

Château Phelan Segur 2020

CSPC# 742352

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety 54% Cabernet Sauvignon, 42% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot
Appellation Saint-Estephe
Website <http://www.phelansegur.com/en/millesimes/>
Analysis pH: 3.87 - IPT: 88

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 run by the Gardinier family who bought it from the Delon family, owner since 1924. 2015 also marks the Gardinier family's 30th anniversary at the head of Phélan Ségur.

Winemaker Fabrice Bacquey – wine cellar master
Vineyard Manager - Luc Peyronnet
Michel Rolland, Julien Viaud - consultant winemakers

Vintage 2020 - a year of more than the usual challenges. In a few words, 2020 is a high-quality vintage of less than normal quantity. The mild and wet spring let early flowering which in turn turned into a hot summer including over fifty days of drought, and a heat spice during the summer. The diminished yields of the year resulted from mildew pressure in the spring and a few hail-producing thunderstorms, and in fact is one of the lowest yield vintages in the last decade. The heat throughout but particularly at the end of the summer led to concentrated fruit. October to June: record rainfall of 1120mm (compared with 735mm on average over the past 26 years). Very mild spring, temperatures above average. 106mm of rain between 11 and 20 August, refreshing the vineyard after the drought in July. Early September: ideal conditions for the polyphenolic ripeness of our grapes (cool nights, drying winds, hot and sunny days). Grapes harvested in a very good state of health.

Vineyards 70 hectares. The 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 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 from September 16 to October 1

**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 The 2020 Chateau Phelan Segur has an expressive nose of remarkable freshness that serves as an invitation to plunge into a "multicolored and polyphonic" world of fruit and flowers. Everything is in balance, with a precise and finely sculpted sculpture. Subtly fleshy, it is dense and its tannins finely woven. Its power, its length gives it a radiant energy and arouse astonishing emotions.

**Winemaker's
Notes** It is the most fundamental of Phélan Ségur vintages. No contrivance, no excess, a fascinating balance. Its expressive nose of remarkable freshness is an invitation to plunge into a "multicoloured and polyphonic" world of fruit and flowers. Everything is in balance, with a precise and finely sculpted structure. Subtly fleshy, it is dense and its tannins finely woven. Its power, its length gives it a radiant energy and arouses astonishing emotions. A real pleasure to see the result of years of work transcending a great *terroir*.



Serve with	Chateau Phelan Segur is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, stewed, and grilled dishes. Chateau Phelan Segur also makes a good match with several different Asian courses.
Production	150,000 cases made.”
Cellaring	Drink 2024-2038.
Scores/Awards	<p>93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2023</p> <p>93 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2023</p> <p>90-92+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - May 2021</p> <p>96 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent (score only) - October 2022</p> <p>96 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2023</p> <p>95-96 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2021</p> <p>93-95 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 2021</p> <p>15.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2021</p> <p>94 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2021</p> <p>94 points - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - February 2023</p> <p>95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2023</p> <p>93-95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2021</p> <p>92 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2021</p> <p>90-93 points - Farr Vintners (score only) - April 2021</p> <p>94 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2023</p> <p>93-95 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2021</p> <p>95 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2023</p> <p>91-93 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - June 2021</p> <p>95 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2023</p> <p>94-96 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - May 2021</p> <p>90 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - March 2023</p> <p>92 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2021</p> <p>95 points - Vert de Vin - May 2021</p> <p>94 points - Andreas Larsson, Tasted - May 2021</p> <p>89-91 points - Michael Schuster, The World of Fine Wine - May 2021</p>
Reviews	<p><i>“A sleek, taut, winery style, with a mix of red and black currant coulis notes that stretch out over hints of charcoal, tobacco, and wet stone. Shows a sanguine echo through the finish, with nice range and character overall. Best from 2024 through 2038. 150,000 cases made.”</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>“The 2020 Phélan Ségur is rich and generous, unwinding in the glass with aromas of sweet berries, cherries and plums mingled with hints of violets and spices and framed by creamy new oak. Medium to full-bodied, fleshy, and layered, it's a concentrated, structured wine underpinned by a chassis of generously extracted tannin that lends it a somewhat youthfully chunky profile.”</i></p> <p>- WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>“Displaying a medium to deep purple-black color, the 2020 Phélan Ségur offers up intense notions of crushed red and black currants, black raspberries, and fresh mulberries, plus suggestions of charcuterie, pencil shavings and cinnamon toast. The medium-bodied palate is elegantly styled and refreshing, delivering a firm, grainy texture to support the crunchy red and black fruits, finishing with a peppery kick.”</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>“Gorgeous perfumes of plums, berries, light chocolate, and walnut follow through to a medium body, fine tannins and crunchy finish. Bright and fresh. Precise tannins. Drinkable but better after 2027.”</i></p> <p>- JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>“Bright and perfumed with some chocolate, berry, sandalwood, and cedar. Very elegant and fine, medium to full-bodied palate with very integrated tannins and refined, polished texture. The tannins melt into the wine. Long finish with serious structure. Vivid and refined. Class here. Very Bordeaux.”</i></p> <p>- JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>“Firm tannins, very much in the traditional style of Saint-Estèphe, give this wine an intense, concentrated structure. To balance this and in the new more open style from this estate, the wine also has fine fruits—black</i></p>

Reviews *currants layered with acidity.”*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“Full bottle 1,350 g. Cask sample taken 6 April. A St-Estèphe property with a relatively low proportion of Cabernet. Rather astringent at this point. I have been a fan of this property and the clays of this commune should have produced something quite special, but I'm not convinced by this particular vintage. Stringy finish. No fun at all at this point! 13.7%. Drink 2028 – 2040.”

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“The austerity to the tannins works in this wine's favour giving a juicy grip to the concentrated blackcurrant and bilberry fruits without strangling them. Excellent stuff, finishing up with liquorice and smoked coffee beans. This is an estate that has just powered to better and better wines over the past few years. Yields were 10% below the average for the past five years but still at 40hl/ha. Harvest September 16 through to October 1, finishing around 10 days earlier than the past two years. Consultants Michel Rolland and Julien Viaud. The first vintage with Petit Verdot included in the main wine (2%), from vines planted in 2013. Tasted twice.”

- JA, Decanter.com

“Delivering, as it so often does, richly textured, concentrated, and powerful black fruits, a sterling example of the 2020 vintage in St Estèphe, turmeric, crayon and smoked earth notes, lime blossom and pomegranate adding texture and complexity, great stuff. Yields 40hl/ha, harvest September 16 through to October 1, finishing around 10 days earlier than the past two years. Consultants Michel Rolland and Julien Viaud. First vintage with Petit Verdot included in the main wine, from vines planted in 2013.”

- JA, janeanson.com

“Chocolate, espresso, cedar, spice, currants, and incense aromatics are all over the place here. On the palate, the concentrated, deep wine offers, lift, lush, sensuously-textured., multiple layers of sweet, ripe, dark red fruits with a touch of polish to the tannins. The wine lingers and expands on your palate, which only makes you want to taste it again for the pleasure of it. This is the finest vintage ever produced by Phelan Segur. Fans of the estate should be all over this gem! Drink from 2025-2045.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Bright, fresh, spicy and a bit peppery, there is great lift and energy here. Flowers, cigar wrapper, cedar, red currants, raspberries, and red plums are all over the place in the nose and on the palate. The wine is long, balanced and refined. There is freshness, length, and a crispy, silky quality to the texture on the palate and in the finish. Rich and balanced with the oak being already close to fully integrated. 13.5% ABV. 2020 marks the first vintage to feature Petit Verdot in the blend.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“The 2020 Phélan Ségur is powerful yet elegant, with so much to offer. There's terrific depth to the 2020, right from the start. Succulent dark cherry, leather, espresso, dried herbs, incense, and spice infuse the 2020 with remarkable depth. Even with all of its obvious power, the 2020 has an element of sweetness in the tannin that is so alluring. It will be interesting to see if the 2020 opens a bit more with time in bottle. I suspect it will.”

- NM, Vinous

“The 2020 Phélan Ségur, which was picked 16 September to 1 October, and is the first vintage with four varieties in the blend i.e., Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot as well as Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon. It fulfils the promise that it showed from barrel. Not quite as intense on the nose, yet it has retained that Pauillac-inspired allure thanks to those subtle pencil box and cedar scents infusing the black fruit. The palate is medium-bodied with a cohesive, well-knit entry. Lovely texture, very pure, this is one of the most seductive Phélan that I can recall at this stage, and I adored the classicism and graphite note that lingers on the aftertaste. Superb.”

- NM, Vinous

Reviews

"The 2020 Phélan Ségur has a very intense and almost Pauillac-like nose of blackberry, pencil box and cedar aromas, complex and mineral-driven. The palate is medium-bodied with firm tannins and plenty of black fruit laced with cedar and tobacco, quite sturdy and conveying more substance than recent vintages. This impressive Saint-Estèphe has great potential and might well represent the appellation's best value for money."

- AG, Vinous

"The 2020 Phélan Ségur is sophisticated, classy, and polished. There is perhaps a bit less size than has become the norm of late, but that is not a bad thing at all. Sweet floral, spice, cedar, and tobacco lend brightness to this mid-weight, beautifully persistent Saint-Estèphe. I especially admire the wine's aromatic presence and persistence."

- AG, Vinous

"The Grand Vin 2020 Château Phélan Ségur from director Véronique Dausse checks in as 54% Cabernet Sauvignon, 42% Merlot, and 2% each of Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot, and this is the first time that blend has included all four varieties. Aged 18 months in 55% new French oak, its vivid purple color is followed by a gorgeous bouquet of pure cassis and black raspberry fruits as well as complex floral, spice, and crushed stone-like minerality. Medium to full-bodied and flawlessly balanced, with silky tannins, it's an incredibly classy, seamless, elegant 2020 that shows the ripe yet classic style of this incredible vintage."

- Jeb Dunnuck

"Getting a legit "wow" in the notes, the 2020 Château Phélan Ségur looks to be another incredible wine from the team of Véronique Dausse.it's a deep, almost inky-hued barrel sample offering gorgeous notes of crème de cassis, blueberries, damp earth, crushed violets, and graphite. With full-bodied richness, a round, layered texture, serious concentration, and building structure, this is the real deal and up with the gems in Sainte-Estèphe. While some wines show a softer, more forward style, this is firm, mineral-laced, and structured, and is going to reward a good decade of cellaring. The alcohol checks in at 13.5% with a pH of 3.7 and a whopping 88 for an IPT."

- Jeb Dunnuck

"Deep dark ruby, opaque core, purple reflections. Dark berry fruit with undertones of noble wood, delicate black cherry, and liquorice. Juicy, red berry nuances, fresh, well-structured, well-integrated tannins, salty-lemon aftertaste. Has ageing potential."

- PM, Falstaff Magazine

"On the nose, elegant, precise and offers richness (in control/balance) as well as a nice fine texture and depth. It reveals notes of pulpy blackberry, crushed redcurrant and more slightly wild raspberry associated with touches of ripe black berries, violet, sophisticated minerality (iodized gravel) as well as fine hints of strawberry flowers, vanilla, and a subtle waft of spice. On the palate, fruity, mineral, balanced and offers a juicy/finely acidic frame, a nice distinguished minerality, a nice intensity of the fruit as well as harmony, a good structure, a certain richness of fat, roundness, and elegance. The wine expresses notes of pulpy/juicy raspberry, cherry and more slightly juicy/ripe purple plum combined with hints of crushed red berries, violet, lily, tonka bean as well as fine touches of star anise, refined minerality, subtle wafts of bergamot and toasted almond. Good length. A nice sapid, suave, and delicious persistence. The tannins are precise, distinguished, and mellow."

- Vert de Vin

"Pure and intense dark fruit notes, cassis, black cherry with some oak derived spiciness and fine toast. The palate has nice harmony with ripe yet fresh dark fruit, crushed black currant and sage flavours with super fine and polished tannin, good density, and weight with a long and digest finish."

- AL, Tasted.com

"(54% CS, 42% M, 2% CF, 2% PV; 60% harvest; 13.5% ABV; 55% new). Deep purple; fresh, mineral nose; full and crisp, a particularly vital impression; long and refined, and elegant to taste, with slightly dry wood tannins for the moment, but with the year's classical proportions and finesse, and with very nice aromatic length. A most attractive freshness alongside the ripe red fruit character. 2026-36+."

- MS, The World of Fine Wine
