

---

## Domaine de Chevalier 2016

CSPC# 848139

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

<b>Grape Variety</b>	65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot
<b>Appellation</b>	Pessac-Léognan
<b>Classification</b>	Grand Cru Classé de Graves in 1959
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.domainedechevalier.com/">http://www.domainedechevalier.com/</a>

### General Info

The owners of Domaine de Chevalier, the Bernard family, have a long history dating all the way back to the 1155! Documents are available stating that the Count of Angoulême awarded the Bordeaux wine property to Chateau-Bernard for his for his valour in battle against the English.

Domaine de Chevalier in the Graves/Pessac Léognan, appellation, was purchased in 1865 by Arnaud Ricard and his son Jean the Bernard family for 33,000 francs. At the time, the Ricards family were familiar with the Bordeaux wine trade as they worked as coopers, producing some of the best barrels used by many of the best chateau. In 1865, the estate began selling their wine under the Gascon name of "Chivaley". In those days, the 44-hectare property was used for mostly food crops and breeding animals. While there was a tiny Bordeaux wine making operation at the estate, it was not the main interest of the property.

Shortly after the elder Ricard passed away, the son discovered the outstanding potential of the terroir and soil at Domaine de Chevalier and transformed it into a full-time vineyard. The name was changed from "Chivaley" to the French "Chevalier". When Jean Ricard died, his son-in-law, Gabriel Beaumartin, took over and managed Domaine de Chevalier for the next 4 decades. At various times the Ricard family owned other top estates in the Graves appellation including Chateau Malartic Lagraviere and Chateau de Fieuzal.

When Gabriel Beaumartin died in 1940, no one was interested in managing the estate. After a few years, Claude Ricard, Jean's son, started at Domaine de Chevalier in 1948. He was only 21 years old. Under Claude Ricard, Domaine de Chevalier was included in the 1959 Graves Classification. When Domaine de Chevalier was purchased 1983, Olivier Bernard was not much older at 23 years of age. By the time Olivier Bernard arrived, Claude Ricard had already managed the estate for over thirty years.

Domaine de Chevalier is fortunate to have such a fine team to run its affairs. Olivier, whose family business owns the estate, is the outgoing but canny administrator whilst Rémi Edange is hands-on, knowing every vine and every barrel. Whilst their white wines have always been amongst the very finest, the reds were simpler affairs. But from the 1995 vintage onwards greater flair and concentration was in evidence. The quality curve is now further accentuated by the team's bold move to appoint Stéphane Derenoncourt, of La Mondotte fame, as consultant winemaker. Domaine De Chevalier is classified as a Graves Cru Classé.

### Winemaker

Stéphane Derenoncourt

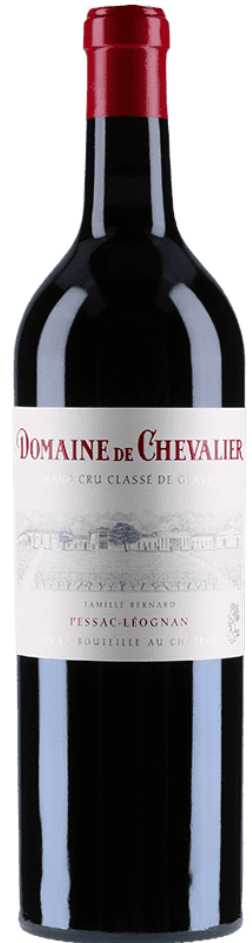
### Vintage

The unquestionably successful 2016 vintage is due to the conjunction of several important factors. A rainy period lasting from the 1st of January to the 20th of June replenished water reserves and paved the way for a large potential crop.

The significant precipitation between January and late June enhanced vine growth in spring and built up essential water reserves in our gravelly well-drained soil.

Quasi-miraculous flowering guaranteed a large crop. A window of opportunity – a spell of splendid weather from the 4th to the 11th of June – miraculously opened in the context of a "spring monsoon". This led to perfectly-fertilised flowers producing well-formed, sizeable bunches. An exceptionally dry period from the 1st of July to the 13th of September was conducive to richness and power.

Summer was warm, but not excessively so, and also extremely dry. In fact, this was one of the driest summers in a hundred years... In early summer, our deeply-rooted



<b>Vintage</b>	<p>old vines were fortunately able to draw on water reserves accumulated in spring. The month of August was ideal for developing tannic structure in our red wine varieties and sugar levels in the white wine ones. However, these drought conditions were very trying for our young vines with relatively shallow roots. This necessitated the highly unusual step of watering them.</p> <p>We were really in need of rain by early September! This finally arrived, on the 13th of that month. These 40 mm of rain did a world of good, giving a boost to ripening and refreshing the vines. An Indian summer from the 15th of September to the end of October provided finesse and elegance. The Indian summer, combined with diurnal temperature differences due to cool night-time temperatures, ensured a good end to ripening of the various grape varieties, as well as refined red wine tannins, while maintaining fresh fruitiness.</p>
<b>Vineyards</b>	<p>The 80-hectoliter vineyard of Domaine de Chevalier has 55 hectares under vine. The vines are relatively young due to replanting and the fact that the vineyard has frequently been hit by frost. The vineyard of Domaine de Chevalier is used to produce both red and white Bordeaux wine. For the white Bordeaux wine, 5 hectares are planted to 70% Sauvignon Blanc and 30% Semillon. For the red wine, 50 hectares are planted to 63% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc and 5% Petit Verdot. The vineyard is planted to a vine density of 10,000 vines per hectare. On average, the vines average 35 years of age. The vineyard management techniques used are sustainable farming methods. Only organic Fertilizers are used, and this is on a parcel by parcel basis. Approx. 40-60% of annual crop goes into the grand vin. Domaine de Chevalier has a complex terroir and soil that starts with the forest that surrounds the vineyards three sides.</p>
<b>Harvest</b>	<p>Merlot from 4-12 Oct; Petit Verdot 10-12 Oct; Cabernet Sauvignon 13-21 Oct. Red grapes in baskets, with triple sorting: 1st in the vines, 2nd on the complete bunch on the sorting table and third by individual grapes on the sorting table.</p>
<b>Maturation</b>	<p>Vatting gravity without pumping, alcoholic fermentation in stainless steel and coated steel temperature-controlled vats. Maceration for 2 to 3 weeks (30° C. max). Manual Pigeage; Ageing: 18 months (four months on the lees); New barrels: 35 %</p>
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	<p>The unbroken period of beautiful weather was favourable to full maturity of the red wine grapes and refined their tannins immensely. The harvest dates for each plot could be chosen with great precision, by tasting the berries, and there was no need for haste thanks to the fine weather. All varieties had fine large bunches in tip-top condition with fairly big berries. The skins of the red wine grapes were thick (due to the drought conditions from July to September). Yields were generous, but not excessively so. The potential quality is excellent for all varieties. The grapes were rich, with fruity tannin, great balance, and considerable freshness.</p>
<b>Serve with</b>	<p>Domaine de Chevalier is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. Domaine de Chevalier Rouge is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised and grilled dishes.</p>
<b>Production</b>	<p>6500 cases made</p>
<b>Cellaring</b>	<p>Drink 2021-2039</p>
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>96 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2019  <b>93-96 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2017  <b>94+ points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - November 2018  <b>94-96 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #230 - April 2017  <b>97 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2019  <b>96-97 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2017  <b>96 points/Cellar Selection</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 2019  <b>96-98 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2017  <b>17.5 points</b> - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - October 2018  <b>17+ points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2017  <b>96 points</b> - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2017  <b>97 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2018  <b>97 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2017  <b>92 points</b> - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2017</p>

**Scores/Awards** **17.5+ points** - Farr Vintner - February 2017  
**91-95 points** - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2017  
**95 points** - Neal Martin, Vinous - January 2019  
**97 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - January 2019  
**93-96 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2017  
**97 points** - Jeb Dunnuck MW - November 2017

**Reviews** *"The core of fruit flavor here is sappy and dense, with lots of kirsch, raspberry pâte de fruit and plum reduction notes, yet this stays fresh and racy overall, with a bright iron spine, flashes of tea and tobacco and a long finish that shows a wonderful infusion of alder and tobacco flavors. Offers a lovely combination of prodigious fruit details, with a tug of earth. Best from 2024 through 2038"*  
- JM, Wine Spectator

*"Intense raspberry and boysenberry fruit drives along, flecked with anise hints and scored with roasted apple wood details. A touch toothy on the finish, with a loamy note, but the fruit takes an encore, which is a great sign for the future. Score range: 93-96"*  
- JM, Wine Spectator

*"The 2016 Domaine de Chevalier is a blend of 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot and 5% Cabernet Franc. Deep garnet-purple colored, it rocks up with expressive warm plums, blueberry compote and cassis scents with suggestions of sandalwood, baking spices and potpourri. Medium-bodied and delicately styled yet with a rock-solid frame of grainy tannins, it sports restrained earth-laced fruit and a long finish."*  
- LPB, Wine Advocate

*"The 2016 Domaine de Chevalier is a blend of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and 5% Petit Verdot picked between 4-21 October at 45 hectoliters per hectare and matured in 35% new oak. Oh yes! This is a perfumed bouquet that unfolds beautifully in the glass with blackberry, cedar, smoke and a light marine influence, not unlike Japanese nori. The palate is medium-bodied with such fine tannins that it bough to mind Burgundy rather than Bordeaux. There is a grainy texture here, quite saline in the mouth with an entrancing sense of symmetry, very classic but not austere on the finish, with a long and saline aftertaste. This is an outstanding Domaine de Chevalier from the busiest man in Bordeaux, Oliver Bernard. Tasted twice with consistent notes."*  
- NM, Wine Advocate

*"Aromas of blackberries, red and dark plums, cedar and gravel, as well as red flowers and brown-leaf tea. It offers a very sleek and powerful array of ripe dark fruit and a very plush, focused and elegant bed of fresh, fine and powerful tannins. Plenty of aging potential, this is still quite tight. A blend of 55 per cent cabernet sauvignon, 35 per cent merlot, five per cent cabernet franc and five per cent petit verdot. Try from 2024."*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"A dense and tight DC with mineral, crushed stone, cement and black currant. Full, tight and racy. Gorgeous. Leaf and tobacco undertones. Very tannic. Tight and so structured. Complex."*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"This elegant wine wears its firm tannic structure lightly. It is densely textured, just starting on its road to maturity. Black-plum and berry fruits give the wine its weight as much as the tannins. It will age well over many years. Drink from 2026."*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"Mint aromas and flavors signal the new wood in which this wine is aging. It has impressive fruit, opulent and dense, balanced by fine acidity, crisp edges and solid tannins. A serious wine that will last for a long time. (RV)"*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"Deep purple-rimmed crimson. Intense aroma that is very pure cassis and cassis leaf – but fully ripe – and just a hint of oak sweetness, and a hint of something more wild like elderberry. Gorgeous on the palate, richly fruited, rounded, deep and perfectly balanced for a long life but relatively early approachability. (JH)"*  
- JH, JancisRobinson.com

**Reviews** *“Concentrated and luscious. Real life and savour on the (at the moment slightly inky) end. One of the most youthful samples I encountered. Dry sandpaper end but perhaps it's a more honest sample than most?”*  
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*“Rich, round and beautiful, there really is distance between red and white this year. This has all the signature welcome and power of the very best vintages of Domaine de Chevalier, one of the 'clue' châteaux you should follow to track the quality of reds and whites in Bordeaux in any given vintage. Here you see that 2016 hits it out of the park with the reds. Rich damson, deep black cherry, slate, wet stones and curls of cold ash - this has beautiful complexity and texture. Stunning. Drinking Window 2027 – 2050”*

- JA, Decanter.com

*“Refined, elegant, fresh, silky and pure, this is a stunner. The wine, with its layers of tobacco-tinged dark, red berries, freshness and silky tannins is a strong contender for the best vintage of Domaine de Chevalier ever produced.”*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“Silky tannins, sweet, ripe, elegant, polished, and refined, this is a top vintage for Domaine de Chevalier. The tobacco, dark, red berries and spice are really shining this year. The wine has that elusive quality of freshness, length, purity and character. This will age quite nicely for decades. The wine was produced from a blend of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and 5% Petit Verdot. The fruit was picked from October 4 to October 21”*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“Like the white Domaine de Chevalier, this is made to age and wasn't showing at its most open and appealing during en primeur week. It's a dense, firm, serious wine that needs quite a bit of time to digest its oak. But who's in a hurry here? 2024-34”*

- TA, timatkin.com

*“This much respected property in Pessac-Léognan is run with great care by Olivier Bernard whose family took it over from Claude Ricard in 1983. During the 1980s and 1990s there was a major programme of replanting here and it is only since the early 2000's, with the vines reaching maturity, that the quality here has returned to that of the great vintages of the 1960s and before. Without doubt, the best vintages of Chevalier are the most recent ones. Domaine de Chevalier performs brilliantly every year now and is a regular star of our blind tastings. However, prices have remained reasonable. This is always one of our best-selling wines en primeur. Olivier Bernard is rightly proud of his 2016, believing it could outshine both his 2015 and 2009, and may be his best ever. 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Franc make up the blend. Deep in colour with a wonderfully spicy, black-fruited nose of cherry, plum and star anise. The palate is creamy and generous on entry with supply blackcurrant and damson lifted by refined, ripe tannins and refreshing acidity. The intensity builds through the mid palate with toasty oak, black chocolate, and vanilla pod providing further and further complexity with a flourish of breadth and length on the finish. A really superb 2016, one which we highly recommend both for value and absolute quality.”*

- Farr Vintners

*“The nose has a mix of fragrances the palate starts with some fresh fruits but the fruit in the middle is rich and sweet supple the tannins ripe but discreet. Rich at the back depth fleshy but there is balance an underlying freshness the finish is stylish and long. 2025-42”*

- Derek Smedley MW

*“The 2016 Domaine de Chevalier is a classy affair on the nose: nothing ambitious or self-aggrandizing, just beautifully defined black fruit laced with pine needles and wilted irises. The palate is medium-bodied with sappy red fruit, filigreed tannin, pitch-perfect acidity and a captivating sense of mineralité toward the persistent finish. This is an outstanding Domaine de Chevalier, possessing a surfeit of pedigree and breeding. Drink 2022-2055.”*

- NM, Vinous

*“The 2016 Domaine de Chevalier is a thrilling wine. Dense and beautifully layered, the 2016 is also quite a bit richer than it usually is. Cabernet Sauvignon aromatics and structure pulse through the wine. The red-toned fruit is incredibly primary at this stage. Readers should be prepared to cellar the 2016 for at least a handful of years. It has been nothing short of magnificent on the three occasions I have tasted it so far. 2026 – 2066”*

- AG, Vinous

## Reviews

*"The 2016 Domaine de Chevalier is a wine of total precision and class. Today, the flavors are remarkably primary, while the tannins, unusually, are totally buried by the fruit. It will be many years before the 2016 is ready to show all of its cards, but it is a brilliant wine in the making. Dark red cherry, blood orange, mint, white pepper and rose petal infuse the strikingly delineated, vibrant finish."*

- AG, Vinous

*"As to the reds, the 2016 Domaine de Chevalier is a blend of 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, and the balance Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc that saw an extended maceration, malo in barrel, and 18 months in just 35% new French oak. This deep purple-hued beauty boasts a powerful bouquet of tobacco smoke, damp earth, gravelly, rocky minerality, wood smoke, and loads of dark fruits. Full-bodied, deep, concentrated yet incredibly elegant and seamless on the palate, it's a legendary Chevalier in the making. While I rated this as high as 99 points on one of the four separate occasions, I was able to taste it, I'm being conservative with the score. It has some upfront charm but needs 4-5 years of cellaring and will keep for 3-4 decades."*

- Jeb Dunnuck

---