

Château Mont-Pérat Blanc 2015

CSPC# 768428

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

70% Sauvignon Blanc, 30% Semillon

Appellation

Cotes de Bordeaux

Website

<http://despaigne.fr/en/mont-perat/>

General Info

Château Mont-Pérat, archaically Domaine du Peyrat, is a Bordeaux winery from the appellation Premières Côtes de Bordeaux in the department Gironde. The estate is located on the Right Bank of the Garonne, opposite that of Graves, in the commune of Capian. The estate produces a red, and a dry white, *grand vin*. Mont-Pérat has for long remained relatively unknown, though the estate was mentioned in the second edition of *Féret* in 1864, it has more recently been described as a wine that could pass for being much more expensive.

The estate was acquired by the Despaigne family in 1998, also proprietors of the considerably more fashionable and higher priced Merlot based wine Girolate. Today, the family business is in the hands of the younger generation: Thibault, Gabriel and Basaline. Associated with Joël Elizalde, technical director and longtime partner, they manage over 300 hectares of vineyards on the best soils of Entre-Deux-Meres and Cotes de Bordeaux.: Girolate; Chateau Mont-Pérat; Chateau Tour de Mirambeau; Château Bel Air Perponcher; Chateau Rauzan Despaigne; and Lion Castle Beaulieu. With their collaborators, Despaigne are aimed to bring the properties to the highest level.

Vintage

While the 2014 vintage was saved by some late summer sunshine, in 2015 it was rain that vines desperately needed as a drought that had delivered half the normal rainfall ended in mid-August. A uniform flowering had led to a good fruit set and healthy bunches, but as temperatures soared in June and July the grapes stopped growing and skins thickened prematurely, leading to widespread anxiety. Significant rainfall then fell in August which helped to reinvigorate the vines and the sun returned until 12th September. That was the day that 'shuffled the pack' as Bill Blatch put it, as there was torrential rain in certain places that affected the potential of the harvest quality for those that received it. The rain fell heaviest in the Northern Medoc, the area that has more clay soils planted with Merlot than in the gravelly southern Medoc which Cabernet Sauvignon prefers. Margaux and Saint-Julien, Graves and most of the Right Bank escaped excessive rainfall.

The rain came at a tricky moment for the earlier ripening Merlot, with humidity threatening botrytis rot. Some chateaux had to pick early as a result, while those unaffected went on to enjoy sunny days and cool nights for most days until the harvest was completed in mid-October. Those cooler temperatures helped to retain acidity as the vines reached full maturity.

Vineyards

The vineyards extend 102 hectares (250 acres) with vines of Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Sauvignon Blanc, Sémillon and Muscadelle.

Soil: Clay over limestone and gravel; Average age of the vines: 19 years; Plantation density: 4900 /ha; Yield: 6 bunches per vine.

Harvest

Precise and environmentally friendly agricultural practices. Grassing, green harvest, de-budding, manual thinning of the leaves. Selective picking in the vines.

**Vinification/
Maturation**

Pressing of the grapes at low temperature with nitrogen addition to help preserve from oxidation. Decanting during several days in stainless-steel vats at low temperature. Half of the production is vinified in new oak barrels. Stirring of the lees twice a week.

Tasting Notes

Pale yellow color. Impressive clarity and purity, beautiful aromatic intensity.

This wine brings freshness and length in the mouth. Expresses itself with restraint, with a touch of oak notes.

Serve with

Vegetables, lean fish and appetizers.

Cellaring

Drink 2017-2025



Scores/Awards **91 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #232 - August 2017
89-91 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #224 - April 2016
16 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2016
90 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - May 2016
87-88 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2016
85 points / Commended - Decanter World Wine Awards 2017

Reviews *"The 2015 Mont Pérat blanc showed well out of barrel. Now in bottle, it fulfills that promise with quite a precise and focused bouquet of lemon zest, linden and light white flower scents. This is very controlled, but it seems to build in intensity. The palate is very well balanced with subtle tropical notes on the entry of guava and pineapple, the acidity well-judged and with a dash of spice on the finish. This is turning into a really quite gorgeous Bordeaux blanc that comes highly recommended. Tasted July 2017."*
- NM, Wine Advocate

"The 2015 Mont-Pérat Blanc has a slightly smoky bouquet that adds intrigue to the gooseberry and Granny Smith apple aromas. The palate is well balanced with fresh lime and citrus fruit on the entry, satisfying weight in the mouth with hints of peach surfacing towards the finish. This should drink well over several years."
- NM, Wine Advocate

"Perfumed. Medium intensity on the nose. Racy and tense. Interesting with a strongly aromatic, grapey edge. Sauvignon Gris? Just not that concentrated."
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"A lovely white that seems simple at first but in the finish rises to a crescendo with firm minerally acidity and finish."
- JCL, asianpalate.com

"The 2015 Mont-Pérat Blanc is distinctly textured and honeyed in the glass. Lemon confit, white flowers and chamomile give the 2015 much of its extroverted, racy personality."
- AG, Vinous
