

Château LaGrange 2010

CSPC# 848129

750mlx12

13.4% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot

Appellation

Saint-Julien

Classification

Third Growth. Troisieme Grand Cru Classe in 1855.

Website

<http://chateau-lagrange.com/en/>

General Info

The vast vineyard of Lagrange spreads over 117 uninterrupted hectares in the Saint-Julien-appellation. In 1855, its passionate and visionary owner, the Count Duchâtel, ex-Home Secretary to King Louis-Philippe, who had introduced a drainage system in the vineyard, contributed to its classification as a third growth. The beginning of the 20th century was much less glorious as the economic conditions deteriorated. Despite several changes in ownership, the decline in business meant the estate had to be broken up: from 280 hectares in 1840, the domain had been reduced to 57 hectares by December 1983, when the Japanese group Suntory bought it from the Cendoya family, owners since 1925. By dint of more than twenty years of major efforts and investments, Château Lagrange is universally acknowledged as being back in excellent form after this restructuration which is considered as the most spectacular of the Medoc. In May 2007, Bruno Eyraud succeeded to Marcel Ducasse (1984-2007) as Director of Château Lagrange. In 2008 was realised a new refurbishing of the vinification room. In 2009, Château Lagrange innovated with the optical sort-out of the berries in order to face the great volume of berries to sort out in this big estate. The great care taken to the vineyard (yield control, harvest by hand) and the vinification plot by plot give birth each year to a rich and elegant wine, with a long ageing potential.

Vintage

2010 is above all generally cold year, in fact the coldest of the last fifteen years with a winter that was particularly harsh and long. Summer brought no water resulting in a tannic richness rarely attained in the Médoc. This year was a late picking again, just like 2008 and 2009. We started to harvest the Merlot the 29th of September and we finished the vintage on the 17th of October with the cabernet sauvignon. Château Lagrange 2010 is once again very marked by the cabernet sauvignon: 75% bringing power and finesse. Merlot: 25% and no petit Verdot's again this year.

Vineyards

Located entirely within the appellation of Saint-Julien, our vineyard stretches in a single block over two North-South rises of Gunzian gravelly soil. In parts large and coarse and in others finer, this gravel is combined with sand or iron-rich clay depending on the plots. With an altitude of 24 metres, the centre of the domain marks the highest point of Saint-Julien. The estate covers 157 hectares (390 acres), of which 115 hectares (284 acres) are under vine. Most of the plots benefit from a drainage system. The red grape varieties planted are those that typically thrive on the Médoc terroir, with 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Merlot and 7% Petit Verdot. The Cabernet Sauvignon contributes structure and ageing potential, the Merlot roundness and body, and the Petit Verdot fruit and complexity.

Maturation

21 months in French oak - 60% new barrels

Tasting Notes

Chateau Lagrange is still very dominated by Cabernet Sauvignon which contributes power and finesse. There is no Petit Verdot again this year, also we have decided to uproot 1.7ha of Petit Verdot for Cabernet Sauvignon. 2010 is very similar in varietal proportions to 2009 but their style is very different, figures do not explain everything:

Production

22,500 cases made

Cellaring

Drink 2013-2020

Scores/Awards

92 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2013

90-93 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2011

89+ points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #205 - February 2013

89-92 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #194 - April 2011

93 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - March 2013



Scores/Awards **92-94 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2011
95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2013
94-95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2011
93 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 1, 2013
92-94 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 25, 2011
16.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2011
17 points/4 stars - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2011
91 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2011 (score only)
92-93 points - Jane Anson, The New Bordeaux - April 2012
94 points - Jean Marc Quarin - March 2012 (score only)
90 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 8, 2013
90-92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 20, 2011
90-92+ points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2011
89-92 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2011
15.5+ points - Farr Vintner - April 2011
Review only - Alex Shaw, JJBuckley Wines - April 2011
89 points - Tracey Rose, JJBuckley Wines - April 2011

Reviews *"Notes of singed alder, graphite and charcoal wrap around the core of intense blackberry paste, warm plum sauce and currant preserves. Turns sleek and racy on the well-knit finish despite the notable grip. Best from 2015 through 2030."*

- JM, Wine Spectator

"This is precise, with pure, unadorned cassis, blackberry and black cherry fruit flavors woven with toasty vanilla and anise. Offers a lovely, rounded feel, despite its obvious weight. Very long. Score range: 90-93"

- JM, Wine Spectator

"Somewhat of a beast, this monolithic, oaky wine is full-bodied, highly extracted and difficult to evaluate. Some hints of roasted herbs, chocolate, black currant, and coffee are present, but the oak dominates, as do the tannins. This wine seems much woodier, and more closed and foreboding than any other St. Julien I tasted. Forget it for 7-8 years and hope for the best."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"Lagrange's relatively new winemaking team appears to have backed off the aggressive oak regime and the result is a wine with better overall balance. Still a backward, muscular/masculine style of St.-Julien, it reveals abundant tannin along with a subtle hint of vanillin intermixed with lead pencil shavings, white chocolate, black currant, and cassis characteristics. Although less expressive than some of its 2010 peers, it is a big, powerful, rich wine that needs a decade of cellaring. It should last for 30 years."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"Tasted at the Union de Grand Cru in London. The Lagrange has a very refined, sophisticated bouquet with blackberry, bay leaf, cedar, and sous-bois, all with fine delineation. The palate is medium-bodied with a fine grippy entry. There is a lot of citrus fruit here, lending the 2010 tension and poise. It remains linear and focused, saving something up for the future. Excellent. Tasted December 2012."

- NM, Wine Journal

"Tasted at the chateau, the crop was picked between 29th September and 20th October, with much of the crop (the Cabernet) picked between 13th and 19th October. A blend of 75% Cabernet Sauvignon and 25% Merlot, this is a very tightly wound on the nose, the Cabernet Sauvignon imparting a strictness and tautness: blackberry, wild hedgerow, cedar, and a touch of graphite. The palate is medium-bodied with very fine tannins, a real sense of symmetry here with fine acidity. Very refined tannins and yet there is certainly great structure cloaked beneath that pure blackberry, cassis, and cedar-infused fruit. Long in the mouth on the finish that is slightly drier than the 2009 when compared alongside. This is an outstanding Saint Julien from one of its most consistent performers in recent years. Drink 2018- Tasted March 2011."

- NM, Wine Journal

"Great nose of blueberries, spices and hints of walnuts. Full body, with a lovely finish of well-integrated tannins and a long, long finish. This is structured yet all in finesse. Best in years. Try in 2018."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

Reviews *"A wine, with very pretty balance and length already. Full body, with a wonderful core of ripe fruit and a persistent silky finish. Lasts for a long time. Dense"*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"With vineyards in the west of Saint-Julien, Lagrange produces wines that are polished and elegant. In 2010, that style has been suffused with tannins while also delivering a black currant flavor. The wine is rich and ripe, with just the right amount of tannic structure for the fruit."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"92-94 Dark, dry wine initially with austerity. Then the bright berry fruits come from behind the severe façade to give a structured, still luscious wine."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Headily perfumed. Sweetly charming on the front palate and then it segues into structured chew. Real vitality here. Very cool and dry on the end – not succulent at this stage!"
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Chateau Lagrange offers a fine expression of Cabernet fruit, elegant, less robust than many, but very good texture and depth."
- SS, Decanter.com

"These wines really demand time and concentration. This one is a touch hot and prickles a little on the back of the throat. Can feel the power and the fruit, and second time round you can work through that initial hit. 92-93/100. Drink 2020-2034."
- JA, The New Bordeaux

"Soft blackberry, olive, herb, cocoa, oak and black plums open to a fresh, full bodied wine. From a blend of 75% Cabernet Sauvignon and 2% Merlot, there is some drying sensations in the fresh, crisp, red, and black fruit, olive tapenade finish."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Lagrange is a powerful Bordeaux wine, packed with ripe dark berries and cassis. This concentrated coca and ripe berry flavored St. Julien wine offers freshness and a licorice cassis filled finish. 90-92 Pts"
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Deep saturated colour; real cassis and blackcurrants on the nose; deep but feels very tight and intense; dense palate, really intense, feels extracted and tannic with grip but enough depth. Lots of extract and tightly woven. Quite grippy. Needs to settle 88-90? /100 Tasted 5 April 2011 UGC [Second Tasting UGC] Deep and dense; purple edge; creamy, some cassis notes; blackcurrants on aeration; deep and quite cool and fresh; creamy deep wine, concentrated and intense; grippy. Chewy and intense wine – typically pent up for Lagrange early on but more so in 2010. Extract too and tannins. More settled than first sample. 90-92+/100 Tasted 7 April 2011 UGC"
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

"The black fruited mix on the nose is rich and the palate is packed with rather chewy fruit. Riper flavours give sweetness on the mid palate a mix of cassis and dark chocolate but towards the back the tannins cut through holding back some of the fruit on the finish."
- Derek Smedley MW

"This Chateau is the largest of all the classed growths with 117 hectares of vines (4 of which are planted with white varieties). Top quality Saint Julien has been produced here since the late 1980's when it was bought by the Suntory group of Japan. This quality level is partly achieved by the production of a very good second wine Les Fiefs de Lagrange which in most vintages makes up more than 50% of production. Under the assured direction of Bruno Eynard, quality is higher than ever. Thw 2010 is 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot with all the Petit Verdot put into the Fiefs de Lagrange second label. Quite hard and backward this year with a strong lead pencil,

Reviews *Cabernet Sauvignon style. Dry, cedary and reminiscent of the 1996. This will need some time to mature and soften but it is a serious Saint Julien with classic weight and structure.”*
- Farr Vintners

“75% cabernet sauvignon, 25% merlot. 60% new oak barrels. Lagrange has been undergoing significant upgrades over the last several years, including the addition of optical sorters, more precise fermenting of individual plots from the vineyard, and, most significantly, a reduction in the size of the tanks from 200+ hectoliters to an average of 80-120hl. These technical upgrades really show themselves with a fantastic wine for 2010. Beautiful bright fruit of blueberry and blackberry appear on the nose with subtle yet captivating notes of eucalyptus and toast. The plentiful tannins are fine and precise, giving the wine nice texture that is enticing even out of barrel but will take more time to integrate. Tremendously long, the fruit lingered for seemingly minutes and kept me coming back for more. This is among the top releases ever from this estate. Drink 2018-2035.”
- AS, JJ Buckley Wines

“75% cabernet sauvignon, 25% merlot. A classic Bordeaux from start to finish. Cedar and cassis build on the bouquet, leading into sweet fruit on the attack - this is a strapping, muscular wine with great balance in all components. The midpalate has both fresh tannin and buoyant acidity, with great concentration - a promise of good things to come. Perhaps less refined than the top Bordeaux, give this rough and tumble red five to ten years in the cellar and watch how it evolves over the following three decades”
- TR, JJ Buckley Wines
