

Château Phelan Ségur 2009

CSPC# 742352

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 45% Merlot

Appellation

Saint-Estephe

General Info

In 1805, Bernard Phelan, an Irish wine broker settled in Bordeaux, acquired le Clos de Garamey, located in Saint-Estèphe, followed in 1810 by the Ségur de Cabanac estate to complement his first acquisition. The whole was called Château Ségur de Garamey. He thus created a magnificent wine-producing domain that remains practically unchanged today, apart the sale in 2010 of 20 hectares to Château Montrose. The particularity of Château Phélan Ségur is its original architectural design: the neo-classical main residence is not separated from the agricultural buildings but is extended by them. Since 1985, the vineyard has been running by the Gardinier family who bought it from the Delon family, owner since 1924.

Vineyards

70 hectares. Average vine age is 35 years. The sale reduced the Phelan-Ségur vineyard from 90 hectares to 70 hectares. These 70 hectares are spread over four locations, with one-quarter planted next to the *château* and *chai*, the remaining three more distant. The *terroir* underfoot is an alluvial gravel mixed with a sandy clay, over a deeper bedrock of chalk. The vines are 55% Cabernet Sauvignon and 45% Merlot, and current replanting work is focusing on increasing the proportion of the former over the latter, although work in 2011 did include one small plot replanted to Merlot. The planting density is about 8500 vines per hectare

Harvest

The yields are controlled with pruning and bud removal, with some leaf-thinning in July to improve ripening and aeration, and some green harvesting as required. The moment of harvest is based on tasting and technical analysis, and once underway the pickers transport the fruit in small open trays, moved around on wheelbarrows and small trailers to avoid crushing.

Vinification/ Maturation

Once in the winery the fruit receives a high-tech treatment, with table-sorting, destemming, optical sorting, pressing and fermentation on a plot-by-plot basis in thermo-regulated stainless steel vats; these were replaced in 2011, reducing their capacity from 210 hectoliters down to 115 hectoliters, thereby allowing more precise plot-by-plot vinification. Subsequently the wines undergo malolactic in a warmed room and then *élevage*, all undertaken in oak barrels, 50% new, sourced from five coopers, the principal source being Taransaud. 60% in new barrels for 18 months.

Tasting Notes

Black cherry liqueur chocolate aromas rise from the 2009 Ch. Phelan Segur. The fruit is certainly ripe but a fresh minerality provides good balance and stops the wine from feeling over-sweet. This is a rich, flamboyant, well-made wine.

Production

22,000 cases annually

Cellaring

10-15 years

Scores/Awards

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

90-93 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2010

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

90-92 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #188- April 2010

87 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - January 2012

90-92 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2010

89-91 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - September 8, 2010

87-90 points - Ian D'Agata, ST's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2010

17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2010

17 points - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - October 2011

17.5 points - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - October 2011

16-17+ points - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - March 2010

17 points/4 stars - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2010

"This is fleshy and polished, with layers of crushed plum, fig sauce and blackberry paste that unfurl slowly,



Reviews *backed by maduro tobacco, charcoal and iron. There's lots of minerality on the finish, but it's nicely enveloped in the fruit. Best from 2013 through 2022. 22,000 cases made."*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"Deep aromas of crushed blackberries and fresh herbs. Full-bodied, with round and soft tannins and a polished texture on the finish. Rich and structured. Could be best ever from here. Score range: 90-93"
- JS, Wine Spectator

"The best Phelan-Segur since the 1990, this is a rather dense, full-bodied, massive wine for a cru bourgeois. Sweet blackberry and black raspberry fruit intermixed with crushed rock and a hint of subtle oak jump from the glass of this full-bodied, intense, yet attractive and alluring wine. There is significant depth and substance to this Phelan-Segur, which is a sleeper of the vintage that should last up to 15 or more years."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"Like many of the top 2009s, Phelan-Segur is a huge, full-bodied effort with massive fruit as well as good freshness, precision, and elegance. This is all rather paradoxical given previous great vintages that either lean toward cooler vintage characteristics or hot ones. This 2009 possesses both styles. It exhibits lots of mulberry, boysenberry, and crushed, jammy black fruits, abundant tannin, medium to full body, an opulent mouth feel, and enough structure to evolve for two decades or more. This is a sleeper of the vintage. (Tasted two times.)"
- RP, Wine Advocate

"Tasted at the Union de Grand Cru in London. I must say, this is disappointing on the nose which got out the wrong side of bed this morning. Touches of cassis and blackberry wine-gums, but it is missing some intensity. The palate is medium bodied with light tannins, but lacking weight and breadth on the finish. I was expecting more and perhaps it just needs another 12 months in bottle. Tasted October 2011."
- NM, Wine Journal

"Tasted at the chateau, UGC and negociant. Sweet black plum and briary on the nose with moderate definition, not quite the brilliance of other Saint Estephe 2009s, but it coalesces nicely in the glass. Very pure, some chalk dust notes developing with time. The palate is medium-bodied, very taut, citric acidity, a little chalky towards the finish. Moderate depth. I like the focus here, the energy, though I think this is a wine that will show much better 4-5 months down the line. Cabernet dominated finish with just a touch of white pepper right on the finish. Certainly, much better than the 2008 tasted alongside. Tasted March 2010."
- NM, Wine Journal

"89-91 Barrel sample. Caramel aromas, a wine that seems over-extracted, tough. The fruit has a juicy element but misses out on elegance."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Very dark. Sweet palate entry and very round. Maybe picked just a tad too late to be refreshing? Thick and sweet and full. But if you like this sort of New World style, you will enjoy this very much. Just a little bit of heat on the finish."
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Deep ruby-red. Pretty redcurrant and strawberry aromas are complicated by a touch of dried herbs. Enters silky-smooth, with a delicate peppery quality nicely lifting the ripe red berry and cherry flavors. Finishes moderately long and clean, with a faint tart edge. I found myself wishing for a little more complexity, but this charming mid-weight is easygoing and supple. Offers considerable upfront charm and in-your-face sweetness but will probably be best for drinking in the near to mid-term."
- ID, International Wine Cellar

"Black red, big smoky, slightly gamey bacony nose, lots of lifted blackcurrant fruit, good supple, vigorous fruit and good length."
- SS, Decanter.com

Reviews *"This wine has a glossy and dense appearance compared to some of the younger vintages. The fruit is attractive, rounded and plump on the nose, clearly very confident, with a fresh character, tinged with elements of red berries. The palate is just beautiful, so supple and polished, yet with a fine although deeply buried grip and acid backbone. Yet despite this hidden structure it remains lifted and fresh, with bright fruit character. This is a super effort from this estate. From a tasting of Recent Vintages at Phélan-Ségur. 17/20"*
- CK, The Wine Doctor

"Brighter fruit definition here when tasted alongside the Ormes de Pez. A slightly more lifted, redder style of fruit, although alongside we also have a rich, harmonious, honeyed element of oak, albeit with a rather toasty edge. On the palate there is a very finely balanced grip and acidic backbone, giving the wine good balance behind the supple, creamy layer of fruit that just covers it nicely. A lovely savoury edge to it all on the palate, with spice and a meaty depth, before a lighter, softer finish. Long. Another great effort. From a tasting of 2009 Bordeaux at two years of age. 17.5/20 (October 2011)"
- CK, The Wine Doctor

"A very dark hue, with a nose of macerated black cherry. The palate possesses a rather dry shell of fruit, supple and fairly reserved, and the tannins here seem quite well composed. There is nice acidity, and a touch of vigour to it. Only moderate concentration here, but as a whole it is sensibly done, and therefore admirable. Very good effort from another over-performing estate. From my 2009 Bordeaux primeur assessment. 16-17+/20 (March 2010)"
- CK, The Wine Doctor
