

Château Le Doyenné 2016

CSPC# 813905

750mlx12

14.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

70% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

Côtes de Bordeaux

Classification

Crus Bourgeois

Website

<http://chatealedoyenne.fr/Nosvins-eng.html>

General Info

The oldest town archives carry a record of the existence of Château Le Doyenné as early as 1791. In the past, it was known as “one of the best crus of the commune” (Feret Editions, 1858). After the war, the estate fell into disrepair and the quality of the wine was nothing to write home about - in fact the whole production was sold to the local co-operative.

In 1994, Marie-Dominique et Jean Watrin, captivated by the charm of this hillside estate overlooking the Garonne, bought it and launched a complete restructuring of the vineyard and renovation of the winery. Château Le Doyenné results from the mature parcels of vines. The wine is aged in oak barrels for 18 months. Dark ruby or purple color, aromas of black fruit and fine woody notes. Beautiful aptitude for ageing.

The red is a blend of 70% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Sauvignon and 10% Cabernet Franc and is fast becoming one of the stars of the appellation. There is also a minuscule production of around 60 cases of white wine, made from a blend of 40% Sémillon, 40% Muscadelle and 20% Sauvignon Blanc.

Winemakers

Michel Rolland is the consultant winemaker.

Vintage

A complicated start: heavy rains during winter and springtime (double the normal amount) have put a lot of pressure from diseases.

Luck was on our side: after 15 days of rain in June, the flowering stage, an essential step, took place in a very homogeneous and rapid way suggesting a generous harvest

A fantastic Summer: a long period from mid-June to mid-September without a drop of water generates a water constraint propitious for the concentration of the grapes and therefore to the density of the wine. The accumulated rainwater reserves and the cool nights (favorable for the preservation of aromas) allowed the berries to ripen without difficulty. The storms of mid-September, which we needed to finish the process of maturation of the plant, allowed an unexpected end of maturity.

Vineyards

The vineyard has a total area of 8 uninterrupted hectares, covering gravel plateau and clay and limestone hillsides. The 11 plots all benefit from meticulous monitoring. The vine are 30 years old on average, with a planting density of 5.500 vines per hectare. The 13 hectares of the estate, located on the right bank of the Garonne 15 km from Bordeaux, are in the heart of the “Premières Côtes de Bordeaux” appellation. The proximity of the river plays an essential part in the climatic balance necessary for vine growing. The south-south-west exposure ensures a maximum amount of sunshine. Cropping techniques have remained traditional. Ploughing, debudding, leaf thinning and green harvesting are all essential factors to ensure a harvest of top-quality grapes.

Harvest

The grapes are picked by hand, plot by plot and according to each variety to obtain perfectly healthy, ripe fruit. The bunches are sorted, gently destemmed and crushed before vatting.

Vinification/ Maturation

Fermentation by controlled temperature 26° C, maceration during one month at 30°C. The wines are aged in oak barrels for 12 to 16 months in an air-conditioned cellar. One third of the barrels are renewed each year. All the wine is bottled at the château with quality corks marked the vintage and the name of the château. The wine is stored in air-conditioned buildings.



Vinification/ Maturation	Cold maceration before fermentation, gentle vinification, 4 weeks in the vat and malolactic fermentation in barrels make it possible to preserve all the aromas. The final blending brings out all the finesse and the characteristics of each terroir, depending on the vintage.
Tasting Notes	A classic Bordeaux with dark ruby red colour. Liqueur-like aromas of cherry ripened black fruit and coffee, with hints of subtle spices. Earthy, juicy sweet and full bodied, with a layered texture and well-balanced concentration, acidity and density. Dusty ripe tannins and a distinctly round expression making for a long, smooth and lasting finish.
Serve with	Best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised and grilled dishes.
Production	3,000 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2019-2029
Scores/Awards	<p>88 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - May 2019</p> <p>90-92 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #230 - April 2017</p> <p>90 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2019</p> <p>89-90 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2017</p> <p>90 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - December 2018</p> <p>85-87 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2017</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Fresh and focused, with unadorned cassis and cherry fruit notes flecked with savory hints and gilded with a light mineral echo on the finish. Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc. Drink now through 2021. 3,000 cases made."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The 2016 La Doyenne, a Première Côtes de Bordeaux, has an understated but pure bouquet with red cherries, boysenberry jam and violet aromas that unfurl nicely in the glass. The palate is medium bodied with crisp acidity, fine structure, subtle but slightly tarry fruit and a gently but insistent grip on the finish. This is a fantastic wine that I look forward to re-tasting in bottle."</i> - NM, Wine Journal</p> <p><i>"This crowd-pleaser is a ripe and rather fleshy wine for the appellation with plenty of blueberry character and soft tannins. Drink now."</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"A tangy and fresh wine with berry and cherry character. Medium body and firm tannins."</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"Ripe, smoky and with attractive fruits sustained by dark tannins, this wine comes from parcels that slope towards the river. Its concentration, rich black fruits and hints of dark chocolate and licorice all show potential. Drink from 2021."</i> - RV, Wine Enthusiast</p> <p><i>"The 2016 Le Doyenne is plump, juicy and delicious, all of which make it an appealing wine to drink young. Inky blue fruit, flowers and lavender are nicely pushed forward in this attractive, gracious Merlot-based Côtes de Bordeaux. Michel Rolland consults."</i> - AG, Vinous</p>
