

Château L'Évangile 2009

CSPC# 749581

750mlx12

15.0% Alc./Vol.

SOLD OUT

Grape Variety

95% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

Pomerol

General Info

Château l'Évangile has always been considered among the first great growths of Pomerol. Located on the noble part of the Pomerol plateau between Pétrus and Cheval Blanc, the vines grow on a soil and subsoil in which sand and clay alternate with layers of pure gravel. The resulting wine is powerful, distinguished, and has an incomparably fine bouquet. It is appreciated around the world. For many wine lovers, the hallmarks of l'Évangile are subtlety and elegance. In 2004, Château l'Évangile renovated their cellar to reflect the progress made in the vineyard (gradual replanting, plot-by-plot vineyard management, rigorous sorting of grapes, etc.) and aim for even higher quality. The new vat room makes it possible to ferment grapes from different parcels separately, and the circular underground cellar makes maximum use of gravity flow. Château l'Évangile produces approximately 3,000 cases of wine a year, all of which is aged in new oak barrels for 18 months.

Vintage

After a complex start to the growth season due to persistent damp conditions, fine weather finally arrived to stay at the end of June. The summer was hot and dry, punctuated in July, August and September with periods of light rain that prevented any water stress from developing. Fairly high day time temperatures combined with fine cool nights favoured slow ripening. The Merlot developed very full flavour, with levels of ripeness and potential alcohol that are rarely reached. The Cabernet Franc grapes remained rather small with thick skins, which reduced the volume of the harvest but had a very positive effect on the quality, with excellent levels of ripeness and expression of tannins.

Vineyards

The southeast Pomerol plateau features a long line of stones. Three vineyards, including L'Évangile, share this rare soil. The estate occupies a very strategic position. It is bordered to the north by the vineyards of Château Pétrus, and is separated from Cheval Blanc in Saint-Émilion to the south by nothing more than a secondary road. The surface area is of 16 hectares composed of sandy clay soils with pure stones, with the bedrock featuring iron oxide. The grape varieties are made up of Merlot (80%) which contributes to the fruity flavour and body, as well as the unmistakable suppleness; Bouchet, the local name of Cabernet Franc is included (20%) for its finesse. Traditional techniques are used. Production is limited and harvesting and other work carried out throughout the year is done manually.

Harvest

These took place over an extended period, from 11 September to 7 October for the Merlot, and from 18 September to 7 October for the Cabernet Franc. Yield 39.3 hl/ha.

Maturation

Pumping over and maceration times were adapted to each vat, according to the plot and the level of ripeness of the tannins. Alcoholic fermentation on average 10 days in cement and stainless steel vats with temperature control. Maceration time 26 to 29 days. Malolactic fermentation: 100% in new barrels. Ageing 18 months in new barrels from the Tonnellerie des Domaines Barons de Rothschild (Lafite)

Tasting Notes

Dark, almost black colour, with hints of purple. Dense, powerful, expressive, very ripe, concentrated nose with notes of Morello cherries, raspberries and toast. The attack is full, generous and dense with very silky tannins and great depth. The palate is long, rich and concentrated with a very creamy finish, remaining supple due to a delightful freshness.

Production

3,600 cases made

Cellaring

Drink 2016-2056



Scores/Awards **97 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2012
96-99 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2010
100 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2012
100 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #199 - February 2012
96-100 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #188- April 2010
96 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - January 2012
91-93 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2010
93-96 points - Ian D'Agata, ST's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2010
18 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 20, 2010
18.5 points - James Lawther, Decanter.com - April 2010

Reviews *"This takes a broader approach, with almost stolid tobacco and charcoal structure guarding the core of black currant, roasted fig and blackberry confiture flavors. Long and very fleshy, offering ample toast and searing singed iron notes, but terrific integration. Merlot in Cabernet clothing, with a long life ahead. Best from 2018 through 2035."*

- JM, Wine Spectator

"I love the aromas of black olive and blueberry, with mineral and light mint. Full-bodied, with super velvety tannins. Super long. This is dense and very beautiful, with such a great core of fruit. Silky texture. Not sure it is going to be better than 2005 (100 pointer!) but super. Score range: 96-99"

- JS, Wine Spectator

"A wine that impresses you, with its subtlety and strength. Every molecule of the tannins and fruit seems to be almost perfectly in line. Enticing dark fruits and milk chocolate. The delicate, yet intense flavors go on for minutes. My palate is so caressed. Such class here. Might end up being better than the perfect 2005. Try after 2020."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"An astonishing effort from the Rothschild family, the 2009 l'Evangile may be the reference point offering from this estate for decades to come. A blend of 95% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Franc aged in 100% new oak, with 15% natural alcohol, it exhibits a sumptuous bouquet of caramels, black raspberry liqueur, blackberries, violets, graphite and truffles. Thick, viscous flavors are reminiscent of such super-ripe vintages as 1982, 1959, 1949 and 1947. The striking aromatics, massive, full-bodied mouth feel and multilayered palate that resembles a skyscraper in the mouth offer an abject lesson in great winemaking, extraordinary terroir, and the ability to combine power with precision, elegance and freshness. This is unquestionably a huge wine, but it also possesses mindboggling complexity and finesse. Because of its sheer extract and velvety personality, it will be drinkable in 4-5 years, and will keep for four decades or more where well-stored. The most profound l'Evangile ever made?"

- RP, Wine Advocate

"The prodigious 2009 l'Evangile may be the greatest wine made at this estate during my 30+ years of tasting Bordeaux. Yields were 39 hectoliters per hectare, and the harvest was relatively long, with everything being picked at perfect maturity between September 11 and October 7. The estate is doing malolactic in barrel (a la Burgundy), and the final blend (95% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Franc) achieved 14.5% natural alcohol. Amazingly, this cuvee is aged in 100% new oak barrels, yet no oak is present in the aromas or flavors. Readers should think of it as a better, richer, fuller, more alcoholic version of the 1982 l'Evangile. Dense, full-bodied, and opaque purple-hued, it boasts an extraordinary bouquet of spring flowers, blueberries, blackberries, and boysenberries. A blue and black mountain fruit character suggests coolness, but an intensity and voluptuous texture present the paradox of 2009. The wine has all the characteristics of a hot vintage in terms of power, texture, and richness as well as elements of a cool vintage in its precision, elegance, freshness, and vibrancy. Make no mistake about it, this is an enormous wine that is incredible to taste. Frankly, I could have drunk the entire barrel sample if it hadn't been my first appointment of the day (at 8:15 a.m.)! This wine should drink well for 30-40 years. Bravo! (Tasted once.)"

- RP, Wine Advocate

Tony Kokoroyannis: Nth AB:
Daryl Drainville: Calgary & Sth AB
Len Steinberg: Calgary

C: 780.974.7765 tony@lanigan-edwards.com
C: 403.630.0741 daryl@lanigan-edwards.com
C: 403.512.3918 len@lanigan-edwards.com

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Reviews *“Tasted at the chateau. Winemaker Jean-Pascale Vazart told me he thinks this is even better than the 2005. It is a blend of 95% Merlot (high due to parcels of Cabernet Franc being replanted), this has a very delineated bouquet with pure red berried fruit, crushed stone, a touch of dried violet and later, a little spice-box. The palate is medium-bodied but it has great power and weight, a quite masculine L’Evangile, strict and linear with a saline/black olive touch of the long aftertaste. Tightly coiled now but sure to evolve with style. This is showing the finesse I was looking for when tasted out of barrel. Tasted November 2011.”*
- NM, Wine Journal

“Picked between 11th September until 7th October but with only six days of picking. Much of the Cabernet Franc was replanted in 2006 and 2007, so it represents just 5% of the blend. Delivering 14.6% alcohol and a pH of 3.73, the L’Evangile is very tight but delineated on the conservative nose. Blackberry, briary, a touch of cedar and sandalwood, the palate is full-bodied with silky smooth tannins on the entry. Great depth here, a voluminous L’Evangile, well-defined and very minerally and yet I can feel the presence of that alcohol on the heavy back palate. Hopefully it will settle down on the finish by the time of bottling. Let’s see how this evolves by the time of bottling...I would like to see it engender more finesse. Tasted April 2010.”
- NM, Wine Journal

“(95% merlot with 5% cabernet franc; cropped at 39 hectoliters per hectare; 14.5% alcohol, pH 3.72; 80 IPT) Deep purple-ruby. Intense aromas of smoky black plum, blackberry liqueur, violets and coffee. Enters very rich and dense, showing an ultra-creamy texture to the highly concentrated flavors of blackberry jam, coffee liqueur and milk chocolate. Lively, balanced acids keep this from going over the top, and extend the flavors on the long, captivating finish. The densest, richest young L’Evangile I can remember though a touch more finesse wouldn’t have hurt it any. The property of the Ducasse family since 1862, it is now part of the Barons de Rothschild (Lafite) wine empire.”
- ID, International Wine Cellar

“39 hl/ha. 95% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc. Just a bit deeper than the Blason. Silky and subtle on the nose. Great richness and intensity. Firm line through it. Really up there. Great structure. Very firm and dry on the finish but not drying, Much more than just ripeness. Great density. Exotic and racy. Very long. Date tasted 29th March 2010. Drink 2018-2035.”
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“Superior to the very good 2008 and 2005. Deep purple-black hue. Rich, dense and powerful. Oozes dark fruit. Appealing now but has the depth and structure to age. Probably the best of the modern era. 2018-2040.”
- JL, Decanter.com
