

Château Pape Clément 2014

CSPC# 790277

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

57.5% Merlot, 37.5% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Petit Verdot

Appellation

Pessac-Léognan

Classification

Grand Cru Classe Graves

Website

<http://www.bernard-magrez.com/en/content/chateau-pape-clement>

General Info

The red wine of Château Pape Clément 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.

Vintage

The 2014 vintage made us swing between hopes and worries for a happy ending. 2014 was characterized by a particularly mild winter and started very early (with an average of 13 days). However, the rainy spring and the very wet conditions at the beginning of flowering were in the prolongation of 2013 and led to a marked slowdown in growth. The situation improved in June accelerating and homogenizing the end of flowering. The months of July and August, rather cool, stormy and with a very low thermal amplitude, were cause for concern and totally lost by 2014 its precocity of beginning of cycle. At this stage, in the vineyards, everything was done to encourage the end of the véraisons and to preserve a microclimate favorable to the maturation of the clusters (leafing of the second side at the end of August and thinning of most plots for Limit the harvest of the harvest). These efforts for an optimal exposure of the clusters to the sun have borne fruit since the particularly dry conditions of September finally allowed the appearance of water stresses during the second phase of maturation. We will remember durably from this September to the origin of the natural re-concentration of berries and a refining of tannins and which made from 2014, until then considered as an average vintage, a very promising vintage. In this favorable context, which continued until the end of October, the harvests were able to proceed serenely. They will remain in the annals of Pape Clément by their exceptional length (27 days of harvest) and allowed us to harvest each plot, see segment of plot, with optimal maturity.

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 sandier, 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



Vineyards	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.
Harvest	This patience was rewarded by the harvesting of very aromatic grapes and carried by an acidity that will give them a good balance and an aptitude for certain aging. The whites were harvested from 08 to 22 September, in two seasons. The yields are particularly low with 28.5 hl / ha and the juices are lively and aromatic with a richness superior to the previous vintages. The reds were harvested from September 24 to October 20. The moderate yields (about 41 hl / ha) and the precision work carried out during the harvest, allowed us to harvest Merlots and Cabernets of very nice qualities, marked by fairly low pH, a rich polyphenolic richness, a very aromatic potential. Interesting and already velvety tannic patterns.
Maturation	Hand harvested in small crates with initial sorting in the vineyard. Grapes hand-picked from clusters. Transferal to oak vats by gravity. Low-temperature maceration prior to fermentation. Concentric hand-plunging. Directly run off into new barrels by gravity, with no pumping. Aged in 100% in new barrels for 18 months
Tasting Notes	Explosive notes of sweet spices, it's very perfumed, with plenty of dark berries, cassis, cedar wood, also some graphite, espresso and dark chocolate. It's full-bodied and dense but without any heaviness, has high acidity and high tannin that is very ripe. Excellent length. It has an almost creamy mouthfeel, but there is plenty of structure and freshness to balance the richness. A beautifully balanced Pape-Clément.
Production	11,667 cases made.
Cellaring	Drink 2020-2050
Scores/Awards	<p>93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2017</p> <p>91-94 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2015</p> <p>94 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate Interim - March 31, 2017</p> <p>93-95 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #218 - April 29, 2015</p> <p>96 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - February 2017</p> <p>93-94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2015</p> <p>94 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2017</p> <p>93-95 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2015</p> <p>94 points - Decanter.com - April 2015</p> <p>93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 2017</p> <p>92-93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2015</p> <p>91-93 points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - March 2015</p> <p>90 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only)</p> <p>16.5 points - Farr Vintner - March 2015</p> <p>86-89 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2015</p> <p>89 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - March 2015</p> <p>94+ points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2017</p> <p>92-95 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous (score only)</p> <p>92-94 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only)</p> <p>17 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)</p> <p>17.5 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)</p> <p>17 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only)</p> <p>17 points - Gault & Millau (score only)</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Lavish in profile, this sports a range of warm fruitcake, anise and black tea aromatics followed quickly by a gush of raspberry, plum and boysenberry confiture notes. Velvety, showing ample structure through the finish, pulling the fruit and wood notes together. A rare bird, stylistically, in this generally understated vintage. Best from 2020 through 2035. 11,667 cases made."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Broad and hefty, with a wall of ganache out front, followed by steeped fig and blackberry paste flavors. The dense, loamy finish lets the toast hold sway. Shows more power than purity, but there's density and length here, too. For fans of the style. Score range: 91-94"</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p>

Reviews

"The 2014 Pape Clément has quite a potent bouquet with lavish red cherry, kirsch, iodine and pastille-like scents, the oak probably needing another couple of years to fully integrate. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin, a fine line of acidity, quite refined and focused with appreciable tension towards the finish that comes laden with succulent, tobacco-infused blackberry fruit. This is a sumptuous and yet refined Pape-Clément that demonstrated the most matière or substance out of all the Pessac-Léognan 2014s that I tasted, except for the Haut-Brion. It is certainly a wine destined for a long future."

- NM, Wine Advocate

"The Château Pape Clément 2014 is a blend of 57.5% Merlot, 37.5% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Petit Verdot picked from 24 September until 20 October. It is matured in 60% new oak. Strangely, first sniff of the nose whisks you away to the Côtes de Nuits, such is its purity. Small dark cherries, hints of crème de cassis and vanilla; it is beautifully poised and with continued aeration there is just a suggestion of dark chocolate. The palate is full-bodied and dense in the mouth, the oak nicely integrated here and the acidity well judged. It actually possesses the linearity of the La Mission Haut-Brion '14 tasted on the previous visit. There is no fantail on the finish, but there is plenty of mineralité and tension. Tasted four or five times and never to be under-estimated."

- NM, Wine Advocate

"Intense blackberry and blueberry aromas as well as mushroom undertones. Violets, too. Sweet tobacco. Full-bodied and layered with polished tannins. Very long and beautiful. Give it two or three years to show what it has but already a beauty."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This shows finesse and class of the vintage with pure blackberry and currant character. Full body, fine tannins and a beautiful finish."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Ripe and richly fruity, the wine is full bodied with great acidity as well as firm tannins. It will keep for many years. Bold tannins and a fine tension between the fruit and acidity are all promising for the future. Drink this impressive wine from 2025."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"93–95. Barrel Sample. This wine is rich, full of ripe berry and black currant fruits. Its generous, ripely fruity character balances the ample freshness to yield a wine already showing harmony. The finish is bright and lively."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"This is a restrained version of Pape Clément compared to some vintages, and for me all the more successful because of it. Fine but firm tannins, there is a grip and lovely hold to the fruits, which in turn are dark, brambly, bilberry and cassis. Great potential for medium to long term. Without the swagger that the château displays in 2009 or 2010, but I love the stylistic expression here, from 52% Cabernet Sauvignon, 44% Merlot, 2% Petit Verdot and 2% Cabernet Franc. Good yields also, 45 hl/h, so it is concentrated but not overly so."

- Decanter.com

"Rich, round and smoky, with a lush, blackberry, blackberry, coffee, licorice, dark chocolate and earthy profile. Length and volume create the luscious textured, fruit and espresso bean filled finish."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Deep ruby in color, the wine opens with floral, mineral, cherry, caramel and coffee bean scents. It is soft, fresh, round juicy on the palate, ending with sweet, blackberry, vanilla and black currants in the finish. Produced by blending 57.5% Merlot, 37.5% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Petit Verdot, the wine reached 13.7% alcohol with a pH of 3.7 92-93 Pts"

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

Reviews

“Deep and saturated colour; ripe blackcurrants; some espresso notes; perfumed and creamy; sweet palate but with attractive purity; ripe fruit but no trace of jam [unlike Malartic]; freshness [acidity] too here; plenty of guts and material. Chewy finish currently but should settle well. [57.5% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37.5% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot]. Drink 2019-2030. Tasted 1 April 2015 UGC. 91-93”

- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

“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. Quality bears no relation to the weedy wines of the early 1980's and before. The 42 hectares are planted with 50% Cabernet Sauvignon and 50% Merlot. Deep purple colour. Black fruits on the nose with mulberry and exotic spice with a smoky toasty character. The palate is rich and intense with black cherry, blackcurrant and roasted coffee. Opulent but with mouth filling ripe tannins to give structure. This is a big, muscular style with an impressive concentration of ripe black fruit.”

- Farr Vintners

“The nose has a mix of fragrances quite fresh and black fruits feature on the palate. Fresh at the start but richer and sweeter in the middle quite fleshy and behind the sweetness there is freshness the finish bright. 2026-34”

- Derek Smedley MW

“The wines from Pape Clement are getting better every year - they are now fresh and lively without an excess of oak. Lively red fruits and plum with layers of red fruits and sweet violets. A solid vintage, ready young as this is an approachable style, but should age for 10 years easily. Consulted by Michel Rolland.”

- JCL, asianpalate.com

“The 2014 Pape Clément is strikingly beautiful. Dark, sumptuous and creamy, it exudes class. Black cherry, mocha, spice, espresso, menthol and new leather are all pushed forward in a spherical, rich wine that captivates all the senses. As always, this is an overt style, but the purity of the fruit comes through nicely now that the oak has started to integrate. There is plenty of the Magrez trademark richness but done in a slightly more restrained style than in the past. This is a gorgeous wine by any measure. (AG)”

- AG, Vinous
