

Château Malartic Lagraviere 2021

CSPC# 864619

750mlx12

12.8% alc./vol.

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| Grape Variety | 67% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot, 1% Cabernet Franc |
| Appellation | Pessac-Léognan |
| Classification | Grand Cru Classé de Graves in 1959 |
| Website | https://www.malartic-lagraviere.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/malartic-lagraviere-red-2019.pdf |
| Sustainability | 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. |
| General Info | <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> |
| Winemakers | Michele and Alfred-Alexandre Bonnie. Eric Boissenot consults. |
| Vintage | <p>The mild, warm winter and early spring resulted in an early bud break, which was then slowed down by a cold and dry second half of spring. Severe frosts on 6 and 7 April left their mark. Late pruning, carried out in March on our most sensitive plots, significantly reduced their impact.</p> <p>May was rainy and cool, but the flowering, which was rather early at Malartic, benefited from a window of mild weather (end of May, beginning of June). As a result, it was homogeneous and fast. This was followed by a stormy period until mid-July, which led to a strong mildew pressure and very active growth of the vines. Fortunately, from the end of the véraison to the beginning of the harvests, there was a very beneficial dry period. The skins and seeds matured to excellent degrees of ripeness as the harvests approached.</p> <p>The Merlot harvest started at the end of September after a rainy and stressful fortnight. A dry period followed, enabling us to pick well-ripened, supple, harmonious grapes. We finished with the Cabernet, harvested from 12 to 19 October, in fine weather with marked differences between day and night-time temperatures. The long maturing period resulted in superb density and magnificent freshness. The alcohol-acidity balance was excellent.</p> |
| 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 8 meters. All work in the vineyards is done using only self-sustaining, farming techniques. |
| Harvest | Manual harvest by intra-plot passes, double sorting tables. The harvest took place September 29 - October 19. Merlot: September 29 to 11 October Cabernet-Sauvignon: October 12 to 19 Cabernet-Franc: October 2 |



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| 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 barrels. Fermentation 3 weeks - 28 to 30° C. Aged in traditional oak barrels: 65% new oak for 18 months. |
| Tasting Notes | Initial tastings reveal great elegance, with silky, very sophisticated red wines, characterized by freshness and aromatic clarity. There is good density with a velvety tannin texture. The whites are very fresh and offer good concentration with a beautiful fruitiness. It is thus a vintage that depended very much on the terroir and the winegrower: adaptation, agility and responsiveness were necessary at all stages of the vintage, with late pruning, maintenance of the plant cover with little ploughing, early and high-quality green harvesting to ensure uniform ripening, and management of the harvests on a daily basis with rapid decision-making. Our excellent knowledge of Malartic's terroir enabled us to anticipate its reactions and thus maintain the quality and excellence of Malartic's grands vins. |
| 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. 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 | 10,000 cases made. |
| Cellaring | Drink now-2040 |
| Scores/Awards | <p>88 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - January 2024</p> <p>90-92 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022</p> <p>85-87 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent - May 2022</p> <p>93-94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2022</p> <p>15.5+ points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - May 2022</p> <p>93 points - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - March 2022</p> <p>92 points - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - May 2022</p> <p>92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2024</p> <p>92-94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2022</p> <p>92 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2022</p> <p>88-91 points - Thomas Parker, Farr Vintners - April 2022</p> <p>90-92 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2022</p> <p>90-92 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - May 2022</p> <p>90-93 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2022</p> <p>16 points - Matthew Jukes - August 2022</p> <p>92 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - April 2022</p> <p>93-94 points - Yves Beck - June 2022</p> <p>91 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2022</p> <p>94-95 points - Terres de Vins (score only) - April 2022</p> <p>95-96 points - Vert de Vin - July 2022</p> <p>92-94+ points - Colin Hay, The Drinks Business - June 2022</p> <p>90-91 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - May 2022</p> <p>94-95 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - May 2022</p> <p>18 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2022</p> |
| Reviews | <p><i>"Soft but fresh, with charm to the damson plum and loganberry fruit, while dashes of iris and potpourri fill in the background. Reveals a late cedar echo on the relatively gentle finish. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Cabernet Franc. Drink now through 2028. 10,000 cases made."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"A blend of fully 70% Cabernet Sauvignon and 30% Merlot, the 2021 Malartic Lagravière offers up aromas of sweet berries, plums, burning embers and warm spices, followed by a medium to full-bodied, ample and powdery palate that's impressively concentrated, refined and elegant. It's a fine effort from an estate on the rise.</i></p> <p><i>An estate on the rise, with a new approach to viticulture, the fruit of over a decade's work, is delivering smaller grapes, lower pHs and greater concentration at Malartic Lagravière; and now, since 2019, Eric Boissenot's input as consultant is privileging balance and structural finesse over extraction and impact. These 2021s, fine successes in a challenging year, are testament to the promise of this new direction."</i></p> <p>- WK, Wine Advocate</p> |

Reviews *"A very fresh and juicy red with a medium body and supple, soft tannins. Vibrant red-berry fruit with pretty spice notes. Raspberries and licorice with some salted chocolate. 67% cabernet sauvignon, 32% merlot and 1% cabernet franc."*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"67% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot, 1% Cabernet Franc. Cask sample. Sweet, ripe nose even if a little austere on the palate. Tannins have been well managed, but the acidity can't help dominating the fruit. Just a little note of sourness and lack of fruit depth on the sudden finish. Drink 2027 – 2040."

- JL, JancisRobinson.com

"Beautiful aromatics, richly scented with a ton of black fruits on the nose. Bright and fun, this has great fruit expression. It's edging on high toned, so you get that sharp hit of fruit rather than dense and plush, but it has such clarity and precision of tannins, fine and softly gripping the mouth. Well worked and presented, this is charming in a gentle way with great acidity, bright fruits and a subtle mineral vein underneath. Feels joyful and easy to like and will gain in structure over ageing that will plump up the beautiful fruit some more. Really lovely. Elegance and charm here. I love this. It's light-footed and fresh. 2% Petit Verdot completes the blend."

- GH, Decanter.com

"Impressive texture and clever construction, with structure and power, delivering aniseed, fennel, blueberry, raspberry, liquorice, and cocoa bean. Harvested from the end of September through to October 19, allowing the Cabernet to get to a good ripeness, and you can feel it in the overall structure of the wine. 42.25hl/h yield, tasted twice."

- JA, janeanson.com

"Cherries, flowers, tobacco, smoke, and show in the perfume. On the palate, the wine is medium-bodied, fresh, vibrant, and crisp with brightness, lift and energy that shows in the dusty red fruits along with spearmint, and a hint of cocoa that shines at the end of the finish. With the 2021 vintage, things changed at Malartic Lagraviere when they brought in Eric Boissenot as their new consultant, you can easily taste the major shift in the style of wine being produced that is exacerbated by the vintage conditions. The wine blends 67% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot, and 1% Cabernet Franc. Drink from 2025-2040."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Flowers, smoke, tobacco leaf, and bright red fruits shine on the nose. The wine is energetic, crisp, and focused on its finesse-styled textures and freshness. There is a touch of chalk along with the red currants in the finish. Eric Boissenot is the new consultant, and with the 2021 vintage, you can really see a major shift in the style of wine being produced here that is not only due to the vintage conditions. It will be interesting to follow the change in direction here. The wine is produced from blending 67% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot and 1% Cabernet Franc, 12.8% ABV. The harvest took place September 29 - October 19. Drink from 2023-2040."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"The yield was 45 hl/ha - much better than in 2020 and similar to 2019. The Cabernets were picked until late October. Eric Boissenot now consults here instead of Michel Rolland and the style has changed to become more polished and less extracted. Bright purple colour with blueberry pastries and violets on the nose. The palate is sweet with the same fruit, but polished, prominent tannins keep everything in check. A fresh and vibrant acidity lines the finish, giving this real lift and suggesting it will offer good mid-term drinking pleasure."

- TP, Farr Vintners

"Martic Lagravière was picked from 29 September to 19 October at 45HL/ha and matured in 65% new oak. It has a taut and linear bouquet: blackberry, pencil shavings and light estuarine scents. The palate has a ripe entry, quite sharp acidity, modest weight with a linear and correct finish with a slightly bitter aftertaste. I suspect this will drink well for up to 15 years."

- NM, Vinous

Reviews

"The 2021 Malartic Lagraviere offers good depth, but naturally less of the opulence of recent years. Part of that is the year and part is likely the result in a change in stylistic direction. It will be interesting to see where things ultimately settle. Dark red/purplish fruit, spice, incense, licorice, and gravel emerge, and yet the finish is a bit dry."

- AG, Vinous

"A blend of 67% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot, and a splash of Cabernet Franc, the 2021 Château Malartic-Lagravière is a gem of a wine that has more depth and texture than most. Pure cassis, ripe tobacco, violets, and darker, earthy nuances all define the bouquet, and it's medium-bodied on the palate, with ripe, polished tannins and good mid-palate depth. It shows the pretty, pure, elegant style of the vintage while bringing plenty of fruit. It's beautifully done. Tasted twice."

- Jeb Dunnuck

"Malartic Rouge always seems to err on the side of too much oak and not quite enough fruit to balance it, and this is the case in 2021. I can taste decent cassis notes here, and there are no green notes, but this is not a big wine, and the oak somewhat bullies it."

- Matthew Jukes

"Dark ruby shading to purple at the narrow rim. Delicate tobacco, black berries, dark cherries, a touch of cranberries and orange zest. Juicy, elegant, fresh cherry fruit, subtle sweetness, ripe tannins, balanced and lively with a touch of nougat on the finish; versatile."

- PM, Falstaff Magazine

"The nose is nicely shaped, elegant, delicate, racy and offers complexity in finesse, a certain power in delicacy as well as of harmony. [...] The mouth is nicely conducted, balanced and offers very nice acidity, nice fruit pulpy/acidulous, smoothness, a tangy frame, delicacy, a nice airy side as well as subtlety in power. In palate this wine expresses notes bright boysenberry, blueberry and more lightly associated almost roasted cherry with small touches of berries fairly ripe reds, serious distinguished (terroir), pencil lead as well as fine hints of cardamom, tonka bean and an imperceptible hint of almond toasted. A little softness at the end of palate/persistence. Tannins are pretty, fresh, elegant, and delicate. Nice harmony. A wine while finesse and delicacy."

- Vert de Vin

"56% Merlot, 41% Cabernet Sauvignon, 2.5% Petit Verdot, 0.5% Cabernet Franc Filigree, subtle bouquet with floral and fruity nuances followed with a touch of graphite. Attack delicious and slightly creamy. The wine is distinguished by its finesse and by well-defined tannins integrated. These create a good symbiosis with the structure acidic, which ensures freshness and the fruity expression of the finish. A wine which reveals itself slowly and which is promising. 2026-2046."

- Yves Beck

"A charming touch of the mouth, velvety. On the Crus panel Classified, it presents a maturity more contained, always with elegance. It comes to us quickly in the spirit of notions of terroir, of pleasure and sharing. The style classic is preserved, with a party gained flexibility, good balance between the opulence of Merlots and structures of cabernets."

- ID, terroirsense.com

"Among the "Truly great" wines of the appellation"

- CH, Thedrinksbusiness.com
