

# Château La Lagune 2019

CSPC# 866061

750mlx12

14.0% alc./vol.

**Grape Variety**

70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 26% Merlot, 4% Petit Verdot

**Appellation**

Haut Medoc

**Classification**

3<sup>rd</sup> Grand Cru Classé

**Website**

<https://www.chateau-lalagune.com/>

**Sustainability**

The official transition to organic conversion was initiated in 2013, with certification planned for the 2016 harvest. This natural approach, adapted to each plot, plays a fundamental role in the quality of the wines. It allows the fruit to draw from the soil all the complexity and finesse of a terroir, to restore them to us, thanks to a patient and precise vinification and aging in barrels carried out according to the traditional method.

**General Info**

Chateau La Lagune has a long history that dates all the way back to the 16th century, under King Henri IV. This was at the same time the Dutch engineers began the modern age for Bordeaux when they started draining the water from the marshes and swamps. The beautiful, classically styled chateau took decades to build, with construction beginning in about 1715, finishing in 1734.

The chateau was designed by the architect, Baron Victor Louis, who earned fame for his design of the Grand Theater in Bordeaux. By 1730, Chateau La Lagune was already known for producing Bordeaux wine. The property remained under the ownership of the well-known de Sèze family for several generations.

Jumping ahead a few centuries to the modern era, during the 1950s, Chateau La Lagune experienced problems caused by the end of World War 2, along with the economic crisis. Plus, there was the great frost of 1956, which destroyed a large portion of the vineyards in Bordeaux.

In 1958, when George Brunet purchased Chateau La Lagune, only 5 hectares remained planted with vines! It was George Burnet that began a serious program of replanting Chateau La Lagune.

During the tenure of George Burnet, he increased the size of vineyards by purchasing the neighboring Petit La Lagune vineyard. Burnet also brought back the name of Chateau La Lagune, which in the 1950s, was sold as Grand La Lagune.

However, George Brunet also took an economic hit during that era and was forced to sell Chateau La Lagune to the Ducellier family of Champagne Ayala in 1962.

Since 2004, Caroline Frey has invested her skill and dedication to elevating Chateau la Lagune to the height of its appellation.

**Winemakers**

Maylis de Labordiere (oenologist from 2013-2020 vintages)

**Vintage**

The 2019 vintage brought quite capricious weather. The mild, dry winter triggered the early budding of the vines at the end of March. Flowering took place during the wet weather and debudding was carried out in May. Finally, summer brought hot and dry weather. Nevertheless, the terroir saved the vine from excessive water stress. Veraison began on July 29 and ended between mid-August and the end of August.

**Vineyards**

The La Lagune vineyard is planted to 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, and 10% Petit Verdot. The sizeable 90-hectare vineyard of Chateau La Lagune usually has 85 hectares of vines planted. 5 hectares are often fallow, waiting for replanting. The vineyard has a terroir of gravel and sandy soils. The estate however is much larger, covering 150 hectares. Much of that land is devoted to verdant parkland and forests. The best parts of the vineyard are found on the plateau of their 4, sloping gravel, hillsides. The peak elevation on the slopes reaches 15 meters. As you might expect, the concentration of the gravel is at the top of the slopes. You find more sand as travel further down the hills onto the flats.

They also maintain parcels they purchased in 1964, which is located due east, which is gravel and sand over clay soils. Compared with their neighbors, they have a slightly



<b>Vineyards</b>	warmer-microclimate, allowing them to be one of the earlier estates to finish harvesting. In 2004, the estate began experimenting with organic farming on one parcel of vines. Starting in 2008, Chateau La Lagune began a program of Massal selection allowing them to propagate their vineyards with their own material that comes from their best vines.
<b>Harvest</b>	The Chateau La Lagune harvest began on September 18 with the Merlot and ended on October 9 on the “Mlle L” vineyard. The work carried out by the technical teams throughout the year and the biodynamic management of the vineyard made it possible to overcome fluctuations in climate. The result was a superbly healthy and homogeneous harvest.
<b>Maturation</b>	15-18 months in barriques. 55% new.
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	Dense and deep nose of fragrant blackcurrants, scents of roasted bacon and graphite on the palate, splendid acidity, creamy berries, and grained tannin. Full-bodied yet elegant with finesse. Complex with terrific structure and length. Long aftertaste. Another great effort from this property. Excellent value for money here!
<b>Serve with</b>	Chateau La Lagune is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. The wine of Chateau La Lagune is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes.
<b>Production</b>	unknown
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2025-2055
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>94 points</b> - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022</p> <p><b>93-95 points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - June 2020</p> <p><b>94+ points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent - March 2022</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2022</p> <p><b>94-95 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2020</p> <p><b>16.5+ points</b> - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - December 2021</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Jane Anson, Insidebordeaux.com - January 2022</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2022</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2022</p> <p><b>92-94 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - June 2020</p> <p><b>91-93 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - June 2020</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - April 2022</p> <p><b>93-95 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2020</p> <p><b>91 points</b> - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2020</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Thomas Parker MW - March 2022</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - February 2021</p> <p><b>16 points</b> - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2022</p> <p><b>18 points</b> - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - September 2020</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>“Wafting from the glass with aromas of cherries, wild berries and cassis mingled with hints of dark chocolate, pencil shavings and violets, the 2019 La Lagune is medium to full-bodied, broad, and sensual, its ample core of fruit framed by polished tannins and succulent acids. In its elegant, generous style, it's reminiscent of a modern-day version of the brilliant 1990. Drink Date 2025 – 2055.</i></p> <p><i>One of the Médoc's southernmost and most precocious sites, La Lagune occupies two domes of fine gravel, some 1.5 meters deep, that becomes sandier in the vineyard's lower-lying sectors. The trend when replanting has been for Cabernet Sauvignon to displace Merlot on the prime sectors of the vineyard, and farming is organic (certified from 2020 on), with cover crops and less frequent mechanical cultivation than in the past. Winemaking is classical, with gentle pump-overs, and the press wine is carefully selected before inclusion. In the cellar, maturation occurs with some 50% new oak. The result is a rather sensual, seamless wine, with plenty of fleshy charm and fine aging potential, and the 2019 has turned out extremely well.”</i></p> <p><i>- WK, Wine Advocate</i></p> <p><i>“Deep garnet-purple in color, the 2019 La Lagune bursts from the glass with vivacious notes of crushed black and red currants, boysenberries, and wild blueberries plus nuances of wild thyme, woodsmoke, cinnamon toast and pencil lead with a touch of crushed rocks. Medium-bodied, the palate is tightly wound, offering loads of very finely stacked black fruit, baking spice and mineral layers with a solid frame of ripe, finely</i></p>

**Reviews** *grained tannins and bold freshness, finishing long with lots of savory sparks. Shimmering with energy, this 2019 La Lagune is a real head-turner! 2025 – 2047.”*

- LPB, Wine Advocate

*“Medium to deep garnet-purple colored, the 2019 La Lagune skips out of the glass with bright, cheery scents of kirsch, black raspberries, and fresh blackcurrants, plus suggestions of iron ore, violets, and fragrant earth. Medium-bodied, soft, and juicy in the mouth, it has lots of red berry sparks and a perfumed finish.”*

- LPB, Wine Independent

*“Plenty of chocolate, tobacco, and blackcurrant character on the nose. It’s full-bodied with chewy tannins that are polished and present. Long and intense. This is rather tight and mouth-puckering. Give it time to soften. Very structured. From organically grown grapes. Better after 2025.”*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*“This shows very good concentration of ripe fruit in the center palate with medium body, ripe tannins and a wet-earth, berry, and bark aftertaste. Lots of tannins and structure at the end. Solid. From organically grown grapes.”*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*“65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot. Black core and deep rim. The first of this line-up that has a suggestion of fruit sweetness as well as that dark cassis aroma. This has got both firm structure but also the depth of fruit to fill it out. Beautifully elegant and dry tannins. Fresh, refined and long. (JH) 14.5%. Drink 2028 – 2040.”*

- JH, JancisRobinson.com

*“Full intensity plum color, highly attractive aromatics that float up as soon as it hits the glass. Clear energy and tension through the body of the wine without the slightest dip in the mid palate. Not the most exuberant of the classified growths but this is seriously good quality, tight cassis, and fine tannins. Organic certified, in conversion to biodynamics.”*

- JA, Decanter.com

*“Tight but finely-layered tannins, black truffle, and cedar spice on the nose, this has bright blueberry and bilberry fruits. Enjoyable, deftly put together. 40hl/h yield. Organic certified, in conversion to biodynamics.”*

- JA, Inside Bordeaux

*“Roses and lilacs, along with sweet, ripe cherries show up in the perfume. Medium-bodied, soft, silky, fresh, and focused on its purity and refined nature, the wine is effortless to drink, finishing with layers of polished red fruits, touches of cocoa and just a touch of spice and savory herbs. This will compete with any of the best vintage La Lagune has ever produced, and it should age for decades. Drink from 2024-2042.”*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“The 2019 La Lagune is focused yet nuanced and complex on the nose of blackberry, raspberry, wet clay and light tobacco scents. The medium-bodied palate features fine-grained tannins, good structure and a noticeable marine influence that defines the impressively persistent finish. Everything is in place for one of the best La Lagune releases in recent years. 2025 – 2050.”*

- NM, Vinous

*“The 2019 La Lagune has a finely chiseled bouquet, a mélange of red and black fruit, touches of damp clay, undergrowth and cedar developing with time. These aromatics are very nuanced and deserve time, not impactful but intellectual. The palate is medium-bodied with fine but firm tannins. Very linear and correct in style, it feels fresh and sapid, though I would have liked more flair to show through on the saline finish. Still, I like the grip and I suspect it will give 25-30 years drinking pleasure.”*

- NM, Vinous

**Reviews** *"The 2019 La Lagune is superb. Medium in body, yet beautifully resonant, the 2019 is understated at first, but opens up with a bit of time in the glass. Dark red cherry, red plum, licorice, mint, blood orange and dried flowers add striking layers of nuance. The 2019 is a gorgeous La Lagune. I loved it."*

- AG, Vinous

*"The 2019 Château La Lagune is terrific and well worth seeking out. Ripe dark cherries, currants, smoky tobacco, and cedar pencil notes define this utterly classic, medium-bodied, balanced Haut-Médoc. With plenty of tannins as well as good concentration, it's going to hit maturity in 7-8 years and have two decades or more of longevity if properly stored. It's an impeccably put together wine. The blend is 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 26% Merlot, and the balance Cabernet Franc."*

- Jeb Dunnuck

*"A blend of 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 26 % Merlot, and the rest Cabernet Franc, the 2019 Château La Lagune is a smoking little wine that should be snatched up by readers. Offering loads of gorgeous blue and black fruits, leafy herbs, tobacco, and cedar notes, medium to full body, and present yet ripe tannins, this textured, balanced beauty will benefit from 2-4 years of bottle age and evolve for 15-20 years or more. It's well worth seeking out and is easily the finest wine I've tasted from this address. Don't miss it."*

- Jeb Dunnuck

*"Deep ruby colour. Tightly wound on the nose, this needs a little air to reveal layers of plump black fruit. The palate has real crunch, with pithy tannins propping up cool blackcurrant and fresh cedar tones. This bright, compact, and finely balanced Lagune will suit those who favour elegance over power. Cedary and long on the finish."*

- Tom Parker MW

*"The nose is elegant, racy and offers a small power, an aromatic purity as well as a beautiful definition of the fruit. It reveals notes of pulpy wild blackberry, pulpy raspberry, small notes of small wild fruits associated with touches of crushed strawberry, hints of Cuban pepper, caramelization, and as well as fine hints of sugared mild tobacco. The palate is fruity, well-balanced and offers a juicy/Acidulous frame, a good definition, elegance, gourmandize, a juicy/pulpy/acidulous frame as well as an aromatic purity. On the palate this wine expresses notes of pulpy/juicy cassis, raspberry, small notes of Boysen berry associated with touches of small red berries as well as fine hints of juicy violet plum, toasted, caramelization, sugared mild tobacco and very fine hints of vanilla. Tannins are precise and very finely firm. A beautiful sapid, acidulous and gourmand persistence."*

- Vert de Vin

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