

Château Chasse Spleen 2018

CSPC# 742337

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	45% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, 10% Petit Verdot, 5% 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>
Winemaker	Jacques Boissenot. Éric Boissenot consults.
Vintage	<p>It was a Hitchcockian year. After the harvest, a dry autumn settles in durably. Then since January, it falls in three months as much rain as in a year. Mechanical work is complicated, the pruning too, of course. The vine slows down. With a very hot end of April, it explodes but the soil remains very moist. We note slight attacks of mildew on leaf but nothing abnormal or very worrying. At the beginning of July, however, a treatment does not seem to meet the demands of this tense climate. In fact, the mildew proliferates rapidly on the bunches and causes a real havoc. It is too late. The very dry summer stops the disaster. However, the vineyard transpiration is upper than normal. The volume is decreasing again. Fortunately, the hand-sorted harvest then optically one brings a ripe and healthy harvest to the vats. The result is dazzling but we only have 30% of an average year and a rough blend compared to a classic year. Even if the Cabernet Sauvignon remains major, it leaves a little more room for the Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc. Which is delighting us.</p>
Harvest	<p>Yields of only 22hl/ha after the vineyards were subject to a massive mildew attack on the 4th July, causing an 80% loss. Merlot: from 09/20/18 to 10/06/18. Cabernet Sauvignon: from 10/06/18 to 10/14/18. Petit Verdot: the 10/03/18. Cabernet Franc: 10/03/18 to 10/06/18.</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>This magnificent Moulis, always regular in its quality, delights us with this excellent 2018 vintage. Beautiful intense dark garnet robe, limpid wine. Before stirring: vibrant fruit and spicy notes. After stirring: the blackberry is outstanding and gains in prominence, thanks to light notes of curry behind, with at this stage fine notes of ageing and shortbread biscuit. The attack is fresh and expressive, then the structure of fine tannins or even chalky is very framed but Well-wrapped by suppleness in the middle of the mouth. The very persistent final is made of this classic rendezvous for Chasse-spleen: the cocoa recall. Wait</p>



Tasting Notes	until 2025 to taste with a potential of guard until 2034.
Serve with	Chateau Chasse Spleen is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius. The wine of Chateau Chasse Spleen is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes. Enjoy with sticky spiced lamb shanks and mustard mash!
Cellaring	Drink 2023-2028
Scores/Awards	<p>93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com (score only) - February 2019</p> <p>94 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 2021</p> <p>16 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com (score only) - April 2019</p> <p>92 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2019</p> <p>89 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2021</p> <p>87-89 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2019</p> <p>89-91 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - May 2019</p> <p>86 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - March 2019</p> <p>89 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - March 2019</p> <p>92 points - Falstaff Magazine - May 2019</p> <p>16-17 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - April 2019</p> <p>15.5 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - April 2019</p> <p>16.5 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - September 2021</p> <p>91-91 points - Vertdevin.com - September 2021</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"This structured wine is firm, with dark tannins that promise aging. The fruit hints at delicious black currant flavors and balanced acidity. It will be a stylish wine but wait to drink until 2026. Roger Voss - RV, Wine Enthusiast</i></p> <p><i>"Chasse Spleen continues as the modern, vibrant face of Moulis, with lovely violet edging to the colour. The oak seems higher here than in its peers, accompanied by strong aromatics of damson and vanilla bean. Some rosemary hints come in after a few minutes in the glass. It's good quality and made in the estate's signature, with the freshness helping to balance the oak flourish. Clear spicing runs through the finish. Drinking Window 2024 – 2036." - JA, Decanter.com</i></p> <p><i>"Cedar and tobacco lead off the perfume before you get to the spicy, cranberry, red currants and herbs. Bright, crisp, chewy, medium-bodied, classic, and crunchy, give this at least 5 or more years in the cellar before pulling a cork. The wine blends 45% Cabernet sauvignon, 40% Merlot, 10% Petit Verdot and 5% Cabernet Franc." - JL, thewinecellarinsider.com</i></p> <p><i>"Cranberry and cassis in a bright, medium-bodied, lean format with a dried red berry finish." - JL, thewinecellarinsider.com</i></p> <p><i>"The 2018 Chasse-Spleen is especially dense and fruity in this vintage. Dense red cherry fruit, espresso, mint, dried flower and licorice are all generously rendered in this gorgeous, incredibly delicious Moulis. More than anything else, Chasse-Spleen has a gorgeous sense of immediacy and pure pleasure." - AG, Vinous</i></p> <p><i>"Deep dark ruby garnet, violet reflections, delicate lightening of the edges. Ripe wild berries underlined with delicate red berries, candied orange zest, a hint of ripe strawberries, inviting bouquet. Juicy, round and harmonious, fresh cherries, integrated tannins, mineral aftertaste, a versatile food accompaniment." - Falstaff Magazine</i></p> <p><i>"The nose is fruity, fleshy and juicy. It reveals notes of fleshy/juicy cassis, fleshy/juicy raspberry and small notes of blackberry associated with fine touches of violet and liquorice stick. The palate is fresh, mineral, well-balanced and offers a good definition, juiciness as well as an acidulous frame. On the palate this wine expresses notes of fleshy/juicy blackberry, fleshy/juicy raspberry and small notes of juicy/fleshy small red berries associated with a touch of cassis, liquorice stick and flowers (violet, iris). Good length. Tannins are slightly firm. The finish is slightly firm. There are slight hints of dry almond and moka on the finish/persistence" - Vert de Vin</i></p>
