

Château Nenin 2018

CSPC# 831119

750mlx12

14.60% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

63% Merlot, 37% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

Pomerol

Classification

unclassified

Website

http://www.domaines-delon.com/en/nenin-chateau_nenin_vins.html

General Info

Château Nenin is quite a large property by Pomerol standards and sits located just outside the village of Catusseau on the south-western slopes of the highest plateau in Pomerol. The château itself is a grand 18th century building set in a large park. It was owned by the Delze family and several generations of the Paillets until the 19th century. Château Nenin has long been a favourite of the British Royal Family. The château has belonged to the same family since 1840 as the Delon family acquired Nenin from their cousins – the Despujols in 1997. The Delon family also own Châteaux Leoville Las Cases and Potensac.

Winemaker

Jerome Depoizier

Vintage

With a more humid winter than elsewhere, Pomerol experienced a warm but less rainy springtime. Starting from July favourable weather conditions were noticed with wide fluctuation in between day and night temperatures. The optimal conditions during the harvest guaranteed the health of the crop and its perfect quality.

Both in terms of taste and analysis, the 2018 vintage is a blend of power and freshness. Once again, the Merlot grapes structure the wines and provide density and aromatic richness. This vintage will also remain a great year for the Cabernets francs. They give the blend a formidable complexity and a great freshness.

Vineyards

The 62-acre vineyard of Château Nenin lies on gravel and sandy soil over a limestone bedrock and the grapes planted are 70% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Harvest

13th September to 10th October 2018

Maturation

Malolactic fermentation is in vat, in a dedicated room as mentioned above, before tasting, blending and transfer into oak during the winter months after harvest. Aged for 18 months in 45% new barrels.

Tasting Notes

Chateau Nenin 2018 offers a sublime expression of the great Pomerol terroir. At the tasting, this vintage presents a beautiful dark purple color. The bouquet is intensely expressive, seducing with its great elegance and finesse. Generous notes of black fruits evoke cherry and blueberry and are further enhanced by fresh minty notes and delicate, violet-scented floral notes. Endowed with a great minerality, this vintage offers magnificent graphite notes, reminiscent of pencil lead. On the palate, the wine presents a round and smooth texture, structured by powerful tannins and a great delicacy. The palate is fresh and energetic, stretching forth with bright fruit flavors into a remarkably persistent finish. In what was a truly great vintage for Bordeaux, Chateau Nenin has achieved, with the 2018, a success that will mark the history of the property.

Serve with

Chateau Nenin is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift.

Chateau Nenin is best paired with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes.

Production

2,500 cases made.

Cellaring

Drink 2023 - 2035

Scores/Awards

93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - January 2021

93-96 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - June 2019

94 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2021

93-85 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - April 2019



Scores/Awards **97 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2021
17 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2019
93 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - November 2020
92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2021
92-94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2019
91 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - March 2021
95 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2021
18.5+ points - Matthew Jukes, MW (score only) - April 2019
17 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - April 2019
95 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - May 2019
94 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - March 2019

Reviews *"Ripe, and even a bit showy (atypical for the vintage), with plum, blackberry and blueberry notes bursting forth, backed by licorice and fruitcake accents. Starts to show its spine through the finish, with a tug of warm stone and tobacco adding contrast and cut. Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Best from 2022 through 2035. 2,500 cases made."*

- JM, Wine Spectator

"Açaí and blackberry fruit flavors are melded with licorice snap and Black Forest cake notes in this exotic offering. There's enough energy to keep this honest on the finish too. Merlot and Cabernet Franc. 2,500 cases made. Score range: 93 – 96."

- JS, Wine Spectator

"The 2018 Nenin is a blend of 63% Merlot and 37% Cabernet Franc, weighing in at 14.6% alcohol. Deep purple black in color, the nose explodes with bombastic notions of baked black plums, stewed cherries, and boysenberries with suggestions of licorice, eucalyptus, clove oil and hoisin. The medium to full-bodied palate has a lovely line of freshness lifting the ripe, rich, dark fruit layers, framed by plush tannins, finishing with lingering exotic spice notes."

- LPB, Wine Advocate

"The 2018 Nenin is made up of 63% Merlot and 37% Cabernet Franc and has 14.6% alcohol. Yields were 33.8 hectoliters per hectare, and grapes were harvested between September 13 and October 12. The wine is to be aged in barriques, 45% new, and the finished blend was put into barrels last December. Deep purple-black in color, it sings of Morello cherries, Black Forest cake, licorice and lavender with a core of plum preserves, unsmoked tobacco and warm blackberries plus a waft of Provence herbs. Full-bodied and concentrated yet bursting with energy, it has a solid backbone of firm, rounded tannins and bags of freshness, finishing long."

- LPB, Wine Advocate

"Elegant, complex nose with dark and blue fruit, as well as spicy and earthy undertones. Sandalwood and cedar with dark chocolate, too. Full body with firm, ultra-fine tannins. Structured, layered, and flavorful on the palate. It's very polished with a lovely texture and a long finish. Pure and luscious. Merlot with 37% cabernet franc. Best ever. Try after 2024, but already very beautiful."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"63% Merlot, 37% Cabernet Franc; 45% new oak. pH 3.64. Barrel sample. Black core with purple rim. As on the Fugue de Néin, that exotic spice like nutmeg on the nose, but floral too like peony or wild roses. Highly perfumed. On the palate, lots of spice – cinnamon too – and here there's a really supple and smooth dark-chocolate texture. Very distinctively aromatic. Dark fruit and dark chocolate on the palate and a nice freshness to balance, more restrained on the attractively dry finish with the freshness of the Cabernet Franc. (JH)"

- JH, JancisRobinson.com

"Clear pencil lead and slate gives a sense of restraint and balance to what are fully ripe fruits. There are figs, blackberries, liquorice and black chocolate, a ton of interest and depth, and full, chewy tannins through the close of play. It maintains a Left Bank feel that is so typical in this Pomerol and is hugely successful. Tasted twice and both times I got the same character of crayon and concentration. 3.63pH."

- JA, Decanter.com

Reviews *“Flowers, plum, wet earth, smoke and cocoa open the wine. On the palate the wine has firmed up since it was in barrel. The wine is concentrated, full-bodied, ripe, deep, fresh and energetic, with the structure to age quite well. The finish fills you up with sweet, ripe fruits and chocolate. It will require some aging to fill out and soften, so give it at least 5-7 years in the cellar. The wine is made from 63% Merlot and 37% Cabernet Franc, 14.5% ABV.”*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Fresh, juicy, bright and pure with lingering tannins and ripe, red pit fruits, licorice, spice and floral notes, this wine is pleasingly polished, refined and erudite. The sweetness in the fruits on the mid-palate really stands out this vintage. The wine is made from 63% Merlot and 37% Cabernet Franc, reaching 14.6% alcohol and is aging in 45% new French oak.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“The 2018 Nénin has retained its outgoing, quite floral bouquet of red and black fruit infused with violet and touches of peony. A touch of truffle and crushed rock emerges with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied with quite a strict and structured opening. Very linear, very correct in style, this is a serious Nénin. A touch of graphite lends it a Left Bank-like personality on the finish. Classy, but give it 2–3 years in bottle. Drinking window: 2023 – 2035.”

- NM, *Vinous*

“I think the 2018 Château Nénin might check in behind the magical 2019, but it's certainly in the same league as the 2016. Based roughly on 75% Merlot and 25% Cabernet Franc, its deep purple color is followed by a beautiful nose of ripe black cherries, cassis, chocolate, violets, and spring flowers. With beautiful freshness, medium to full-bodied richness, seamless tannins, and a great finish, this gorgeous Pomerol is going to benefit from 4-5 years of bottle age and evolve for two decades.”

- Jeb Dunnuck
