

Le Blanc d'Aiguilhe 2021

CSPC# 102892

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

100% Sauvignon Blanc

Appellation

Côtes de Castillon

Classification

AOC Bordeaux Blanc

Website

<https://www.neipperg.com/medias/fichiers/ANGLAIS/aiguilhe%20blanc/FP%20LE%20BLANC%20DAIGUILHE%202021%20GB.pdf>

Sustainability

Sustainable viticulture and a biodynamic approach characterize vineyard management hereby Stephan Von Neipperg. This means no herbicides, pesticides, or insecticides are used.

General Info

Acquired by Stephan von Neipperg in late 1998, Château d'Aiguilhe is one of the finest and most beautiful vineyards in the Castillon-Côtes de Bordeaux appellation. Located back from the river, the château's dignified ruins bear witness to a long and turbulent history.

Formerly the heart of a fortified farm, the château dates from the 13th century. Everything leads us to believe that the Aiguilhe seigneurie was vast, with several large fiefs. Located on the frontier between areas occupied by the French and English during the Hundred Years' War, the château had a major strategic role and changed allegiance regularly according to the political tendencies of the seigneur... Later on, the château belonged to the Albret family, then the Leberthons, who contributed several members of the Bordeaux parliament. Before emigrating on the eve of the French Revolution, the Leberthons sold the estate to a certain Etienne Martineau, who transformed it into a huge 400-hectare farm in a single block that stayed in his family until 1920.

Today, the estate covers 140 hectares, including 90 planted with vines. The vines grow exclusively on the plateau, where they benefit from south-facing sun exposure and excellent natural drainage.

A thin layer of rather meagre clay-limestone and clay-silt topsoil overlays a limestone substratum that ensures remarkable water regulation. Combined with the average age of the vines, this terroir is ideal for producing quality wine.

Château d'Aiguilhe produces also a fruity and quaffable second wine, known as "Seigneurs d'Aiguilhe", and since 2015 a 100% Sauvignon Blanc called "Le Blanc d'Aiguilhe".

Winemakers

Stephan von Neipperg

Vintage

Throughout this vintage, three major episodes challenged the Bordeaux estates.

The unprecedented frost suffered on April 6th, 7th and 8th hit the vineyards at a time when the growing cycle was well underway and thus caused considerable damage in the most affected terroirs. However, Bordeaux was spared with a 30% lower-than-average loss compared to a 90% loss in harder hit regions such as the Northern Rhône Valley, Provence and some parts of Burgundy. Most of the major terroirs were spared. The shifting weather conditions then persisted with wet and overcast weather until July. Having impacted the flowering period in some areas, the risk of fungal diseases settling on the grapes increased and necessitated daily monitoring and tailored measures.

Finally, during the end of September, the pivotal, most decisive moment was when to harvest. Light showers seemed to occur on a daily-basis, which prompted some winegrowers to harvest prematurely. Those who chose to wait were rewarded with an exceptional month of October, which enabled the grapes to slowly achieve a very pleasant ripeness level.

Although the 2021 vintage showcases fine, yet uneven, red wines, the Pessac-Léognan white wines and other iconic references in the Bordeaux Blancs Secs appellation boast an utterly exceptional quality. This record-setting vintage exhibits energy, complexity, and length. Unfortunately, the quantities are very low.

Vineyards

With the 2014 vintage, Chateau d'Aiguilhe introduced a white Bordeaux wine, d'Aiguilhe Blanc. Made from 100% Sauvignon Blanc, which comes from a tiny, 0.35-hectare parcel of vines planted in the Cotes de Castillon appellation.



Harvest	The entire crop was picked on 2 days: 09/09 and 10/09/2021. Yield: 19 hl/ha. Harvesting is manual into small plastic crates. The fruit is sorted twice, both before and after destemming.
Vinification/ Maturation	Pneumatic pressing. Alcoholic fermentation in stainless steel vats. Aged in 80% in stainless steel vats and 20% in oak barrels (14% new) for 6 months.
Tasting Notes	This white from massale selections from Sancerre is already in bottle. We like the almost tannic profile of this long, bouncy white.
Serve with	Chateau d'Aiguilhe is also good when matched with Asian dishes, rich fish courses like tuna, mushrooms, and pasta.
Production	450 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2021-2029
Scores/Awards	<p>91 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022</p> <p>90 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent (score only) - May 2022</p> <p>93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - August 2022</p> <p>93 points - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - April 2022</p> <p>92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2022</p> <p>89 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2022</p> <p>91 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - May 2022</p> <p>92-94 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2022</p> <p>17 points - Matthew Jukes - August 2022</p> <p>91 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2022</p> <p>94-95 points - Vert de Vin - July 2022</p> <p>89-90 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - May 2022</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Juicy and forward, with white peach, grapefruit peel and chamomile notes bouncing along merrily. Tasty. Drink now through 2025. 450 cases made."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Just bottled a week before my visit, the 2021 d'Aiguilhe Blanc is a medium-bodied, tangy, and incisive wine evocative of citrus zest, crisp orchard fruit and freshly baked bread. Seamless and penetrating, it derives from a late-ripening site on the limestone slopes of the Côtes de Castillon that has always produced an unusually chiseled, mineral style of white Bordeaux."</i> - WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"A pretty texture to this wine with sliced lemon, green apple, and fresh celery. Grapefruit and nougat, too. Medium body. Sancerre-like. Sauvignon Blanc. Drink now."</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"Lovely florality to the nose with a gorgeous white stone and yellow fruit aromatic expression. Excellent weight on the palate, a lemon patisserie edge, crisp green apple, touches of grape and juicy orange, but also with sharp lemon too - you get the layers of flavour here. It's crisp and clear, such clarity and precision but also weight and you get the minerality too, the chalkiness that comes across as a fine texture on the palate. Open and friendly, screaming "drink me"! I love this. 5,000 bottle production. Not yet imported into the UK but it should be!"</i> - GH, Decanter.com</p> <p><i>"Lemon curd, honeysuckle, spice, green apple, and a touch of vanilla in the deep background create the perfume. On the palate, the wine is fresh, crisp, and packed with pippin apples, pomelo, chalky, yellow citrus with a crisp finish. The wine is produced from 100% Sauvignon Blanc. Drink from 2023-2032."</i> - JL, thewinecellarinsider.com</p> <p><i>"The 2021 Le Blanc d'Aiguilhe was picked September 9–10 at 19hL/ha and had already been bottled. It sees only used oak and is Sancerre-influenced. The lively, malic nose features apple blossoms and light granite scents. The palate is well-balanced with a citric entry and fine tension. Perhaps best for a summer day like the one I tasted it on. Pop and pour."</i> - NM, Vinous</p>

Reviews *“Just bottled, the 2021 d'Aiguilhe Blanc is rich, deep, and super-expressive. Orchard fruit, dried flowers, sage and mint give the 2021 its strong savory character, while the fruit is in the background. Plush, minimal new oak yields a somewhat stark, yet compelling, dry white.”*

- AG, Vinous

“The 2021 Blanc D'Aiguilhe is a terrific white and if you're looking for a terrific Bordeaux Blanc that won't break the bank, give this a whirl. Crushed stone, honeyed lime, and salted citrus are just some of the aromas and flavors, and it's medium-bodied, with racy, vibrant acidity, good mid-palate depth, and a great finish.”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“There is a hint of resin here, which is a slight alarm bell for me, but this is modelled on elite Loire wines instead of trying to taste like a Pessac-Léognan (after all, they have Clos Marsalette). So, while this wine is a little out of synch with many of the white Bordeaux from a national Sauvignon standpoint, it is a fascinating creation.”

- Matthew Jukes

“Very light greenish-yellow, silver reflections. Delicate herbal savouriness with fine nuances of mango, ripe gooseberries and elegant honey blossom. Medium body with elegant, fine green apple fruit notes with integrated vibrant lemon citrus acidity, versatile and already drinking well.”

- PM, Falstaff Magazine

“The nose is fruity, fresh and reveals a fine pulpiness. There are notes of fleshy/fresh vine peach, pulpy nectarine and, more slightly, apple, combined with fine touches of lemon, lemon blossom, verbena, and discreet hints of iodine and mother of pearl. The palate is nicely marked by the terroir, fruity, chiseled and offers an acidic backbone, crispness, a nice energy, minerality, elegance and finesse. On the palate, this wine expresses notes of pulpy/fresh apple, crunchy vine peach and, more slightly, lychee, combined with touches of lemon, a subtle hint of lemon caviar, passion fruit and an imperceptible touch of rose. A lot of sincerity and attention to detail in this wine. Chewy, almost aromatic tannins. A lovely gastronomic white.”

- Vert de Vin
