

# Clos L'Église 2014

CSPC# 761721

750mlx6

13.5% alc./vol.

**Grape Variety**

80% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc

**Appellation**

Pomerol

**Classification**

Bordeaux AOC (*Appellation d'origine contrôlée*)

**Website**

<http://www.vignoblesgarcin.com/index.php?dom=vg&lang=en>

**General Info**

In the 18th century, Clos L'Église with its 14 hectares was considered to be a very big domain for Pomerol, ahead of about a dozen great wines which formed, and still form, the heart of Pomerol. The estate subsequently took the name of Clos L'Église. However, following succession problems, it was split into two with, on the one side, the original Clos L'Église (Rouchut family) and on the other, Clos L'Église-Clinet (Mauléon family). Clos L'Église therefore has a continuous wine-producing tradition spread of several centuries. It is the soil which gives a great wine its personality and it is the efforts of Sylviane Garcin-Cathiard that have developed it fully. She took over the property in January 1997 and using her experience at Château Haut-Bergey in Pessac-Léognan, she completely reorganized the chai. Today Helen Garcin-Leveque and her husband own and run Clos L'Église. They immediately stated a program of renovation and re-planting, after they took over which has come to fruition in a spectacular manner.

The property has a second wine, Esprit de L'Église.

**Vintage**

Whilst the incredible Indian summer undoubtedly turned around the fortunes of the 2014 vintage, the growing season in Pomerol was not without its challenges. Stormy showers punctuated much of June, July and August and, in terms of overall rainfall throughout the year, it was one of the wettest since in a decade. Despite the rain, the sunny and generally dry conditions that characterised September and October, were sufficient to successfully ripen the Merlot and were particularly beneficial to Cabernet Franc, which looks to have succeeded very well 2014. As always success depended on terroir and diligence. There is great vibrancy in the best wines, which show genuine style and verve, but in a few cases, there also appears some dilution.

**Vineyards**

The terroir of Clos L'Église is filled with rich clay and gravel-based soil with iron deposits. Located on a sloping hill, with famous neighbors like Chateau Clinet, Chateau L'Église Clinet and Chateau Trotanoy, most of their 5.9 hectare, Bordeaux wine vineyard stretches to the south west of their wine making facilities. The Pomerol vineyard of Clos L'Église is planted to 70% Merlot and 30% Cabernet Franc. On average, the vines are 35 years of age. Although there is an old parcel of Cabernet Franc remaining that was planted in the 1940's! The vineyard is planted to a vine density of 7,150 vines per hectare.

**Maturation**

The wine is made according to traditional methods. It is for this reason that Sylviane Garcin-Cathiard chose wooden vats for Clos L'Église. Each batch is treated separately in a thermostat-regulated vat of 60 hl. Manual pigeage has been re-introduced; the pulp and mass of skins, known as chapeau, floats to the top during fermentation and is punched down manually several times a day. The wine is left in fermenting vats for a long time, and malolactic fermentation is carried out in 100% new barrels. Ageing lasts between 16 to 18 months depending on the vintage. Interestingly Clos L'Église uses as many as 12 different coopers to age their wine in.

**Tasting Notes**

Clos de l'Église 2014 is a warm and scrumptious Pomerol. Typical flower notes are followed by a forward kirsch scent of creamy cherry and cassis. Generous, the aeration brings out even more intense aromas with hints of juniper berries. Smooth, almost creamy, the palate offers flesh and lovely length.

**Serve with**

Clos L'Église is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised and grilled dishes.



**Cellaring  
Scores/Awards**

Drink 2013-2028

**92 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2017  
**91-94 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2015  
**92 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate Interim - March 31, 2017  
**90-92 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #218 - April 2015  
**95 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2017  
**94 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 2015  
**93-95 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2015  
**16.5 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - February 2018  
**16.5++ points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - March 2015  
**17+ points** - Richard Hemming, JancisRobinson.com - January 2018  
**17.25 (90+) points** - James Lawther, Decanter.com - April 2015  
**92 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - July 2, 2017  
**93-94 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 24, 2015  
**86-88 points** - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - March 2015  
**Review Only** - Farr Vintner - March 2015  
**86-89 points** - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2015  
**94 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2017  
**91-94 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2015  
**91 points** - Jeb Dunnuck MW - November 2017  
**15.5 points** - Gault & Millau (score only)  
**15.5 points** - La Revue du Vin France (score only)

**Reviews**

*"There's a succulent feel to the warm raspberry and boysenberry confiture notes in this very fleshy red, with lots of black tea and singed cinnamon flavors filling in on the finish. This is grippy, very polished and fresh in feel. Best from 2020 through 2030. (JM)"*  
- JM, Wine Spectator

*"Ripe, with a full, fleshy feel to the plum sauce and melted licorice notes, all framed by a ganache edge. A lightly firm woody hint hangs on the finish, but this has more than enough fruit to soak that up. Score range: 91-94"*  
- JM, Wine Spectator

*"The 2014 Clos l'Eglise has a tightly wound bouquet, quite backward as you might expect, with broody black cherry, black truffle and touches of orange peel. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, crisp and tensile with a gentle grip in the mouth, touches of allspice and clove emerging towards the nicely structured and linear finish that lingers in the mouth. This is a well-crafted Clos l'Eglise that I suspect will have much more to give after three or four years in bottle"*  
- NM, Wine Advocate

*"The Clos l'Eglise 2014 was picked on 23 September until the 27 September with the last parcel of Cabernet Franc, matured in 100% new oak in 300- and 500-liter barrels. It has a well-defined, expressive bouquet already with subtle wet clay scents infusing the black cherry and blackcurrant fruit, a touch of violet developing with time. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, perhaps a little pinched compared to their Barde-Haut '14 with sappy black fruit on the finish. This is broody and introspective compared to recent vintages, although there is impressive length here and it may merit a higher score after bottling. As I said, at the moment, I would bet on H el ene Gar cin-L eveque's Barde-Haut in Saint Emilion being the one to seek out"*  
- NM, Wine Advocate

*"Exotic aromas of blueberries, flowers and tangerines. So perfumed. Medium to full body, firm and silky tannins and a long and refined finish. Lovely length. Drink in 2020 but already delicious."*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"Extremely attractive core of fruit with a cool, mineral undertone. Full body, firm tannins and a fresh finish."*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"This wine is both fresh and superrich, hailing from deep clay soils in the heart of Pomerol. Dark tannins meld into the ripe plum flavors, giving concentration and a strong sense of restrained power. (RV)"*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

- Reviews** *“93–95. Barrel Sample. This wine is both fresh and superrich, hailing from deep clay soils in the heart of Pomerol. Dark tannins meld into the ripe plum flavors, giving concentration and a strong sense of restrained power.”*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- “Tasted blind. Floral nose. Savoury and only slightly oaky palate. Lots of impact. Easy to like even if it’s not the longest living wine.”*  
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- “Well-formed primary cherry fruit with an attractive confectionary style. Complete and harmonious on the palate with chalky tannin and rich, concentrated fruit that speaks with boldness and conviction. Very much a modern, young style that deserves long cellaring – but has the charm to win many people over now.”*  
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- “Particularly deep crimson. Heady and sumptuous on the nose – unusual for a 2014 Pomerol. Rich and juicy with a little oak in evidence but definitely superior and even slightly subtle. Good balance for a non-heavyweight Pom. Good blend of savour and ripeness. Good positive finish.”*  
- RH, JancisRobinson.com
- “Modern polished nose. Medium bodied with juicy fruit. Well-handled extraction. Builds on the palate and finishes with persistence and length.”*  
- JL, Decanter.com
- “Medium/full bodied, with just a hint of truffles already peeking through the plums. Add some espresso bean, flowers and earth and you are almost there. Soft, polished with a bit of dryness in the spicy finish. Give it 5 years in the bottle to develop more complexity.”*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “A truffle, black cherry and floral perfume opens this soft, polished and silky wine. The plush chocolate and plum finish feels luxurious in the mouth.”*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “Deep; darker look; earthy purple at rim; purity; spot on; sour cherry; plums; unadorned but similarly complete; little oak [more present later]; blackcurrant, sour cherry note; with some oak; lacks roundness and generosity in the middle; nice material on the finish. Should fill out. [80% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc, 6ha]. Tasted Grand Cercle 29 March 2015. 86-88+”*  
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com
- “This small 6-hectare Pomerol property is situated between Clinet and L'Eglise Clinet. Quality here used to be dreadful but under new ownership since the late 1990's, the wines now rank amongst the best in Pomerol. 80% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc, winemaking in 100% new oak is overseen by Alain Reynaud formerly of Quinault L'Enclos and La Fleur de Gay. Production is small, rarely more than 1000 cases.”*  
- Farr Vintners
- “Rich ripe fruits the nose has depth the start of the palate fleshy and sweet. Black plums and cassis enrich the mid palate and the back palate has depth the sweetness of ripe fruit the finish though is lighter and fresher. 2018-28”*  
- Derek Smedley MW
- “Rose petal, sweet red cherry, plum, mint and new leather notes abound in the 2014 Clos L'Eglise. Polished, lifted and very sexy, the 2014 is decidedly gracious, finessed Pomerol. It has shut down a bit in bottle, but it is very pretty. The blend is 80 % Merlot and 20 % Cabernet Franc.”*  
- AG, Vinous

**Reviews** *“The 2014 Clos L'Eglise is super-expressive from the very first taste. Dark red cherry, plum and crème de cassis meld into new leather smoke and violets in a supple, racy Pomerol built on texture. Readers will find a level of pure voluptuousness that is quite rare in this vintage. The 100% new oak is very nicely balanced for such a young wine. The 2014 is 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc. (AG)”*  
- AG, Vinous

*“While I wasn't able to taste the 2015, I purchased a bottle of the 2014 Clos l'Eglise in the US for this report. This is a ripe, opulent, sexy wine from Helene Garcin's tiny estate in Pomerol and is 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc brought up in new barrels. Notes of blackcurrants, smoked plums, mocha, and hints of spicy oak all emerge from this medium to full-bodied, elegant, seamless, and incredibly charming 2014 that's already drinking beautifully, yet promises to keep for another 15+ years. 2018 – 2033”*  
- Jeb Dunnuck

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