

Château Le Gay 2012

CSPC# 763530

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

SOLD OUT

Grape Variety

90% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

Pomerol

Classification

Bordeaux AOC (*Appellation d'origine contrôlée*)

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

2012 was a challenging vintage in Bordeaux. But many winemakers in Pomerol, the appellation located within Bordeaux's Right Bank, were able to produce wines of depth, complexity, and character.

Like the rest of Bordeaux, Pomerol experienced chaotic weather in 2012. The spring was unpredictable and the summer brought heat and drought. Fortunately, the soils of Pomerol were able to hold on to moisture — and most producers were able to harvest their grapes just before rain showers hit in late September and early October. So the yields were naturally low. And the grapes produced wines of beautiful concentration and complexity.

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'Eglise 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 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 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc cropped at 30hl/ha between 8th and 11th October.

Maturation It is aged in oak casks for 18-20 months. Le Gay is a Pomerol property on the rise.

Tasting Notes This has a very attractive floral bouquet with exotic and aromatic plums. There is a lovely fluid style to this wine and a sense of balance and composure. Good mid-weight flavours of bramble fruit, sandalwood and some creamy vanilla notes lead to a very assured finish where the tannins are fully enconced in refined fruit. There is a real sense of beginning middle and end in this wine. Gentle extractions have produced a wine of mid weight at best, but this is all about balance and charm.

Cellaring Drink 2015-2035

Scores/Awards **92-95 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2013
94 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #218 - April 2015
91-93+ points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #206 - April 2013
92-94 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2013
92 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2015
92-93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2013
93-95 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 9, 2013
89-92 points - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - April 2013
17.5 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2013
16.75 points - James Lawther, Decanter.com - April 2013
91 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)
94 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2013
93-95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 18, 2013
93 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2013
91-93 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2013
16.5+ points - Farr Vintner - April 2013
90-92 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only)
17 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)
17 points - Gault & Millau (score only)
16 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)

Reviews *"A polished, suave style, with alluring plum sauce, melted black licorice and fruitcake notes backed by a solidly built finish of plum skin and black tea. Shows ample stuffing. Score range: 92-95"*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"This is a beautiful, dense, meaty, purple-colored wine, with loads of earth, iron, blackberry and cassis fruit. It is full-bodied, rich and opulent with great length, terrific purity and surprisingly sweeter tannin than I would expect from this terroir that tends to produce a masculine style of wine. Impressive and backward, this Le Gay should drink well for at least 20 years."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"A backward, muscular style of Le Gay, the 2012 exhibits a dense blue/purple color as well as sweet blueberry and black raspberry notes intermixed with notions of forest floor and earth. Following the lovely bouquet, the tannins kick in and the wine shuts down. It is a muscular, rugged, full-bodied Pomerol that requires 7-10 years of cellaring. It should keep for three decades thereafter."
- RP, Wine Advocate

Reviews *"In this year, Le Gay has undergone micro-vinification in barrel (Darnajou) for the first time. It is a blend of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc cropped at 30hl/ha between 8th and 11th October. It has a very pure, natural, refined bouquet with redcurrant, raspberry, wild hedgerow and a touch of orange blossom. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannins, quite tart on the entry with a touch of piquancy. This is a more compact Le Gay compared to the 2011 at the moment, but it will mellow and gain volume throughout its maturation. There is very good focus on the finish – a fine mid-term Le Gay to drink between 7 and 15 years. Tasted April 2013"*
- NM, Wine Journal

"This is dense and polished with refined tannins and beautiful fruit. Full-bodied yet reserved and elegant. Very long and attractive. Better in 2018."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"A very polished and pretty wine with plums, berries and light vanilla cream character. Full and refined. I like the seamless tannins."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"93–95. Barrel sample. An exemplary wine, this is powerful, rich and full of ripe red fruits. The palate is dark, but brightened by acidity, red fruits and a beautiful line of freshness."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Bright medium red. Captivating, fruit-driven aromas of black cherry and flinty blackcurrant complicated by iron, licorice and spices. Generous and sweet on entry, then firm in the middle, with sweet blackcurrant and mocha flavors. Features broad, dusty tannins and building sweetness on the long, floral finish."
- ST, International Wine Cellar

"Very rich and deep. Super heady and with some essence of blackberry to it. Very thick and deep and unctuous. Sweet and rich and thick. Petit Verdot..."
- JH, JancisRobinson.com

"Ripe and bold but fresh. Fleshy fruit softens firm tannins. Long finish."
- JL, Decanter.com

"Not quite as good as La Violette in 2012, but this is still a fitting tribute to the late Catherine Péré-Vergé's memory. It's an ambitious Pomerol that eschews easy drinkability in favour of the longer haul: rich, dense, oaky and structured with hints of violets on the nose and dark, brooding fruit. Classy stuff. Drink: 2022-35"
- TA, timatkin.com

"For the 2012 vintage, the wine of Chateau Le Gay was produced using the same methods as they employ at La Violette. 90% of the fruit was vinified in barrel. From a blend that is the same as the plantings at 90% Merlot at 10% Cabernet Franc, the wine reached 13.5% alcohol. Deep ruby in color, the wine offers licorice, oak, earth, jammy black raspberry, chocolate and floral notes. On the palate, the wine is rich, round, supple and lush. Each sip is packed with ripe and overripe black cherries, licorice and dark chocolate. The tannins are ripe while the finish expands, moving from cherry to black raspberry and spice. Sadly, Catherine Pere Verge, the grand woman of Pomerol passed away the day before she was going to present her wines at a dinner for friends and members of the press. She will be missed. 93-95 Pts (18-Apr-2013)"
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Ripe plums give richness on the nose and fleshiness on the palate. The mid palate is juicy sweet ripe fruited lots of damson plum with the supple richness balanced by fresher fruit that gives brightness on the finish. 2020-35."
- Derek Smedley MW

Reviews *“Formerly owned by the same family as neighbour Chateau Lafleur, Le Gay is now owned by the family of Catherine Péré-Vergé along with other Pomerol properties Montviel and la Violette. Madame Péré-Vergé sadly died 4 days before our visit. The 6 hectare vineyard is planted with 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc with vines around 50 years old. Despite the 100% new oak this voluptuous Pomerol is not too toasty. The plump, polished fruit has a sexy, ripe mouthfeel with notes of chocolate and cream with a hint of nutmeg and violets. 15000 bottles produced. A very fine Pomerol.*
- Farr Vintners

“Delicious, fruit driven vintage with a very pretty aromatic profile. Ripe plums and cassis with hint of violets and spices. A delicious Le Gay that is surprisingly open even in this youthful state. Tasted in: Bordeaux, France. Maturity: Young. (04-Jan-2014)”
- JCL, asianpalate.com
