

Château Citran 2005

CSPC# 811845

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 50% Merlot

Appellation

Haut Medoc

Classification

Cru Bourgeois

Website

<https://www.citran.com/en/chateau-citran-vins.html>

General Info

Chateau Citran is one of the older Bordeaux properties in the Medoc with a history that goes all the way back to the 13th century. At the time, like most of the properties built in those days, its primary purpose was as a fortress. Located in Avensan, just eight kilometers west of Margaux, the picturesque Château Citran is classified as *cru bourgeois*, a category created for exceptional properties that weren't included in the 1855 Classification of *crus classés*. Granted historical monument heritage designation in 2012, the 13th-century fortress and estate remained in the same family for 600 years. The Clauzel family ushered the estate into the 20th century, enhancing its image, but two World Wars sent the once-grand chateau and its vineyards into steep decline. Two more owners would work to resuscitate the historic property, including a Japanese holding company that invested some serious cash in renovation. In 1987, the Merlaut Family and their firm, Groupe Taillan, purchased Citran. Taillan owns several prominent châteaux in Bordeaux, including the famous Château Gruaud-Larose, and, under Jacques Merlaut, has breathed new life into Citran. Sustainable farming of the estate's 90 hectares has been a key factor in what can only be described as a renaissance at Citran, as evidenced by this robust and energetic 2005.

Vintage

To say that the 2005 vintage in Bordeaux was "acclaimed" is putting it mildly. British eminence Jancis Robinson called it "textbook perfection." The Wall Street Journal published an article suggesting that the 2005s could be "the saviors of the fine-wine investment market." And yes, more than a few observers went with the "vintage of the century" tag. From the Bordeaux area to the Pays d'Oc, the climatic conditions proved absolutely remarkable. The sunlight from June to September just before the harvests allowed the forming of mature, rich and perfectly balanced grapes.

Vineyards

Chateau Citran is a large, Left Bank estate, with 90 hectares of vines with a terroir of sand, gravel, chalk and clay soils. Located in the far south of the Haut Medoc appellation, the vineyard is planted to 58% Cabernet Sauvignon and 42% Merlot. On average, the vines are 25 years of age. The vineyard is planted to a vine density of 6,600 vines per hectare. The massive estate can be divided into two large blocks of vines. Much of the better part of the vineyard is placed closest to the chateau, which is where you find their deeper, gravel soils.

The remainder of their parcels are in more of a sandy terroir in the commune of Avensan. A portion of the Chateau Citran vineyards are also located not far from the Margaux estate of Chateau Ferriere.

Harvest

By hand. Rigorous parcel selection, grapes sorted on wine-stock and on sorting table. From September 27th to October 3rd, 2005 for the Merlot. From October 10th to October 15th, 2005 for the Cabernet Sauvignon.

**Vinification/
Maturation**

Thermoregulation on each tank. Traditional vinifications (T 2° à 32°C). Malolactic fermentations partially made in new barrels. 35% of new barrels in French oak and 65% of barrels from the 1st wine in French oak. Traditional ageing with racking every three months. Fining with white egg. Bottling in the Château.

Tasting Notes

This stunning Left Bank Bordeaux blends 50% Merlot with 50% Cabernet Sauvignon from a text-book perfect vintage. The classic ageing in part new French oak adds a toasty spiciness to the wines, while the fruit flavours have moved towards the more mature flavours of dark berry fruit, earthy notes and savoury bite. It's smooth and rounded - and perfect with a rack of lamb.



Serve with	Chateau Citran is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius. Best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised and grilled dishes.
Production	50,355 cases made
Cellaring	Best after 2011
Scores/Awards	<p>88 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2008</p> <p>85-88 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2006</p> <p>87 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #219 - June 28, 2015</p> <p>88 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #178 - August 2008</p> <p>85-87 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #264 - April 2006</p> <p>88 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2008</p> <p>92-94 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 2006</p> <p>16 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - December 2007</p> <p>15.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2006</p> <p>87 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 17, 2013</p> <p>88-90 points - Falstaff Magazine - May 2006 (score only)</p> <p>16.5 points - Gault & Millau (score only)</p> <p>16 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)</p> <p>16 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)</p> <p>15 points - Bettane & Desseave (score only)</p> <p>1 star - Le Guide Hachette des Vins - 2004</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Shows blackberry and currant aromas, with a hint of sweet tobacco. Full-bodied, with soft, silky tannins and a long, fruity finish. A pretty wine. Best after 2011. 50,355 cases made."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Aromas of blackberries, spice and currants follow through to a medium-bodied palate with fine tannins and a medium finish. Not the 2000, but very good indeed. Score range: 85-88"</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"This is an equal-part blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Good, dense fruit as well as some toasty new oak and spice jump from the glass of this dark ruby/purple-colored wine. Approachable and showing well, this 2005 is medium to full-bodied, ripe and very well-made. Drink it over the next 10-15 years."</i> - RP, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Loads of oak intermixed with plenty of black currant fruit, licorice, and incense jump from the glass of this flashy, rather ostentatiously styled Bordeaux. It is medium-bodied and spicy, with plenty of body, fruit, and depth. Drink it over the next decade."</i> - RP, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Space limitations did not allow complete tasting notes for this Cru Bourgeois, but 2005 is the finest vintage for these wines since 1982. The range of scores for these wines should give readers an idea of just how consistent this vintage is at this level. Given the style of the vintage, most of these wines should be accessible young yet evolve for a decade or more because of their concentration and tannic structure."</i> - RP, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Shows blackberry and currant aromas, with a hint of sweet tobacco. Full-bodied, with soft, silky tannins and a long, fruity finish. A pretty wine. Best after 2011. 50,355 cases made."</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"This is full of intensely ripe fruit, but seductively balanced with the fresh acidity. The wine is solid, but also lively, with dusty tannins layered with some new wood flavors. Barrel Sample: 92-94"</i> - RV, Wine Enthusiast</p> <p><i>"Excellent glowing deep crimson. Lots of acidity on the nose. Relatively simple and raw. Lots of grip and structure but not an awful lot of flesh or charm. Nicely balanced, well-mannered. Good freshness and well-judged oak considering only medium weight of the fruit though there is no shortage of acidity..."</i> - JR, JancisRobinson.com</p>

Reviews *“Slightly leafy on the nose and even more so on the palate, but not at all green. Fresh with just the right fruit weight to support the structure - shows a welcome lightness of touch. (JH)”*
- JH, JancisRobinson.com

“A nice, average, easy going, crowd pleasing style of Bordeaux.”
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
