

Château Pape Clement 2011

CSPC# 744973 750mlx12 13.5% alc./vol.
CSPC# 753465 750mlx6 13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 45% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc, 3% Petit Verdot
Appellation	Pessac-Léognan
Website	http://www.bernard-magrez.com/en/content/chateau-pape-clement
General Info	<p>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.</p>
Vineyards	<p>The vineyards today account for 32.5 hectares of the Pessac-Léognan <i>vignoble</i>, with three distinct <i>terroirs</i> 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 53 hectares, are 51% Cabernet Sauvignon, 46% Merlot, 2% Petit Verdot, 1% Cabernet Franc. Here knowledge of the <i>terroir</i> 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 27 years of age, and many are over 40.</p>
Maturation	100% in new barrels for 18 months
Tasting Notes	<p>Dark and backward fruit on the nose, smoky, with a lot of toasted oak elements suggestive of charred embers coming in. The fruit though feels ripe and sweet. The palate is rich, bold, with the fruit playing second fiddle to some structural elements here, the tannins are unsurprisingly very rich, chewy and dominate the finish.</p>
Cellaring	<p>Drink 2015-2030</p> <p>93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2014 92-95 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2012 96 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #212 - April 2014 92-94 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #200 - April 2012 92-94 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2012 90-92 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 11, 2012 90-91 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2012 92-94 points - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - April 2012 16.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 20, 2012 17 points - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2012 92 points - Jane Anson, The New Bordeaux - April 2012 88 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) 92 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only)</p>



Scores/Awards **91 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 19, 2014
90-92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 25, 2012
91-93 points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2012
87 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2012
16 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)
92 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only)
17 points - Gault & Millau (score only)

Reviews *"Offers a grippy feel, with tar and warm fruitcake notes framing a core of plum sauce, blackberry coulis and pastis. Sappy and energetic through the finish. The tarry grip hangs on. Best from 2016 through 2028."*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"Nothing is reined in here, with lots of roasted apple wood and mesquite aromas that lead to dark, plush blackberry and plum paste notes. Rich and broad, but well-detailed, this pounds its chest a bit, but it's impressively done. Score range: 92-95."
- JS, Wine Spectator

"The 2011 Pape Clement, a blend of 57% Cabernet Sauvignon, 38% Merlot and the rest Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc, was aged 18 months in new French oak before being bottled unfiltered. Absolutely profound, with a complex bouquet of mulberries, black cherries, black currants, graphite and subtle smoke and burning ember-like aromas, this is a true super-star of the vintage. It represents a remarkable achievement by the winemaking team of Bernard Magrez. Full-bodied, rich and multidimensional, this wine clearly transcends the entire vintage. It should age effortlessly for 25 years."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"I had the 2011 Pape Clement on four separate occasions and there was a slight sample variation, but this seems to be a fair estimate of its potential. A blend of 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 45% Merlot and the rest tiny proportions of Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot, the 2011 offers notes of lead pencil shavings, charcoal, barbecue meat, black cherries, black currants and plum sauce. This is a medium to full-bodied, dense as well as strikingly elegant and precise wine. The purity, palate presence and potentially complex aromatics always stand out in a Pape Clement. This example should drink well for 15-24 years. This great terroir, which is basically within a suburb on the southern outskirts of Bordeaux only 2-3 miles from Haut Brion and La Mission Haut Brion, is just over 100 acres."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"The 2011 is a blend of 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 45% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc and 3% Petit Verdot cropped between 16th September and 7th October. It has a very refined bouquet with ripe blackberry, briary, crushed stone and graphite, almost Pauillac in style with impressive delineation. The palate is medium bodied with ripe tannins, good acidity and much more substance than I was expecting. It is a Pape Clement whose byword is: panache. It is supremely well put together, very harmonious with a seamless finish that slips down the throat. Unashamedly modern in style as one would expect, but it is very well crafted. Tasted April 2012."
- NM, Wine Journal

"90-92. Barrel sample. This is a closed wine, dominated by dark, dry tannins and spice. The wine misses fruit with its solid core of dryness."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"The nose of violets, warm stone and blueberries is very impressive. Full body, with chewy tannins and a firm finish. Outstanding but like to see a little more fruit in the mid-palate. Chewy."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Deep purple-ruby. Knockout aromas of blackcurrant and violet complicated by chocolate and spices. Then tighter and less opulent in the mouth than the nose would suggest, offering very pure, precise flavors of black fruits and minerals. The mounting tannins are polished and fine-grained, though not shy. This wine has the balance and structure to age well."
- ST, International Wine Cellar

- Reviews** *“Deep smudgy black cherry colour. Ripe red fruit, bright and juicy on the palate too even though the tannins are firm and deep. Some savoury graphite and spice notes so not a simple fruit wine – though there is plenty of that. Full flavoured and full in the mouth. Deep-pile tannins. Generous rather than elegant.”*
- JH, JancisRobinson.com
- “Open, contemporary, slightly overly sweet nose. The individual elements are here. Rich fruits, check, acidity check, tannins check. Needs time. Exotic finish, there is slick production going on, and it works well. 92.”*
- JA, The New Bordeaux
- “Fragrant and lifted black summer fruits, very good natural ripeness and rather tough tannins that need time to show elegance and polish for the long term.”*
- SS, Decanter.com
- “Tight, needs effort to bring up the earthy, smoke filled perfume, with its coffee bean and blackberry notes. Soft, and polished, there is a dryness in the finish that stops the wine from scoring higher.”*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “This wine blends equal portions Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot and was aged in 100% new oak. Coffee, licorice, blackberry and tobacco smoke make up the perfume. This medium-bodied wine has some dryness in the finish and ends with black cherry, spice and raspberry. 90-92 Pts”*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “Mid depth; deepish; ripe notes, cassis and blackcurrant with plum tones; chewy palate with lots of extract; feels pretty tannic at present – grippy and chewy. This wine should meld, and the elements are there [if disjointed] but something of a disappointing showing from this estate in this vintage [usually wonderfully precocious] and its primeur performance. Drink 2016-2028 90? UGC Oct '13 [Earlier note] Deep and saturated, tight to edge; legs; creamy blackcurrants on the nose, sexy, but not too much Magrez make-up; black cherry; lots of fruit saturation – can't beat a good terroir – but real polish and brightness here; grip and concentration to the palate; dense and structured but plenty of fruit. Lots of material. Very good effort. 91-93”*
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com
- “A polished style with all the smooth velvety roundness that one would expect from modern winemaking. However, the tannins are a bit thick and the flavours are blocky and chunky. Will open up early and keep for about a decade. A slick red wine. Tasted in Bordeaux, France. Maturity: Young.”*
- JCL, asianpalate.com
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