

## Clos L'Église 2016

CSPC# 761721

750mlx6

15.0% 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>

**Sustainability**

Organic

**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.

**Winemaker**

Hélène and Patrice Lévêque

**Vintage**

The year 2016 started off with the water tables full, thanks to the heavy rainfall from January to March. Three difficult months for the vineyard workers but which saved the day for this vintage! The mild temperatures in March ensured an early budburst but the colder, rainy mornings in April slowed down the growth cycle. From mid-June to mid-October, rainfall was well below the seasonal average.

During the first two weeks of August, the colour change was short and even on each of the properties. The grapes developed in radiant, dry weather conditions. Light showers appeared in mid-September to re-boost the ripening process on the terroirs offering less water retention, thus perfecting the maturation of the tannins. The absolutely perfect weather conditions during harvest time allowed us to pick grapes boasting remarkable quality.

**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 80% new barrels. Ageing lasts 18 months depending on the vintage. Interestingly Clos L'Église uses as many as 12 different coopers to age their wine in.

**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.

**Production**

1,500 cases made.

**Cellaring**

Drink 2022-2041



**Scores/Awards** **92 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2019  
**92-95 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - May 2017  
**94+ points** - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2019  
**93-95 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #230 - April 2017  
**95 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2019  
**94-95 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2017  
**17+ points** - Richard Hemmings, JancisRobinson.com - January 2018  
**96 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - September 2019  
**96 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2018  
**95 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2017  
**92+ points** - Farr Vintner - April 2017  
**86-89 points** - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2017  
**93 points** - Neal Martin, Vinous - March 2021  
**94 points** - Neal Martin, Vinous - August 2020  
**94 points** - Neal Martin, Vinous - January 2019  
**95 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - January 2019  
**92-95 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2017  
**97 points** - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2019  
**95 points** - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2020  
**16.5 points** - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2021  
**16 points** - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2017

**Reviews** *"This has a juicy core of damson plum, raspberry and cherry coulis flavors, offset by light black tea and floral notes. Offers a rounded feel through the finish while retaining a sense of freshness. Hard to resist the fruit here. Drink now through 2030. 1,500 cases made.*  
 - JM, Wine Spectator

*"Fresh, bouncy blueberry and boysenberry fruit is hard to resist, while lively anise and fruitcake notes fill in behind it. Has a gloss of spice-infused toast on the finish, but that should meld with the élevage, as the fruit is copious. Score Range: 92-95."*  
 - JM, Wine Spectator

*"Deep garnet-purple in color, the 2016 Clos 'Eglise (a blend of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc) rolls seductively out of the glass with notions of chocolate covered cherries, preserved plums and blueberry compote with hints of sautéed herbs, yeast extract, pain grillé, peppered salami and tilled soil. Full-bodied, concentrated and totally sensuous in the mouth, it has a wonderfully plush texture and just enough freshness supporting generous fruit layers, going to a long, savory sparked finish."*  
 - LPB, Wine Advocate

*"The 2016 Clos l'Eglise is a blend of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc and was the first to be picked by the Garçin-Léveque family (before Barde-Haut, d'Arce and Poesia). It has a high pH of 3.65 and it was matured in 100% new French oak. It has a very intense bouquet with macerated small black cherries, raspberry coulis, oyster shells and crushed violets, well defined and quite penetrating in style. The palate is medium-bodied with grainy tannin, layers of black fruit laced with black pepper and a touch of black pepper. There is a little chewiness to the texture towards the harmonious finish, which is one of the most primal that I have encountered in recent years. The barrel maturation will lend a little more sheen to this Pomerol--a long-term prospect that will deserve several years in bottle."*  
 - NM, Wine Advocate

*"Lots of smoke, black olives and brown sugar to the ripe fruit on the nose. Full body, rich and chewy tannins and a spice, toffee, smoke and coffee finish. Not overdone. Needs at least five years to come together. Try after 2024 "*  
 - JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"A linear yet full-bodied young red with berries, firm tannins and lots of flavor and intensity. Fun and dynamic sample. Potentially better than 2015."*  
 - JS, JamesSuckling.com

**Reviews** *“Plenty of fruit richness to match the new oak scent here, and the two seem to be integrating nicely already. Broad, complex, not jammy but certainly a rich, ripe style. Long and thick in texture. Drink 2026 - 2046. (RH)”*  
- RH, JancisRobinson.com

*“Full bodied, rich, sexy, lush and polished, this is a hedonistic treat loaded with truffle and plums. There is length, purity and sex appeal here with the ability to age and evolve for at least 2 to 3 decades with ease.”*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“Rich, lush opulent, multi-faceted wine with layers of black plums, chocolate, black cherries, licorice, truffle and wet earth. Sexy in its nature, this is just a beauty.”*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“Fertile, intense, opulent, dark chocolate-covered plums, this wine is fat and sassy with freshness, fruit and length, leaving you with a lavish sensation in the finish. The wine comes from 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc, reaching 14% with a pH of 3.7.”*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“This small 6-hectare Pomerol property is situated between Clinet and L'Eglise Clinet. 80% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc, winemaking in 100% new oak. Production is small, rarely more than 1000 cases. Black fruits and sweet vanilla give this wine a supple, round and seductive character with ripe tannins and a lingering, lifted and pure cherry fruit finish.”*  
- Farr Vintners

*“Ripe black plum the nose is sweet and the start of the palate rich supple on the mid palate. Bright at the back bramble freshness the finish though has more depth and rich fruit. 2024-3.6”*  
- Derek Smedley MW

*“The 2016 Clos l’Eglise has a fresh, detailed bouquet of blackberry, raspberry and tertiary aromas, hints of truffle and chestnut emerging with time; this is complex and involving. The palate is medium-bodied with firm tannins. One of the few Pomerols to exhibit just a little leafiness toward the finish, perhaps due to some Cabernet Franc. This is a classy Pomerol that should age with style. Tasted blind at the annual Southwold tasting. 2023 – 2048.”*  
- NM, Vinous

*“The 2016 Clos l’Eglise is a knockout Pomerol from the Garcin-Lévêque family. It has a very complex bouquet of blackberry, melted tar and a touch of mint and sage. Then, returning to my glass after an hour, I found that same faint tang of shucked oyster shell that I observed out of barrel. The palate is extremely well balanced with truffle-tinged black fruit, a very fine line of acidity and wonderful poise on the finish. Superb, although it will benefit from five or six years in bottle. Drink 2023-2048”*  
- NM, Vinous

*“The 2016 Clos L'Eglise is endowed with tremendous density and lushness. Blackberry jam, chocolate, leather, spice and licorice give the 2016 much of its flamboyant, forward personality. Readers should expect a rich, explosive Pomerol built on textural resonance. The 2016 spent 18 months in French oak (300-500L barrels), 80% new. This is a terrific showing from Hélène Garcin and Patrice Lévêque. Drink 2024-2041.”*  
- AG, Vinous

*“The 2016 Clos L'Eglise is a powerful, dense wine. In 2016 Clos L'Eglise presents a distinctly deep, spiced expression, with tons of clove, cinnamon, leather, cedar, and tobacco overtones. Rich, ample and creamy, the 2016 possesses notable depth and richness in all of its dimensions. The wine is powerful, ripe, and intense, with just enough freshness to add a measure of balance. To be sure, the style is one built on textural richness and resonance, with ripeness pushed to the edge. The 2016 saw around 3-4 days of cold soak. Among other developments, the estate is experimenting with 300-liter barrels. New oak is around 80%.”*  
- AG, Vinous

**Reviews** *“The 2016 Clos L'Eglise is a rock star wine that has everything: thrilling amounts of cassis and blackberry fruits, notes of lead pencil, tobacco, and damp earth, full-bodied richness and depth, sweet tannins, and a fabulous finish that leaves you looking for another sip. It shows the purity and classic style of the vintage to a T and is a brilliant, layered, opulent wine to drink over the coming two decades. This wine is a blend of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc, aged in new oak, and comes from the talents of Hélène Garcin & Patrice Lévêque. I'd be thrilled to have bottles of this in the cellar. 2021 - 2041.”*  
- Jeb Dunnuck

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