

Alter Ego de Palmer 2014

CSPC# 771453

750mlx12

13.4% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

52% Merlot, 35% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13% Petit Verdot

Appellation

Margaux

Classification

3ème Cru Classé

Website

http://www.chateau-palmer.com/alter_ego.php?millesime=2012&langue=en

General Info

Château Palmer is named after a British officer, Major General Palmer, who settled in Bordeaux in 1814. It is the top estate of the Margaux appellation after Château Margaux. It is located in the centre of the Margaux appellation, and its vineyards (Cabernet Sauvignon 55%, Merlot 40%, Cabernet Franc 5%) lie on a sparse gravel plateau.

Palmer is classified as a 3ème Cru Classé and was established as a Super Second long before Léoville Las Cases, Ducru-Beaucaillou and Pichon-Lalande, and in some years (1961, 1966, and 1983) it is as good as any wine in Bordeaux.

Palmer's relatively high Merlot content makes Palmer the closest in style of any leading Médoc properties to the great wines of Pomerol and St-Emilion.

Vintage

At this stage the wines of the 2014 vintage are an excellent reflection of the diversity of the estate's plots. Each personality is expressed in these two blends as if a veil had been lifted. It is without a doubt one of the first results of our biodynamic approach. The particularly good weather allowed us to harvest perfectly ripe grapes, with no risk of botrytis. In the cellar, the spotlight was on innovation. After two years of experiments in reducing the level of sulfur in our wines, we decided to not add any sulfur to the harvested grapes to let them immediately express their complexity.

Vineyards

The Palmer vineyards cover 55 hectares in the commune of Cantenac. Most of the plots are concentrated on a plateau of thin gravel from the Günstz period on the top of the rises of the Margaux appellation.

The gravelly soil consists of stones with complicated, poetic names, like lydite, quartzite, and chalcedony, which come down to us from the distant past – from the Quaternary era, to be precise. Swept by the flow of the Garonne River, pieces of rock from the Pyrénées were deposited along the banks of the Gironde estuary. Moving inland a number of geological folds form a series of parallel rises. The Palmer plateau is situated on these first gravelly terraces along the edge of the estuary. As the saying goes in Bordeaux, the great terroirs overlook the river.

Harvest

Harvest dates: from 10/01/2012 to 10/15/2012

Vinification/

Maturation

Harvesting and vinification decisions are made based on the idea that we have of the Château Palmer and Alter Ego style. Final blend tastings usually come to confirm our intuitions. The batches chosen for Alter Ego are then blended and put into barrels to age for 18 months. The fruitiness and aromatic intensity are preserved by the use of a moderate percentage of new oak barrels (25 to 40%).

Tasting Notes

Alter Ego is the second wine of 3eme Cru Classe, Chateau Palmer. The 2014 vintage started off very wet but was saved by an Indian summer and the resultant quality is very good. The 2014 Alter Ego de Palmer has the highest ever percentage of Petit Verdot in the blend, this gives the wine its intense purple hue and contributes to the concentrated bramble fruit nose. The palate is very supple with notes of cassis and blackberry fruit, silky tannins and an earthy, leafy note on the finish.

Serve with

roasted red meats or mature cheese.

Production

7,083 cases made

Cellaring

Drink 2019-2035

Scores/Awards

90 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2017

90-93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2015

90-92 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #218 - April 29, 2015

93 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - February 2017



Scores/Awards **92-93 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2015
93 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2017
91-93 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2015
16 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2015
90 points - Decanter.com - April 2015
90-92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2015
90-92 points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - March 2015
93 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2015
16 points - Farr Vintner - March 2015
89-91 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2015
91 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - March 2015
92 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2017
90-92 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2015
16.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)
16 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)
17.5 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only)

Reviews *"This has a lively feel, with light bramble, bay and wet pebble notes scattered around the core of cassis and black cherry fruit. Everything knits well through the finish. Needs just a touch of cellaring to round into form. Best from 2018 through 2026."*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"Bursts with violet, plum and raspberry fruit, lined with silky tannins and backed by a tantalizing iron hint. Features lovely brisk energy and gorgeous purity.—Tasted non-blind. Score range: 90-93"
- JM, Wine Spectator

"The Alter Ego de Palmer 2014 is a blend of 52% Merlot, 35% Cabernet Sauvignon and 13% Petit Verdot. It has an opulent, glossy bouquet with layers of small dark cherries and plenty of glycerin. The palate is more reserved than the bouquet suggests: saturated tannins, a little chewiness on the entry but suppler towards the finish. It feels very linear in keeping with the style of the vintage, the finish a little sweet than its peers with a dab of licorice on the aftertaste."
- NM, Wine Advocate

"Aromas of spices and earth with mushrooms. Dark fruit. Full-bodied, dense and rich with earth and spices. A beauty. Soft and juicy. Savory yet exotic. From biodynamically grown grapes. First year. Drink or hold."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Vibrant and fruity with currant, blueberry and spice character. Full yet tight with tension and brightness. Very velvety tannins. Sexy already"
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This second wine of Château Palmer is dense and structured. With ripe swathes of black fruits and juicy Merlot showing strongly, it already displays the potential of the vintage. Generous and ripe, the wine has a fine level of perfumed tannin. Drink from 2023."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"91–93. Barrel Sample. This wine boasts great structure, with a dark color and vibrant aromatics from the high proportion of Petit Verdot. It offers dusty tannins partnered with ample acidity, providing great freshness through the finish."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Very bright crimson. Certainly, straightforward and very directly fruity on the nose. Noticeable acidity on the palate. Very fresh red cherry flavours and not that dense. Good finish. 13.4% Drink 2019-2025"
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Beautiful perfume and polished flavours. Velvety-smooth, delicate tannins and a hidden depth that will build up in barrel white retaining freshness, length and purity"
- Decanter.com

Reviews *“Alter Ego claimed 45% of the production at Château Palmer in 2014 and contained the highest percentage of Petit Verdot ever. The result is subtle and silky with leafy aromatics, good structure and backbone and graceful, appealingly layered fruit flavours of cassis and red cherry. An impressive second wine.”*

- TA, timatkin.com

“A ready nose of fig, blackberry and earthy notes, this wine is medium-bodied, round and fresh on the palate with a gentle, fresh plum, cherry and cocoa finish. The wine was produced from a blend of 52% Merlot, 35% Cabernet Sauvignon and 13% Petit Verdot. Like Palmer, this is the first vintage of Alter Ego that was produced using 100% Biodynamic farming techniques. 90-92 Pts”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“2014 Mid depth; purple at edge; pretty fruit; some fatness; black cherry; mineral quality; sense of proportion; little perfume lift; extract; structure; little cool sample; little subdued; proportional though with some finish. Opened up in the glass nicely to reveal perfumed, black cherry notes and lots of extract and texture on the palate. Good stuff! [52% Merlot, 35% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13% Petit Verdot]. Drink 2019-2028. Tasted 31 March 2015 at Château Palmer. 90-92”

- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

“This is the second wine of Chateau Palmer and always very smooth and supple thanks to a high proportion of Merlot in the blend. 52% Merlot, 35% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13% Petit Verdot, with 20% new oak. 100% biodynamic for the first time in 2014. Deep ruby colour. Plums, nutmeg, sweet spice and cherries on the nose, which is gorgeously perfumed. Silky entry, with a plush red fruit core. Really pretty, light, fresh, crunchy and elegant. Fresh acidity with soft and refined tannins. Very forward and easy going, with a long finish. Well made.”

- Farr Vintners

“The nose has all the fragrances of woodland violets the start of the palate fresh bilberries and bramble. Richer in the middle well-handled tannins there is the feel of balance and harmony. Fresher at the back the mix of black and red fruits lingers on the finish. 2025-36.”

- Derek Smedley MW

“An elegant, fresh Alter Ego with lifted flavors. Tannins are svelte and quite refined, but the freshness makes it seem modest. Lovely red currant, vibrant cherry and lifted blackberry. This is not a big Alter Ego with lots of concentration, but one that is well-balanced and quite accessible. The tannin analysis is 79 IPT which is very high for this wine, but one hardly notices.”

- JCL, asianpalate.com

“The 2014 Alter Ego is dark, inviting and impeccably balanced. Black cherry, plum, espresso, spice and new leather meld together in a sumptuous, midweight wine. The relatively high %age of Petit Verdot results in a somewhat somber, very serious second wine that carries a feeling of gravitas. The 2014 is 52 % Merlot, 32 % Cabernet Sauvignon and 13 % Petit Verdot.”

- AG, Vinous

“A juicy, expressive wine, the 2014 Alter Ego is wonderfully open and expressive today, with radiant fruit, soft contours and gorgeous overall balance. Sweet red plum, raspberry, rose petal and French oak flow through to the soft, resonant finish. An exuberant floral note adds the last layer of complexity. The 2014 is 52% Merlot, 32% Cabernet Sauvignon and 13% Petit Verdot. Despite the relatively high percentage of Petit Verdot, that fruit comes from gravelly/sandy soils that confer perfume and aromatics, qualities winemaker Thomas Duroux brought out further with a short, gentle fermentation. This is a lovely second wine.”

- AG, Vinous