

Château Le Gay 2011

CSPC# 763530

750mlx12

13.5% Alc./Vol.

Grape Variety

90% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

Pomerol

Website

<http://www.vignoblespereverge.com/en/vin/chateau-le-gay-pomerol/>

General Info

Located in the vicinity of Château Pétrus, this small estate shares history with the property across the road, Château Lafleur. Both part of the property Le Manoir de Gay in the mid 18th century, it was purchased by the Greloud family and divided among the sons into two properties, the Domain de Lafleur section eventually inherited by André Robin who imprinted on Lafleur his personal motto, "*Qualité passe quantité*" (French: *Quality surpasses quantity*).

In 1946 the sisters Marie and Thérèse Robin inherited both Lafleur and Le Gay. The sisters were notoriously reclusive and shunned the spotlights for almost 70 years. They were content to allow Château Pétrus reap all the glory for the appellation and so Le Gay remained in the shadow of its prestigious neighbour until Catherine Péré-Vergé discovered it. La Fleur is owned by the Robin sisters niece and nephew, Sylvie and Jacques Guinaudeau, who sold Le Gay to Catherine Péré-Vergé in order to concentrate on La Fleur.

Since 2002, when Catherine Péré-Vergé bought the château, the quality of its wines has risen and Le Gay is now getting the recognition it deserves. Le Gay neighbours Château Pétrus and *Vieux Château Certan*. Le Gay shares some of its history with *Château La Fleur* across the road. In the 1700s both Le Gay and La Fleur were part of the larger property Le Manoir de Gay. In the mid 18th century Le Manoir de Gay was purchased by the Greloud family and divided between the sons.

Catherine Péré-Vergé comes from the family who own Cristal d'Arques, a leading European glass and crystal manufacturer. Catherine left the family firm in the 60s and also owns *Châteaux Montviel*, *La Gravière*, *La Violette* and *Bodedga Monteviejo* in Argentina. Under her care Château Le Gay has been completely renovated. The chai is located next to the neo-classical pavilion where tastings are held and blends traditional and modern elements in a striking way. The most notable touch are the squat wooden fermentation tanks, each capable of holding 2,377 gallons which were fashioned by Seguin Moreau et Cie, one of the world's best cooperages.

Catherine Péré-Vergé passed away in April 2013 at age 74. Her son Henri Parent is expected to take over the Vignobles Péré Vergé estates.

Vintage

2011 was a year of technical challenges. A vintage when every day we asked questions. A year when we had to monitor the vineyard. We cannot say it was easy. But we can say once the wines are finished, the result should be better than what we expected in some plots. We obtained surprising results at La Violette. Le Gay and the heart of the parcels at Montviel.

"The advantage we have with the harvest with different climatic phenomena is that our plots are on very good land. The plateau" of Pomerol, with deep clay which allows us to control the state vine water and support the warm, dry years like 2011. The strength of our wines is that we can differentiate between years of each other with good acidity, tannins that need to be mature at the time of harvest for a texture in the mouth without aggressiveness" – Marcelo Pelleriti - winemaker

Vineyards

Yields are minuscule, often being as low as 15-20 hectolitres per hectare, and it is this, combined with the old age of the vines, that give the wines their depth and complexity. Typically the Le Gay is a blend of 50% Merlot and 50% Cabernet Franc. The vineyards of Le Gay lie just to the north of the Pomerol plateau in the small hamlet of Pignon and are planted with 65% Merlot and 35% Cabernet Franc. Similar to Châteaux Pétrus and L'Église Clinet the vines remained in situ after the devastating spring frosts of 1956 and have an average age of 50 years. Le Gay's location is exceptional and the soils are clays and gravels. The old vines, tiny yields



Vineyards	and an uncompromising wine making style makes Château Le Gay one of the most concentrated and massive wines of the region. The wine making is overseen by Michel Rolland and Le Gay is undergoing a renaissance which mirrors the success it had in the 40's and 50's when it was producing some legendary wines.
Harvest	September 8 and ended September 27. Yield was about 30 hectoliters per hectare for our normal style of wine and the age of our vines. This is higher than 2010.
Maturation	It is aged in oak casks for 18-20 months. Le Gay is a Pomerol property on the rise.
Tasting Notes	The wines of Château le Gay are rich, intense, supple and silky with notes of blueberry, graphite, blackberry, truffle and violet. They are powerful, well balanced and multi layered, age very well and should be cellared correctly.
Cellaring	Drink 2015-2035
Scores/Awards	<p>91-94 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2012</p> <p>94 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #212 - April 2014</p> <p>92-94 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #200 - April 2012</p> <p>92-94 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2012</p> <p>93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2014</p> <p>91-92 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2012</p> <p>89-92 points - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - April 2012</p> <p>16.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2012 (score only)</p> <p>17 points - James Lawther, Decanter.com - April 2012</p> <p>94+ points - Jane Anson, The New Bordeaux - April 2012</p> <p>89 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)</p> <p>95 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2012</p> <p>92-94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 23, 2012</p> <p>88-90 points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2011</p> <p>88points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2012</p> <p>89-92 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2012</p> <p>16 points - Farr Vintner - April 2012</p> <p>17 points - Vinum Wine Magazine - April 2012 (score only)</p> <p>16.5 points - Gault & Millau - April 2012 (score only)</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"This isn't shy about its toast, with mocha and spice aromas boldly leading the way, but there's serious flesh too, with açai berry, blueberry and blackberry notes all melded together and driving through the anise-tinged finish. A strong showing. Score range: 91-94"</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The 2011 Le Gay exhibits a deep ruby/blue/purple color in addition to a sumptuous nose of spring flowers, blueberries and raspberries, deep, full-bodied, slightly masculine flavors, and sensational purity, richness and texture. It is another impressive 2011 Pomerol that has the guts, stuffing and structure to age for 15-20 years."</i> - RP, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Dense and masculine with an inky/purple color, the 2011 Le Gay offers notes of truffles, roasted meats, black fruits, graphite and flowers. It is a powerful, rich Pomerol with stunning intensity and a long finish. This burly, full-throttle effort has a lot in common with the style of Trotanoy (even though the terroirs are different). Give it 3-4 years of cellaring and drink it over the following two decades."</i> - RP, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Tasted at the property and then at the Syndicat de Pomerol. The Le Gay is a blend of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc picked on 16th September. It has a well defined bouquet with ripe dark cherries, cassis and crushed violet: a more feminine take on Le Gay. The palate is medium-bodied with tensile tannins on the entry. It has good acidity and weight. It does not present the explosion on the finish like the 2009 or 2010, but it is linear and controlled, quite reserved even. Excellent, although there is a metallic note lingering on the aftertaste that I hope will dissipate by the time of bottling. Tasted April 2012."</i> - NM, Wine Journal</p>

- Reviews** *"This is a pretty wine with walnuts, blackberries, blueberries and just a hint of cocoa. Full body with super-silky tannins and a flavorful finish. Needs at least three to four years to come together and soften. Try in 2017."*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- "Soft and velvety with lovely ripe tannins and a citrus, mineral and blueberry character. Long and intense. Nicely done for the vintage."*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- "Good bright, deep ruby. Musky blackcurrant, sweet spices, flowers and minerals on the nose and palate, complicated by licorice and herbal nuances. A silky, pliant, graceful Pomerol with very good energy and grip. Finishes with suave tannins and superb length. I get the distinct impression that the estate was careful not to overextract this year, but consulting winemaker Michel Rolland told me he really hadn't changed much in 2011."*
- ST, International Wine Cellar
- "Engaging wine. Deep colour. Reticent red/dark fruit nose. Lovely purity of fruit, super texture and a firm, long finish."*
- JL, Decanter.com
- "Here the power comes through, with an attractive minty freshness on the finish. 100% new oak. 90% merlot, 10% cabernet franc. 60hl wooden vats. This is dense, goods tructure, not too drying (although you do have to slightly wade to the finish at the end)."*
- JA, The New Bordeaux
- "Showing all the class you'd expect from a mature vineyard situated between Pétrus and La Fleur, this is a beautifully scented Pomerol, with notes of spices, red cherry and wet stones on the nose. Fine and elegantly structured, this shows skilful oak integration, textured tannins and a long finish. 10+ years."*
- TA, timatkin.com
- "90% Merlot with the remainder coming from Cabernet Franc produced a deep-colored wine with intense floral, chocolate, truffle and black cherry liqueur notes. This full-bodied, rich, sweet and concentrated Pomerol is packed with ripe, opulent chocolate-covered cherries and minerality. 92-94 Pts"*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "The fruit on the nose feels ripe lots of sweet damsons and the richness of the fruit fleshes out the mid palate. There is underlying freshness and the tannins are quite firm but do not hold back the richness of flavour."*
- Derek Smedley MW
- "Formerly owned by the same family as neighbour Chateau Lafleur, Le Gay is now owned by Catherine Péré-Vergé along with other Pomerol properties Montviel and la Violette. 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc in 100% new oak. Sexy and opulent, this is a beautifully creamy and polished Pomerol with super-silky tannins, glycerol and a supple texture. Stylish and long."*
- Farr Vintners
- "Ripe plums and cherry fruit supported by a high density of tannins. This wine is well crafted and has the density and depth to age for a decade or more. Subtle fruit - don't expect a powerful wine. Tasted in: Bordeaux, France. Maturity: Young."*
- JCL, asianpalate.com
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