

Château Charmail 2020

CSPC# 801687

750mlx12

14.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	36% Merlot, 32% Cabernet Sauvignon, 16% Cabernet Franc, 16% Petit Verdot
Appellation	Haut Medoc
Classification	Cru Bourgeois Exceptionnel
Website	http://www.chateau-charmail.fr
Sustainability	Conversion en Agriculture Biologique HVE from 2018-2022
General Info	<p>Charmail has to be one of the best wine values in Bordeaux. A wonderfully made Haut-Médoc; fresh, full of life and flavour which in certain vintages, like 2000, 2005 and 2009, Charmail operates at the level of the classed growths – quite remarkable for a relatively inexpensive wine. In 2008 Bernard d’Halluin bought the property from Olivier Sèze.</p> <p>What we know of today as Chateau Charmail dates back to the 1500’s, when it was founded by the Trevey de Charmail family. Vines were not planted until the 17th century, about one years later, give or take. However, the modern era beings in 1982, when Olivier Sèze purchased the Haut Medoc estate.</p> <p>By the time Olivier Sèze purchased Chateau Charmail, Olivier Sèze was already well established in the Bordeaux wine community, due to his experience as an agricultural engineer.</p> <p>Chateau Charmail and Olivier Sèze are best known in the Bordeaux wine trade for being the first chateau to practice the now common and popular, technique of pre-fermentation, cold maceration, whereby the temperature of the fruit in the tanks is dropped to as low as 5 degrees Celsius and the berries are held in the vats for as long as two weeks. Olivier Sèze sold Chateau Charmail to Bernard and Marie d’Halluin in 2008.</p>
Winemaker	Hubert de Boüard
Vintage	<p>The growing season began with an unseasonably warm winter and the high temperatures continued into the spring, which meant the worst of the April frosts were avoided. Instead, the region saw heavy rains create a warm, humid atmosphere and diseases like rot and mildew became prevalent, meaning producers had to be vigilant. However, the downpours did provide one boon by revitalizing the water tables in the soil, which would prove invaluable in the upcoming summer months. The summer was extremely hot and arid although infrequent showers did fall until late August, when the season then completely dried out. Good weather prevailed through to the harvest. The resulting crop was smaller than usual, it was in excellent condition with small, thick-skinned berries in great health.</p>
Vineyards	<p>34 hectares on a single plot on sloping terrain with a southerly aspect looking out to the Gironde estuary. Soils are clay gravel, sandy gravel, and colluvium. 48% merlot, 30% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot. The average vine age is 30 years. The vineyards are situated not that far from Chateau Sociando Mallet in the northern part of the Left Bank. The vineyards of Chateau Charmail are planted to a vine density that ranges between 6,666 to 8,700 vines per hectare. Newer plantings are done at the high level of vine densities.</p> <p>In 2010, 6 hectares of vines were replanted with Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot, which brought the average age of their vines down for a while. The vineyard, which is in one, single, large parcel of vines has a terroir of clay and gravelly soils. In fact, it is the large portion of clay in their soil that makes their vineyard perfect for the Merlot vines. The Merlot helps impart a richness to the character of the wine. On average, the vines are close to 30 years of age.</p>
Harvest	Manual harvest
Vinification	10 days of pre-fermentation cold maceration at 5 degrees, extraction at 18 degrees maximum. Vinification in barrels of 500 liters and concrete eggs of 17 hectoliters.
Maturation	Ageing: 12 months in 500L barrels, 55% new wood.



Tasting Notes	Dark purple colour with violet hue and almost black core. Elegant nose with ripe berries, black cherries, and hints of toasted gingerbread in the background. On the palate well-structured with freshness and ripe fruit, fine acidity, and silky tannins, elegant with convincing length
Winemaker's Notes	We remain faithful to this vintage which has become Bourgeois Exceptional in the last classification, without obviously losing the qualities that have distinguished it for a long time: amplitude of the bouquet, texture in the mouth, ripe, fruity, fleshy, final length on fatty, velvety tannins, very aromatic.
Serve with	The wine of Chateau Charmail is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes. Charcuterie, meats, grilled meats, spicy dishes, game, lamb, hard cheeses, soft cheeses.
Cellaring	Drink 2023-2027
Scores/Awards	<p>81-83 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - May 2021</p> <p>89 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent (score only) - March 2023</p> <p>92 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - January 2023</p> <p>91-92 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2021</p> <p>91 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2023</p> <p>89-91 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2021</p> <p>85 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2021</p> <p>89-91 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - April 2021</p> <p>86-88 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - June 2021</p> <p>90-92 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - May 2021</p> <p>87 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - March 2023</p> <p>93-94 points - Yves Beck - June 2021</p> <p>90-92 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2021</p> <p>94-95 points - Terres de Vins (score only) - September 2021</p> <p>92 points - Vert de Vin - May 2021</p> <p>92 points - Andreas Larsson, Tasted - May 2021</p> <p>92 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - July 2021</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"The 2020 Charmail is a blend of 36% Merlot, 32% Cabernet Sauvignon, 16% Cabernet Franc and 16% Petit Verdot, weighing in with an alcohol of 14%. Medium to deep garnet-purple colored, it offers subtle notes of red and black plums and blackberries with touches of fried herbs and crushed rocks. The medium-bodied palate is a little lean and green, offer chewy tannins and an herbs-tinged finish."</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Ripe dark plums, cassis and some fine, baking spices and minerals to the nose. The round, medium- to full-bodied palate has nice, mid-palate tension with fine-grained tannins and bright cherry fruit. There is lovely finesse here. Drink now or hold."</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"Very attractive red with blackberry and blackcurrant aromas and flavors. Medium to full body. Creamy tannins. Pretty purity to this. 91-92 points."</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"Forest floor, earthy red fruits, flowers, and spice come through easily on the nose, and on the medium-bodied, lifted, savory, soft, round, earthy currant-filled palate. Drink from 2023-2040."</i> - JL, thewinecellarinsider.com</p> <p><i>"Soft red fruits, herbs and cedar come through easily on the round, juicy, spice-nuanced, red berry nose, and palate. Fresh and savory, give it just a few years of age and it will be showing even better."</i> - JL, thewinecellarinsider.com</p> <p><i>"The 2020 Charmail has a generous nose with raspberry, wild strawberry and undergrowth scents, the new oak neatly integrated. The palate is medium-bodied with chewy tannins, quite structured and grippy, but showing commendable harmony and persistence on the finish. This is a well-made Haut-Médoc that should give over a decade of drinking pleasure."</i> - NM, Vinous</p>
Reviews	<i>"The 2020 Charmail is an easygoing, lightweight Haut-Médoc. Dried herbs, cedar, mint, crushed flowers, and</i>

anise lend aromatic nuance. It would be nice to see a bit more body and overall persistence."
- AG, Vinous

"One of my favorite wines from Haut-Médoc is the Château Charmail, and the estate has done beautifully in 2020. Revealing a healthy ruby/purple hue as well as beautiful ripe cherry fruits and plenty of cedary spice and dried flower notes, this red hits the palate with medium-bodied richness, ripe tannins, and a great finish. This total charmer will give many a top Margaux a run for its money."
- Jeb Dunnuck

"Deep ruby, purple reflections, ochre rim. Fresh red cherry fruit, hints of liquorice, orange zest, tobacco nuances. Juicy, elegant, red berry fruit, integrated tannins, freshly structured, dark nougat, salty finish."
- PM, Falstaff Magazine

"The nose is fruity and offers a small power, a fine intensity/concentration. It reveals notes of juicy/pulpy strawberry, bright raspberry, small notes of blueberry associated with small touches of acidulous cassis, zan as well as a fine hint of violet and a discreet hint of gravel (in the background). The mouth is fruity and offers juiciness, a small suavity, a certain gourmandize, rounded as well as a fine tension and fat. On the palate this wine expresses notes of juicy/pulpy cherry, fleshy/juicy redcurrant, small notes of bright purple plum associated with touches of cassis, violet, liquorish as well as fine hints of nutmeg and sweet spices. good length. The tannins are fine and finely mellow."
- Vert de Vin

"Fine perfume of violet, fresh dark berries, cassis, and toasted oak with some coffee notes. The palate is polished and dense good extract adding freshness, fine oak integration, digest dark fruit with tobacco, sage and aniseed leading to a long and vigorous finish."
- AL, Tasted.com

"Intense, inviting bouquet with spicy and fruity notes. Nuances of black pepper, raspberries, and cassis. Juicy and greedy attack. Beautiful aromatic expression, from the attack and until the end of the mouth. The wine is appetizing, sapid and perfectly balanced. A Charmail that perfectly combines richness and temperament. Fruity and persistent finish. An exceptional wine. 2026-2045."
- Yves Beck
