

Château Pape Clément Blanc 2020

CSPC# 889168

750mlx6

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

67% Sauvignon Blanc, 30% Sémillon, 3% Sauvignon Gris

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 is exceptional qualities 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, 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. Consultant oenologist: Michel Rolland

Vintage

The earliest vintage in the past ten years, 2020 began with a mild and rainy winter, favouring bud break three weeks early and an accelerated growth of the vegetation in the spring. The frost of March 27 damaged the buds and impacted the yields of the whites. While heavy rainfall marked the period between late May and early June, the particularly hot month of July was followed by a very dry month of August. The deep rooting of the vines, which are 40 years old on average, coupled with regular ploughing, have made it possible to fight against severe water stress. The lenient weather conditions at the end of August and the beginning of September allowed for the harvest of perfectly ripe grapes in good sanitary condition.

Vineyards

The estate has a hefty sixty hectares of vines, with 53 hectares for red vines and 7 hectares for white. Château Pape Clément is planted with Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Petit Verdot, Cabernet Franc, Semillon, Sauvignon Blanc, Sauvignon Gris, and Muscadelle. The age of the vines is 22 years. It is significantly cooler here than at some of the surrounding properties, and though Château Pape Clément is not far from the urban center of Pessac-Léognan, the estate still has to harvest later. The viticultural process here is comprised of a mixture of tradition and technological innovation. Since 2013, Château Pape Clément has used solar powered drones to assess the vines for peak ripeness and pick the optimum time to harvest them. More traditional practices include using oxen to plough the vineyards.

Vineyard Management

- Each micro-plot is managed separately,
- Controlled grass seeding, horse-and cattle-ploughing,
- Fully sustainable pest control,
- Suckering, leafing,
- Manual picking in two rounds,
- Terra Vitis Label and HVE3 Label (high environmental value 3rd level), SME certification, Bee-Friendly Label and ISO 14001 certification.

Harvest

The 2020 Pape Clément was picked from 25th August to 8th September 2020

Winemaking

Château Pape Clément Blanc has a unique vinification process, and the wine is aged in Burgundy barrels and a mixture of egg-shaped concrete vats for added lees contact. This gives the final wine a creamy and rich



Winemaking	<p>mouthfeel. For those who love their wine with ripe, tropical fruit aromas bursting forth from the glass, intermingled with a rich weighty density, Château Pape Clement Blanc is nothing short of an elegant classic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The pneumatic press is filled manually, - Whole grapes are crushed under extremely gradual pressure under an inert atmosphere to preserve the aromas, - The juice is gravity-fed from the press into barrels, - Racking and fermentation in French oak, - Matured on the lees with stirring - 15% of the wine is made in next-generation oval cement tanks.
Tasting Notes	<p>Pale gold; rich, supple wine, moderate in acidity; dry, broad, quite mouth filling, but lacking real vitality; plenty of matter, moderate length across the palate, and modest in scope and definition for its status. Good light length to finish.</p>
Serve with	<p>Chateau Pape Clement Blanc, the white wine of Pape Clement is best served with a myriad of different seafood dishes, shellfish, crab, lobster, sushi, sashimi, chicken, pork, and veal, as well as Asian cuisine.</p>
Production	unknown
Cellaring	Drink 2024-2032.
Scores/Awards	<p>96 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2023 93 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2023 94-96 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - May 2021 94 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent (score only) - March 2023 97 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - January 2023 97-98 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2021 94-96 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 2021 17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2021 95 points - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - January 2023 94 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2021 94 points - Jane Anson, Insidebordeaux.com (score only) - January 2023 95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2023 96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2021 92 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2021 94 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2023 92-94 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - April 2021 90-92 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - June 2021 100 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2023 95 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2021 96 points - Andreas Larsson, Tasted - May 2021 16.5 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - September 2021</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"This is a step up, as it's larger in scale, brighter and more defined than most of its brethren, featuring long tarragon and thyme threads that pull gooseberry, star fruit and white peach notes along. Offers lots of energy through the finish, which ripples with sel gris and oyster shell echoes offset by a hint of salted butter. Really gorgeous. Sauvignon Blanc, Sémillon and Sauvignon Gris."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Offering up notes of crisp nectarine, lemongrass and white flowers, the 2020 Pape Clément Blanc is medium to full-bodied, satiny, and seamless, with bright acids, attractive purity of fruit and a long, aromatic finish. This is the most elegant white wine produced by this estate over the last decade, and it has turned out well in the bottle. Best after 2022"</i> - WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Pape Clement's 2020 Blanc leaps from the glass with gregarious notions of fresh pink grapefruit, Bosc pears and lime blossoms with hints of coriander seed, yuzu zest and white pepper. The medium to full-bodied palate delivers fantastically intense citrus and pear flavors with a racy backbone and silky texture, finishing long and fragrant. The blend this year is 67% Sauvignon Blanc, 30% Sémillon and 3% Sauvignon Gris, with anticipated bottling projected to be taking place on December 14 and 15, 2021. The alcohol is 13.5%. Drink 2024 – 2037."</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate</p>

- Reviews** *"I like the richness and focus to this with sliced cooked apple, lemon, and light toffee character. Candied pineapple. Hints of meringue. Full-bodied and layered. Really delicious and flavorful now with a solid balance of phenolic structure. Classy. Agile."*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- "Lots of white peach and red apple with crushed-stone and pine-needle undertones. Full-bodied, yet compact and linear with beautiful toffee, light caramel, praline, and nougat character to the fruit. Hints of wood. It shows phenolic tension and form yet remains agile and energetic. Impressive for the vintage."*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- "The wood aging is just beginning to show in this full, rich wine. With a fine combination of pineapple and squeezed citrus layered with a tight texture, it obviously has power as well as potential. Barrel Sample: 94-96."*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- "Good lemon lift on the nose here. Really lively with some spritz and a kiss of oak rather than being dominated by it. This is clever winemaking with a mineral element. Really lively. I may be tasting this four days too late but it's still awfully impressive! Just the right balance of ripe fruit and fresh acidity. Sprightly even. Tension and a floral element. Great stuff! Drink 2023 – 2029."*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- "Bright and high acidity gives this a shot of life and energy as soon as it reaches the palate. Focused and full with lively citrus fruit but not massive acidity, the oak is covering up a little of the overt joy at the moment, just restricting the expression slightly and causing some tension and tightness on the mid-palate. Lovely persistence with caramel, toast, vanilla and clove aside orange zest, lemon, and lime."*
- GH, Decanter.com
- "A delicious Pape Clément Blanc, this has flesh, power, depth, character, and a ton of juicy minerality with white pear, peach, and a slate-filled texture that adds grip and saline freshness. Well balanced and easy to recommend. Tasted three times. Barrel Sample: 94."*
- JA, Decanter.com
- "Orange zest and mandarin add juice and focus, along with citrus and lime, good pace, and character. Technical director Jeanne Lacombe has teased fresh acidities and grip out of the vintage. Impressive, although heavy bottle."*
- JA, Inside Bordeaux
- "Rich, lush, ripe, concentrated, and fresh, here, you find a plethora of yellow, and orange citrus fruits with nuances of honeysuckle, green apple, mango, and a smidgeon of vanilla. On the palate, the wine is full, rich, creamy, oily, lively, and ready to go. Drink from 2023-2035."*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "Honeysuckle, orange rind, spice, pomelo, green apple, and a shot of mango create the nose. On the palate the wine is full, rich, creamy, oily, and fresh, with layers of ripe, sweet, spicy, yellow citrus and tart green apples in the finish."*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "The 2020 Pape Clément Blanc has a bright nose with scents of orchard fruit, orange pith and lime cordial scents, well defined and focused. The palate is fresh and mineral-driven, quite taut, much less oaky than other vintages and displaying more terroir towards the finish. One of the best whites from this estate that I have tasted. Tasted three times with consistent notes."*
- NM, Vinous

Reviews *"The 2020 Pape Clément Blanc is a clear step up from the Le Prêlat and Clementin, delivering taut, mineral-rich citrus fruit aromas with vibrancy and tension. The palate is well balanced and seems less oaky than previous vintages when tasted from barrel. Ginger and lemongrass enliven the finish on this excellent Pape Clément Blanc."*

- NM, Vinous

"The 2020 Pape Clément Blanc is remarkably understated. Passion fruit, white flowers, lemon confit, ginger and white pepper are all very nicely lifted. In 2020, the Blanc is decidedly airy and less unctuous than it has been in the past. It will be interesting to see where things stand at the end of aging."

- AG, Vinous

"One of the whites of the vintage, the 2020 Château Pape Clément Blanc is based on 62% Sauvignon Blanc, 33% Semillon, 4% Sauvignon Gris, and the remaining 1% Muscadelle, all of which was raised in a mix of new and used oak. This beauty stopped me in my tracks and offers a massive nose of honeyed limes, white flowers, tropical fruit, crushed stone, and orange marmalade. With the vintage's vibrant sense of freshness, full-bodied richness, a stacked mid-palate, and a fabulous mouthfeel, this truly sensational white is an incredible achievement, and hats off to the team at Pape Clement."

- Jeb Dunnuck

"Medium yellow-green, silver reflections. Fine yellow peach and greengage aromas, blossom scents, candied orange zest, mineral touch. Powerful, juicy, and elegant, ripe tropical fruit, light herbal spiciness, integrated acidity, fine fruit on the finish, very good length with a mineral underpinning. Certainly, one for the future."

- PM, Falstaff Magazine

"A fine touch of toasted oak even though the lush fruit is dominating, fresh pineapple, confit de citron and some pastry notes with excellent grip and extract on the palate, dense and concentrated with a great freshness bite and very long finish with both opulence and brightness."

- AL, Tasted.com
