
Domaine de Chevalier Blanc 2013

CSPC# 780489 750mlx12 13.0% alc./vol.
CSPC# 780657 750mlx6 13.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety 70% Sauvignon Blanc, 30% Semillon
Appellation Pessac-Léognan
Classification Cru Classe 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 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.

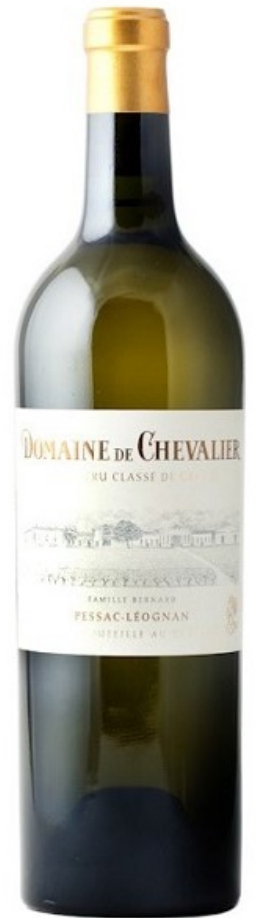
Shortly after the elder Ricard passed away, the son discovered the outstanding potential of the terroir and soil at Domaine de Chevalier and transformed it into a full-time vineyard. The name was changed from "Chivaley" to the French "Chevalier". When Jean Ricard died, his son-in-law, Gabriel Beaumartin, 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.

Vintage High quality white wine grapes need different conditions to grow from their red wine counterparts, so 2013 met the parameters for a very good dry white wine vintage thanks to fine weather in July and August, without excessive dryness. Great sweet white wines were also successful in 2013 thanks to the wet, mild autumn, much more favourable to the early, widespread development of *Botrytis cinerea* than 2012.

Vineyards The 80-hectoliter vineyard of Domaine de Chevalier has 42 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, 37 hectares are planted to 64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc and 3% Petit



Verdot. The vineyard is planted to a vine density of 10,000 vines per hectare. On average, the vines are close to 30 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. The forest enhances the extremes of temperature and increase the risk of frost. The terroir is also gravelly black sand soils that are on average 60-90 cm deep. The rich sub-soil consists of a clay-gravel base mixed with hardpan. The vineyard drainage system, built in 1962, important as it drains excess water. At Domaine de Chevalier, it makes a big difference because the sub-soil is prone to retaining humidity. A wind machine and even helicopters are also used to keep the vines dry on occasion. This works because the helicopter blades stir and blend the lower layers of cold air with warmer air and helps avoid damage from frost.

Harvest Hand-picked, into small crates from September 23 to October 3, 2013. Grapes are picked in 3 to 5 waves for optimum ripeness. Traditional cold settling in barrels.

Maturation Fermentation in barrels. Age in barrels for 18 months (35% new oak) with bâtonnage (stirring the lees with a stick)

Tasting Notes Bordeaux 2013 vintage is extremely qualitative for the dry white wines' expression because of beautiful acidity around which is organized the wine structure. This Domaine Chevalier Blanc 2013 has great richness thanks to its terroir and great concentration due to low yields. Pale gold bright color with green glints. Explosive nose of citrus fragrances mixed of white peach and exotic fruit. Fresh and mineral aromas. Outstanding tension and freshness on the palate with intense and amazing flavors. This wine is built for aging and it will provide its complex and tasty flavors for a long time.

Production cases made

Cellaring Drink 2018-2030.

Scores/Awards **92-95 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2014
93-95+ points - Robert M. Parker Jr., Wine Advocate #214 - August 2014
93-95 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2014
97-98 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - October 2015
95 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2016
93-95 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - September 4, 2014
92-95 points - Stephen Tanzer, ST's International Wine Cellar - Aug 2014
15.5 points - Richard Hemming, JancisRobinson.com - April 2014
17.75 points - Steven Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2014
92-93 points - Jane Anson, The New Bordeaux - April 2014
93 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2014
95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 1, 2016
93-95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 21, 2014
90-92 points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2, 2014
16.5 points - Jake Dean, Berry & Rudd Wine & Spirit Merchants - April 2014
17.5 points - Farr Vintner - April 2014
89-93 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2014
93 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2014
94-97 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2014
88 points - Lea & Sandeman Wine Merchants - April 2013
88-90 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only)
92 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only)
16 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)

Reviews *"This marries high-pitched thyme, chamomile and quinine notes with richer white peach, shortbread and meringue flavors. The long finish pulls everything together. Should be a beauty when finished. 92-95"*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"A strikingly rich, complex wine, the 2013 Domaine de Chevalier is a spectacular blend of 80% Sauvignon Blanc and 20% Semillon that achieved 13% natural alcohol. It offers lots of lemon oil, orange blossom, crushed rock and white flower-like characteristics. It is super-intense and medium to full-bodied with a level of concentration

Reviews *rarely seen. Nevertheless, the tart acids, freshness and beautiful winemaking have resulted in a stunningly balanced, pure wine. It has 30-50 years of longevity ahead of it, although most of it will be drunk during its first decade of life."*

- RP, Wine Advocate

"The Domaine de Chevalier Blanc is a blend 80% Sauvignon Blanc and 20% Semillon. It has a potent bouquet with apple blossom and granite scents that are not as immediate as previous vintages but only nicely in the glass after 5 minutes aeration. The palate is a little spicy on the entry. It is a beautifully balanced white Domaine de Chevalier with a fine line of acidity. Perversely the bottle at the Château was reticent, but subsequent examples suggested dewy green apples, peach and citrus peel notes combining with devastating effect on the finish. This will be worth seeking out after bottling and would be my preference over its red counterpart. 93-95"

- NM, Wine Journal

"This white is so dense and powerful, with a finish that lasts for minutes. Pear, lemon, grapefruit and loads of minerals. Has more weight than all the red wines made in 2013. Full body. Profound depth. I look forward to tasting this from bottle in a few years. 97 - 98/100"

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This is a beautiful wine, fresh with acidity and structured with a mineral texture. Layers of creamy citrus and white fruit flavors go along with touches of wood aging that are well integrated. It's a wine to drink for its freshness soon, although it will also benefit from several years aging. It will be best from 2018."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"93-95. Barrel Sample. Here's a wine that shows swathes of warm fruits, with a rich structure that is cut by great acidity."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Bright straw-yellow. The captivating nose hints at a considerable Semillon component, with its white stone fruit and beeswax notes accented by fresh citrus and white flowers. Bright and juicy but dense, with lively acidity providing clarity and cut to the white stone fruit and citrus fruit flavors. The finish is vibrant and long, with pronounced minerality and a nice floral touch. Outstanding white Bordeaux in the making. 92-95"

- ST, International Wine Cellar

"Smoky, bright citric character. Just a little dilute mid palate, and the finish tails off suddenly. (RH) Drink 2014-2018. 15.5"

- RH, JancisRobinson.com

"Fine lemon yellow, white summer flowers and fruits on the nose, a dry citrus and honey palate, lift and length for a good future. Drink: 2016-2025. 17.75"

- SS, Decanter.com

"Domaine de Chevalier is one of the few Bordeaux châteaux whose whites are every bit as good as its reds. This is waxy, toasty and complex, with complex lemongrass, grapefruit and smoked lemon flavours and focused, tangy acidity. 2015-25 93"

- TA, timatkin.com

"Lovely nose, combination of sweet citrus and clean minerality. Good deft shot of acidity, great zing of minerality, very good indeed. The blend here is 80% sauvignon blanc, 20% Semillon. 92-93. Highly recommended. Drink 2016-2028."

JA, The New Bordeaux

"Showing better in the bottle than it did during the barrel tastings, the wine delivers a fresh, vibrant, citrus, grapefruit, lemon grass and stone aromatic profile. Richly textured, the wine has purity of fruit and freshness galore. This should drink well young and have the ability to age and evolve for decades."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

Reviews *"Mineral-driven with a blast of fresh citrus, the wine is long, keeping its citrus and stone personality tinged with fresh lemon sensations from start to finish. 80% Sauvignon Blanc and 20% Semillon. 93-95 Pts"*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Palest grey; round and fine; some lees and waxy notes; some oyster shell; racy palate with salty minerality; fresh; pretty good length and acidity. Moreish and good life ahead. UGCB April 2014. Drink 2017-2025. 90-92+"

- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

"DOMAINE DE CHEVALIER, blanc 2013 One of the truly great names of dry White Bordeaux. Chevalier Blanc has a loyal following and is a wine with an amazing ability to age despite being attractive in its youth. 75% Sauvignon Blanc, 25% Semillon. Pale straw colour, with a fresh zesty nose of grapefruit, citrus and ginger. The palate is complex with mineral and flinty notes rivalling exotic peach and melon fruit, bolts of lime cordial, and underlying wood spice. The razor-sharp acidity gives the wine purity, focus and finesse. The finish is long, precise and fine."

- Farr Vintners

"Rich on the nose the palate has depth and the sweetness of tropical fruits. It is fresh in the middle citrusy with crisp apple but at the back there are layers of flavour depth of fruit a lovely complexity. 2016-21 89-93"

- Derek Smedley MW

"Wonderful concentration and vibrancy in this vintage. Precision and depth here with intense apricot and pomelo fruit with a finish of fresh herbs. 80% Sauvignon Blanc and 20% Semillon. The second sample tasted blind was lean and quite reserved on the nose; much less expressive than the bottle tasted at the chateau. The palate offers a creamy mid palate with citrus and ripe stone fruits. A balanced wine that is drinking well now even in its youth. Tasted in Bordeaux, France. Maturity: Young. (01-Apr-2014)"

- JCL, asianpalate.com

"Generally, the dry whites are very charming and easy in 2013, again for early drinking. As with all top vintages, those which excelled, managed to harness and retain beautiful refreshing lift and Domaine de Chevalier have done this with aplomb. Notably higher in Sauvignon Blanc than usual, stylistically this has more punch and intensity on the palate, a broad richness providing charming texture, punchy, exotic, citrus fruits and precise, substantial power on a very long finish. Different to the great 2007 but a beautiful powerhouse that everyone should consider for their cellars, superb. Jake Dean - Fine Wine Sales Director"

- JD, Berry & Rudd Wine & Spirit Merchants

"Catty, box-hedge nose, then fat on the palate but sluggish. I'm not really enjoying this this year. 88"

- Lea & Sandeman Wine Merchants

"The 2013 Domaine de Chevalier Blanc is fabulous. White flowers, spices, mint, grapefruit and lemon peel all meld together in a distinctive wine bursting with personality. The flavors are bright and high-toned, while aging on the lees with a little bit of stirring adds texture. Intense, saline notes support the striking, crystalline finish. The 2013 seemed to get better with each tasting. This is a stunning wine by any measure. The blend is 80% Sauvignon Blanc and 20% Semillon. 94-97"

- AG, Vinous
