

Château Pape Clément 2019

CSPC# 790277

750mlx12

14.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot and 3% Cabernet Franc, 2% of Petit Verdot
Appellation Pessac-Léognan
Classification Grand Cru Classe Graves
Website <https://bernard-magrez.com/en/>
Sustainability Terra Vitis Label and HVE3 Label (high environmental value 3rd level)
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.

Winemaker Bernard Magrez

Vintage

This vintage was characterized by rather extreme weather conditions. The spring was particularly wet, but a window of clement weather at the end of May-early June enabled good flowering. July brought two heatwaves, in both cases followed by some beneficial rain. The summer was sunny with a classic Bordeaux August. A superb late season enabled the Cabernets' tannins to continue to ripen and reach optimal maturity. The cool August produced superbly balanced grapes, highlighting their aromatic profiles. The grandiose reds have two phases of maturity: the Merlots, with the dry and warm June and July, are fleshy, round and aromatic. After the rains at the end of September, the Cabernets finish refining their tannins, preserving the freshness, and thus offering extraordinary complexity, sap, and silkiness.

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 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 27 years of age, and many are over 40.

Harvest

The 2018 Pape Clément was picked September 17 to October 10.

Winemaking

Manual plot-by-plot harvest in crates. First sorting in the vineyard. Manual grape-by-grape sorting on the table. Filled into oak vats from 30 to 70 hl by gravity. Pre-fermentation maceration at a low temperature of 8 ° C. Fully manual punching down. Maceration time of 30 days. Direct flow into barrels and French oak casks by gravity. Malolactic fermentation in barrels (2/3 new oak and 1/3 of one previous wine)

Maturation

Aging for 18 months in barrels (90%) and casks (10%) of French oak.

Tasting Notes

A wine of good density ruby red, with brown, mahogany, biscuit hints. It has maintained its luster and clarity. The rim is fairly thick. The tears are fine, clear, abundant, and regular. At once expressive, forthright, and complex. There are notes of all families of fragrance: fruit, flowers, and spices. Taste: The attack is forthright,



Tasting Notes	round and suave, soothing even. The intense aromas initially recall the complexity of the nose. There is leather and lightly charred wood, and roasted notes. The beauty of the vintage is revealed by its elegance rather than its full-flavor. The wine has an attractive aromatic range with a finish of remarkable elegance.
Serve with	Chateau Pape Clement is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. Chateau Pape Clement is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes.
Production	16,650 cases made.
Cellaring	Drink 2023-2035.
Scores/Awards	<p>94 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2022</p> <p>94 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022</p> <p>96-98+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - June 2020</p> <p>97 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2022</p> <p>96-97 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2020</p> <p>95 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 2022</p> <p>95 points - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - January 2022</p> <p>95 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - June 2020</p> <p>96 points - Jane Anson, Insidebordeaux.com - January 2022</p> <p>96 points - Jane Anson, Insidebordeaux.com - November 2021</p> <p>97 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2022</p> <p>95-97 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - June 2020</p> <p>94-96 points - Farr Vintner - May 2020</p> <p>96 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - December 2021</p> <p>96-98 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - June 2020</p> <p>97 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2022</p> <p>95-97 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - June 2020</p> <p>98 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - April 2022</p> <p>96-99 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2020</p> <p>94 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2020</p> <p>95 points - Thomas Parker MW - March 2022</p> <p>96 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - June 2020</p> <p>93 points - Vert de Vin - April 2020</p> <p>18.5 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - September 2020</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Quite rich, with an exotic hint to the boysenberry, plum and mulberry fruit flavors, which are carried by a velvety structure. Features a very stylish backdrop of apple wood, anise and fruitcake notes that adds more bling. This doesn't have the drive for serious cellaring, but it's still pretty gorgeous."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The 2019 Pape Clément has turned out well in bottle, delivering a rich bouquet of cherries, blackcurrants, plum liqueur, and blackberries mingled with notions of burning embers, licorice and a nicely integrated framing of new oak. Full-bodied, deep, and concentrated, it's a layered, fleshy wine, with a deep core of ripe but lively fruit, plenty of powdery tannin and a long, expansive, discreetly heady finish. This is a powerful, dramatic Pessac with a transatlantic accent and will drink well with only a few years' bottle age."</i></p> <p>- WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Crushed-stone and berry aromas with some blackberry and black-tea character. Just a touch of smokiness. Sweet fruit, too. This is so refined, subtle, and beautiful for Pape with full body, ultra-fine tannins, and a succulent finish. The center-palate is dense and complete. Goes on for minutes. So subtle and refined, focused and classy. Try after 2026."</i></p> <p>- JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"This shows attractive aromas and flavors of chocolate, walnuts, wet earth, mushrooms and berries with full-body, round and refined tannins and a subtle, focused finish. Excellent length, in a sophisticated way. Chewy at the end."</i></p> <p>- JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"Created by the 14th-century Pope, Clement V, this estate is now owned by Bernard Magrez. This latest release shows the quality of the property, a wine that is set for long aging. Ripe black fruits are matched by the</i></p>

Reviews *wine's structure and density. Drink from 2026. *Cellar Selection***
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Black core and inky rim. Intense, sweet aroma of damson and black cherry. Dark, rich, and also sweet/sour. The tannins are thick and a little furry. Full-flavoured and surprisingly fresh but needs time to become more elegant and shed the powerfully thick tannin texture. Drink 2030 – 2045."
- JH, JancisRobinson.com

"Density in all aspects here, quite a rich, broad, and bold style but with precision, clarity, and definition. It's big shouldered with plenty of heft and ripe fruit but well presented with great acidity that keeps the freshness from start to finish and this has a nice cooling minty aspect towards the finish. Tannins are firm, and still very present, needing to soften a little over time but this definitely has the weight, structure and fruit purity to have a long life ahead. Drinking Window 2027 – 2042."
- GH, Decanter.com

"Continuing the strong performance of Pape Clement over recent vintages. Violet edging around the glass, and a supple tannic hold that both constricts and expands the fruit through the palate, giving a sense of momentum. There is a firm tannic grip, given drama by notes of black pepper and bitter chocolate, and a slate textured finish to slow things down and hold the flavour."
- JA, Decanter.com

"This lays down a challenge to the other wines in Pessac-Léognan, with a little more power and definition, with slate tannins and a rasp of minerality all while delivering pure and concentrated raspberry, loganberry and black cherry fruits. The tannins are confident and are not about to let the fruit go anywhere soon. Great quality and potential, a little more severe and austere than the 2018 at this point, needs a good five years in bottle. Harvest September 17 to October 10. An up score from En Primeur. Tasted twice, two months apart."
- JA, Inside Bordeaux

"Raspberry puree, concentrated loganberry and black cherry alongside peony and rosebud flowers, still extremely concentrated with knitted-together tannins. Great quality and potential, a little more severe and austere than the 2018 at this point, needs a good five years in bottle."
- JA, Inside Bordeaux

"Almost opaque in color, the wine kicks off with an intense array of smoke, tobacco, cigar box, flowers, spice, dark plums, and blackberry aromas. On the palate, the wine is rich, lush, polished, full-bodied, deep, long, and fresh. The finish crosses the 50 second mark with ease, leaving you with opulently-textured, layers of perfectly ripe, sensuous, rich, dark fruits. Because the amount of oak has been decreased during the aging process, the fruit is allowed to shine front and center, allowing for more vibrancy and purity. This is a top vintage of Pape Clement that clearly merits your attention. Drink from 2030-2060."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Dark in color, the tobacco leaf, cigar box, floral, blackberry and dark plum aromas are just fabulous to smell. Fresh, sweet, rich, long, full-bodied and lifted, the wine is concentrated, deep and intense. The balance is perfect, with all the sweet fruits and freshness in harmony. This is a beautiful thing, because the 60-second finish is something you want to hang on to. The oak has been dialed back a bit. To help retain the freshness and purity in the fruit, 5% of the harvest was aged in oak foudres and 5% was aged in amphora. The harvest took place September 17 to October 10, the Grand Vin was made from 60% of the harvest."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"A yield of 45hl/ha in 2019, the second year in a row with good yields for the property. Picked between the 18th September and 8th October. A straight 50:50 blend of Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon. Two thirds new oak, one third used oak - with 10-15% large vats, which are a new addition to reduce the influence of new oak on the wines. Deep ruby in colour with an impressive and spicy nose of opulent cassis, damson, tobacco, and sweet vanilla. The palate is dense and richly structured, the mouthcoating tannins complementing the glossy

Reviews *black fruit at the core. There are waves of wood smoke, clove, and cigar smoke, but the fleshy black fruit is intense enough to find a hedonistic balance. Driven and powerful through to a long, smoky, and intense finish. Impressive, if modern.”*
- Farr Vintners

“The 2019 Pape-Clément was a real show-stopper from barrel. Now in bottle since summer 2021, it has a more refined nose that I feel is perhaps just a little closed in as it approaches its first winter. Aeration reveals some lovely rose petal and incense aromas (there’s something almost Burgundian, Morey-Saint-Denis–like about its purity). The palate is extremely well balanced with velvety tannins and perfectly judged acidity. The oak (65% new, in the form of 400-liter barrels that have been employed since 2018) are beautifully integrated. This fans out wonderfully on the finish. One of the finest releases from Pape-Clément in recent years”
- NM, Vinous

“The 2019 Pape-Clément was picked from 17 September to 10 October, underwent a 30-day maceration. Matured in 90% oak barrels and 10% wooden foudres for 18 months. It has a very perfumed bouquet with luscious black cherries and boysenberry fruit, touches of raspberry preserve and crème de cassis. The palate is full-bodied and quite muscular, exerting a firm grip and displaying plenty of tobacco-tinged black fruit that dovetails into a more saline, marine influenced finish. This is a very serious Pape-Clément that will require longer ageing than its peers but will surely be rewarding for those with patience. Tasted on five occasions - hopefully there is some wine left back at the château. 2025 – 2060”
- NM, Vinous

“The 2019 Pape Clément is just as impressive as it was en primeur. It shows all of the textural richness that is so typical of Bernard Magrez's wines, but with an extra kick of freshness that provides energy as well as a sense of proportion. A wine of stature, the 2019 is so classy. Succulent black cherry, plum, mocha, new leather and licorice are all beautifully delineated. But more than anything else, I find the wine's energy really impressive. This is a fabulous vintage for Pape Clément. Tasted two times”
- AG, Vinous

“The 2019 Pape Clément is a fabulous wine. Rich, exotic and sweet in its grandeur, the 2019 captivates all the senses with its dazzling beauty. The 2019 is a wine of statuesque proportions that impresses with its intensity. Dark fruit, spice, pear, tobacco, and gravel all explode out of the glass. There is so much to look forward to here. What a wine. Tasted three times.”
- AG, Vinous

“As to the Grand Vin 2019 Château Pape Clement, it reveals a dense purple hue to go with stunning aromatics of crème de cassis, graphite, lead pencils shavings, scorched earth, and tobacco. Beautifully balanced, with flawless tannins, this full-bodied Pessac has that rare mix of elegance and power, a great mid-palate, and again, perfect balance. It's one of the gems of the vintage and has some accessibility today given its purity and balance yet deserves 4-5 years of bottle age and will cruise for 20-25 years or more in cold cellars. The blend is equal parts Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot, brought up in two-thirds new French oak.”
- Jeb Dunnuck

“I loved the 2019 Château Pape Clement. This beautiful terroir in the heart of Pessac has produced and magical 2019. Stunning notes of crème de cassis, spring flowers, violets, crushed stone, and lead pencil and flow to a full-bodied, flawlessly balanced, elegant effort with great tannins and a rock star of a finish. It's a rich, powerful wine, yet it's the level of purity and elegance that sets it apart. Bravo! Tasted twice.”
- Jeb Dunnuck

“Dark ruby garnet, violet reflections, subtle lightening of the edges. Nougat and prunes, candied orange zest and sea buckthorn underlaid. Complex, full-bodied, fine fruit sweetness, ripe, supporting tannins, elegant and spicy, mineral, and long-lasting, safe aging potential, will benefit from aging in the bottle.”
- Falstaff Magazine

Reviews *“50/50 Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon. Deep purple colour. Sweet and seductive on the nose, full of cassis, kirsch, and charred spices from wood. This is plush and modern but not overworked. The palate is full bodied, sweet with spice, dense with black fruit and mouthcoating in sandy, ripe tannins. Chewy and impressive, pairing succulent fruit and toasty wood in balance. There is enough refinement and just a hint of savoury cedar in the background. Though oily and decadent there is enough restraint here to suit a wide audience, particularly after 5+ years in bottle when the oak has had more time to integrate into the wine.”*
- Tom Parker MW

“The nose is fresh, elegant, aromatic and offers a beautiful definition, finesse of the grain and elegance. It reveals notes of pulpy/ripe lemon, vine peach, small notes of peach flowers/apple flowers associated with small touches of ripe citrus (kumquat, mandarin, quince) as well as a discreet hint of exotic fruits, juicy apricot, flint, and very discreet hints of toasted/sweet spices. The palate is fruity, well-balanced and offers a juicy/finely acidulous frame, gourmandize, tension as well as a finesse of the grain and elegance. On the palate this wine expresses notes of pulpy/juicy lemon, vine peach, small notes of crushed apple associated with small touches of juicy kumquat, quince as well as very discreet hints of juicy/Ripe apricot, apple flowers and an imperceptible hint of sweet spices/nutmeg and toasted almond. Good length.”
- Vert de Vin
