

Château Clinet 2015

CSPC# 811818

750mlx6

14.3% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

90% Merlot, 9% Cabernet Sauvignon, 1% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

Pomerol

Classification

Bordeaux AOC (*Appellation d'origine contrôlée*)

Website

<http://www.chateauclinet.com/chateau-clinet-pomerol/>

General Info

Chateau Clinet is a relatively small property in Pomerol, home of the best Merlots made in the world. Over the last decade or so, it has risen to be amongst the top wines of the region. Château Clinet is located in the heart of the Pomerol appellation, about 40 km from the city of Bordeaux. Posed on beautiful plots of the famous terrace serious Gunz, particularly suitable terroir for Merlot, it is one of the most prestigious area of the appellation. The estate wines, elegant and intense style parties are now the great wines of Pomerol.

Chateau Clinet once belonged to the Constant Family before it passed to the Arnaud family. The Arnaud's had good taste in wine. At the same time, they were also owners of the famed Bordeaux wine property, Petrus. Following the Arnaud's involvement, from 1900 to 1991, Clinet became the property of the Audy family. They were best known as Bordeaux négociant's. When the managing director Jean-Michel Arcaute arrived in the early 1980s, Chateau Clinet began producing some of the best wine in their history.

It was Arcaute's desire for Clinet return to the previous level of prominence it occupied in the early 19th century. Arcaute began leaf thinning, green harvesting, and more importantly, he strived to harvest fruit that was phenologically ripe. The estate also reduced the amount of cabernet sauvignon vines planted in the vineyards. Clinet is one of the few Pomerol properties with a large percentage, (Large for Pomerol) of cabernet sauvignon vines.

In 1991, the chateau was sold to Gan insurance. Arcaute remained the director of the estate. Clinet was bought by Jean-Louis Laborde in late 1998. Tragically, Arcaute died in a boating accident in 2001. Today, the estate is managed by the young Ronan Laborde. Laborde could have been a competitive marathon runner if he was not a wine maker. Michel Rolland consults this Bordeaux wine property. Clinet has been improving slowly but steadily since the Laborde family purchased the estate. 2008 was a big jump in quality and their 2009 Bordeaux wine is even better!

Winemaker

Ronan Laborde. Michel Rolland consults.

Vintage

2015 Pomerol wines are the stars of the vintage. 2015 Pomerol at its best can easily be described bottled decadence, hedonistic thrill rides of almost unequaled sensual pleasure. They are often close in quality to the best 2009 Pomerol wines. There are also several chateaux that have really kicked their game up to an entirely new level with this vintage. Those producers made better wine in 2015 than they did 6 years ago, in the 2009 vintage. 2009 has been my personal benchmark vintage for Pomerol, so that is saying something.

2015 Pomerol is the product of a near perfect growing season. A mild winter led to a warm, spring. Budbreak took place slightly later than usual in mid-April. The spring was sunny and warm. The flowering, in early June was quick and even, two very important factors that need to take place in a great vintage. Perhaps the hot, dry, almost drought conditions from June 15 to July 22, with absolutely no rain had the biggest impact on the 2015 Pomerol wines. Had those dry conditions continued, the vintage could have turned out completely different. But the August rains provided the necessary moisture for the growth cycle to continue. With one exception, the best 2015 Pomerol wines were all produced from estates with deep clay soils.

Vineyards

Only 9 hectares under vine, but the vineyard is located at the highest point of the Pomerol Plateau on the famous Gunz gravel terrace, origin of the appellation's most prestigious crus. 85% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon and 10% Cabernet Franc, this



Vineyards	wine has an average age of 47 years.
Harvest	It was picked from 15 September commencing with the young Merlot vines and finishing between 28 and 1 October with the very old Merlots and the Cabernets.
Vinification/ Maturation	Vinification takes place in wooden vats and stainless steel with thermo micro-oxygenation. 5 weeks maceration with vigorous pumping over. Malolactic fermentation in the bottles. Aged for 16 months in 65% new oak barrels, and 35% 1 yr. old barrels.
Tasting Notes	This vintage presents a beautiful appearance, a velvety texture, and complex aromas of fruit (forest fruits, tangy raspberry) and spices (Malabar pepper, liquorice). A finish which grows in intensity whilst remaining flavoursome. A very distinguished wine whose softness is met with elegance and freshness.
Production	4,400 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2020-2032
Scores/Awards	<p>97 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2018</p> <p>94-97 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - June 2016</p> <p>97 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim - February 2018</p> <p>96 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - March 2018</p> <p>95-97 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #224 - April 2016</p> <p>99 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2018</p> <p>99-100 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2016</p> <p>16 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - February 2019</p> <p>17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2016</p> <p>17 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - November 2017</p> <p>93 points - James Lawther, Decanter.com - April 2016</p> <p>99 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2018</p> <p>99 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2018</p> <p>98 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - July 2017</p> <p>98-100 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2016</p> <p>95 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2016</p> <p>92+ points - Farr Vintner - March 2016</p> <p>92-94 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2016</p> <p>96 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - July 2019</p> <p>96 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2018</p> <p>94-96+ points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2016</p> <p>98+ points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2018</p> <p>18.5+ points - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2016</p> <p>93 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com (score only) - May 2016</p> <p>92-94 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - May 2016</p> <p>17 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - June 2016</p> <p>19 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2016</p> <p>17.5+ points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - January 2021</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Juicy and very fresh, with a lovely beam of raspberry and cherry compote notes infused with red licorice and floral hints. Certainly ripe, but on the refined side, with the purity of fruit singing over a light tug of apple wood through the lengthy finish. This has dropped a darker, more hedonistic edge since the barrel tasting. Best from 2020 through 2032. 4,400 cases made."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The fleshy plum, blackberry and boysenberry fruit flavors sail along, gilded with a hint of anise and backed by velvety tannins. Shows serious length already and latent depth. A hedonistic wine in the making."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"A blend of 90% Merlot, 9% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 1% Cabernet Franc matured in 65% new and 35% one-year-old French oak for 16 months, the 2015 Clinet offers a medium to deep garnet-purple color and slowly, provocatively unfurls in the glass with notes of crushed black cherries, warm black raspberries and red cherry compote plus nuances of bay leaves, cinnamon stick, star anise, fenugreek and forest floor and wafts of potpourri and mocha. The palate reveals a sensuous medium-bodied style offset beautifully by very firm, very silky tannins and packed with energetic, multifaceted fruit as well as great tension, finishing long with an arresting spice and floral perfume. A real stunner! 2022 – 2045"</i></p>

Reviews - LPB, Wine Advocate

"The 2015 Clinet is a blend of 90% Merlot, 9% Cabernet Sauvignon and 1% Cabernet Franc, cropped at 37 hl/ha and matured in 65% new oak. It was picked from 15 September commencing with the young Merlot vines and finishing between 28 and 1 October with the very old Merlots and the Cabernets. A couple of specific features to note: the alcohol level is 14.3%, perhaps a little lower than some of Clinet's peers and also a IPT of up to 88, higher than 2010 even. Broody at first, it eventually develops a perfumed bouquet as it opens, with black fruit, melted tar and a brush of black truffle. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin. There is plenty of nascent energy in this Clinet, spicier than other vintages that I have tasted over the years, linear at first and then fanning out towards the finish with a dash of white pepper on the aftertaste. It is a very harmonious Clinet, one that I suspect will favor those with the nous to age this Pomerol for 5-7 years, even though it might tempt you earlier. This is a great Pomerol from Ronan Laborde and his team."

- NM, Wine Advocate

"An immaculate wine with pristine blackberries and dark plums as well as fresh, earthy nuances and dark crushed violets. An upright palate with lightly peppery dark berries and plums. The inflection of cabernet here makes for an impressively powerful wine that still exudes Pomerol's suave, seductive charm. Chalky, seamless tannins. Super fresh. Try from 2022."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"OMG. This is really dense and rich with velvety tannins and so much fruit and length. Super concentration and structure. Greatest Clinet ever. No jam. Just class"

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Tasted blind. Blueish crimson. Meaty and appetising on the nose. Very appetising and racy with a floral note. But not big-boned – balance is the thing. A bit chewy on the end; dry finish. Several tasters queried whether this wine had TCA so we tasted a second bottle that turned out to be identical. Drink 2023-2035."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Purplish. Almost overripe nose. Very velvety texture. More savoury than sweet on the palate. Hugely ambitious. Rather drying tannins on the end. Not my style but a very good example of the super-concentrated style."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Mid to deep crimson. Dark and fragrant on the nose. Smells quite Cabernet-Sauvignon-like with cassis and cedar underneath the oak. Dry, a little chalky but still succulent on the finish. Lovely harmony of fruit, freshness and fine tannins. (JH) 14%. Drink 2025-2038."

- JH, JancisRobinson.com

"Ripe, pure and harmonious with dark fruit and toasted notes. Opulent mid-palate fruit and finely honed tannins. Builds to a long, persistent finish. An excellent Clinet this year."

Drink: 2023-2035"

- JL, Decanter.com

"Picked comparatively early, this is correspondingly fresh and well balanced with floral, violet-scented aromas, lots of plush bramble, plum and blackberry fruit, nuanced tannins and a fresh, mineral finish. Classy stuff from a chateau in an impressive run of form. Drink: 2022-32"

- TA, timatkin.com

"If you like truffle, you're going to dig this wine. From there, you discover campfire, licorice black cherry, plum, jam and underbrush. On the palate is where the real action takes place. With the perfect balance between density and lift, everything comes together in the decadently textured, silky textured, fruit filled finish."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"If you are looking for a hedonistic thrill ride, where the wine offers velvet textures and your palate is drenched with deep, perfectly ripe, black plums and dark cherry liqueur infused with even darker chocolate and fennel, you

Reviews *came to the right place. If that is not enough to get you interested, perhaps the almost 50 second finish with all its palate staining viscosity will do the trick. It is hard to pick a best vintage from Clinet, but the 2015 is clearly in the running!"*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"A hedonistic thrill ride. This is pure sensuality. The tannins are incredible lush and polished. The juicy, sweet plums and black cherries are perfectly ripe, offering a beautiful sense of purity. The wine is concentrated, fresh and focused, with just the right amount of flowers, truffle, dark chocolate and licorice to add more complexity. This is another thrilling wine from Clinet."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"It's difficult to know where to start with this deep, ruby colored wine. The first thing you notice is the floral bouquet, which is quickly followed by anisette cookies, cherry blossoms, spice box, plums and, just for a touch of adrenaline, a hint of espresso. Pure sensuality with silky, polished, opulent tannins that give this wine a really sexy mouth feel. Voluptuous in texture, this is hedonism at its best. The wine is rich, concentrated, and full-bodied, leaving you reclined upon layers of freshness, power, finesse and velvet. This is quite close to the stunning 2010 Clinet in quality. With that in mind, it's important to note that the best vintages of Clinet always improve in the bottle and I'm willing to bet this is no exception. From a blend of 90% Merlot, 9% Cabernet Sauvignon and 1% Cabernet Franc, the wine reached 14.3% alcohol with a pH of 3.7. The wine is aging in 65% new, French, oak barrels. The harvest for the Merlot took place from September 15 to October 1. The Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc were picked in one day, October 1. The Grand Vin consists of 74% of the harvest. Drinking this wine is like sitting in an easy chair with an Elite model on your lap! 98 - 100 Pts."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"This small (8 hectare) property is situated at the edge of the plateau of Pomerol behind Clos L'Eglise. It shot to fame following a 100-point Parker rating in 1989 and then repeated this feat 20 years later. The wines here are serious, dense and powerful. 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet (mainly Sauvignon). The élevage is in 65% new oak and proprietor Ronan Laborde says that the wine reminds him of the 2005 but with rounder, softer, more velvety tannins. Deep colour. Smoky with new oak and ripe with black cherry on the nose. There is a concentrated black fruit palate with mouthcoating tannins from both grape and wood giving a firm, chewy texture to the wine. This is certainly a wine that will need some time. Mulberry and cassis fruit are central to the flavour profile here, with sweet vanilla and spicy, smoky new oak. This is a powerful Clinet!"

- Farr Vintners

"Depth on the nose the fruit on the palate is sweet and rich fleshy black plum. There is mid suppleness velvety richness with bramble at the back balancing and giving freshness. It fills out on the finish with sweet fleshy black fruit. 2025-35"

- Derek Smedley MW

"The 2015 Clinet has a beautifully delineated bouquet, quite floral in style with rose petal and iris scents filtering through the red fruit. A second bottle is a little distant with more pronounced crushed stone aromas. The palate is medium-bodied with grainy tannin, a fine bead of acidity, but those tannins tend to dominate the finish that feels a little mean. I think this is enduring a very dumb phase and should not be broached for a few years. Tasted blind at the Southwold 2015 Bordeaux tasting."

- NM, Vinous

"The 2015 Clinet is just a brilliant wine from Ronan Laborde and his team. It has a refined bouquet that is extremely well defined, blackberry, briary, crushed stone and hints of black truffle developing with time. It just shouts "Pomerol!" at the top of its voice. The palate is medium-bodied with fine-grain tannin. There is a taut and crisp acidity that lends this Clinet a beguiling sense of symmetry and poise. This is a classy, mineral-driven Pomerol that has enormous potential. Anticipated maturity: 2022 - 2045."

- NM, Vinous

"A dramatic, sweeping Pomerol, the 2015 Clinet is ample, racy and voluptuous from the very first taste. Those qualities are going to make the 2015 nearly impossible to resist young. Readers who can wait will be rewarded with a racy, deeply layered Pomerol of the highest level. For now, the raciness of the dark red cherry and plum

Reviews *fruit suggests a very bright future. Hints of rose petal, mint and licorice add the closing shades of nuance. What a gorgeous wine this is. 2022 – 2040”*

- AG, Vinous

“The 2015 Clinet is an exotic, totally arresting beauty. Powerful, unctuous and inky to the core, the 2015 exudes richness. There is nothing subtle at all in this full-throttle, towering Pomerol. And yet all the elements are very nicely balanced. Blackberry jam, crème de cassis, licorice, graphite, dark spices, licorice and bittersweet chocolate are fused into rich, port-like finish. The 2015 is a bit extreme, but it is also compelling. The blend is approximately 90% Merlot, 9% Cabernet Sauvignon and 1% Cabernet Franc, while new oak is around 65%. The Clinet is unusual in that the Cabernet portion favors Cabernet Sauvignon over Franc. Tasted two times.”

- AG, Vinous

“The 2015 Château Clinet from this terrific estate is up there with some of the finest vintages out there. A blend of 90% Merlot, 9% Cabernet Sauvignon, and the rest Cabernet Franc, it has a concentrated, powerful style not far from the 2005 and offers loads of spiced blackberries and cassis fruits intermixed with notions of lead pencil, tobacco, and a distinct gravelly minerality. Rich, powerful and admirably endowed on the palate, with serious tannins, it's best forgotten for 4-6 years and should keep for two decades or more.”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“The wonderful Clinet glossy fruit aroma is all present and correct here and just when you think that it will carry on in seductive mode it changes tack and dives down into dark, brooding, malevolent mood with soaring tannins and combative oak. This is a gripping wine and it never oversteps the mark, wisely deciding to remain perfectly balanced. The finish is very long and fine and this will be a long-lived Clinet on account of its sensational tannins.”

- MJ, matthewjukes.com
