2020 Lagrange has a sensual, beautifully defined bouquet of mineral-infused black fruit, briar, touches of wild mint and crushed stone, conveying wonderful energy and precision. The palate is medium-bodied with fine-grained tannins, tensile and focused, delivering plenty of energy and an almost steely but persistent finish. This is a classy Lagrange from winemaker Matthieu Bordes and his team. I always feel this Saint-Julien is underrated, but it will challenge the best 2020s from the appellation."*

- NM, Vinous

*"The 2020 Lagrange (Saint-Julien) is bright, punchy, and wonderfully energetic. Red-toned fruit, sweet spice, cedar, and pipe tobacco are all beautifully delineated in this mid-weight, vibrant Saint-Julien."*

- AG, Vinous

*"Coming from depressingly low yields of just 26 hectoliters per hectare (the lowest since 1991), the 2020 Château Lagrange checks in as 74% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot, and 2% Petit Verdot that was raised in 60% new French oak. It's a gorgeous, complete Saint-Julien offering remarkable purity in its cassis, violets, chocolate, and leafy tobacco-like aromas and flavors. Medium to full-bodied on the palate, with terrific balance, a pure, focused mouthfeel, ripe tannins, and beautifully integrated oak, it's going to benefit from 4-6 years of bottle age and cruise over the following 2+ decades in cold cellar."*

- Jeb Dunnuck

*"A wine that excels in the appellation, the 2020 Château Lagrange has a slightly modern vibe, with plenty of oak, yet still brings classic Bordeaux tobacco, lead pencil, and earthy minerality as well as pure cassis fruits. Medium to full-bodied, balanced, and just about seamless, it's going to require 5-6 years of bottle age but should cruise for 20-25 years in cold cellars."*

- Jeb Dunnuck

*"Dark ruby, opaque core, purple reflections, delicate rim. Ripe black cherry, nuances of blackberry and plum, fine noble wood spices; an inviting bouquet. Juicy, fine cherry fruit, balanced, ripe tannins, elegant and persistent, mineral finish, shows lovely freshness. Multi-faceted with good ageing potential."*

- PM, Falstaff Magazine

**Reviews** *"The 2020 Chateau Lagrange shows excellent elegance from start to finish. TASTING NOTES: This wine shines with aromas and flavors of red and blackcurrants, chalky notes, and shading of oak. Try it with a lightly-spiced rotisserie chicken."*

- WW, Wine.com

*"On the nose it is elegant and offers excellent concentration, depth, freshness as well as power (in control) and a supple aspect. It reveals the notes of bright/fresh wild cassis, pulpy blackberry and more slightly fresh raspberry/blackberry combined with touches of fresh violet, fresh gravel/racy minerality, fine points of grey pepper, sweet spices, and a subtle hint of toast. The palate is fruity and offers freshness, minerality, a nice definition, gourmandize, a fine tension, freshness, dynamism, a little richness (in control), a good structure. The wine express juicy/fresh strawberry, juicy/fresh cassis and more lightly violet notes associated with touches of fresh cherry, nutmeg, tonka bean/cocoa as well as subtle hints of sweet spices, a discreet touch of cinnamon and fresh hazelnut (in the background). Good length. The tannins are precise, well conducted and discreetly firm. A nice fresh, mineral, and tense/tight."*

- Vert de Vin

*"Mineral-backed, ripe black-fruit Cabernet Sauvignon; full, vital in acidity, very fine if firm in tannin; long and juicy, opulent, and vivid at once, all framed by a firm, close-grained tannin, lovely length to taste, and mouthcoating fragrant length. A finely honed combination of density, flesh, and firmness, classic in the best sense. Drink 2030 – 2050."*

- MS, The World of Fine Wine

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