

Château Malartic Lagraviere 2016

CSPC# 785895

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

CSPC# 864619

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc, 3% Petit Verdot.

Appellation

Pessac-Léognan

Classification

Grand Cru Classé de Graves in 1959

Website

<http://www.malartic-lagraviere.com/en/vintages/#malartic-rouge-2015>

General Info

Chateau Malartic Lagraviere started out life with a shorter name. Originally, it was known as Domaine de Lagraviere. The Malartic family obtained the Bordeaux vineyard at the close of the eighteenth century. In the 1850's, the chateau changed their name to Malartic Lagraviere. The name change was to honor the family's famous son, Comte Anne-Joseph-Hippolyte Maures de Malartic, who was a well-known French colonial Governor and French Navy Admiral. In fact, this explains the reason for the boat on their logo.

Chateau Malartic Lagraviere passed from the family of Maures de Malartic family to Arnaud Ricard. The Ricard family were quite well-known in the Graves region as they also owned Chateau de Fieuzal and Domaine de Chevalier . The Ricard family eventually sold the property in 1990 to the famous Champagne producer, Laurent-Perrier. In 1997, Chateau Malartic Lagraviere, became the property of Michele and Alfred-Alexandre Bonnie in 1997. Without prior experience in the wine world, the Bonnie family dove right in at Chateau Malartic Lagraviere, spending close to \$20,000,000 to modernize the estate.

Winemakers

Michele and Alfred-Alexandre Bonnie

Vintage

Extreme weather conditions resulted in an exceptional vintage. A particularly wet winter and spring promised good yields. One of the best summers of the decade, with a long dry period, brought power and concentration. A remarkable late season, with substantial differences in temperatures, ensured elegance for this exceptional vintage. Each of these stages, with an extreme climatology, has been chained with a perfect tempo: This is the singularity of this vintage. Flowering was rapid and uniform and summer extremely hot and dry. But Malartic vines' deep roots were able to find water reserves in the clay-limestone subsoil and benefit fully from the summer heat. The grapes changed colour with the same uniformity as the flowering. After the very dry conditions, the rain on 13 September (40 mm) was welcome. An Indian summer lasted through to the end of the harvests with some big differences between the day and night-time temperatures, encouraging the accumulation of anthocyanins and aromatic richness. For the red wines, the vintage is in the "exceptional" category. We have rarely seen such substance and balance in both polyphenolic and aromatic terms. Long and slow ripening has refined the tannins and developed complexity in the flavours and aromas, while maintaining plenty of freshness. Exceptional & superb.

Vineyards

The 53-hectare vineyard of Chateau Malartic Lagraviere is planted to produce both red and white Bordeaux wine. 46 hectares are planted for red Bordeaux grapes with 45% Merlot , 45% Cabernet Sauvignon , 8% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot . The terroir for the red wine grape varieties is gravel and clay with limestone soils. Their best terroir is probably the parcel behind their cellars, with the really deep gravel soil that can be as deep as at 8 meters. All work in the vineyards is done using only self-sustaining, farming techniques.

7 hectares of vines are reserved for white Bordeaux wine varieties. For that, the vineyards are planted to 80% Sauvignon Blanc and 20% Semillon. For the white wine grape varieties, you find more limestone with clay and a slightly cooler micro-climate in the vineyards. On average, the vines are close to 25 years of age, but they have old vines too, some of which are more than 60 years of age. The vineyard is planted to a vine density of 10,000 vines per hectare.



Harvest	Merlots from 29 September to 12 October 2016; Cabernet-Sauvignon From 13 to 20 October 2016; Cabernet-Franc 13 October 2016; Petit-Verdot 12 October 2016
Vinification/ Maturation	To produce the red wine of Chateau Malartic Lagraviere, vinification takes place in a combination of 20 stainless steel vats and 10 oak tanks. The 30 different, conical shaped vats allow for parcel-by-parcel vinification. Malolactic fermentation takes place in barrel. Fermentation 3 to 5 weeks - 28 to 30° C. Aged in traditional oak barrels: 80% new oak for 18 months.
Tasting Notes	Very nice finesse of mouth, firm tannins, character of terroir more full bodied because the wood is much less marked. A subtle search for fruit and finesse makes it a great success. It is part of the new era of this classified growth.
Serve with	Chateau Malartic Lagraviere is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. Young vintages can be decanted for 1-3 hours. This allows the wine to soften and open its perfume. The wine will also gently warm in the glass, releasing its aromatics. Older vintages might also need decanting, for both aerating and to remove the sediment. The red wine of Chateau Malartic Lagraviere is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes.
Production	11,250 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2020-2032
Scores/Awards	<p>92 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2019</p> <p>92-95 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2017</p> <p>92 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - November 2018</p> <p>94-96 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #230 - April 2017</p> <p>96 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2019</p> <p>95-96 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2017</p> <p>96 points/Cellar Selection - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 2019</p> <p>96-98 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2017</p> <p>16.5 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - October 2018</p> <p>17+ points - Richard Hemmings, JancisRobinson.com - May 2017</p> <p>16.5+ points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2017</p> <p>94 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2017</p> <p>95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 2019</p> <p>94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2018</p> <p>94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2017</p> <p>92 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2017</p> <p>16.5 points - Farr Vintner - February 2017</p> <p>87-90 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2017</p> <p>95 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - January 2019</p> <p>94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - January 2019</p> <p>92-95 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2017</p> <p>94 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2019</p> <p>17.5-18.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - April 2017</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Ripe and fresh, with bright cherry, plum and currant pâte de fruit flavors that have a racy edge while roasted apple wood, sweet tobacco and red licorice notes fill in through the lengthy finish. Thoroughly delicious, and approachable now or capable of some cellaring. Drink now through 2030. 11,250 cases made."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Ripe and pure, with a long, sleek feel to the cassis and warm cherry preserve flavors. Shows a snap of licorice at the end, as well as floral lift throughout. Score range: 92-95"</i> - JS, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The 2016 Malartic Lagraviere is blended of 53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc and 3% Petit Verdot. Medium to deep garnet-purple in color, it opens with wild blueberries and black cherries with cassis, bay leaves and dark chocolate nuances plus a hint of charcoal. Medium-bodied with a lively backbone and solid frame of ripe, rounded tannins, it finishes with an herbal lift."</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate</p>

Reviews

"The 2016 Malartic-Lagraviere picked between 13-20 October at 46 hectoliters per hectare. It is matured in 80% new oak and the remainder one year old. It has a very composed and pure bouquet with blackberry, mint and just a touch of blueberry, the new oak neatly integrated and menthol developing with time. The palate is very well balanced with crisp acidity, fine structure and a keen line of acidity; this is a pixelated Pessac-Léognan that exudes style and panache. There is an effortless nature to this wine, and it feels so persistent in the mouth that you cannot wait to take another sip. This is (another) impressive release from the bonny Bonnie family and do not be surprised if it eventually surpasses the outstanding 2015."

- NM, Wine Advocate

"I love the deep and complex nose, in which the cassis and mint of cabernet sauvignon are beautifully married to the more generous blackberry of ripe merlot and the vanilla and toasty notes from the oak are marvelously integrated. On the palate it creeps up on you slowly; the first impression is ripe yet delicate, then the fine-grained tannins charge through and light up the sky. Very long finish. Drink or hold."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This is so linear and refined with compacted fruit and superb tannin texture. The length and beauty to this grab you immediately and make you pay attention. Wait and see."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"The Bonnie family's estate has produced a richly structured wine, full of the ripe tannins indicative of the vintage. To balance the structure, powerful flavors of black currant and dark berries give ripeness. It is a wine to age; drink after 2026."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"A powerfully dense, impressive wine from a top-performing estate with a solid, foursquare structure. The crisp acidity so much in evidence is that this vintage shines through all this richness. Keep the wine for at least 12 years."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Deep crimson. Dark, nicely dusty cassis. Dark chocolate and graphite finesse. Dry, fine tannins with the graphite freshness marked on the finish. Elegant, if not charming at the moment. Attractive restraint. (JH)"

- JH, JancisRobinson.com

"53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc, 3% Petit Verdot.

Barrel sample. Less obviously fruity than the 2015, and altogether more restrained on the nose. Tight and slightly bitter on the palate, but not at all underripe. Liquorice and bitter chocolate. High acid, reasonably accessible tannin, medium body. Much more classic than the 2015, though with slightly less power and interest. (RH)"

- RH, JancisRobinson.com

"Lively crimson. Meaty, veggie and with lots of energy on the nose. Then very thick and sweet. Almost too much so for my palate though the richness ratio is certainly impressive. Super-flattering. Sandpaper finish. More depth than the Latour-Martillac."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"This is great, with clear cinnamon and black pepper spicing and lovely upfront impact with coffee and tar edging, black fruits and a very appealing sense of balance. It softens through the mid-palate then lengthens out again on the finish, providing the full architectural experience. The tannins are well placed and careful but need time to soften; this is a wine built with ageing in mind."

- JA, Decanter.com

"Round, plush, polished and with a great, silky mouth feel, there is depth of flavor on the palate, and complexity in the nose with its deep, dark cherry, thyme, espresso, smoke and wet earth. You find length, and richness with an espresso bean, fresh, dark cherry and cocoa loaded finish. This could be the best vintage for the red wine of Malartic Lagraviere."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

Reviews

“Espresso, smoke, licorice, blackberry and dark cherry notes are all over the place. Lusciously textured, round, concentrated and fleshy, the wine will offer a lot of pleasure if you can hold off for 6-8 years, allowing the oak to integrate, while it develops more complexities.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Licorice, dark cherry, espresso and smoke create the character. Full bodied, richly, concentrated and intense, the fruit is fat, yet, crunchy, spicy and juicy. It offers volume, and freshness with depth of flavor. Until now, I thought the 2015 was the best vintage from Malartic, but it looks like I am going to change my mind, as this year is probably better. Produced from a blend of 53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc and 3% Petit Verdot, the wine reached 13.5% alcohol. The harvest took place from September 29 to October 20.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Like many of the 2016 Pessac-Léognan reds, this is deceptively forward and easy to drink from barrel, with abundant red berry perfume, strawberry and plum flavours and smooth tannins and oak. But the acidity and underlying concentration will help it to age. 2022-28”

- TA, timatkin.com

“This Pessac Leognan Chateau has been making excellent wines in recent years under the management of owner Jean-Jacques Bonnie whose family purchased the property in 1997. The 46-hectare vineyard is planted with equal proportions of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot with 8% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot. A property on the rise where prices tend to be reasonable. 53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot. Deep in colour, with a modern ripe black cherry, damson and sweet vanilla nose. Plush and ripe, with smooth, spicy fruit and slick, ripe but quite extractive tannins. Sweet blueberry pie and vanilla on a plush, rounded finish.”

- Farr Vintners

“The nose is bright with fresh black fruits and the start of the palate light. More depth and richness in the middle a concentrated mix of black fruits the tannins firm giving structure but feel ripe the finish has firm black cherry. 2025-39”

- Derek Smedley MW

“The 2016 Malartic-Lagravière has a wonderful bouquet of perfumed, mainly red fruit laced with potpourri, black olive tapenade and light brine-like aromas - a bouquet full of personality. The fresh, harmonious palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin, a fine bead of acidity and just the right amount of salinity toward the loam-tinged finish. Bon vin from the Bonnies. Drink 2023-2045.”

- NM, Vinous

“The 2016 Malartic Lagravière offers a deeply intriguing interplay of rich red/purplish berry fruit and fresher, brighter notes that give the wine its sense of delineation. Lavender rose petal and mint add striking high-toned nuances to this finely cut wine. The 2016 has turned out beautifully. Most important of all, it is impressively delicious”

- AG, Vinous

“The 2016 Malartic Lagravière is a stunningly beautiful wine. Rich, sumptuous and creamy, it captures all the intensity of the vintage while retaining considerable brightness, energy and lift. Propped up by lively acids, the flavors are remarkably vivid and delineated in this moving, exceptionally beautiful wine. Even with all of its density, the 2016 retains tons of freshness and energy. Ripe red stone fruits, graphite, smoke and cured meats add nuance throughout. Michel Rolland is the consultant. Tasted three times.”

- AG, Vinous

“As to the red, the grand vin is the 2016 Château Malartic-Lagravière (53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, and the balance Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot). Aged in 80% new barrels and hitting 13.5% natural alcohol, it offers a deep purple color with beautiful cassis, tobacco, crushed rocks, and subtle incense aromas and flavors. Balanced, medium to full-bodied, and straight-up seamless on the palate, it's another brilliant Graves that offers ample pleasure today yet will keep for 20+ years or more. Drink 2019-2039.”

- Jeb Dunnuck
