

Château La Dominique GCC 2009

CSPC# 749569

750mlx12

14.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

73% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot

Appellation

St Emilion

General Info

A legend would say that the name "La Dominique" was given to the estate by rich merchant who acquired the property at the end of the XVIII th century. He had made his fortune in the Caribbean and gave the estate the name of his favorite island. The name "La Dominique" appears on the Belleyme map published in 1785 and in the first editions of Bordeaux and its wine» published by Editions Feret in 1868.

Chateau La Dominique is greatly located on the northwest of Saint-Emilion with a prestigious neighborhood: Chateau Cheval Blanc and Chateau Figeac on its left side, and Chateau L'Evangile and Chateau La Conseillante on the Pomerol side, just north of the estate.

The professor Henri Enjalbert who studied soils and subsoils compares those of La Dominique to those of Chateau Cheval Blanc and Chateau Figeac.

The estate successively belonged to the Soualle Family and the Baillencourt Family (owner of Chateau Gazin- Pomerol, adjacent of Chateau L'Evangile and Petrus) until the acquisition by Clement Fayat in 1969.

Château La Dominique, a St. Emilion Grand Cru Classé property had an illustrious reputation during the 19th century which it has recently reclaimed. The catalyst for its modern renaissance was its purchase by motorway tycoon Clément Fayat in 1969. He installed a brand new cuvier and introduced new techniques in the vineyard. He also engaged the services of the ubiquitous Michel Rolland.

From spring 2012, will start a futuristic project of a wine cellar at La Dominique with an innovative reception concept designed by Jean Nouvel.

Vineyards

La Dominique is located on the border with the Pomerol appellation and its vineyards adjoin those of Cheval Blanc. The soils are a mixture of limestone, gravel, sand and clay and the 24 hectares of vineyards are planted with Merlot (86%), Cabernet Franc (12%) and Cabernet Sauvignon (2%). Average Vine age 31 years. Soil type is 25% dep gravel and 75% old sand mixed with the gravel on clay sub-layers. 7,000-9,000 vines per hectare. Yield is 45hl/ha.

Harvest

Hand harvested

Maturation

The grapes are fermented in temperature-controlled, stainless steel tanks and the wine is then aged in oak barriques (50-60% new) for 18 months.

Tasting Notes

La Dominique produces intense, ultra ripe, and opulent clarets, which, while hard to resist, tend to show at their best with 7-10 years of bottle ageing.

Production

8,330 cases made

Cellaring

Drink 2014-2027

Scores/Awards

93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2012

93-96 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2010

93 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #199 - February 2012

92-94 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #188- April 2010

88 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - January 2012

84-86 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2010

93 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 1, 2012

91-93 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - September 8, 2010

89-92 points - Ian D'Agata, ST's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2010

17.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 20, 2010

16.5 points/4 stars - James Lawther, Decanter.com - April 2010

89 points - Jane Anson, The New Bordeaux - April 2010

15 points - Jean Marc Quarin - March 2010

94 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2010



- Reviews** *"This sports a dark, roasted feel, as espresso and charcoal notes flank the core of tobacco and dark fig flavors. Has a burly edge now, but shows ample flesh through the finish. Should settle down in the cellar. Lots here. Best from 2014 through 2027. 8,330 cases made"*
- JM, Wine Spectator
- "Sweet berry and plum, with wild cherry. Full and velvety. Long finish. Clear and focused fruit. Best in years? Score range: 93-96"*
- JS, Wine Spectator
- "Finally, we have returned to the great La Dominiques made in 1989 and 1990. This has much of the style of the 1990, with supple tannin and loads of spicy fruitcake, licorice, cassis and kirsch-like notes that jump from this dense ruby/purple wine. Fat, fleshy and full-bodied, with beautiful richness, purity and length, this wine will be approachable in its youth yet last for two decades (just like the 1989 and 1990)."*
- RP, Wine Advocate
- "The greatest La Dominique since the 1989 and 1990, the 2009 was fashioned by the brilliant duo of Jean-Philippe Fort (Michel Rolland's top lieutenant) and Jean-Luc Thunevin (the bad boy of St.-Emilion). Made from 100% Merlot (which must be a "first" for this estate), and with 14.3% alcohol, this will be a thrilling wine to drink over the next 20-25 years. Dense purple-hued with loads of black raspberries, black cherries, truffles, earth, and spice, it is an opulent, viscous effort with extraordinary intensity, purity, and richness, and a superb finish of nearly 45 seconds. It will be drinkable young yet is capable of lasting a long time. Bravo! P.S. It is good to see this 58-acre vineyard return to form after a somewhat listless period of performances. (Tasted three times.)"*
- RP, Wine Advocate
- "Tasted at the Union de Grand Cru in London, it is difficult to discern much personality on the nose of the La Dominique 2009. It needs more tension, delineation, more character. The palate is very pure with good acidity, nicely balanced but very tight at the moment. Perhaps this is going through a dumb stage after bottling, but it has less to offer than its peers. Tasted October 2011."*
- NM, Wine Journal
- "Tasted at the Association de Crus Classe tasting at Grand Pontet. Ripe exotic fruit on the nose although there are some underlying vegetal notes, though not as prominent as other wines. The palate is medium-bodied, rather abrasive tannin, coca-tinged black fruits towards the astringent finish. It is just trying too hard. Tasted March 2010."*
- NM, Wine Journal
- "A charmer of a wine, all fruit and sweet tannins. It is dense, the flavors going right down into the core of the wine and bringing back beautiful red perfumed fruits. La Dominique, next door to Cheval Blanc, is now performing well."*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- "91-93 Barrel sample. Dark licorice, sweet fruits and ripe tannins. A wine that shows great fruits and freshness, while at the same time big, dark tannins"*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- "Un rouge très profond. Nez flamboyant chargé de fruits rouges très mûrs, de fleurs d'amandier et de clous de girofle. L'entrée en bouche offre de riches saveurs de cerises, de prunes, de minéraux et de poivre blanc. Doux, équilibré et séduisant, ce vin, long en bouche, offre un final superbe avec une pointe de pâte d'amande. (translated) A very deep red. Nose responsible flamboyant of ripe red fruits, flowers almond and cloves. The entry into palate offers rich flavors of cherries, plums, minerals and white pepper. Mild balanced and attractive, this wine, long finish, offers a superb final with a hint of dough almond. ""*
- ID, International Wine Cellar
- Reviews** *"Even darker crimson than most. Interesting, quite subtle nose. Then great sweetness on the palate and considerable dryness on the finish. A quite extreme wine that is absolutely on the edge for me as to whether it will all settle down or not. I hereby give it the benefit of the doubt as obviously the makers have taken real risks on ripeness. Some mineral savour. Muscular chewiness. Pretty glamorous and certainly extreme. Date tasted 30th March 2010. Drink 2017-2030."*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Fresh and focused. Pure, lifted aromas. Finely worked tannins. La Dominique back at the top of its game. Drink 2015-2025."

- JL, Decanter.com

"Ce vin est très fort, avec un niveau d'alcool trop élevé selon moi. Pour être honnête, cela me dissuade d'aller plus loin. Il y a des fruits noirs et évidemment un mur de tanins qui tente d'équilibrer l'ensemble, mais le résultat se révèle sans élégance. (translated) This wine is very strong, with an alcohol level too high in my opinion. To be honest, it dissuades me to go further. There are fruit black and obviously a wall of tannins attempts to balance overall, but the result proves without elegance."

- JA, The New Bordeaux

"Je m'attendais à plus. Je l'ai goûté plusieurs fois, toujours tendre, élancé, fruité mais manquant de présence en bouche. Cette dégustation n'est pas construite.. (translated) I expected more. I tasted several times, always soft, slender, but fruity lacking in the mouth. This tasting is not built."

- J-MQ

"Following on from a very good 2005, La Dominique has produced a massively concentrated 2009, although some may be put off by the extraction levels here. The tannins are certainly dense - and not as fine as those at neighbouring Cheval Blanc - but there's enough vibrancy of fruit for balance. This is a dense wine that will need time in bottle, but it's not over-ripe. Just ambitious. 20+ years."

- TA, timatkin.com
