

# Château Pape Clement 2009

CSPC# 744973

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

## Grape Variety

50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 45% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc

## Appellation

Pessac-Léognan

## General Info

The red wine of Chateau Pape Clement is a classified growth. The vineyards were first planted in the 13th century by Bertrand de Goth, the youngest son of a noble family from Bordeaux. He was elected Pope in 1305, during the reign of Philippe le Bel, and took the name of Clément V. Château Pape Clément belonged to the Archbishop of Bordeaux until the French Revolution. Wine has been made here continuously for 7 centuries. Château Pape Clément is one of the brightest stars in the extensive range of vineyards Bernard Magrez owns worldwide. Based in Bordeaux, the great owner has made quality his personal battle, his strength in facing the increasing competition in the wine business. Hence, the care lavished on this land to exceptional qualities of which have made Pessac's reputation for over seven centuries. Pruning and leafing according to unusually demanding standards, hand destemming, vinification and maturation in accordance with the strictest rules, all implemented so that Nature can freely express the best she has to offer. With his grand Cru Classé de Graves, Bernard Magrez gives us a rare elegance and strength of which reminds us how unequalled the Bordeaux tradition remains. The production of the white Château Pape Clément has been increased some years ago. It is in general dry, rarely heavy, with spicy notes which are typical for graves from Pessac.

## Vineyards

The vineyards today account for 32.5 hectares of the Pessac-Léognan *vignoble*, with three distinct *terroirs* across the estate as a whole. Over a limestone bedrock which originated in the Oligocene and Miocene eras, there are the gravels that typify the region as a whole, as well as areas of clay and sand. The vineyards to the west are more sandy, with a deep seam of gravel, whereas as those to the east have an increasingly significant amount of clay, and those to the north of the estate the soils are particularly thin and poor. The red vines, which cover 30 of the 32.5 hectares, are 60% Cabernet Sauvignon and 40% Merlot, the Cabernet Franc of Jean-Baptiste Clerc having long since disappeared. Here knowledge of the *terroir* is important, as the former variety is planted mainly to the gravelly areas whereas Merlot is selected for those soils with more clay. The majority of these vines have more than 25 years of age, and many are over 40.

## Maturation

100% in new barrels for 18 months

## Tasting Notes

Owner Bernard Magrez has made serious investments here since the late 1990's and recent vintages have been outstanding thanks to extremely low yields, labour-intensive sorting of grapes and modern wine-making techniques. Prices are moving up at Pape Clément but so is the quality, which bears no relation at all to the weedy wines of the early 1980's and before. The 2009 looks like Vintage Port. This is thick and unctuous, jam-packed with fruit. There is a lovely sweetness on the palate and although this is a powerhouse it is not over-done. Inky with Impressive depth and still typical of its origins despite the high level of winemaking. A huge wine. The one thing that it lacks is charm.

## Production

7500 cases made

## Cellaring

Drink 2015-2030

## Scores/Awards

**95 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2012

**94-97 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2010

**95 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #199 - February 2012

**94-96 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #188- April 2010

**93 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - January 2012

**93-95 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2010

**93-96 points** - Ian D'Agata, ST's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2010



**Scores/Awards** **17 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 20, 2010  
**18.5 points** - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - October 2011  
**18-19+ points** - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - March 2010  
**18.5 points/4 stars** - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2010  
**92-93 points** - Jane Anson, The New Bordeaux - April 2010  
**87 points/15 points** - Jean Marc Quarin - March 2010

**Reviews** *"Rich and muscular, with exotic roasted spice, braised fig and warm raspberry confiture notes that are supported by a broad baseline of dark cocoa, tar and freshly brewed espresso. Not shy about its modernity, but everything is in place. Just needs to settle in with cellaring. Best from 2015 through 2030. Tasted twice, with consistent notes. 7,500 cases made."*  
- JM, Wine Spectator

*"There's lovely density and beauty to this young wine, with tobacco, light vanilla, chocolate and ripe fruit. Full and polished, with velvety tannins. Long and reserved, but very, very serious. Score range: 94-97"*  
- JS, Wine Spectator

*"Although the 2009 Pape Clement may not be as sublime as the 2005 or 2000, but it is very close to those two efforts, and it will be fascinating to compare them (as well as the 2008 and 2010) over the following three decades. A blend of 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 45% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Franc with a modest 13.5% alcohol, the 2009 reveals considerable structure and tannin along with tell-tale notes of burning embers, scorched earth, graphite, blueberries, blackberries and toasty vanillin, and a full-bodied mouthfeel. This rich, full offering is surprisingly backward. This cuvee should drink well in 5-6 years as one rarely has to wait a decade or more to enjoy Pape Clement. It should age for three decades or more."*  
- RP, Wine Advocate

*"A blend of 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 45% Merlot, and 5% Cabernet Franc, the 2009 Pape Clement is not as dense or provocative as the 2005, but it is a worthy competitor. Tighter and more muscular than the 2005, the 2009 reveals an opaque purple color along with notes of graphite, blueberries, and blackberries, stunning richness, a full-bodied mouthfeel, and tremendous length and intensity. Some patience will be required, and I do not believe this effort will achieve the near perfection of the 2005, but it is another winner in this extraordinary vintage. Yields were 43 hectoliters per hectare, and the wine finished around 13.5% alcohol. (Tasted four times.) Historically one of the oldest vineyards in Bordeaux (having once been owned by Pope Clement, who gets more credit for what he did in Châteauneuf du Pape than in Graves), this 700-year old Pessac vineyard has turned out another profound wine under the administration of proprietor Bernard Magrez."*  
- RP, Wine Advocate

*"Tasted at the Union de Grand Cru in London. The nose is very pure with blackberry, blueberry, crushed stone and a touch of dried flowers. Good definition. There is a slight sorbet note coming through with aeration. The palate is medium bodied with fully ripe tannins, firm grip and layers of sweet black, liquorice and spice infused fruit. A little oaky on the finish but that is to be expected. Very rounded and sensual, but I prefer the tension demonstrated by the nascent 2010. Tasted October 2011."*  
- NM, Wine Journal

*"Tasted at the chateau. A blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon and 40% Merlot, cropped at 43hl/ha between 24th September and 21st October, this Pape-Clement has a ripe, how shall I say, almost "feline" nose that seems to purr with class. Very fine delineation and very focused. Just a touch of tobacco developing in the glass. The palate is full-bodied, dense and very weighty, bold but firm tannins, a more masculine Pape-Clement and beautifully balanced towards the finish. Very pure with a cool, refined finish. This is sophisticated and classy. Tasted April 2010."*  
- NM, Wine Journal

*"Ruby-purple. Vibrant blackcurrant, blackberry and smoke aromas show noteworthy depth and purity. Big and ripe on the palate, but with lovely balance to its black fruit and smoke flavors. The very long, pure finish features a lingering mineral streak and very fine tannins. This exceptional vintage of Pape Clement packs an amazing amount of concentration on a seemingly weightless frame. More important still, although it pushes the ripeness envelope as most of the wines of Bernard Magrez do, it manages to come across as refined and graceful, even though it's almost brutally powerful."*  
- ID, International Wine Cellar

**Reviews** *“Pretty dark crimson. Hint of toastiness. Bone dry. Succulent. Real clarity and purity. Everything in the right place - dry but not drying finish. Wonderful balance. A real contrast to the white...! (Both tasted blind.) Date tasted 2nd April 2010. Drink 2017-2030.”*  
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*“A really appealing nose here, with a layer of honeyed oak (this is Pape-Clément, after all) but it seems well matched by a reserved but evident layer of fruit. Attractive, balanced, a touch creamy but not with the force that you can sometimes find from this château. There is an elegant edge to the creamy fruit, and a lovely backbone of ripe tannins behind it as well. Overall it has more harmony than many other wines on show here today. A delicious style, well structured in the finish, but in a reserved, grainy fashion rather than anything more robust. An excellent result. From a tasting of 2009 Pessac-Léognan at two years of age. 18.5/20 (October 2011)”*  
- CK, The Wine Doctor

*“The wine has a dark, purple-black core with good concentration right out to the rim. The nose is very dense and yet perfumed, full of squashed cherries, warm tar, rose petals and more. No shortage of depth here. Yet the palate has an elegantly defined cool and rather direct style on the palate, showing an impressive definition. The tannins are moving from cottony to almost silky here, although that is not to say they take a back seat, and there is also a great concentration of fruit presented in very lush style. Supple, with a very polished finish, this is a sample which has great promise. From my 2009 Bordeaux primeur assessment. 18-19+/20 (March 2010)”*  
- CK, The Wine Doctor

*“Black red, excellent extraction of beautifully concentrated ripe blackcurrant fruit, great suppleness on attack and a beautiful fragrance, great polish, class and depth. Drink 2017-35.”*  
- SS, Decanter.com

*“I was disappointed with this wine, which I tasted six times. Five times out of six, I remarked on its lack of expression in taste, which is utterly unexpected from this estate. Can it be that it was harvested too late?”*  
- J-MQ

---