

Château Prieuré Lichine 2018

CSPC# 849001

750mlx12

14.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

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

Appellation

Margaux

Classification

Grand Cru Classé

Website

<https://prieure-lichine.fr/en/the-prieure-lichine-wines/chateau-prieure-lichine/>

General Info

Originally a priory of Benedictine monks who cultivated grapes for service at dinner and at religious ceremonies, practices gradually evolved by the 18th century to establish sales of the wine under the name Le Prieuré de Cantenac. As a consequence of the French Revolution, the property was seized, divided and sold in 1789 to several surrounding estates, including Château Palmer. A portion was bought by Monsieur Pagès who passed on the estate to his widow, when due to its reputation and broker prices received a fourth growth classification in 1855. Several changes in ownership resulted in changes to the name, such as Le Prieuré and Prieuré-Cantenac, and when the late wine writer and authority Alexis Lichine arrived to buy the estate it consisted of 11 hectares of neglected vines.

Alexis Lichine bought the vineyard in 1951 (shortly after having purchased the Margaux estate Château Lascombes with a consortium) and work began to group and reconstitute the property on the ideal slightly-rising ground. With the money, he was garnering from the import business and a few partners, Alexis Lichine bought the Prieuré for 11,000 pounds, at the time about \$16,000. In 1953, with the help of Count Lur-Saluces of Château d'Yquem, Lichine renamed the Prieuré to Château Prieuré-Lichine.

With the estate renamed in 1953, the following year Cantenac wineries were entitled to use the appellation of Margaux Sacrificing quantity for quality, trades in portions of desirable land at a loss of two to one were made with third growth neighbours Palmer, Ferrière, Kirwan, Giscours, Issan, Boyd-Cantenac and second growth neighbours Durfort-Vivens and Brane-Cantenac, adding up to 47 acres (19 ha) of vineyards by the mid-1960s. With an aim to produce a wine well beyond its classification, extensive replanting and repairs and investments were made to the equipment, and by the 1970s the estate amounted to 58 hectares dispersed across the communes Cantenac and Margaux.

After Lichine's death in 1989, the estate was run by his son Sacha for several years, with oenologist Michel Rolland acting as consultant, until the estate was sold to the Groupe Ballande in 1999. The winery currently employs Stéphane Derenoncourt as its consulting oenologist.

Winemaker

Étienne Charrie. Stéphane Derenoncourt consults.

Vintage

The 2018 vintage is the expression par excellence of the great vintages of Cabernet Sauvignon. The end of the dry season expressing all the elegance and the race of this king grape of the Médoc. The 2018 campaign is defined in two very distinct periods, a beginning of wet season with very strong fungal pressure, especially mildew, and a second particularly dry period from July. The generous rainfall in winter and spring ensures a water reserve for the vines throughout the season. The first signs of water stress appear at the end of September and concentrate grapes with thick skins. This year again, the work of the winegrower will have This was a decisive factor in bringing the mosaic of Prieuré-Lichine plots to maturity. The harvests take place continuously and allow us to collect each sector in an irreproachable state of health. Pigeage, by its physical action of releasing the juices during fermentation alcoholic, will be an additional asset to extract ripe and silky tannins. Structured and dynamic Cabernets Sauvignon balances the Merlots at high degrees. The colors are deep and vibrant. The black fruit of great aromatic power is revealed on the elegance of the palate. The richness and complexity of the Margalais terroir are expressed in this vintage of



Vintage	"Cabernet Roi": affirming the relevance of the technical orientations chosen for 20 years by the Ballande family.
Vineyards	The Prieuré-Lichine vineyards are naturally, in view of Lichine's many acquisitions, very widely spread across the Margaux commune. Most lie to the north of Cantenac, on one of the gravel ridges that characterise the Médoc. The vines are 54% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot and 1% Cabernet Franc, and are planted at a density of 8500 vines/ha.
Harvest	Merlot: Sept 24 to Oct. 1 - Cabernet Sauvignon: Oct. 2 to 10
Maturation	They are harvested by hand, sorted, and crushed before fermentation in temperature-controlled concrete vats with a maceration lasting between three and four weeks. The must is pumped over twice daily to submerge the cap. The wine is then transferred into oak for up to 16 months, with 55% of the oak replaced each vintage. It is raked every three months, before bottling.
Tasting Notes	<p>The Grand Vin of the property, the Chateau Prieuré-Lichine 2018 rewarded all the efforts made by the technical teams of the property. The 2018 vintage required constant attention and a very precise monitoring of each plot. The grape harvest yielded very high-quality and perfectly healthy fruit.</p> <p>The emblematic grape of the Medoc, Cabernet Sauvignon (65%) makes up the majority of the blend of the Chateau Prieuré-Lichine 2018, supplemented by Merlot (30%) and Petit-Verdot (5%). In this vintage with a sunny and dry end of the season, Cabernet Sauvignon expressed itself perfectly, revealing the identity of the great terroir of Margaux.</p> <p>At the tasting, the Grand Vin of Chateau Prieuré-Lichine 2018 displays a very beautiful deep red color. Intensely expressive, the nose seduces with its powerful notes of black fruits. The balanced palate highlights the richness of Merlot, along with the structure, power, and liveliness of Cabernet Sauvignon. A great red wine from Margaux.</p>
Production	13,000 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2022-2032
Scores/Awards	<p>92 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - January 2021</p> <p>89-92 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - June 2019</p> <p>91 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2021</p> <p>91-93 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - April 2019</p> <p>94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2021</p> <p>93-94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2019</p> <p>95 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2021</p> <p>17 points - Tom Parker, JancisRobinson.com - October 2020</p> <p>15+ points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - March 2019</p> <p>94 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - November 2020</p> <p>94 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2019</p> <p>94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2021</p> <p>93-95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2019</p> <p>15.5 points - Farr Vintner - April 2019</p> <p>90 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - March 2021</p> <p>89-91 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - November 2019</p> <p>94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - March 2021</p> <p>92-95 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2019</p> <p>93 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2021</p> <p>90-93 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - May 2019</p> <p>94 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - February 2021</p> <p>92 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com (score only) - March 2019</p> <p>17.5 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2019</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Very bright up front, with lots of floral lift leading the way while the core of warmed cassis and steeped plum tags along behind. Smoldering feel on the finish, with dark tea and sandalwood accents filling in. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Petit Verdot. Best from 2022 through 2032. 13,000 cases made."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p>

- Reviews** *“Solid, with warm dark plum, currant and bitter cherry flavors, wrapped in singed cedar, vanilla and coffee notes. The toast is a bit overt on the finish. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Petit Verdot. 13,000 cases made.”*
- JS, Wine Spectator
- “The medium to deep garnet-purple colored 2018 Prieuré-Lichine sings of black raspberries, kirsch and fresh red and black currants, followed by hints of powdered cinnamon, lilacs and bouquet garni. The medium-bodied palate is delicately played with bags of freshness and a soft texture framing the red berry and spicy layers, finishing with an herbal lift. Drink: 2022 – 2036.”*
- LPB, Wine Advocate
- “The deep garnet-purple colored 2018 Prieuré-Lichine slips sensuously out of the glass with gorgeous raspberry coulis, chocolate-covered cherries and warm cassis scents with hints of candied violets, licorice, camphor and wilted roses. The full-bodied, richly fruited palate is beautifully perfumed with loads of floral accents and has a firm frame of ripe, grainy tannins, finishing long with some mineral notions coming through. Very pretty.”*
- LPB, Wine Advocate
- “Blackberry with white-pepper and some tile undertones on the nose. It’s full-bodied with tight, chewy tannins yet so beautifully polished and composed. Lingering finish. This needs time to soften and come together. Best after 2024.”*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- “This is a very fresh and bright red with lots of blue fruit and linear and fine tannins that have drive down the center palate. 65 per cent cabernet sauvignon, 30 per cent merlot and 5 per cent petit verdot.”*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- “This wine shows the generous richness of the vintage while restraining it with fine tannins and pure black-currant acidity. The structure and fruits promise long-term aging. Drink this wine from 2027.”*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- “65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot. Deep ruby. Spirity warm nose, which masks the brambly fruit. This comes through more on the palate, which has grippy structure but retains warming alcohol. A strange perception here as the fruit is still vibrant if ripe, but the heat is slightly jarring.”*
- TP, JancisRobinson.com
- “Black core with barely a purple rim. Very dark but lively fruit and an attractive crushed-stones overlay. Juicy and lifted on the palate, finely textured and already harmonious. The tannins are nicely layered and compact but overall a welcome lightness of touch that should result in greater elegance in bottle. (JH)”*
- JH, JancisRobinson.com
- “Power, character and succulence abound with well-handled cassis and damson fruits. This is good-quality with chocolate shavings, silky tannins and a heavily spiced finish. A yield of 35hl/ha. 45% new oak.”*
- JA, Decanter.com
- “Prieuré Lichine has done a great job of capturing the rich concentration in the cassis and blackberry fruits that are easily found in 2018, wrapped up perfectly in juicy, vibrant strands of acidity and tannin. There’s no question that this is an intense wine, and although the alcohol is not especially high it has a generous texture. Spice notes lend a sense of uplift to balance out the exuberance of the palate. I expect this will close down for a good few years before coming into its own. Prieuré Lichine operate a gravity-fed winery for gentle handling of the fruit. 2018 saw a yield of 35hl/ha. Aged in 45% new oak. Drinking Window 2027 – 2042.”*
- JA, Decanter.com
- “Black, red and blue fruit, smoke, espresso and herbs connect in the nose. The wine is rich, concentrated, lush, round and polished. The fruit is ripe, dark, expressive and comes accompanied by coffee bean, licorice and dark cocoa nuances on the mid-palate and in the finish.”*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

Reviews

"Inky in color, the wine is dark with a purple edge. Black fruit, espresso, flowers and licorice in the nose come on strong. Full-bodied, rich, long and deep on the palate, the long finish ends with ripe, silky fruits and cocoa."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Deep purple colour. The nose here is toasty and creamy in cassis fruit, with hints of dried violets and savoury cedar. The palate is succulent and ripe, with dark chocolate and creamy black cherries. Peppery violets and clove come through but are subtle and integrated, as are the supple tannins. The finish is long, fine and lifted."

- Farr Vintners

"The 2018 Prieuré-Lichine has kept its understated and elegant bouquet, presenting those same blackberry and cedar notes, perhaps with more red fruit emerging with aeration (cranberry and raspberry preserve). The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannins (finer than I noticed out of barrel) and plenty of freshness on the finish. This has indeed tempered its excesses and should evolve into a fine Margaux. 2023 – 2035"

- NM, Vinous

"The 2018 Prieuré-Lichine has an understated but elegant bouquet of blackberry, briar and light cedar aromas that give way to more floral scents with aeration. The palate is fuller and more voluminous, with thick tannins coating the mouth. This Margaux is almost heady in style, leading to a velvety, voluptuous finish. There is something a little garish about this Prieuré-Lichine at this stage, but if it can temper its excesses before bottling, it may turn out quite delicious. 2023 – 2035."

- NM, Vinous

"The 2018 Prieuré-Lichine is a gorgeous, elegant wine. Strong Cabernet aromatics give the 2018 striking savory notes to play off the natural radiance of the year. Plush and sensual, with no hard edges and terrific balance, the 2018 hits all the right notes. Dried herbs, rose petal, cedar, tobacco, and mint linger on the finely cut, persistent finish. This is an especially understated wine for the year."

- AG, Vinous

"The 2018 Prieuré-Lichine is gorgeous. Bright and racy in the glass, the 2018 impresses with its magnificent purity of fruit. In 2018, Prieuré-Lichine has terrific energy and cut. It is perhaps a bit less creamy than the 2016, but also impeccable in its balance. Part of that is driven by the higher percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon in the blend in 2018. Rose petal, lavender, mint, and spice add nuance to a core of red/purplish fruit. Tasted two times."

- AG, Vinous

"The 2018 Château Prieuré-Lichine is terrific and certainly a step up over past vintages. Pure black and blue fruits, spring flowers, violets, and cedarwood notes all emerge from the glass, and it's medium to full-bodied, elegant and nicely focused on the palate, with a solid sense of freshness and purity. With moderate tannins, terrific overall balance, and outstanding length, it's a beautiful wine. It already offers pleasure with a decant yet should hit prime time in 4-5 years and keep for 15-20 years. The blend is 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, and 5% Petit Verdot, brought up in 45% new French oak."

- Jeb Dunnuck

"The 2018 Château Prieuré-Lichine is an attractive, elegant Margaux offering classic, pretty red and black fruits, cedary spice, and dried flowers aromas and flavors. Medium to full-bodied, elegant, and again, with an incredible floral character, it has a supple, rounded texture that's going to allow it to drink nicely in its youth, yet it should also evolve for 15+ years or more. I suspect this will surpass the '14, '15, and '16."

- Jeb Dunnuck
