

Château Quintus 2019

CSPC# 866100

750mlx6

15.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

55.4% Merlot, 44.6% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

Saint-Emilion

Classification

Grand Cru Classé

Website

https://chateau-quintus.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Fiche-technique_Quintus_2019_EN.pdf

Sustainability

The continuous work of all the Quintus teams committed to this environmental approach has been rewarded by the estate obtaining dual certification: High Environmental Value (HEV) since 2018 and ISO 14001 since 2019, within the collective framework of the first association for the EMS (Environmental Management System) of Bordeaux wines.

The aim of the teams is to enhance the remarkable terroir of Quintus, by assisting and protecting its ecosystem without ever altering its expression by intervening excessively. Their philosophy is therefore one of a reasoned and adapted approach to the terroir of Quintus.

General Info

Chateau Quintus did not take its name from a previous owner like so many chateaux in St. Emilion. That's because the rebirth of the estate, and its new name, officially came into being in 2011.

This took place after being purchased in May 2011, from Count Leo de Malet-Roquefort, the owner of La Gaffeliere, by Domaine Clarence Dillon, who also owns Chateau Haut Brion and Chateau La Mission Haut Brion in Pessac Leognan.

Previously known as Chateau Tertre Daugay, the new owners chose to rename the estate Quintus, because it is considered the fifth Bordeaux wine owned and produced by Domaine Clarence Dillon.

Quintus is translated from Latin into the number 5. Many ancient Roman families named their fifth child Quintus. As the Romans were the first people to plant vines in Saint Emilion, and this is the 5th winery for the company, the name is quite fitting. At the time of the purchase by Domaines Clarence Dillon, the vineyard of Quintus was 15 hectares. However, that changed in 2013 when it was announced that the vines from Chateau L'Arrosee would be merged with Quintus, creating a much larger vineyard that was now almost double the original size. The vineyard was once again enlarged with the purchase of Chateau Grand Pontet in 2021.

The cellars used by Chateau Quintus were recently modernized by the purchase by Domaines Clarence Dillon, having been recently modernized by the previous owner, with help from Stephane Deroncourt, who is no longer working with the property. The vineyards were also in much better shape thanks to their efforts at replanting. Part of the goal with the extensive work in the vineyards was to increase the level of vine density, as well as remove the remaining Cabernet Sauvignon plants and replace some of their Cabernet Franc vines.

Winemakers

Claude Diligeart, Cellar Master

Vintage

The winter of 2018-2019 was mild and dry. Cool temperatures in spring slowed down vine growth. Flowering took place in ideal conditions, without coulure (shot berries) nor millerandage (abnormal fruit set). Storm Miguel swept across the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region on the 7th of June, although our grapes were fortunately spared. Heavy, regular rainfall was conducive to vegetative growth, leading the vines to develop an impressive leaf canopy. The rain came to a sudden halt on the 22nd of June, and a series of successive heatwaves ensued.

July was the third hottest in history after 2006 and 2013, with temperatures reaching a record-breaking 42°C on the 23rd. Fortunately, rain fell on the 26th, followed by cool nights in August, propitious to the synthesis of anthocyanins. Veraison (colour change) was slow but uninterrupted. September was marked by fine, dry, and sunny conditions, interspersed by welcome rainfall. Thanks to this ideal spell of weather, all the grape varieties were harvested at peak ripeness and at a leisurely pace



Vineyards	<p>The 45-hectare Saint Emilion vineyard of Quintus is planted to 67% Merlot and 33% Cabernet Franc. The vineyard has a terroir of clay and limestone soil. Located on the far, southwest, of the plateau, the vineyard has elevations that reach 62 meters at its peak. The vineyard of Quintus has two different types of limestone in the soils. The best part of their terroir is on the limestone slope, which is used for Quintus. The vines at the bottom of the slopes are reserved for their second wine.</p> <p>The small amount of Cabernet Sauvignon previously planted here was ripped from the vineyard and replaced with Cabernet Franc. On average, the vines are more than 30 years of age. However, a portion of the original vines is old. Some of their oldest vines are close to 100 years of age!</p>
Harvest	<p>Harvesting began on September 19th for some of the merlot micro-parcels.</p> <p>The harvesting conditions were particularly beautiful and warm. The grapes contained little juice, were sugar-rich and very concentrated.</p> <p>The rainfall of the following weekend brought freshness to our merlots, most of which were still on the vine. Meanwhile, the cabernet francs were picked when perfectly ripe, one week after the merlots. These rains were therefore beneficial and did not in any way alter the quality of the grapes, which were in excellent condition. The yields of 35.8 hl/ha were mainly due to small berries.</p>
Vinification/ Maturation	<p>A stringent selection within plots is made when the harvest is picked by hand. Only absolutely perfect grapes will reach their final destination: the vats. Winemaking is done in wooden and in stainless steel vats, with gentle extraction carried out by pumping over.</p> <p>At Quintus, blending know-how is taken to its peak: plots are harvested and vinified according to a selection within each one: at the top, in the middle and at the foot of the slopes. Each vat is blind tasted, to allow for fully focusing on the senses. Mariette Veyssi�re, Estate Manager, and Claude Diligeart, Cellar Master, provide their awareness and knowledge of Saint-Emilion’s terroir, assisted by Domaine Clarence Dillon’s team.</p> <p>Once the blending is finished, the wine is placed in barrels (38.2% new). Maturation in French oak will enable the wine to develop and become clearer. The wine’s tannins will be smoothed patiently over a period of twelve to eighteen months.</p>
Tasting Notes	<p>The bouquet is powerful, intense, and complex, and bursting with notes of ripe, black fruit, particularly blackcurrant. Spicy, subtle overtones are already perceptible. Starts out broad-based and fleshy, with a remarkably caressing sensation, becoming full-bodied, with smooth, creamy fine-grained tannins mid-palate. The finish is long, without any hardness whatsoever. A perfect marriage between Merlot and Cabernet Franc, whereby the qualities of each grape variety are expressed to the full. This 2019 Quintus is clearly a tremendous success.</p>
Serve with	<p>Chateau Quintus is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. Chateau Quintus is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes.</p>
Production	<p>Approx. 8,000 cases made annually</p>
Cellaring	<p>Drink now through 2032.</p>
Scores/Awards	<p>91 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2022 93 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022 94-96+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - June 2020 94 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent - March 2022 95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2022 96-97 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2020 95 points - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - January 2022 95 points - Jane Anson, Insidebordeaux.com - January 2022 95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2022 Review Only - Farr Vintners - May 2020 94-96 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - June 2020 93 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2022 92-94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - June 2020 96 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - April 2022 94 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2020 95-96 points - Vert de Vin - April 2020 16-17 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2022 16 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - September 2020</p>
Reviews	<p><i>“This has good flesh and focus, with a wave of warmed cherry compote and cassia backed by a red licorice note. Shows a subtle mineral edge that adds a hint of tension to the finish, with a gently mouthwatering echo, too. Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Drink now through 2032.”</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p>

Reviews

"The 2019 Quintus exhibits aromas of rich, plummy fruit mingled with exotic spices and smoky, toasty new oak. Full-bodied, broad, and textural, it's rich and fleshy, with a ripe core of fruit, lively acids and powdery structuring tannins. Cabernet Franc represents nearly 45% of the blend this year."

- WK, Wine Advocate

"The 2019 Quintus is a blend of 55.4% Merlot and 44.6% Cabernet Franc, harvested from the 19th of September to the 9th of October. The estimated alcohol degree on the label is 15%. Deep garnet-purple colored, it sails out of the glass with intense scents of plum preserves, blueberry pie and boysenberries with nuances of Chinese five spice, mocha, dried lavender, and licorice plus a waft of chargrill. Full-bodied, the decadently fruited palate is jam-packed with layers of blue and black fruit preserves, supported by beautifully plush, ripe tannins and seamless freshness, finishing with an epically long, exotic spice-laced finish. Impactful!"

- LPB, Wine Advocate

"Composed of 55.4% Merlot and 44.6% Cabernet Franc, the 2019 Quintus is deep garnet-purple in color. It strolls confidently out of the glass with notes of plum preserves, baked blackberries, and cedar chest with wafts of lilacs, star anise, and fragrant earth. Full-bodied, rich, and perfumed in the mouth, it has a lively backbone and velvety tannins, finishing with great harmony."

- LPB, Wine Independent

"This is very spicy, with tile and terra cotta to the dark-fruit aromas. Pine and cedar, too. It's medium-bodied with fine tannins and a creamy finish. Very fine and long. Need three or four years to come together."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"One of the firmest, most structured Quintus with lots of beautiful fruit and powerful tannins. It's a very classically structured red with blackberry and blueberry character. Lavender and spice underneath. Extremely intense."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Quite a rich nose. Heady and full of some soft floral aromatics. This is gorgeous, full of life, great freshness, and energy but with a deep core of flavour - layered and complex, this gives the mouthwatering juicy acidity you want but also the lovely plush tannins and sensitivity of fruit - power and charm. Tannins are so well integrated supporting the fruit and giving structure with a cooling, liquorice mintiness on the finish. Great impact and presence. Could drink this now and savour the lifted fruit and cooling ending. 55.4% Merlot and 44.6% Cabernet Franc. Drinking Window 2027 – 2044."

- GH, Decanter.com

"Quintus gets easier and easier to recommend every year, and this is full of plump, confident and well-balanced fruit, with rich layers of flavour that expand through the palate. Cassis and slate, and the Cabernet Franc plays a large part in adding tension through the mid palate. Harvest 19 September through to 27 September for Merlot, then break until October 7 to 9 for Cabernet Franc. Bottled April 2021."

- JA, Inside Bordeaux

"Quite spicy, with intense notes of flowers, mint, tobacco leaf, cherries, plums, cloves, licorice, espresso, and crushed stone on the nose. Soft, silky, and fresh, the wine is long, vibrant, supple, and finishes with plums, cherries, and a touch of chocolate mint with 5 spice. The Grand Vin, which comes from only 26% of the crop was produced. Drink from 2025-2042."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"The 2019 is a blend of 55.4% Merlot and 44.6% Cabernet Sauvignon with an estimated abv of 15%. The grapes were harvested between 19th September and 9th October. We were unable to taste the 2019 before release, this year."

- Farr Vintners

Reviews

“The 2019 Quintus was picked from 19 September is very intense on the nose with multi-layered blackberry and wild strawberry aromas tinged with vanilla. The aromatics are well delineated and focused. The palate is medium-bodied with densely-packed black fruit laced with graphite and cedar, almost Left Bank in style with a very penetrating yet harmonious and silky-smooth finish. This is a very well-crafted Saint-Émilion without a hair out of place. Drink 2025 – 2050”

- NM, Vinous

“The 2019 Quintus has developed into an elegant, sensual Saint-Émilion. Succulent dark cherry, plum, spice, menthol, and leather build nicely, lending brooding intensity to this deceptively medium-bodied 2019. The blend of 55.4% Merlot, 44.6% Cabernet Franc is very nicely judged. I can't wait to see how this ages.”

- AG, Vinous

“The 2019 Quintus is dense, racy, and also very promising. Red cherry, red plum, mocha, and sweet spice all meld together effortlessly. Silky and medium in body, the 2019 has much to offer. The substantial, resonant finish is especially of note.”

- AG, Vinous

“The 2019 Château Quintus is brilliant and does everything right in the vintage. Loaded with ripe red and black cherry fruits as well as notes of white truffle, leafy herbs, baking spices, and tobacco, it hits the palate with a stunningly balanced, full-bodied profile delivering gorgeous tannins, the purity and freshness of the vintage, and a great finish. Coming from the Dillon team, this is Saint-Emilion brilliance that's already approachable yet will cruise for another 20-25 years. Bravo.”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“The nose is racy, beautiful, elegant, beautiful defined and offers subtlety, intensity (in finesse) and a fine grain. It reveals notes of pulpy/bright boysenberry, strawberry, small notes of blueberry, violet plum associated with touches of liquorice, toasted, toasted almond as well as a hint of lilac, Madagascar pepper, a discreet hint of caramelization, spices, and an imperceptible hint of sense of the place/terroir. The palate is beautifully silky, fresh, elegant, racy and offers a beautiful acidulous frame, gourmandize, a beautiful finesse of the grain, precision as well as delicacy. On the palate this wine expresses notes of juicy/bright blackberry, bright raspberry, small notes of bright violet plum associated with small touches of small juicy/pulpy berries, fresh cornflower, fresh lilac as well as hints of racy minerality, sweet spices, toasted, chocolate, sense of the place (terroir), liquorice stick, a discreet hint of caramelization (in the background), an imperceptible saline hint and sage. Good length. Tannins are fine, elegant, racy, and very discreetly firm. A very fine chew on the finish/persistence.”

- Vert de Vin

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