

Château Le Gay 2020

CSPC# 887740

750mlx6

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety
Appellation
Classification
Website
General Info

90% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc
Pomerol

Bordeaux AOC (*Appellation d'origine contrôlée*)

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

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 sister's 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 Montevejo* 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.

Winemakers
Vintage

Michel Rolland consultant.

The growing season began with an unseasonably warm winter and the high temperatures continued into the spring, which meant the worst of the April frosts were avoided. Instead, the region saw heavy rains create a warm, humid atmosphere and diseases like rot and mildew became prevalent, meaning producers had to be vigilant. However, the downpours did provide one boon by revitalizing the water tables in the soil, which would prove invaluable in the upcoming summer months. The summer was extremely hot and arid although infrequent showers did fall until late August, when the season then completely dried out. Good weather prevailed through to the harvest. The resulting crop was smaller than usual, it was in excellent condition with small, thick-skinned berries in great health.

Vineyards

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

Hand-picked harvest in small cartons, double sorting table before destemming, then sorted berry by berry.



Winemaking	Micro-vinification in new oak barrels with a long period of cold maceration. It is aged in oak casks for 18-20 months for malo-lactic fermentation & ageing.
Tasting Notes	Full-bodied, concentrated, and abundant in depth, this wine balances its power, grace, elegance with ribbons of ripe, dark, red pit fruits from start to finish. The fruit comes in gradations, building and expanding with plummy finish. Ageing will allow the wine to soften, flesh out and encourage the truffles, flowers, and chocolate to unfold.
Serve with	Chateau Le Gay is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. Chateau Le Gay is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes. Chateau Le Gay is also good with Asian dishes, hearty fish courses like tuna, mushrooms, and pasta.
Production	20,000 bottles
Cellaring	Drink 2022-2035
Scores/Awards	<p>88 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2023</p> <p>92 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2023</p> <p>94-96+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - May 2021</p> <p>93 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent - March 2023</p> <p>98 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - January 2023</p> <p>98-99 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2021</p> <p>17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com (score only) - April 2021</p> <p>94 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - May 2021</p> <p>94 points - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - January 2023</p> <p>96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2023</p> <p>91 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2021</p> <p>95 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2023</p> <p>95-97 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - April 2021</p> <p>94 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2023</p> <p>94-96 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - May 2021</p> <p>94 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - March 2023</p> <p>95-97 points - Yves Beck (score only) - June 2021</p> <p>93-95 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2021</p> <p>94 points - Terres de Vins (score only) - September 2021</p> <p>94-95 points - Vert de Vin (score only) - May 2021</p> <p>95-96 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - July 2021</p> <p>15 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - September 2021</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"A ripe and direct style, with a core of kirsch and cherry preserves laced with light licorice and sweet toast notes. The gentle finish lets the toast take the lead as the fruit loses energy. Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Drink now through 2027."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The 2020 Le Gay will appeal to readers who appreciate this estate's unabashedly modern, demonstrative style. Offering up rich aromas of dark berries, plum liqueur, coconut, and creamy new oak, it's full-bodied, broad, and unctuous, with a sweet core of ripe fruit, richly extracted tannins and a broad, heady, vanillin-inflected finish. It's a well-made effort in its style, even if the site is surely capable of more."</i> - WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Deep purple-black colored, the 2020 Le Gay erupts from the glass with scents of molten licorice and dark chocolate, giving way to a tantalizing core of baked black cherries, prunes and blackberry preserves, plus a hint of cardamom. The full-bodied palate is rich and decadent, featuring layers of black fruits and exotic spices with a firm yet velvety texture and seamless freshness, finishing with epic length. A hedonic powerhouse!"</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Deep garnet-purple in color, the 2020 Le Gay is closed to begin, needing a fair bit of swirling to unlock notes of crushed black and red berries, stewed plums, and fruitcake, plus hints of underbrush, sauteed herbs, and graphite. The full-bodied palate is densely laden with black fruit preserves, framed by firm, grainy tannins, and soft acidity, finishing long and decadent."</i> - LPB, Wine Independent</p>

Reviews

“So much black mushroom to the dark fruit, such as blackberries and bramble berries. Extremely aromatic. Full-bodied, yet refined and polished, with lovely tannins and fantastic typicity and complexity. It’s so multidimensional and structured, yet there’s a weightless character and personality to it. Thought-provoking and sophisticated. Real Pomerol. Drink after 2028, but a great experience already.”

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“This is a young red with great intensity and vision that starts off slowly and builds with energy and verve. It’s so minerally with salty, chalky and spice undertones to the cool and vibrant, purple, and subtle-fruit flavors. The tannins are wonderfully toned and polished and build on the palate to deliver something very special.”

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“Careful and seductive oaking, this develops and builds in power and finesse over the palate, and is a seriously enjoyable Pomerol, just packed full of appellation typicity. A yield of 35hl/ha, vinified in new oak barrels, and will stay in barrel for 18 months. Drinking Window 2028 – 2042.”

- JA, Decanter.com

“Coffee bean, blackberry, and cocoa powder, with grip, confidence, and powerful slate crushed rock. A yield of 35hl/ha vinified in new oak barrels. Henri Parent owner (he also, by the way, bought an organic truffle orchard in the Dordogne in this vintage), Michel Rolland consultant. Expect levels of Cabernet Franc to rise over the next few years.”

- JA, janeanson.com

“Full-bodied, concentrated, powerful, and rich, this beauty pops with licorice, smoke, flowers, roses, espresso, plums, and chocolate in the nose. The wine is bold, intense and at the moment, slightly reticent, so give it a few years before popping a cork and you will be amply rewarded with layers of ripe, sweet, earthy, plums, blackberries, black cherries, truffle and chocolate. Drink from 2027-2055.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“The 2020 Le Gay was an impressive Pomerol when tasted from barrel. Now, in bottle, it has a wonderful, exquisitely-defined bouquet with perfumed blackberry and briary, incense and light pencil lead aromas. It’s quite understated for Le Gay yet blossoms in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with quite grainy tannins. Well-balanced, fresh, hints of licorice and brine towards a very saline finish. There is an edginess to this wine that I like, but it needs several years in bottle.”

“The 2020 Le Gay needs a little coaxing from the glass, but responds with blackberry, bilberry, pressed iris, and subtle brine scents that gain intensity with aeration; the oak is very well integrated. The medium-bodied palate features fine, grainy tannins and beautiful, very pure black fruit tinged with licorice. Superb delineation toward the finish, which fans out with style. This is a wonderful Pomerol, Le Gay fulfilling its potential as one of Pomerol’s dark horses. Superb. 2024 - 2050

- NM, Vinous

“A surprisingly up-front, soft, almost mid-weight effort from this chateau, the 2020 Chateau Le Gay offers a pretty perfume of both red and black fruits as well as loads of flowers, spice, leafy herbs, and incense. Medium-bodied, balanced, and elegant on the palate, it has polished tannins, terrific balance, sweet oak, and outstanding length. This exceedingly elegant, seamless beauty lacks the density and concentration of the top wines in the vintage but is nevertheless a gorgeous, classic Pomerol that will evolve for two decades. Best After 2025.”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“One of my favorite estates in Pomerol is Château Le Gay, and their 2020 looks to be a gem, offering a ripe, forward, medium to full-bodied style as well as classic cassis and assorted darker fruits intermixed with white flowers, tobacco, and violets. It has plenty of background oak, sweet tannins, beautiful overall balance, and outstanding length on the finish. I don’t think it has the density of the 2016, but it still shows plenty of concentration as well as the fresh, elegant, incredibly pure style of the vintage.”

- Jeb Dunnuck

Reviews *“Somewhat open in the fragrance. Undergrowth, fir resin, ripe cherry. In the mouth there is a somewhat oily texture, overlaid with a grainy, dry tannin freight, restrained acidity, but good juiciness, tightly grip on the finish, with medium fruit. A punchy wine with potential.”*
- PM, Falstaff Magazine
