

Château La Lagune 2020

CSPC# 866061

750mlx12

14.1% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot

Appellation

Haut Medoc

Classification

3rd Grand Cru Classé

Website

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

Sustainability

Certified Organic. 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) Caroline Frey Winemaker & Owner.

Vintage

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.

Vineyards

The La Lagune vineyard is planted with 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



Vineyards	their neighbors, they have a slightly warmer-microclimate, allowing them to be one of the earlier estates to finish harvesting.
Harvest	Yield of 35 hl/ha
Maturation	14 months in French oak barriques. 55% new.
Tasting Notes	Following on from their brilliant 2019, Caroline Frey and her wine-making team are really on a roll. This is a cracker. A mass of scents exuding aromas of blueberry, violet and freshly picked summer fruits. Polish, harmony and grace immediately spring to mind, all these characters flow through the palate. The dark berry and sprinkling of oriental spice are aided by a soft and rewarding freshness on the finish.
Serve with	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.
Production	unknown
Cellaring	Drink 2025-2055
Scores/Awards	<p>94 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2023</p> <p>92 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - May 2021</p> <p>95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - January 2023</p> <p>93-94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2021</p> <p>93-95 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 2021</p> <p>16.5 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - December 2021</p> <p>92-94 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - May 2021</p> <p>92-94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2021</p> <p>91-94 points - Farr Vintners - May 2021</p> <p>93 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2023</p> <p>91-93 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - April 2021</p> <p>92-94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - June 2021</p> <p>93 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2023</p> <p>91-93+ points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - May 2021</p> <p>18+ points - Matthew Jukes - April 2021</p> <p>92 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - April 2021</p> <p>95 points - Yves Beck (score only) - June 2021</p> <p>93-95 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2021</p> <p>94 points - Vert de Vin - May 2021</p> <p>95 points - Andreas Larsson, Tasted - May 2021</p> <p>93-94 points - Michael Schuster, The World of Fine Wine - May 2021</p> <p>96 points - Colin Hay, thedrinsbusiness.com - October 2022</p> <p>93-95 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - July 2021</p> <p>93-94 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - July 2021</p> <p>18 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - September 2021</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"The 2020 La Lagune has turned out beautifully, offering up aromas of cassis, dark berries, loamy soil, and sweet spices, followed by a medium to full-bodied, velvety, layered palate that exhibits excellent depth and concentration structured around powdery tannins, concluding with a perfumed, violet-inflected finish. This is a strong effort and a worthy, somewhat more muscular follow-up to the sensual, charming 2019. 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 in 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."</i></p> <p>- WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2020 La Lagune strides confidently out of the glass with bold, fantastically pure black fruit notes of crushed black plums, ripe blackcurrants, and juicy blackberries, plus hints of tar, dried Provence herbs, star anise and smoked meats, with a hint of black truffles. The medium-bodied palate delivers tightly wound, bright, crunchy black fruits with plenty of freshness and an approachable, grainy texture, finishing long with loads of earthy and herbal sparks."</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Advocate</p>

- Reviews** *"A focused and savory red with sleek and tight tannins. Very precise. Medium-bodied with fresh herbs, currants, blackberries, and oyster shells. Stones and dried flowers, too. Fine finish. Tannins are round and complete. Already approachable. From biodynamically grown grapes. Better after 2025."*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- "A firm, polished red with tight, focused tannins that flow across the palate. It's medium-to full-bodied with good length and a gorgeous finish. From organically grown grapes. Barrel Sample: 93-94."*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- "A generous, richly textured wine, this has density as well as layers of black currant fruits. Its power does not detract from its style and swagger—a wine that will develop well. Barrel Sample: 93-95."*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- "Full bottle 1,356 g. Cask sample. Certified organic and in conversion to biodynamic farming. Very dark with purplish rim. Pure left-bank Cabernet aroma that is both intensely cassis, but also with a layer of cedar and a hint of stone-dust minerality. A freshness to the aroma without obvious herbaceousness. Super-fine tannins. Pure and fresh on the palate, a hint of dark chocolate and already showing real elegance in the finesse of the dry almost sinewy tannin texture. Lovely young wine without extremes. (JH) Drink 2025 – 2035."*
- JH, JancisRobinson.com
- "This comes in strong with both grip and attitude. Some austerity that shows through in the abundant tannin frame, but there is a juiciness that runs through the palate, a sense that it is light on its feet. Licorice, black chocolate, and a spiced tomato leaf add layers, but things close down on the finish. Barrel Sample: 92-94."*
- JA, Decanter.com
- "Showing a serious depth of color, the wine is filled with floral aromas, espresso, leaves and spicy red fruit aromas. Medium-bodied, elegant, fresh, and refined, texturally the wine feels like spun silk. There is good length and purity here. I am really liking the spicy freshness and savor character in the lingering finish."*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "This is one of the highest proportions of Merlot in the last 20 years. Deep ruby colour with a meaty nose of game, briary and bramble fruits. The palate is bursting with sweet cherries that are tempered by crunchy, ripe tannins. The oak is spicy and noticeable but harmonised by the intensity of fruit. Vibrant and bright on the finish."*
- Farr Vintners
- "The 2020 La Lagune is terrific. Rich, bold and explosive in the glass, the 2020 offers up a wild array of aromas and flavors. Spice, dried red cherry, cedar, tobacco, and white pepper abound. More than anything, I very much admire the vibrancy and overall energy here. A whole range of floral and savory accents punctuate the finish."*
- NM, Vinous
- "The 2020 La Lagune offers intense Cabernet scents on the nose, the black fruit, tobacco, humidor, and light cedar scents bursting from the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with firm tannins that frame the crisp black fruit. This is a classic Médoc with just the right amount of structure and dryness, partnered with assiduous sapidity that gets the saliva flowing. It should gain a little flesh during its élevage. You might call this "proper Claret."*
- NM, Vinous
- "The 2020 La Lagune is a real standout. Intense, soaring aromatics give this racy Haut-Médoc tons of allure. Graphite, dried herbs, leather, menthol, and licorice explode from the glass. A wine of unreal dimension, pedigree, and class, the La Lagune is simply lights out in 2020. Time in the glass brings out gorgeous red/purplish fruit intermingled with sweet floral notes that add striking inner perfume."*
- AG, Vinous

Reviews

“Smoky black fruits, tobacco, gravelly earth, and spicy oak all emerge from the 2020 Chateau La Lagune, one of the most concentrated, structured Haut-Medoc’s out there. Medium-bodied on the palate, it has terrific overall balance, building tannins, and a great finish. It needs to be forgotten for 4-5 years and will evolve for two decades or more if well-stored. Best After 2027.”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“I loved the 2020 Château La Lagune, and despite the Haut-Médoc offering more challenges in the vintage, you wouldn’t know it by tasting this beauty. Deep purple-hued, with a great nose of blackcurrants, tobacco, violets, and some earthy minerality, it hits the palate with medium to full-bodied richness, a great mid-palate, and ripe, polished, substantial tannins. It’s a serious 2020 that will need 3-4 years of bottle age and is going to have two decades of longevity.”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“This is a stunning La Lagune with sensational energy, grandeur, and poise. The fruit is lusty, dark, and resonant and the oak adds to this wine’s flair as opposed to masking its promise. The finish is prodigious, and the flavour barely falls away as it ticks along. Fabulously classy and laser-sighted to this wine’s precise location, this is a must-buy in 2020, assuming that the pricing is fair. It manages to sum up everything that I both like and respect about this historic property in just one glass.”

- Matthew Jukes

“Deep ruby, opaque core, purple reflections, faint brightening on rim. Fresh sweet cherry, sweet plum, candied orange zest, a hint of nougat. Good complexity, juicy, fine fruit expression, good freshness, ripe tannins, mineral, shows very good length, fine chocolaty finish, definite ageing potential. The second great vintage in a row.”

- PM, Falstaff Magazine

“The nose is elegant, precise and offers intensity, deepness, power (full of finesse), a beautiful finesse of the grain and a pure fruit. It reveals notes of bright pulpy cassis, blueberry, cornflower as well as hints of caramelization, vanilla, Sichuan pepper, a subtle hint of toasted hazelnut. The palate is fruity and offers juiciness, an acidulous frame, gourmandize, tension, a pure fruit, precision, a small aerial side and minerality. On the palate this wine expresses notes of pulpy/juicy blackberry, bright cherry, small notes of bright strawberry associated with touches of cornflower, bright blueberry as well as hints of vanilla, chocolate, toasted hazelnut, a subtle hint of camphor, salinity, and Sichuan pepper. Fine hints of toasted chocolate and vanilla in the finish/persistence.”

- Vert de Vin

“Floral and elegant, red fruit, cassis, fine spiciness, and modest oak. Silky and rounded, yet dense and vigorous palate, rather Burgundian texture with fine layers, elegant with gorgeous fruit and a long lingering finish, great potential.”

- AL, Tasted.com

“Fresh black fruit and minerals, very pure, fresh, and fine; concentrated, vital, finely tannic, in the slightly crisper style of some Left-Bank wines of the year; freshly ripe, rather than “sweet” as such, dense with an almost salty sapidity, and with a superfine tannic frame, a sort of close-knit velvety texture; compact, distinctly minerally aromatic, and with terrific persistence. A pure, classy, very individual, and beautiful wine of great finesse. 2030–50+.”

- MS, The World of Fine Wine

“This is concentrated and ultra-pure, taking this to a level of precision above even the 2019 for me. Simply the best wine Caroline Frey has made at La Lagune in my humble opinion. Blackcurrant and very dark chocolate-coated cassis, black cherries too. Graphite and black pen ink. Incredibly fresh and incredibly pure and very bright, lively, luminous, and translucent. Hauntingly beautiful – with the perfect capturing of the fruit the moment it was picked – a magnificent signature of the fruit is present here. This is exciting and yet so elegant and fine and refined and classic too. Intensively soft with the fruit gliding out of the filigree and silk tannins and growing in puissance through the mid-palate. Mineral-charged, graphite-rich, and yet perfectly balanced, this is power in silk. It is like a very dense and strong yet supple fabric. Utterly excellent and completely confirming my love of it en primeur.

- CH, thedrinksbusiness.com
