

Château L'Évangile 2012

CSPC# 771298

750mlx6

14.4% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

93% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

Pomerol

Classification

Bordeaux AOC (*Appellation d'origine contrôlée*)

Website

<http://www.lafite.com/en/the-chateaus/chateau-levangile/>

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

A complex year with a lot of ups and downs! The beginning of the year was difficult with periods of intense cold and humidity, resulting in a mixed flowering and significant losses in terms of yields. The beginning and the middle of the summer saw some fine sunny periods but also brought high levels of humidity. Fortunately, conditions in August and September were excellent which enabled the grapes to ripen very satisfactorily, and to present good potential. Due to rain, the harvest was spread over three weeks; this was unusual, but ultimately gave satisfactory results.

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

The Merlot was picked from September 20 through October 9. The Cabernet Franc was harvested over 2 days, October 6 and October 8.

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 70% new barrels from the Tonnellerie des Domaines Barons de Rothschild (Lafite)

Tasting Notes

Deep, dark colour with hints of violet. Very fruity nose with dark berries (Morello cherries, blackcurrants) and fresh notes of mocha and toast. On the palate, the attack is refined and silky, with a powerful, balanced tannic structure. The texture is dense and very velvety thanks to the ripe, well-coated tannins. The finish is long with fruity notes, but is dominated by the quality of the tannins.

Production

3,000 cases made

Cellaring

Drink 2013-2028



Scores/Awards **94 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2015
92-95 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2013
90-94 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #206 - April 2013
94-96 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2013
94-95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2013
90-92 points - Ian D'Agata, ST's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2013
17.5 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 20, 2013
17.25 points - James Lawther, Decanter.com - April 2013
94-96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 18, 2013
91 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)
93 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com
15.5+ points - Farr Vintner - April 2013
91-93 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2013
90 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2013
17.5 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)
17.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)

Reviews *"A dense, dark, woody style, with loads of tobacco, charcoal and tar holding sway over steeped plum, black currant and Black Mission fig flavors. Shows a serious graphite bolt on the finish, along with a tug of dark earth. A rather powerful rendition of Pomerol that will need some time to stretch out fully. Best from 2018 through 2032. 3,000 cases made"*
 - JM, Wine Spectator

"Fleshy and unctuous, with dark plum and steeped currant fruit, rounded out by a healthy dose of toast and a long, charcoal-filled finish. Shows serious weight for the vintage. Tasted non-blind. Score range: 92-95"
 - JS, Wine Spectator

"The 2012 is an outstanding effort displaying copious quantities of black raspberry and blackberry fruit intermixed with hints of camphor, black truffles and subtle new oak. Opulent, round and generously endowed with impressive purity as well as a forward style, it should drink well young yet age for 12-15 years."

Administrator Pascal Vazart told me the rain that occurred at the end of September broke the hydric stress and drought-like conditions that had existed in this vineyard since mid-July. During that period, there was no rain, but lots of sunshine, which was beginning to cause serious issues with vineyards planted on sand and gravelly soils. The fruit for the 2012 l'Evangile was harvested between September 20 and October 9. It is composed of 93% Merlot and 7% Cabernet Franc that achieved a lofty 14.3% alcohol level. The finished pH is 3.7, which no doubt accounts for the wine's smooth, velvety personality. No one will confuse the 2012 with their 2009 or 2010.
 - RP, Wine Advocate

"In 2012 there is only a small quantity of Blason de L'Evangile. Flowering meant there was only 31hl/ha and 73% of the crop went into the Grand Vin. The Merlot was picked between 20th September and 9th October and the Cabernet Franc from 6th to the 8th October, between which on only eight days did pickers go out with their secateurs. Of the parcels originating from their purchase of La Croix de Gay, three hectares was blended into Blason whilst one hectare situated between Lafleur and Providence was good enough for the Grand Vin. A blend of 93% Merlot and 7% Cabernet Franc, almost identical to the previous vintage and delivering a relatively high 14.4% alcohol, it has a finely tuned, forest floor-scented bouquet with crisp red berry fruit – quite conservative but showing impressive delineation. The palate is medium-bodied with a tense, saline entry. This is a typical masculine L'Evangile – broody and introspective at the moment. There are clearly sweet tannins at the core of this Pomerol legend but it will demand several years in bottle to come round. Tasted April 2013.
 - NM, Wine Journal

"A wine with plenty of deep fruit, spices and hazelnut character. Lovely fruit. Full-bodied, with lovely silky tannins and a long, long finish. So much going on here. Elegance with strength and structure. 93% Merlot and 7% Cabernet Franc."
 - JS, JamesSuckling.com

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- Reviews** *"(93% merlot and 7% cabernet franc; 31 h/h; 73% grand vin): Very deep purple-ruby. Intense aromas of cassis, plum, bay leaf, minerals and aromatic herbs. Beautiful silky texture on entry, then wonderfully supple in the middle, with the blueberry and blackcurrant syrup flavors lingering impressively on the back end. Finishes with rising but smooth tannins and a trace of heat, but this is an extremely successful wine. The very old cabernet franc vines (now 46 years old) ripened well while all the young vines went into the second wine, Blason d'Evangile, which is sold to just three clients and therefore is no longer shown at the Primeurs. "*
- ID, International Wine Cellar
- "Rich and inky colour. Definite mineral overlay on the dark fruit, adding freshness. and there's a hint of exotic spice and delicate complexity. Dense and rich and juicy. Already harmonious though with the structure to age. Finishes fresh and refreshing, quite surprising given the alcohol. Very good length and plenty of tannin but refined in texture so will certainly become velvety."*
- JH, JancisRobinson.com
- "Fruity and expressive. Plenty of dense, juicy fruit. Round and harmonious although there's a little warmth on the finish (14.4% alcohol). Structured. Perhaps misses a bit of nuance."*
- JL, Decanter.com
- "The Merlot was picked from September 20 through October 9. The Cabernet Franc was harvested over 2 days, October 6 and October 8. From a blend of 93% Merlot with 7% Cabernet Franc, this is one of the highest percentages of Merlot in the estate's history. However, this was not due to the lack of ripeness in the Cabernet Franc. Much of the Cabernet Franc was replanted starting in 2006. It is expected that the estate will be using closer to 20% Cabernet Franc in the blend starting in 2020. The wine reached 14.4% alcohol with a pH of 3.7. Yields were low at 31 hectoliters per hectare. Deep ruby in color, the wine exudes truffle, chocolate, plum liqueur, tobacco, smoke, roses and cherries. On the palate, the wine is pure silk and velvet in texture with volume, depth and length. Picture chocolate-covered cherries that you can eat, or drink, your choice. 94-96 Pts (18-Apr-2013)"*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "Deeply coloured, very oaky and showing an undertone of Mediterranean herbs, this is a wine that tastes like no other in 2012. There are notes of sandalwood and spice, plump blackberry and black cherry fruit, good acidity and a dry, balsamic note. An interesting wine, but not reaching the quality of the 2010. Drink: 2020-30"*
- TA, timatkin.com
- "Consistently one of the finest wines of Pomerol, now under the control of the brilliant winemaking team of Chateau Lafite. 20% of the fruit is relegated to the second label Blason de l'Evangile. Made in a cutting-edge modern winery (with a "mini-Lafite" circular cellar). We have not yet tasted l'Evangile 2012 but the performance of neighbours La Conseillante, Petrus and Cheval Blanc suggests that this should be a top Pomerol."*
- Farr Vintners
- "The nose has the sumptuous richness of ripe fruit and the palate is lush smooth supple packed with black plum and ripe cassis. The tannins give support but are not too obvious and although the back palate has a fleshy richness there is enough red fruit to lighten the finish. 2018-28"*
- Derek Smedley MW
- "This is an attractive, generous red with plenty of red and black fruits with spices in the finish. Fresh and lively with alcohol at 14.4% (the pH is 3.7). There was much work done in the vineyard over the past few years including creating better drainage. 73% of the grapes went into the grand vin. Lovely, accessible flavours with fairly long length. Blend of 67% Merlot and 33% Cabernet Franc. Tasted in: Bordeaux, France. Maturity: Young. (09-Apr-2013)"*
- JCL, asianpalate.com
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