

Château Chasse Spleen 2015

CSPC# 710372 750mlx12 14.0% alc./vol.
CSPC# 742337 750mlx12 14.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 42% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot, 3% Cabernet Franc
Appellation	Moulis-en-Médoc
Classified	Cru Bourgeois
Website	http://www.chasse-spleen.com/eng_index.html
General Info	<p>Château Chasse-Spleen is the leading Moulis estate along with Château Poujeaux. Although it is classified only as a Cru Bourgeois, it regularly outperforms many of the Médoc's more renowned classed growths. There are two theories behind the château's rather unusual name: firstly, that, when Lord Byron visited the estate in 1821, he remarked 'Quel remède pour chasser le spleen'. Secondly, that it is named after Baudelaire's poem, Spleen. Chasse-Spleen's wines were always noteworthy, though the quality improved dramatically with its acquisition by the Taillan Group, which also owns Château Haut-Bages-Libéral, in 1976. It was run by Bernadette Villars until she and her husband were killed in an accident while hiking in the Pyrénées in 1992. The property is now run by her daughter Claire.</p>
Vintage	<p>Immediately after the harvest, the rain is falling heavily. It stops a little bit in December but start all over again in January. The winter is limited to a few rare cold and frosted days with abundant rains. The spring happens without specific climatic event. June is suddenly very hot. The flowering likes that. July is canicular, the vine suffers. August gives it a respite. Its rains of the early month are perfect for the veraison. September is beautiful.</p> <p>The harvest begins late. We escape to a couple of heavy storms. The merlot mature quietly. Temperatures are quite low and the nights, very cold. The cabernet sauvignon brakes. Rains relaunch them but sudden warm nights and days worry. The atmosphere is concerned but the result comforting.</p>
Harvest	<p>Merlot: from the 22nd to the 30th of September. Cabernet Sauvignon: from the 30th of September to the 12th of October. Petit Verdot: from the 2nd of October to the 3rd of October. Cabernet Franc: from the 28th of September to the 6th of October.</p>
Vineyards	<p>The vineyards of Chasse-Spleen are heavily parcellated, but lie not far from Arcins, to the south of the gravelly hill on which sits the village of Grand Poujeaux. The soils are mostly Garonne gravel, with some chalky clay mixed in, and the 80 hectares of vines, which average 30 years of age, are largely Cabernet Sauvignon (73%), with 20% Merlot and 7% Petit Verdot. The soils between rows are ploughed rather than planted, and harvesting is manual.</p>
Maturation	<p>The fruit is fermented in stainless steel and cement vats with temperature control, and then aged for between 12 and 14 months in oak barrels, of which 40% are new each year. The wine is fined with egg white before bottling.</p>
Tasting Notes	<p>The wine is brilliant and limpid. The robe is an intense garnet. The wine is clear and right. Mulberry and raspberry aromas mixed to any greedy notes of a soft and melted ageing. The mouth is voluminous and densely framed by a fine tannin. The finale is very persistent and very mixed red fruits. A wine which is typical from the cru.</p> <p>Wait until 2020 for tasting with an ageing potential until 2045.</p>
Cellaring	Drink 2018-2032
Scores/Awards	<p>89-92 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2016 82 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - February 2018 91 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - February 2018 87-89 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #224 - April 2016 94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2018</p>



Scores/Awards **94-95 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2016
92-94 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2016
16.5 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - October 2017
16+ points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2016
88 points - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2016
84 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2018
87-89 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2016
85-87 points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - March 2016
88 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - May 2016
90 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2018
88-89 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2016
90 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - November 2017
18+ points - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2016
90-92 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - May 2016

Reviews *"Enticing, with a tangy iron note to the fresh red currant and bitter cherry fruit flavors, followed by a lingering sanguine edge on the pleasantly dusty finish. Score range: 89-92"*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"The 2015 Chasse-Spleen is medium garnet-purple in color with red currants, cassis and forest floor on the nose. The palate is medium-bodied and firm with tar notes, finishing a bit lean and green."
- LPB, Wine Advocate

"The 2015 Chasse-Spleen is a wine that did not shine in barrel, however, that has been addressed now that this superb Moulis is in bottle. It has a fresh blackberry, tobacco and graphite-scented bouquet that is well defined, gaining intensity with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin and crisp acidity. It feels fresh and lively with a welcome tang of salinity on the finish. It is not as powerful as other vintages that I have tasted, yet it is very well balanced and feels sustained on the aftertaste. I now feel much more optimistic about this 2015."
- NM, Wine Journal

"The 2015 Chasse Spleen has a slightly introverted bouquet: earthy red berry fruit and dried herbs, perhaps conservative in the scheme of things. The palate is medium bodied with a touch of chewiness on the entry, good body though needing more finesse and delineation to develop through its élevage. A stocky and somewhat saline Chasse Spleen that needs 3-4 years in bottle."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"This delivers a stylish impression from the get-go with a really nicely focused dark berry nose and hints of fresh pastry. The palate has a smooth array of bright blackberry and plum fruits with smoothly cut tannins that layer up nice and even. Classy. Best from 2022."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

This is a very solid 2015 with lots of tannin and fruit at the finish. Full body. Long finish. Impressive. One of the best ever from here."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"92-94. Barrel Sample. The pure red-fruit flavors of this wine shoot through the firm tannins to give freshness while allowing plenty of space for the development of the tannins. It is a wine that shows both the fruit and the structure of the vintage."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Mid cherry red. Spicy and cedary on the nose, already scented. Supple and almost approachable now. Notably gentle and nicely dusty on the finish. Refined. (JH)"
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Mid crimson. Not much on the nose at this point. Pretty stodgy tannins and bone dry. Seems quite heavily extracted. "
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

Reviews *"The fruit's a bit tight and lean this year from this highly regarded château. Needs to open up."*
- SS, Decanter.com

"Light, bright and tight, with crispness to the cassis and tartness in the cranberry, the wine is lean and with more freshness than fruit. "
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Medium bodied, classically styled with salty tannins, light, bright, red fruits and a crisp finish. "
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"2015 Mid depth; earthy edge; bright fruit; higher toned; blackcurrants; some spice; elegant palate with blackcurrants and leady aspect; quite high in acidity and a little austere in style. Grippy finish. Will fill out to a degree but this is the Chasse-Spleen style. [50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 42% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot, 3% Cabernet Franc, 13%]. Drink 2022-2028. 85-87"
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

"A full bodied Moulis red with tobacco and black tea leaf notes. Good concentration in this vintage with cassis and cedar flavors in the background. A wine to age and follow as it evolves over the next 5-7 years."
- JCL, asianpalate.com

"The 2015 Chasse-Spleen is a wine of finesse and grace. Floral notes, spice, leather, and mint are beautifully delineated in this attractive, midweight wine. All the elements are very nicely balanced. Bright, saline notes extend the finish. Readers who appreciate the finer side of Bordeaux will flip out over the 2015. (AG)"
- AG, Vinous

"The 2015 Château Chasse-Spleen is an elegant 2015 that has a complex, nuanced, and endearing style. Giving up notes of black cherry and strawberry fruits as well as lots of lavender, leafy herbs, and floral nuances, it shines more for its elegance and nuance than power and richness. It's a beautiful wine to drink over the coming decade."
- Jeb Dunnuck
