

Domaine de Chevalier Blanc 2023

CSPC# 866101

6x750ml

14.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	70% Sauvignon Blanc, 30% Sémillon.
Appellation	Pessac-Léognan
Classification	Cru Classe de Graves in 1959
Website	http://www.domainedechevalier.com/
Analysis	pH: 3.21
Sustainability	Farming is now organic and biodynamic, with experiments with cover-crops and unhedged canopies, and drainage to improve more humid parcels. Sauvignon Blanc is planted in the estate's coolest sites, Cabernet Sauvignon on its warmest, and everything else is planted in between. Conversion to Organic with the 2024 label.
General Info	<p>The owners of Domaine de Chevalier, the Bernard family, have a long history dating all the way back to 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.</p> <p>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's. 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Winemaker	Rémi Edange. Stéphane Derenoncourt consults.
Vintage	<p>We knew the warm vintages, sometimes very dry, the cold and/or humid vintages; in 2023 we discover the tropical vintage!</p> <p>The spring climate difficulties required a relentless winegrowing battle, necessitated by our commitment to organic practices and the strong pressure from downy mildew. Nonetheless, we managed to showcase our terroir with a very beautiful Domaine de Chevalier red and an exceptional Domaine de Chevalier white.</p> <p>Spring was early, very mild, and abundantly rainy. A big bud break and a rapid flowering around May 25, followed by a very good fruit set, suggested a beautiful harvest. The daily storms in the second half of June</p>



Vintage	<p>increased the virulence of the mildew. The promise of a good yield vanished, mainly for the Merlot. Viewed from another angle, these stormy precipitations, from the end of June and July, fortunately helped the spared clusters to swell and allowed for a bit of volume recovery.</p> <p>The second part of this vintage was markedly better: The beautiful warm weather at the end of August and the dry winds of the magnificent sunny September, with significant thermal amplitudes, ripened and concentrated all the grape varieties.</p> <p>The white harvest began at the end of August for the early plots. Our strategy of selection and sorting on the vine guaranteed great precision in the maturity of the clusters and an exceptional balance.</p> <p>In red, from September 7, we brought in well-ripened Merlots. End of Cabernet Sauvignon on September 30. At the harvest reception area, vibrating tables, optical sorting, and density sorting allowed for making choices within the choices... Precision continues to improve, quality goes up again...</p> <p>In the cellar, new tanks have been added to complement an already wide range, where each red grape variety is showcased according to its age, its origin, and the viticultural observations of the year.</p> <p>The results are superb with very high-level white wines, powerful, elegant, and fresh, and red wines that are rich, ripe, and full-bodied, with velvety and tasty tannins. The quality of the well-preserved acids highlights and enlivens these two wines.</p>
Vineyards	<p>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. 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.</p> <p>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 increases 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, is 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 help avoid damage from frost.</p>
Harvest	<p>Harvest August 28-September 6, 2023. Yield: 45 hl/ha</p> <p>Hand-picked, into small crates. Grapes are piked in 3 to 5 waves for optimum ripeness.</p>
Maturation	<p>The grapes are sorted 3 to 5 times to retain only the best from the Sauvignon Blanc and Semillon varieties. Cold settling and fermentation in barrels. Finally, the wine is aged for 16 to 18 months in barrels (1/3 new).</p>
Tasting Notes	<p>Intense fruity brilliance, elegant and very complex. Fresh fragrances of citrus, herbs, and spring white flowers (hawthorn, acacia, elderflower) envelop the concentrated and very fresh white fruits (vine peach, nectarine, pear, passion fruit...) in a delicate manner.</p> <p>On the palate, this wine unfolds with distinguished elegance. Its richness and caressing texture, elegantly poised, are adorned with the wild flavors of the terroir. Beautiful floral bitters encase the juicy maturity of this blend. The acidic balance vibrates through the ensemble. The flavor radiance is intense, showcasing elegance and purity.</p> <p>Endless finish.</p>
Serve with	<p>Domaine de Chevalier Blanc is a perfect wine to serve with all types of seafood, fish, shellfish, crab, lobster, chicken, veal, port and of course cheese.</p>
Production	<p>2,100 cases made</p>
Cellaring	<p>Drink 2026-2037</p>
Scores/Awards	<p>96 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - May 2026</p> <p>96 points - Yohan Castaing, Wine Advocate - March 2026</p> <p>94-96 points - Yohan Castaing, Wine Advocate - April 2024</p> <p>94-96 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent - May 2024</p> <p>98 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - December 2025</p> <p>97-98 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2024</p> <p>96 points - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - February 2026</p> <p>96 points - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - May 2024</p> <p>96 points - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - April 2024</p> <p>97 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2026</p> <p>94-96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2024</p> <p>90 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2024</p> <p>94-96 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - April 2024</p>

Scores/Awards **96 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2026
96 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2026
93-96 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - May 2024
94 points - Jean Marc Quarin - April 2024
94 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2024
97-98 points - Alexandre Ma MW - April 2024
94-95 points - Bettane & Desseauve - May 2024
96 points - Vinum Wine Magazine - January 2026
