

Château Labégorce 2015

CSPC# 771295

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety
Appellation
Classification
Website
General Info

50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 44% Merlot, 4% Petit-Verdot, 2% Cabernet Franc
Margaux

Cru Bourgeois Exceptionnel as of the 2003

http://www.labegorce.com/labegorce/public_html/index.php?lang=en

Labegorce, like many chateaus in Bordeaux, takes its name from one of the estates early owners, the Grosse family who held an interest in the land that dates back all the way to the 14th century. For centuries prior to the French Revolution, Chateau Labegorce was a massive estate. In fact, it was one of the bigger properties at the time in the Medoc. The lands of their Margaux estate was ordered to be divided. This division created three separate estates. This included, Chateau Labegorce, what later became Labegorce Zede and the tiny property L'Abbe Grosse de Grosse. However, the vineyards of Chateau Labegorce remained the largest of the three Margaux properties.

The chateau of Labegorce remaining on the property was constructed in 1821. Chateau Labegorce passed through a myriad of owners before it was most recently bought by the Perrodo family in 1989. Hubert Perrodo fell in love with Bordeaux and especially the Margaux region. While wine held a big interest for Perrodo, his real interesting in Bordeaux came after spending time in the appellation enjoying polo matches that were held at Chateau Giscours, also located in Margaux.

Perrodo set out with the goal to reunite all three pieces of the original Labegorce estate. He purchased L'Abbe Grosse de Grosse in 2002. However, Hubert Perrodo was only able to buy the chateau and some land. The vineyards were sold to Chateau Margaux. He completed the final piece of the puzzle when he bought Labegorce Zede in 2005. Sadly, Hubert Perrodo was killed in a skiing accident the following year.

Today, the Left Bank estate of Chateau Labegorce is managed by Perrodo's daughter, Nathalie Perrodo. Nathalie also manages the families other Medoc Bordeaux property, which is also located in the Margaux appellation, Chateau Marquis d'Alsème

Vintage

Simply put, 2015 Margaux is the result of a close to perfect growing season. Everything went right from start to finish. The winter was mild. Bud break and flowering were both quick, easy and uniform. Spring was warm and sunny most of the time. The summer months really helped make the vintage. July was hot and dry with temperatures averaging 10% higher than most vintages over the past 3 decades. The extended hot, sunny and dry conditions continued until late July. In August the thirsty vines were rewarded when the exact amount of rain needed arrived. Before the rains fell, the vines were becoming stressed, grapes were small and growers feared the results of continuing drought conditions for the 2015 Margaux vintage.

The rain triggered the start of the ripening period. From that point forward, the vines enjoyed almost picture-perfect conditions with continued warm, sunny days and cool, refreshing nights right through the harvest. The small amount of rain that fell October 2 ranged from 13mm to just under 20mm, depending on where your vineyard was located. When you compare that with the 100mm that fell in the northern Medoc, especially in and around St. Estèphe, you get the picture on what took place in Margaux, and how it compares to parts of the Northern Medoc. The continued period of pleasant daytime temperatures and cold nights could not have been better. Most growers started picking their 2015 Margaux crop by Monday, September 21, finishing by October 7, with a few stragglers completing their harvest a few days later.



Vineyards	<p>The former 36-hectare Bordeaux wine vineyard of Labegorce is now 53 hectares and remains situated on the plateau just north of the town of Margaux , across the road from Chateau Lascombes. Delphine Kolasa is the director of communications for this Medoc property.</p> <p>Chateau Labegorce is planted to 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot. The vines are planted to a density of 9,000 vines per hectare. On average the vines are 25 years of age. However, there are old vines at</p>
Vineyards	<p>Chateau Labegorce. A sizable portion of the vineyard was planted during the 1950's and there is a section of vines that is over 100 years of age! The terroir of Chateau Labegorce is composed of mostly sandy, gravel with some sand mixed with limestone in the soil.</p>
Vinification/ Maturation	<p>Vinification takes place in a combination of cement and stainless-steel vats. Malolactic fermentation takes place in barrel. The wine is aged in 55% new French oak barrels for an average of 15 months. There is a second wine, Zede de Labegorce. The average annual production of Chateau Labegorce is 12,000 cases per year</p>
Tasting Notes	<p>The nouveau grand Labegorce (since the 2009 vintage) offers a lively fruit flavored palate, extensive, rich, complex, smooth, lined with delicate tannins and great finesse.</p>
Production	<p>10,000 cases made</p>
Cellaring	<p>Drink 2022-2045</p>
Scores/Awards	<p>88 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2018 87-90 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2016 93 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - February 2018 91-93 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #224 - April 2016 94 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - March 2018 94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2018 94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2016 95 points / Editor's Choice - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 2018 94-96 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2016 16.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - October 2017 16+ points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2016 90 points - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2016 92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - July 2017 90-92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2016 90-92+ points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - March 2016 93 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2016 94 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - May 2016 92 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2018 90-92 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2016 (score only) 94 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2018 91-93 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - May 2016 16 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - June 2016 17 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - April 2016 16.5 points - Gault & Millau (score only) - June 2016</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"A warm mocha note leads off, melding quickly into a plush core of fig, plum and blackberry preserve flavors. Shows a velvety structure and ample cocoa and espresso accents through the finish. Best from 2019 through 2028. 10,000 cases made."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Ripe plum and blackberry compote flavors are very direct, framed by a well-singed cedary edge. This has solid fruit, but it's a bit shy on refinement. Score range: 87-90"</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The 2015 Labegorce is a blend of 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 44% Merlot, 4% Petit Verdot and 2% Cabernet Franc matured in 45% new and 55% one-year-old barrels. Deep garnet-purple in color with a nose of red and black cherries, black plums and cassis with touches of charcuterie and tapenade, the medium-bodied palate offers great concentration with a firm frame of grainy tannins, finishing long and savory."</i> - LPB., Wine Advocate</p>

Reviews

"The 2015 Labegorce is a blend of 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 44% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc and 4% Petit Verdot that was picked between 15 September and 20 October. Cropped at 38 hl/ha and matured in 45% new oak, it has a sumptuous bouquet with macerated black cherries, wild strawberry and a touch of fresh prune. The palate is well balanced and much more reserved than the aromatics: crisp and firm tannin, nicely focused with a pleasing salinity on the structured finish that suggest that this Labegorce will reward long-term ageing.

- NM, Wine Advocate

"Bottled in July 2017, the 2015 Labegorce has a gorgeous bouquet with perfumed red cherries, crushed violets and iodine, the new oak beautifully integrated, a Margaux will real panache. The palate is medium-bodied with fine-grain tannin, a keen line of acidity, fresh and vibrant with such a pretty floral finish that you would be tempted to open a bottle soon. Perhaps you could because the tannin ensures this is approachable, yet it undoubtedly has the substance and complexity to offer three decades of drinking pleasure. This is a superb Labegorce that comes highly recommended."

- NM, Wine Journal

"Dried-mushroom and dark-fruit character. Some flowers, too. Full body, round and chewy tannins and a flavorful finish. Big and chewy. Yet finishes beautifully. Fantastic. Better in 2022."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"A stylish array of chocolate, earth and dark berries leads to a palate that follows in the same vein of flavors with blackberry compote. The finish is cast amid plush, open-knit tannins. Great depth here. Try from 2022."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"There is a tough, tannic core to this otherwise ripe and fruity wine. All to the good, as this will allow the bold, ripe wine to age well. Black-currant fruits are already showing their hand and will intensify, bringing in richness and a dense texture. Drink this wine from 2025."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"94–96. Barrel Sample. This is a beautiful wine, full of great fruit and balanced dusty tannins. It is ripe and stylish, with all the elements in place. It should mature well."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Sweetly fragrant. Rather bloody and assertive. A little chunkier/stodgier than classic Margaux. Not charming yet!"

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Not much on the nose but very sweet on the palate. An attempt at flattery? Pretty drying tannins on the end."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Big broad fruit and lots of structure and depth. Quite a chunky Labégorce with a good future."

- SS, Decanter.com

"Coming on strong, all the polished, sexy cherry plum and floral notes are easy to find. Polished and rich on the palate, there is a lot to like here."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"This wine is easily the best vintage ever produced at Chateau Labegorce. Showing a good depth of color and serving up spicy plums, cherries, licorice and wet earth, it's soft, polished and loaded with even more licorice, dark chocolate and juicy, ripe, black cherries in a forward, style. Made from a blend of 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 44% Merlot, 4% Petit Verdot and 2% Cabernet Franc, the wine is aging in 50% new, French oak barrels."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

Reviews

“Deep and saturated colour; purple edge; lovely fragrance; violet perfume with pain grillé tones; seductive creamy palate; quite bold and expressive with plenty of extract and depth. Little extraction on the finish but this should become more harmonious through élevage. Real potential here at Labégorce. Best wine since their impressive wine here in 2010. [50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 44% Merlot, 4% Petit Verdot, 2% Cabernet Franc, 45% new oak 14% alc]. Drink 2020-2030. 90-92”

- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

“A pretty, perfumed Labégorce with lovely floral flavors and silky tannins. A beautifully made Margaux red that should also age well given its firm structure. The aromatics are so lovely that one can just linger in its perfume. One of the best wines they have produced.”

- JCL, asianpalate.com

“The 2015 Labégorce is a big wine that shows the more potent, voluptuous side of Margaux. The red cherry jam, licorice, iron, French oak, pomegranate and scorched earth flavors are positively explosive in the glass. Although not especially finessed, the 2015 has much to recommend it and will be especially enjoyed by readers who enjoy sumptuous, intense wines. The blend is 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 44% Merlot, 4% Petit Verdot and 2% Cabernet Franc. (AG)”

- AG, Vinous

“A blockbuster from Margaux is the 2015 Château Labégorce and I was blown away by this beauty. To reiterate, the southern Médoc, and Margaux in particular, is the sweet spot in 2015. A blend of 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 44% Merlot and the balance Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc, with close to half the blend brought up in new barrels, its deep purple color flows to a beautiful bouquet of black cherries, blueberries, spice, and violets. With medium to full-bodied richness, a plump, layered, pure texture, ripe tannin, and impressive length, it’s a standout for sure. Give bottles a few years and enjoy over the following 15+.”

- Jeb Dunnuck
