
Domaine de Chevalier 2018

CSPC# 790379

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

CSPC# 848139

750mlx6

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

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

Appellation

Pessac-Léognan

Classification

Grand Cru Classé de Graves in 1959

Website

<http://www.domainedechevalier.com/>

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 valour in battle against the English.

Domaine de Chevalier in the Graves/Pessac Leognan, 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

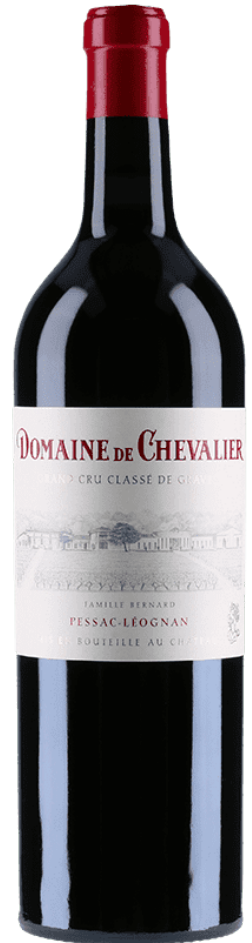
Rémi Edange. Stéphane Derenoncourt consults.

Vintage

2018 Pessac Leognan is the product of a challenging growing season. Like the rest of Bordeaux, the vintage had an auspicious start as the vineyards were underwater. It was not just the non-stop rain that went on for months.

There were hailstorms to contend with as well. And if that wasn't enough, the devastating mildew attacks hit hard, especially in organically farmed vineyards. However, it is important to note that mildew was much more prevalent in the south, in the Graves appellation.

Fortunately, by the middle of summer, everything changed for the better. With the gorgeous sunny, warm, and dry weather conditions, the vineyards managed to dry out. In fact, at one point, there was so much water stress due to the dry conditions that young vines in several vineyards were decimated.



Vintage	<p>Several vineyards began to suffer from hydric stress with so little moisture remaining in the soils. Clearly, Bacchus is a fan of 2018 Pessac Leognan because just when it was needed the most, much needed light rains fell the end of the summer, saving the vintage.</p> <p>Following the warm, dry summer, September and October remained hot, dry and sunny as well, which was perfect for the red wine grapes. But it was a little too hot and dry for the white wine grapes. Picking of the white wine grapes began in August, allowing the fruit to retain as much freshness as possible.</p>
Vineyards	<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>
Harvest	<p>The harvest took place under the best possible conditions, yielding exceptional grapes, which ripened early and displayed an ideal balance of power, concentration, and freshness. Harvest dates unknown.</p>
Maturation	<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>
Tasting Notes	<p>Domaine de Chevalier red 2018 presents a beautifully dark color, black at the core. The aromatic bouquet is beautifully polished and complex, exuding black and red fruits, followed by delicate spice, balsamic and empyreumatic notes. On the palate, the wine offers a generous and dense texture, along with delicious black and peppery fruit flavors. This wine displays a great power, balanced by a strong tension and great freshness, all while remaining quite delicate. Endowed with a great aging potential, the Domaine de Chevalier red 2018 has all the qualities of an exceptional vintage that will mark the history of the property.</p>
Serve with	<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>
Production	<p>10,000 cases made.</p>
Cellaring	<p>Drink 2024-2038</p>
Scores/Awards	<p>96 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - January 2021 94-97 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - June 2019 95+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2021 94-96+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - April 2019 99 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2021 99-100 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2019 97 points/Cellar Selection - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2021 95-97 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2019 18 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - October 2020 17.5+ points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2019 96 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - November 2020 96 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2019 97 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2021 96-98 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2019 17.5 points - Farr Vintner - April 2019 94 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - March 2021 94-96 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - November 2019 97 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - March 2021</p>

Scores/Awards **94-97 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2019
97 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2021
96-98 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - May 2019
17.5+ points - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2019
95 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - February 2021
94 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com (score only) - March 2019
98 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - March 2019
17.5-18.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - April 2019 or January 2021
17 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2019

Reviews *"Dreamy, with a velvety, caressing feel to a mix of warmed cassis, plum reduction and cherry preserve flavors that glide through slowly, but surely, letting anise, sweet tobacco and mineral accents peek in throughout. Very long, very refined. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Petit Verdot. Best from 2024 through 2038. 10,000 cases made."*

- JM, Wine Spectator

"This is flashy, with mesquite, licorice, black tea and fruitcake aromatics leading the way to a frankly ripe core of steeped raspberry and plum flavors. Seems pretty liberal with the toast, but this has what it needs to come together in the end. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Petit Verdot. 10,000 cases made."

- JM, Wine Spectator

"A blend of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and 5% Petit Verdot, aged for approximately 18 months in oak barriques, 35% new, the 2018 Domaine de Chevalier has a deep garnet-purple color, pouncing out of the glass with energetic scents of crushed blackcurrants, fresh, juicy blackberries and ripe plums, with suggestions of crushed rocks, bay leaves, unsmoked cigars and lavender. The medium to full-bodied palate is packed with muscular black fruits, framed by firm, ripe, grainy tannins, and great tension, finishing long and mineral laced. Give it another 4 years in bottle to flesh out and drink it over the next 25+ years. 2025-2030."

- LPB, Wine Advocate

"This wine is a blend of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, and 5% Petit Verdot to be aged for approximately 18 months in oak barriques, 35% new. Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2018 Domaine de Chevalier starts a little closed before bounding out of the glass with bold expressions of fresh blackcurrants, kirsch, black raspberries and fragrant earth plus nuances of lilacs, Sichuan pepper and menthol. Medium to full-bodied, the palate maintains elegance and sophistication, with a lovely ripe, finely grained frame and plenty of freshness to back up the floral and black fruit layers, finishing long and perfumed."

- LPB, Wine Advocate

"The intensity and perfumes on the nose are extremely impressive, offering pure blackberries and violets, as well as bark, wild-mushroom and raw-tile notes. It's full-bodied with creamy tannins that envelop the wine and a gorgeous, subtly complex center palate with all the flavors found on the nose. Endless finish. Love the finesse and length to this. Greatest ever. 65% cabernet sauvignon, 30% merlot and 5% petit verdot. Try after 2026."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Wow. I can't get over the pureness of fruit in this wine with so much currant, tar and wet-earth character. Flowers, too. So aromatic. Full body, yet pureness and brightness of fruit. Layered. Incredible depth and beauty. 65 per cent cabernet sauvignon, 30 per cent merlot and 5 per cent petit verdot. Greatest ever?"

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"With the 65% Cabernet Sauvignon in the blend, this wine shows its pedigree, richness and potential. Tannins are almost velvet in their texture while packing a fine punch and conveying plenty of longevity. The ripeness of the vintage balances with the structure. Drink the wine from 2027. *Cellar Selection*."*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

Reviews

"The wine's tannins are impressive and solidly structured, with a firm concentration of ripe black fruits to round it out. The black plum flavor and bright acidity offer a juicy feel, allied with a mineral note on the finish."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot. Biodynamic and organic farming methods. Black core with narrow crimson rim. Elegant restraint of dark, dark fruit. Rocks and lead pencils as well as pure, refined cassis aromas. This is gorgeous. Meltingly tender tannins perfectly integrated with the purest, most perfectly ripe, and yet fresh fruit. Already silky but with, for sure, a long life ahead. (JH)"
- JH, JancisRobinson.com

"Black core, cherry rim. Subtle and scented on the nose, even though it looks like a big wine. When I tasted this two days later, it was more open and rich on first impression. Plenty of oak on the nose, as you might expect at this stage. Crushed stones entwined with black, black fruit. Relative to the vintage, this has real tenderness on the palate, the finest of dry tannins and a finish that leaves your mouth clean, as 75% chocolate does. Very impressive."
- JH, JancisRobinson.com

"Lovely rich depth to the nose. This is a successful wine with balance, power, and elegance. Subtle with a ton of complexity: blackberry and autumnal fruits, touches of hedgerow, slate, chocolate, and crushed stone, with sweet raspberry purée as it opens up. Just a lovely wine that you would be very happy to own. One-third new oak. Maintained its success from en primeur."
- JA, Decanter.com

"These guys clearly know what they are doing, and they keep doing it. This wine is consistent even in difficult years but in years like this, where they have the room to maneuver, it really shines. This is great stuff, with lovely freshness to the deep fruit flavours. There is persistency and plenty of slate and freshly cut herbs to stack up against the juicy, concentrated fruit. It's a powerful, well-handled and confident wine but doesn't push too hard. One-third new oak. Drinking Window 2027 – 2040."
- JA, Decanter.com

"Clearly the finest vintage of Domaine de Chevalier ever produced, this beauty has it all. The captivating perfume with all its smoke, earth, spice, tobacco infused, ripe, red, and dark red fruits, tar, cigar box, thyme and espresso scents are close to off the charts. With the 2018 you find unheard of levels of concentration with everything in balance. The fruits are generous, silky, and pure. The refined, elegant finish just goes on and on. With aging, this could merit an even higher score in the years to come. Olivier Bernard calls this the best vintage of Domaine de Chevalier he has ever produced, and he is right! The wine is made from a blend of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and 5% Petit Verdot."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Close to opaque in color, the wine is opulent, concentrated, juicy and intense. The fruit comes in layers expanding as it builds in your mouth. Once the juicy blackberry and cherry begins to fade, you'll find licorice, dark cocoa and sweet, salty plums. The finish is everlasting. Olivier Bernard calls this the best vintage of Domaine de Chevalier he has ever produced, and he is right! The wine is made from a blend of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and 5% Petit Verdot reaching 13.5% alcohol."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"With a deep purple colour in the glass, this exudes the classic earthiness of the appellation, paired with ripe black cherry, dried herbs and sweet spices. The palate is wonderfully silky, with glossy, refined tannins gently framing the sweet fruit at the core. Bright acidity washes through and gives wonderful elegance and precision without losing the juicy, ripe fruit. The finish is long but restrained, with the sweet fruit and savoury spices of oak in perfect harmony. A magnificent Domaine de Chevalier that captures the best elements of the vintage."
- Farr Vintners

"Here is another wine that needed aeration to really show its mettle, albeit not as much as others. The 2018 Domaine de Chevalier initially comes across a little ordinary. You ask yourself: What's the fuss all about? But after 60–90 minutes it reveals an absolutely divine nose of raspberry, crushed rose petals, wild mint and Provençal herbs, beautifully defined and gaining intensity with each passing moment. The palate is very well balanced, the predominantly red fruit framed by fine tannins that provide the backbone to this Domaine de

Reviews *Chevalier, yet the overriding impression is one of elegance and finesse. An utterly sublime Pessac-Léognan that is going to give a lot of pleasure over the coming years."*

- NM, Vinous

"The 2018 Domaine de Chevalier has a compelling bouquet with copious black cherries, raspberry coulis, crushed stone and rose petal scents, suggestions of black olive developing with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannins. This is silky smooth in texture with hints of brown spice and dark chocolate infusing the black fruit, a touch of curry powder towards the finish that sets the tongue tingling after the wine has departed. This is a seriously fine Domaine de Chevalier from Olivier Bernard and his team. Does it rank alongside the 2016? Well, yes, it might well do that. Drink 2023-2045."

- NM, Vinous

"The 2018 Domaine de Chevalier is easily one of the wines of the vintage. A wine of mind-blowing precision and regal elegance, Domaine de Chevalier dazzles from the very first taste. Dried herbs, rose petal, mint, blood orange, pomegranate and bright mineral notes all build in the glass. Richly layered but also translucent, the 2018 is a real head-turner. Don't miss it!"

- AG, Vinous

"The 2018 Domaine de Chevalier is magnificent. Bright, lifted and wonderfully nuanced, the 2018 has so much to offer. Olivier Bernard turned out a dazzling Domaine de Chevalier in 2018 that speaks to precision and nuance above all else. Rose petal, mint, savory herbs, and crushed rocks add striking aromatic top notes to this stunning, breathtakingly beautiful wine. The tannins need time to soften, but I doubt readers will be in a rush. The 2018 is simply majestic - that's all there is to it. The blend is 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and 5% Petit Verdot. Tasted three times."

- AG, Vinous

"The 2018 Domaine De Chevalier is a beauty. Based on 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, and the rest Petit Verdot, aged 18 months in 35% new French oak, it has a beautiful sense of elegance and purity, which is very much in the style of the vintage as well as the domaine. Blackcurrants, black cherries, cold fireplace, damp earth, tobacco, and chocolate are just some of the nuances here, and this complex, medium to full-bodied 2018 has gorgeous tannins, terrific balance, and a great finish. It has suppleness in its texture that allows it to offer pleasure even today, yet given its balance as well as purity, it deserves 5-7 years of bottle age and will keep for 30+ years. It is another brilliant wine from the team of Olivier Bernard."

- Jeb Dunnuck

"Possibly one of the finest wines ever to come from the Bernard family's flagship estate near Léognan, the 2018 Domaine de Chevalier checks in as a blend of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, and 5% Petit Verdot that hit 13.5% alcohol and will spend 18 months in just 35% new French oak. Its saturated purple/plum color is followed by a mammoth bouquet of cassis, black currants, gravelly earth, smoked herbs, and tobacco. Full-bodied, deep, brilliantly balanced, and seriously concentrated, it has polished tannins, no hard edges, and a finish that won't quit. It's a heavenly Graves that will keep for 30+ years."

- Jeb Dunnuck

"(65 Cabernet Sauvignon, 30 Merlot, 5 Petit Verdot) There is no doubt that this is a classy wine, and it is certainly well-structured, but there is a tender mulberry tone in the core which signals a degree of complexity to it and even though the tannins are fairly rustic, they are sure to calm, too."

- MJ, matthewjukes.com