

Château LaGrange 2014

CSPC# 814273

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	76% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Merlot, 6% Petit Verdot
Appellation	Saint-Julien
Classification	Third Growth. Troisieme Grand Cru Classe in 1855.
Website	http://chateau-lagrange.com/en/
General Info	<p>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 Eycard 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.</p>
Winemaker	Matthieu Bordes
Vintage	Early bud burst due to a mild winter, then few episodes of rains during the summer, despite a sunny last fortnight of July. A miraculous Indian summer from September to October. Bringing with it a hot and dry period with only 7mm of rain over 40 days
Vineyards	Completely situated in the village of Saint Julien, the vineyard of Chateau Lagrange represents 118 hectares in red vines, spread over two hills with the slopes directed towards the North and the South, in one block. The subsoil is of clay and limestone and the topsoil is of pebbles and gravel. The climate is temperate and oceanic
Harvest	From September 25th to October 17th, 2014. Grapes are handpicked into individual crates. A first selection is done by hand on whole bunches, and a second one grape by grape with an optical camera.
Vinification	Plot by plot and intra plot vinification in 102 thermoregulated stainless-steel vats of variable capacity (36 to 220 hl) for 103 plots. The selection of batch is conducted according to the varietal, age of vines, terroirs, and grapes maturity. Vinification at 26-28°C for 15 to 22 days. Moderate pumping over every day, or déléstage or pigeage. Malolactic fermentation through co inoculation.
Maturation	Blending in January. Maturation for 21 months. 60 % of new oak barrels. Fining in barrel with fresh egg whites Final blending before bottling
Tasting Notes	The color is dark with purple hues. Intense fruity aromas such as black cherry, blackcurrant and raspberry mingle with fine woody notes. Very delicate and elegant, the attack is supple and fleshy with a long finish carried by the bold Cabernet Sauvignon. A wine that is complete, complex, and harmonious.
Serve with	Chateau Lagrange is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. Best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes.
Production	23,335 cases made.
Cellaring	Drink 2020-2035



Scores/Awards **89 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2017
87-90 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - June 2015
92 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - March 2017
87-89 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #218 - April 2015
93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2017
91-92 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2015
94 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 2017
17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - February 2018
16+ points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2015
90+ points - Decanter.com (score only) - April 2015
89 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 2017
88-90 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2015
90+ points - Farr Vintner - March 2015
87-91 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2015
93 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - December 2020
92 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - March 2018
93 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2017
90-93 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2015
91 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - April 2015
89 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com (score only) - March 2015
15.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2018
17 points - Vinum Wine Magazine - June 2017
17 points - Bettane & Desseuve (score only) - April 2015
16.5 points - Gault & Millau (score only) - June 2015

Reviews *"A fruitcake note leads the way, followed by warm plum sauce, crushed blackberry and cassis details. A firm graphite edge holds the finish, leaving a taut feel in the end. Best from 2019 through 2026. 23,335 cases made."*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"An elegant style, with pretty blueberry and warmed cherry notes gliding along the relatively supple structure. Lightens up a bit on the finish, but a good stony edge keeps this honest. Score Range: 87-90."
- JM, Wine Spectator

"The Château Lagrange 2014 has a perfumed nose with blackcurrant pastille. It is well defined with nicely integrated oak, black rather than red fruit with a pleasant touch of graphite. The palate is medium-bodied with supple, ripe black fruit and a keen line of acidity."
- NM, Wine Advocate

"The Château Lagrange 2014 has a perfumed nose with blackcurrant pastille. It is well defined with nicely integrated oak, black rather than red fruit with a pleasant touch of graphite. The palate is medium-bodied with supple, ripe black fruit and a keen line of acidity. It does not quite possess the weight and concentration of its peers. It is balanced but it needs to muster more substance during its élevage. A second and third example confirmed my findings, a Lagrange that needs to pull its socks up by the time of bottling."
- NM, Wine Advocate

"This is a classic St.-Julien with red fruit and delicate herbs on the nose. The oak is quite discreet both there and on the mid-weight body. Then the serious but rather elegant dry tannins come through on the long finish. Drink in 2022."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"A tight and very fine wine with a blueberry and blackcurrant character. Medium to full body, firm tannins. Polished Lagrange style here."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Firm and still dry with the solid tannins, the wine's ripe fruitiness is developing well. The combination gives great potential. Black currant and berry fruits are both there with crisp juicy acidity. The aftertaste is a reminder that this wine has a long way to go."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

- Reviews** *"Tasted blind. Rather marked acidity and tannin and very much fashioned for the long term. All on the finish with its peacock's tail. Some iodine. Drink 2025-2042"*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- "Dark crimson. Rather indistinct nose. Though it seems as though there is a lot hidden here. Just a bit austere. Not the full ripeness that some have achieved. Falls away a bit. Hint of iron filings. Pretty severe finish. Drink 2024-2034."*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- "Fresh, bright and crisp, the cassis and cranberry fruits are made more interesting with the addition of fresh herbs, tobacco and spice. Medium/full bodied, and on the fresh side, this should age nicely."*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "With more softness than expected, this medium-bodied wine tastes like you're biting into a handful of fresh, juicy, ripe, crisp, red fruits with a spray of cassis on top."*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "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. 76% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Merlot, 6% Petit Verdot. Deep purple colour. Attractive nose of cherry fruit. Medium weight on the palate. Ripe and rounded tannins. Quite firm and cedary in style in a classic St Julien way. Finishes fresh and cedary, with a little spice."*
- Farr Vintners
- "Floral fragrant spring violets the nose has lots of charm the start of the palate fresh and bright. Richer in the middle with depth of flavour but at the back the freshness gives a lighter feel bright but lacking a bit of richness. 2026-2038."*
- Derek Smedley MW
- "The 2014 Lagrange was picked from 25 September until 17 October. It has an impressive bouquet with ample red cherry, cranberry and crushed strawberry fruit mixed with sage and cedar, good vigour and gaining intensity with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannins and plenty of freshness thanks to that silver bead of acidity. This is a vivid and vivacious Lagrange, one of the most charming and pretty in recent years. Superb. Tasted at the Lagrange vertical at the estate. Drink 2023-2040."*
- NM, Vinous
- "The 2014 Lagrange has one of the most exotic bouquet from the flight of Saint Julien wines with red cherries, kirsch, blueberry and press flowers, almost Margaux-like in style. The palate is medium-bodied with sappy red berry fruit, quite saline in the mouth with a hint of black olive, a very crisp bead of acidity. Nice grip here, quite firm, and dense. One to watch. Tasted blind at the annual Southwold tasting. 2020-2045."*
- NM, Vinous
- "The 2014 Lagrange is terrific. Bold, juicy, and exuberant, the 2014 possesses striking balance and textural richness. Sweet red cherry, pomegranate, iron, smoke, and tobacco underpin a core of intense, red-toned fruit in a super-expressive, layered wine endowed with real pedigree. The firm, muscular tannins need time to soften, but there is plenty to look forward to."*
- AG, Vinous
- "The 2014 Lagrange is gorgeous. Scents of iron, smoke, cedar, and licorice open up in a wine that shows the more powerful, virile side of the year. A wine of breath and amplitude, the 2014 Lagrange is wonderfully expressive today. Red plum, cherry jam, smoke and tobacco are some of the notes that build to the voluptuous finish."*
- AG, Vinous