

# Château Malartic Lagraviere 2020

CSPC# 785895

750mlx12

14.2% alc./vol.

<b>Grape Variety</b>	50.4% Cabernet Sauvignon, 47.8% Merlot, 1.8% Cabernet Franc
<b>Appellation</b>	Pessac-Léognan
<b>Classification</b>	Grand Cru Classé de Graves in 1959
<b>Website</b>	<a href="https://www.malartic-lagraviere.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/malartic-lagraviere-red-2019.pdf">https://www.malartic-lagraviere.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/malartic-lagraviere-red-2019.pdf</a>
<b>Sustainability</b>	Sustainable farming - High Value Environmental certification. HVE, level 3 (the highest) since 2015. A unique reference of environmental quality, prioritizing biodiversity inside and all-around plots.
<b>General Info</b>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<b>Winemakers</b>	Michele and Alfred-Alexandre Bonnie. Eric Boissenot consults.
<b>Vintage</b>	<p>2020 was an early vintage, with exceptional weather conditions, characterized as much by high temperatures and periods of drought as by abundant rain and frost. The spring was fairly cold and wet, and bud break was early. While March saw severe frosts, April brought high temperature spikes. A very sunny start to May was followed by heavy rain, but then we had a good 10-day window at Malartic during flowering, which was fast and uniform. After the fruit had set, the rain came back at the beginning of June, increasing the risk of mildew.</p> <p>The weather changed mid-June to become dry and sunny, sometimes even scorchingly hot. Véraison was very early, ending at the beginning of August. After the extended dry period, the 50 mm of rain on 11 August were just what the vines needed. The harvests took place at a relaxed but steady pace, with exceptionally warm temperatures. They started with the white grapes on 25 August and finished on 24 September with the last Cabernet.</p> <p>Precise monitoring of the vineyard and Malartic's dry, gravelly, well-drained soil enabled us to turn the various weather challenges to our advantage. The work in the winery begun in 2019 with Eric Boissenot has been successfully continued: minimal intervention to highlight the purity of the fruit, followed by meticulous care and precision in the work on each batch after fermentation.</p>
<b>Vineyards</b>	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 8 meters. All work in the vineyards is done using only self-sustaining, farming techniques.
<b>Harvest</b>	Manual harvest by intra-plot passes, double sorting tables. Merlot: September 9 to 21; Cabernet-Sauvignon: September 21 to 24; Cabernet-Franc: September 18. Yields 26 hl/ha



<b>Vinification/ Maturation</b>	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 barrels. Fermentation 3 to 5 weeks - 28 to 30° C. Aged in traditional oak barrels: 65% new oak for 18 months.
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	The wines are well-balanced with great purity of fruit, sleek and very elegant tannins, enhanced by the very successful cellar work. The reds showing a very Cabernet style, develop superb aromatic power accompanied by tremendous freshness. With a silky and elegant structure, the palate is bright, lively, long and dense.
<b>Winemaker's Notes</b>	The Malartic 2020s are characterized by excellent density; their concentration is balanced by a remarkable freshness. The tannins are very sleek and elegant in this particularly well-balanced vintage. The reds, showing a very Cabernet style, develop superb aromatic power accompanied by tremendous freshness. With a silky and elegant structure, the palate is bright, lively, long and dense.
<b>Serve with</b>	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. 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.
<b>Production Cellaring</b>	5,800 cases made Drink 2020-2029
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>92 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2023</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2023</p> <p><b>92-94 points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - May 2021</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent (score only) - March 2023</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - December 2022</p> <p><b>93-94 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2021</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 2022</p> <p><b>94-96 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 2021</p> <p><b>17 points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2021</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - May 2021</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - January 2023</p> <p><b>96 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2023</p> <p><b>94-96 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2021</p> <p><b>90 points</b> - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2021</p> <p><b>90-93 points</b> - Farr Vintners - May 2021</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2023</p> <p><b>94-96 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - April 2021</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2023</p> <p><b>93-95 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - June 2021</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2023</p> <p><b>93-95 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - May 2021</p> <p><b>17.5 points</b> - Matthew Jukes - July 2021</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - March 2023</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Yves Beck (score only) - December 2022</p> <p><b>92-94 points</b> - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2021</p> <p><b>93-94 points</b> - Terres de Vins (score only) - May 2021</p> <p><b>94-95 points</b> - Vert de Vin - May 2021</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Andreas Larsson, Tasted - May 2021</p> <p><b>90-92 points</b> - Michael Schuster, The World of Fine Wine - May 2021</p> <p><b>17.5 points</b> - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - September 2021</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>"Ripe and plush, with a light frame of sweet toast gently guiding the core of cassis and plum puree along, while subtle iron and red tea notes peek in. Nicely focused for the vintage. Drink now through 2034. 5,800 cases made."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Aromas of cassis, plums, pencil shavings and spices introduce the 2020 Malartic Lagravière, a medium to full-bodied, supple, and seamless wine with a deep core of fruit, polished tannins, and succulent acids. This nicely balanced, suave, and flavorful Pessac will offer a broad drinking window."</i></p> <p>- WK, Wine Advocate</p>

- Reviews** *“The deep purple-black 2020 Malartic Lagraviere leaps from the glass with vibrant notes of Bing cherries, black raspberries, ripe plums, and boysenberries, plus suggestions of pencil lead, wild sage, and crushed rocks. Medium-bodied, the palate has lovely energy and freshness, offering a solid backbone of grainy tannins to support the lively red and black fruit layers, finishing savory. The tentative blend is 50.4% Cabernet Sauvignon, 47.8% Merlot, and 1.8% Cabernet Franc, with only 38% of production going into the grand vin. The alcohol is 14% this year. Commencing with the 2020 vintage, the estate has chosen a new bottle for the grand cru and second vin, highlighted by an engraved ship, the symbol of the estate.”*  
- LPB, Wine Advocate
- “Composed of 50.4% Cabernet Sauvignon, 47.8% Merlot, and 1.8% Cabernet Franc, the 2020 Malartic Lagraviere Rouge is deep garnet-purple in color, it strolls out with confident cassis and blackberry pie scents, leading to wafts of cedar, underbrush, and bay leaves. The medium to full-bodied palate is tightly wound, with vibrant black fruits and a grainy texture, finishing long and refreshing.”*  
- LPB, Wine Independent
- “Blackberries and licorice with blackcurrants. Mushroom, too. Medium to full body. Creamy and soft tannins that are fine textured. Delicious finish. Racy, polished, and sophisticated. Drink after 2026.”*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- “Lots of blackberry, cherry and walnut aromas and flavors. Some tar, too. It’s full-bodied with chewy tannins that are polished and energetic.”*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- “A richly impressive wine from the Bonnie family's estate. Dark tannins and rich fruits are elements of a wine that is going to be generous and dense, ripe, and stylish with plenty of aging potential.”*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- “A richly impressive wine from the Bonnie family's estate. Dark tannins and rich fruits are elements of a wine that is going to be generous and dense, ripe, and stylish with plenty of aging potential. Barrel Sample: 94-96.”*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- “Full bottle 1,305 g. Cask sample taken 6 April and I'm afraid it is written that it should be tasted before 10 April, five days ago... 50.4% Cabernet Sauvignon, 47.8% Merlot, 1.8% Cabernet Franc. Considerable changes to vinification and ageing here, not least shortening vatting times and careful tannin management in the press wines. Dark purplish crimson. Much more mineral than fruity on the nose. But very luscious fruit on the palate. With racy texture and notably fine tannins. Strongly saline finish. Distinctive and already rather appetising. Approachable young. 14.2%. Drink 2026 – 2042.”*  
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- “Concentration and intensity to the cassis and bilberry fruits. Well expressed, carefully extracted and there is good balance with crushed mint freshness on the finish. Really starts to show subtle floral edging with time in the glass. It has a silky texture and a finessed fresh core that holds interest from beginning to end. Another successful year at this estate. Tasted twice, and this is one of the successes of the appellation. A yield of 26hl/ha (24hl/ha Cabernets, 28l/ha Merlots) compared to 46hl/ha last year. 65% new oak, harvest from 9 to 24 September. Second year with Eric Boissenot as consultant. Drinking Window 2029 – 2044.”*  
- JA, Decanter.com
- “Huge depth, such beautiful texture running right through the palate, love the brambled juicy blueberry and blackberry fruits, crunchy and concentrated. Excellent quality. 65% new oak, harvest from 9 to 24 September, Eric Boissenot consultant.”*  
- JA, janeanson.com

## Reviews

*“Dark in color, the wine shows its blackberry, black cherry, dark chocolate, smoke, espresso, and an array of spice aromas on the palate with ease. Rich, full-bodied, vibrant, and intense. The wine is fresh as well as lush, and polished. Vibrant, expansive, creamy, and deep, this is going to rival many of the best vintages produced here. Drink from 2025-2048.”*

- JL, [thewinecellarinsider.com](http://thewinecellarinsider.com)

*“Dark garnet in color, the wine grabs your attention with its display of flowers, currants, espresso, smoke, licorice, and incense. Full-bodied, rich, and concentrated, the wine is lush and polished, with waves of opulent dark fruits that keep on coming. Fresh and expansive, creamy, and deep, this is going to rival many of the best vintages produced here. Give this at least 5-7 years in the cellar and enjoy it for the following 2 decades after that.”*

- JL, [thewinecellarinsider.com](http://thewinecellarinsider.com)

*“The 2020 is a blend of 50.4% Cabernet Sauvignon, 47.8% Merlot and 1.8% Cabernet Franc. Yields are low at less than 30hl/ha. Deep ruby colour. Very fragrant and sweet on the nose with violets and blueberries. The palate is very juicy and slick, offering glossy red and black fruits with notes of vanilla and cinnamon. Fleshy and rounded to the finish, this is a seamless, easy drinking and forward style.”*

- Farr Vintners

*“The 2020 Malartic-Lagravière, which represents just 40% of the total production, was cropped at 26hL/ha. It has a very delineated nose with intense blackberry, raspberry, sous-bois and incense aromas that just "sing" of Pessac-Léognan. The palate is medium-bodied, finely-knit tannins, fresh and vibrant with beguiling purity. Harmonious and silky smooth, it belies the depth and complexity of this marvelous Malartic. This is superb and it will mature beautifully in bottle.”*

- NM, Vinous

*“The 2020 Malartic Lagravière, whose picking was completed on September 24, before the rains, has a bright, vivid nose of mineral-infused red fruit mixed with hints of blueberry and cassis. Very focused and precise, this is an aromatically sophisticated Pessac-Léognan. The palate is medium-bodied with graphite-tinged black fruit, hints of wild mint coming through, and lively and tensile toward the finish. This is one of the best vintages of Malartic Lagravière that I have encountered out of bottle. Ignore at your peril.”*

- NM, Vinous

*“The 2020 Malartic Lagravière is fabulous. Dark, ample, and explosive, the 2020 offers an enticing mélange of dark fruit, lavender, spice, and licorice. Even with all of its obvious size, the 2020 retains terrific freshness and plenty of delineation.”*

- AG, Vinous

*“The 2020 Malartic Lagravière is a powerful, tightly wound wine. There is perhaps a bit less opulence than in years past, but that just gives the wine an extra kick of energy and vibrancy that is quite attractive. Inky red cherry fruit, rose petal, spice, cedar, and cinnamon all grace this beautifully taut wine from the Bonnie family.”*

- AG, Vinous

*“Coming in at close to equal parts Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot, the 2020 Chateau Malartic-Lagravière is another brilliant 2020 Pessac-Leognan with loads to offer. Expressive notes of red and black fruit, sweet tobacco, lead pencil, and camphor all emerge on the nose, and it's medium to full-bodied on the palate, with a forward, seamless, sexy profile that already offers pleasure. The tannins are present yet integrated and perfectly ripe, it's balanced, and I suspect it will evolve for a solid two decades or more. Tasted twice. The blend is 50.4% Cabernet Sauvignon, 47.8% Merlot, and the rest Cabernet Franc that hit 14.2% natural alcohol. Best After 2024.”*

- Jeb Dunnuck

*“Based on a blend of 50.4% Cabernet Sauvignon, 47.8% Merlot, and the rest Cabernet Franc that hit 14.2% natural alcohol, the 2020 Château Malartic-Lagravière offers a gorgeously pure nose of both red and blue fruits as well as lots of floral and mineral nuances. Still aging in 65% new French oak, it's medium to full-bodied and has the vintage's rich, concentrated style yet gorgeous purity of fruit as well as ripe, polished, building tannins. It's one seriously good 2020 that will impress with short-term bottle age and keep for 25 years or more. It's up with the crème de la crème of the appellation.”*

- Jeb Dunnuck

**Reviews** *“This is a very fine effort from Malartic which cleverly balances intense forest fruit notes on the nose, lashings of juicy oak nuances and spice with a sleek, plump palate and a remarkably refreshing finish. Forward, friendly and well-measured, this is a huge success for this estate, and I don’t doubt that while it will surely drink after five or so years, it will also manage to hold well for a decade and more, too.”*  
- Matthew Jukes

*“Dark ruby, purple reflections, discreet brightening at the rim. Fine noble wood spices, ripe black cherries, undertones of plum and fig, delicate herbal savouriness in the background. Juicy, elegant, cherry notes carry through on the palate, integrated, silky tannins, very persistent and harmonious.”*  
- PM, Falstaff Magazine

*“The nose is fruity, elegant and offers richness, delicacy, complexity, power (in finesse), subtlety, darkness as well as a nice multi-layer side. It reveals notes of bright blackberry, pulpy/crushed cassis, small notes of Gariguet strawberry, violet associated with touches of lily, racy minerality/gravelly (discreetly iodized), sweet spices, Cuban pepper, fine hints of incense, Badiane, vanilla as well as a discreet hint of tea, saffron and chocolate. The mouth is fruity, balanced, elegant, racy and offers gourmandize, freshness, good definition, richness in freshness (and in control), tension, density, controlled power. On the palate this wine expresses notes of juicy/pulpy strawberry, fleshy/juicy cassis, small notes of small bright black fruits associated with touches of small fresh/fleshy fruits, lily, violet, hints of tonka bean, cardamom, tea as well as fine hints of racy minerality, a subtle hint of cloves and vanilla. The tannins are precise and offers a fine firmness.”*  
- Vert de Vin

*“Good purity and intensity, fresh red berries, cassis, fine oak, and an aromatic herbal spiciness. Dense palate a youthful tannic structure, good volume, and length.”*  
- AL, Tasted.com

*“(50% CS, 48% M, 2% CF; 26hl/ha; 14.2% ABV; 65% new)  
Very ripe black and red fruit, but you can sense the gravel aromas, too; lovely balance, rich, fresh, finely tannic; ample and deliciously juicy, with a nice length of flavor, and with a lovely fruit-cored persistence, all within the refined frame of firm tannin. Lovers of Malartic’s ebullient style need have no concerns; the up-front generosity is still there, but the fruit is a touch fresher, the presentation has been tightened, tautened, refined, it is an adjustment of focus, not a change of image. 2025–40+.”*  
- MS, The World of Fine Wine

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