

Château Malescasse 2016

CSPC# 813893

750mlx12

14.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

53% Merlot, 38% Cabernet-Sauvignon, 9% Petit Verdot

Appellation

Haut Medoc

Classification

Cru Bourgeois

Website

<http://www.chateau-malescasse.com/en/>

General Info

Chateau Malescasse was founded by the Renouil Family in 1824. The original owners held the estate for more than fifty years until selling the vineyard to the Pineguy family in 1887.

Like all Bordeaux estates, the property has had its up and down periods, with some owners having the funds to maintain the estate and its vineyards better than others. By the mid 1970's, the vineyards were barely planted and only 4 hectares of vines remained.

Things started to improve, albeit slightly for Chateau Malescasse by the mid 1990's, when the Alcatel company purchased the property. They were quite experienced in Bordeaux, as they already owned Chateau Gruaud Larose in Saint Julien. In 2012, Philippe Austruy purchased Chateau Malescasse.

This was not the first wine investment for Philippe Austruy, as he already owned a vineyard in Provence, La Commanderie Peyrassol. One of the early moves made by Philippe Austruy after taking over the estate was to bring in the team of Stephane Derenoncourt to improve their wine making and vineyard management.

In an effort to improve the reputation of the estate, they were one of the first Bordeaux chateau to announce they were going to declassify their entire production from the 2013 harvest. It took a few years, but starting with the 2014 vintage, things have been on the upswing at Chateau Malescasse.

Winemaker

Bertrand Chemin. Stéphane Derenoncourt, Frédéric Massie and Hannah Fiegenschuh consult.

Vintage

Terroir really mattered this year, because 2016 Bordeaux is a vintage marked by extremes. The first half of the year was so wet, people were using arks to traverse the vineyards. The summer on the other hand was incredibly dry, making 2016 Bordeaux one of the driest vintages on record. So, the terroir needed the ability to drain the excess moisture during the rainy periods, and hold onto the water, to avoid the vines shutting down, or in the case of young vines, even die! This is a difficult thing to do, for most soils.

The year 2016 started off with the water tables full, thanks to the heavy rainfall from January to March. Three difficult months for the vineyard workers but which saved the day for this vintage! The mild temperatures in March ensured an early budburst but the colder, rainy mornings in April slowed down the growth cycle.

From mid-June to mid-October, rainfall was well below the seasonal average.

During the first two weeks of August, the colour change was short and even on each of the properties. The grapes developed in radiant, dry weather conditions. Light showers appeared in mid-September to re-boost the ripening process on the terroirs offering less water retention, thus perfecting the maturation of the tannins. The absolutely perfect weather conditions during harvest time allowed us to pick grapes boasting remarkable quality.

Vineyards

The 40 hectare Left Bank vineyard of Chateau Malescasse is planted to 54% Merlot, 39% Cabernet Sauvignon and 7% Petit Verdot. The terroir is gravel, clay, limestone and sandy soils. The vines are old with an average vine age of 35 years.

The vineyard is located at about the midpoint between the Margaux appellation to the south and the St. Julien appellation to the north. Their best parcels of vines are found on their land with the gravelly slopes.



Vinification	To produce the wine of Chateau Malescasse, vinification takes place in stainless steel tanks. Malolactic fermentation takes place in vat. The wine is aged in about 40% new, French oak barrels for up to 14 months before bottling. These are medium-bodied, well-structured, fruit-driven clarets that show at their best with around 5 years of bottle age.
Tasting Notes	Purple garnet in color, the 2016 displays an intense nose of elderberry, blackcurrant, blueberry and fresh raspberry, complemented by notes of toast and humus. The dense palate displays good volume right from the start, and builds on a tight structure of ripe, fresh tannins. Meaty, full-bodied and powerful, it develops robustly towards a concentrated tannic finish with magnificent length.
Serve with	Try pairing with a tournedos Rossini or roast salt marsh lamb.
Production	5,594 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2019-2024
Scores/Awards	<p>91 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2019</p> <p>87 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - March 2019</p> <p>Review Only - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #230 - April 2017</p> <p>92 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2019</p> <p>93-94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2017</p> <p>16.5 points - Richard Hemming, JancisRobinson.com - September 2018</p> <p>16.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2017</p> <p>91 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - October 2018</p> <p>90 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2017</p> <p>91 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2017</p> <p>86-88 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2017</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Solidly built, showing tobacco and charcoal notes mixed with dark currant and blackberry compote flavors. There's good energy here and the fruit and earth details meld well through the finish. Has a little grip for mid-term cellaring too. Best from 2021 through 2030. 5,594 cases made."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The deep garnet-purple colored 2016 Malescasse reveals expressive black cherries, cassis and mulberries notes with nuances of cigar box, pencil lead and fertile loam. Medium-bodied, the palate is delicately crafted with understated fruit framed by a bit of chewiness and finishes refreshingly restrained."</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The 2016 Malescasse, owned by Philippe Austruy, has an outgoing mint-tinged bouquet that perhaps does not possess the most complex bouquet of the 2016 Haut-Médoc's that I encountered. The palate was vexing, very sweet on the entry, almost cloying with the oak really disjointed on the finish. I will not assess this now and try to taste this later."</i> - NM, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"A touch of char-grilled character, next to bitter chocolate and full black fruit. This is big-boned Haut-Médoc that packs a serious punch at the front but is quite silky and long at the finish. Drink or hold."</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"An excellent Malescasse, easily one of the best tasted from this estate en primeur. Vibrant, lively black cherry and deep blackcurrant coulis flavours with very well integrated oak. The blend is 48% Merlot, 43% Cabernet Sauvignon and 9% Petit Verdot."</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"46% Merlot, 45% Cabernet Sauvignon, 9% Petit Verdot. Candied fruits, with a palate that is both juicy and savoury – a good combination of flavours. Smoky character to finish and integrates the high alcohol very well."</i> - JR, JancisRobinson.com</p> <p><i>"Stéphane Derenoncourt. The new owner, Philippe Austruy of Commanderie de Peyrassol in Provence, has been spending and renovating like mad, including replacing old vines. Sappy, and round. Very attractive. Lots more middle and charm than Malescasse used to have. Depending on anticipated price increases, this may be GV. Pure pleasure."</i> - JR, JancisRobinson.com</p>

Reviews *“Well controlled, juicy damson and cassis fruits show good quality. There's a touch of rusticity on the tannins, but lots to enjoy overall. (JA)”*

- JA, Decanter.com

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- JA, Decanter.com

“Best ever wine from Malescasse! With deep color and soft tannins, this wine is fleshy, fresh and satisfying, leaving you with a supple, round, sweet, dark plummy, fruity finish.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“The 2016 is a powerful, explosive wine. There is not much subtlety here, that much is obvious. A rush of dark fruit, chocolate, licorice and cloves hits the palate in this exuberant, flamboyant Haut-Médoc Cru Bourgeois. The blend is 50% Merlot, 47% Cabernet Sauvignon and 3% Petit Verdot. Frédéric Massie and Hannah Fiegenschuh consult.”

- AG, Vinous

“From vines located between Margaux and Saint-Julien, the 2016 Château Malescasse is a winner and a solid step up over the 2015. Saturated ruby/purple-colored with a smoking good bouquet of blackberries, saddle leather, dried herbs, and lead pencil, this beauty hits the palate with medium to full-bodied richness, a rounded, sexy texture, and a serious finish. Hats off to this estate and the consulting team of Stéphane Derenoncourt for this stunning effort. Drink it any time over the coming 15+ years.”

- Jeb Dunnuck
