

Château Labégorce 2016

CSPC# 813885

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety
Appellation
Classification
Website
General Info

52% Merlot, 38% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Cabernet Franc, 4% Petit Verdot
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'Alesme.

Winemaker
Vintage

Marjolaine de Coninck.

The vintage is characterized by a wet and relatively cool beginning of the season, followed by a very dry summer, at a rarely reached level, and rather warm, with a dry and sunny autumn, with strong thermal amplitudes. As a result, the quality of the grape harvests was very dependent on the part of the work done on the vines in the spring, on the other hand the quality of rooting, which will have more or less responded to the water needs of the plant. The sunshine was generally faithful to the averages, but its particular distribution strongly contributed to the personality of the vintage. After a mild, dry autumn (November and December 2015 with above-average temperatures and 50% rainfall deficit compared to averages, with a constant south current), the months of January and February, until March 10, were mild and wet (1 ° C more than the average and three times the 30-year average over January, with 240 mm!). April was relatively dry, but overcast and with frequent rains, then May and June were rainy, with much lower sunshine than in 2015 and relatively cool (June 1 ° C below average, with only one hot episode at the end of month (33-35 ° C)). The flower, between the end of May and the middle of June, forecast harvest around September 26th. The temperatures of the summer months were close to the averages, August slightly warmer than July, with two peaks of heat, August 15 and 23 to 27, with a high of 36.7 ° C on the 23rd. From the 28th, the nights were cool, around 15 °C. September remained summer until the storm of 13/09. Overall, it was mild, with rare rainy episodes, and dry with great temperature differences between day and night. This favored a slow maturation of the grapes,



Vintage	which remained perfectly healthy. October was dry, so that the beginning of the harvest could be delayed until the end of September.
Vineyards	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. Chateau Labegorce is planted to 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot. The vines are planted at a density of 9,000 vines per hectare. On average the vines are 25 years of age. However, there are old vines at 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.
Vinification/ Maturation	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
Tasting Notes	Dark, voluptuous black cherry fruit, sweet and vivacious. Good grip and acidity. The most ambitious wine yet from the team that took over here from 2010, with more density and richness.
Serve with	Chateau Labegorce is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. Chateau Labegorce is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes. Chateau Labegorce is a perfect match with Asian dishes, hearty fish courses like tuna, salmon, mushrooms, and pasta as well as cheese.
Production	10,000 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2022-2045
Scores/Awards	<p>90 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2019</p> <p>91-94 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2017</p> <p>93+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - November 2018</p> <p>94-96 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #230 - April 2017</p> <p>95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2019</p> <p>94-95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2017</p> <p>94 points/cellar Selection - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 2019</p> <p>94-96 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2017</p> <p>16 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - October 2018</p> <p>16.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2017</p> <p>93 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2017</p> <p>92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2017</p> <p>92 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2017</p> <p>94 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - January 2019</p> <p>90 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - January 2019</p> <p>89-91 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2017</p> <p>94 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - November 2017</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Features a core of freshly crushed plum and blackberry fruit, inlaid with singed mesquite, sandalwood and black tea notes. This is on the toasty side in the end, but the texture has a plush edge and there's enough fruit for balance. Drink now through 2031. 10,000 cases made."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Fresh, featuring a racy edge of mesquite that melds with the energetic plum and boysenberry fruit flavors. Stays focused through the finish, picking up alluring spice notes. Score range: 91-94"</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The 2016 Labégorce is composed of 52% Merlot, 38% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Cabernet Franc and 4% Petit Verdot, aged in 45% new and 55% one-year-old French oak barrels. Deep garnet-purple colored, it leaps out of the glass with gregarious cassis, kirsch and black raspberries, candied violets, dark chocolate and spearmint. Medium-bodied, elegant, fresh and with exciting intensity, it delivers a fantastically long, fragrant finish."</i> - LPB., Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The 2016 Labegorce is a blend of 38% Cabernet Sauvignon, 52% Merlot, 6% Cabernet Franc and 4% Petit Verdot picked between 4-21 October and matured in 45% new oak. What I like about the bouquet is that it is quintessential Margaux--it could not come from anywhere else. Crushed violets infuse black cherries, blueberry</i></p>

Reviews

and iodine. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin, very well-judged acidity, an elegant and very charming Margaux with pencil lead and a touch of spice on the long finish. What a brilliant wine from a Margaux estate that has really upped its game."

- NM, Wine Advocate

"A very elegant and polished Margaux with great structure and an attractive touch of herbal freshness, then a delicate touch of sweetness at the long, fine finish. A blend of 38 per cent cabernet sauvignon, 52 per cent merlot, six per cent cabernet franc and four per cent petit verdot."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This may be the best Labégorce ever. Full-bodied and dense yet vivid and energetic. Greatness in the making."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"This estate on the north side of the village of Margaux is performing at its peak. As befits the vintage it's a rich wine with big tannins. But it also has the style that characterizes a Margaux, with a smooth, perfumed aftertaste. Drink from 2025. *Cellar Selection* (RV)"*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"94–96. Barrel Sample. This wine is dry and firm, with ample tannins and density. It also has a rich side, which comes from ripe black fruit. Acidity at the end freshens the wine and provides balance."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Mid crimson. Dusty, gentle, dark-fruited fragrance. Tight, fresh but with a hint of milk-chocolate sweetness on the finish. Very supple texture becoming more chewy on the finish. (JH)"

- JH, JancisRobinson.com

"Very scented. Maybe slightly tarty but it delivers lots of flashy fruit. It does seem almost too sweet to me and the oak is not yet fully integrated."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Deep, rich extraction, black cherry in colour with very well controlled aromatics of damson and creamy cappuccino. This is a gorgeous wine and there are going to be many many fans of the contemporary but utterly controlled and well-judged flavours on display here. Luscious and big, but everything has a reason for being where it is, nothing superfluous. One of the best ever from this property. (JA)"

- JA, Decanter.com

"Floral, black raspberry and just the right amount of dark chocolate on the nose, this wine is deeply colored with ripe, dark cherries, full body and a dusty, fruit filled finish. This could be the best vintage yet for Labégorce, as it offers length, volume and freshness. Made from a blend of 52% Merlot, 38% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Cabernet Franc and 4% Petit Verdot, the wine reached 13.5% alcohol with a pH of 3.7 and is being aged in 50% new, French oak barrels."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"There's quite a bit of oak on this ambitious, well-structured red blend, but it's a wine that's made for a middle-distance race rather than sprint. The tannins are well judged, built around a core of red fruits, tobacco spice and tangy acidity. 2024-30"

- TA, timatkin.com

"The 2016 Labégorce comes from a property that has really been getting its act together in recent years. It has a gorgeous, very pure blackberry, raspberry and pressed violet bouquet, almost understated, but there is real focus here. The palate is medium-bodied with grippy tannin and quite Pauillac-like in style, and there is impressive density on the finish. Wonderful. Look out for this. (NM)"

- NM, Vinous

Reviews *“The 2016 Labégorce is a dense, potent wine. There is plenty of depth to the copious blackberry jam, plum and chocolate flavors. Rich and forward, the 2016 will drink well with minimal cellaring.”*

- AG, Vinous

“The 2016 Labégorce is terrific. Pliant, supple and accessible, it offers considerable near- and medium-term appeal in a pliant, juicy style. Dark red fruit, grilled herbs, smoke, licorice and tobacco all flesh out nicely. The 2016 is powerful and dense, but also comes across as a bit less heavy than in the past. It will be interesting to see if that is more related to the vintage or a slightly stylistic shift. Time will tell. Tasted two times.”

- AG, Vinous

“From an estate on the uptick and showing beautifully on two separate occasions, the 2016 Château Labégorce is a head-turner of a Margaux that’s based on 52% Merlot, 38% Cabernet Sauvignon, and the rest Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot that was brought up in 45% new oak, with the balance in once-used barrels. Sexy notes of blackcurrants, black raspberries, crushed flowers, sandalwood, and incense all flow to a medium to full-bodied, fabulously textured Margaux that carries ripe tannins, loads of fruit and richness, and a great finish. Since arriving in 2009, Marjolaine de Coninck has resurrected this estate and the wines now play with the top in the appellation. Give bottles 3-5 years and enjoy over the following two decades or more. Drink 2022 - 2042.”

- Jeb Dunnuck
