

# Château Prieuré Lichine 2015

CSPC# 849001

12x750ml

13.0% alc./vol.

## Grape Variety

66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot.

## Appellation

Margaux

## Classification

4th Grand Cru Classé

## Website

<https://prieure-lichine.fr/en/the-prieure-lichine-wines/chateau-prieure-lichine/>

## Sustainability

Sustainable Viticulture

## General Info

Originally a priory of Benedictine monks who cultivated grapes for service at dinner and at religious ceremonies, practices gradually evolved by the 18th century to establish sales of the wine under the name Le Prieuré de Cantenac. As a consequence of the French Revolution, the property was seized, divided and sold in 1789 to several surrounding estates, including Château Palmer. A portion was bought by Monsieur Pagès who passed on the estate to his widow, when due to its reputation and broker prices received a fourth growth classification in 1855. Several changes in ownership resulted in changes to the name, such as Le Prieuré and Prieuré-Cantenac, and when the late wine writer and authority Alexis Lichine arrived to buy the estate it consisted of 11 hectares of neglected vines.

Alexis Lichine bought the vineyard in 1951 (shortly after having purchased the Margaux estate Château Lascombes with a consortium) and work began to group and reconstitute the property on the ideal slightly-rising ground. With the money, he was garnering from the import business and a few partners, Alexis Lichine bought the Prieuré for 11,000 pounds, at the time about \$16,000. In 1953, with the help of Count Lur-Saluces of Château d'Yquem, Lichine renamed the Prieuré to Château Prieuré-Lichine.

With the estate renamed in 1953, the following year Cantenac wineries were entitled to use the appellation of Margaux Sacrificing quantity for quality, trades in portions of desirable land at a loss of two to one were made with third growth neighbours Palmer, Ferrière, Kirwan, Giscours, Issan, Boyd-Cantenac and second growth neighbours Durfort-Vivens and Brane-Cantenac, adding up to 47 acres (19 ha) of vineyards by the mid-1960s. With an aim to produce a wine well beyond its classification, extensive replanting and repairs and investments were made to the equipment, and by the 1970s the estate amounted to 58 hectares dispersed across the communes Cantenac and Margaux.

After Lichine's death in 1989, the estate was run by his son Sacha for several years, with oenologist Michel Rolland acting as consultant, until the estate was sold to the Groupe Ballande in 1999. The winery currently employs Stéphane Derenoncourt as its consulting oenologist.

## Winemaker

Étienne Charrier winemaker, Stéphane Derenoncourt consultant

## Vintage

The 2014-2015 winter was quite mild with high rainfall. Building of the vines was late, beginning in April, and promised a large, homogeneous crop. Spring weather ensured even shooting of the vines but with high fungal disease pressure due to numerous spells of rainy weather throughout April and May. Careful monitoring and fast reaction by our vineyard teams made sure the vines were well protected.

A quite dry month of June guaranteed a successful flowering process with crop size forecasts in line with our expectations. July had a big impact on the vintage with the weather causing a severe water deficit in the vines. Berries hardly grew in size, while young vines showed worrying signs of advanced stress, forcing us to thin those crops for the long-term survival of the plots.

Fortunately, regular rain showers throughout August brought a new lease of life to the vegetation and helped enlarge the thick-skinned berries. September with its light rain showers that came at judicious intervals reinforced hopes for a great 2015 vintage. Dry, warm weather enabled a fully ripe crop to be brought in. Each individual plot zone was harvested at the optimum moment, without constraint.

Because of naturally higher alcoholic degrees, the vinifications went smoothly with shorter macerations than in 2014.



<b>Vineyards</b>	The Prieuré-Lichine vineyards are naturally, in view of Lichine's many acquisitions, very widely spread across the Margaux commune. Most lie to the north of Cantenac, on one of the gravel ridges that characterise the Médoc. The vines are 54% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot and 1% Cabernet Franc, and are planted at a density of 8500 vines/ha.
<b>Harvest</b>	Merlot: Sept 17 – Oct 1. Cabernet Sauvignon: October 2-9. Yield: 42 hl/ha
<b>Maturation</b>	After manual harvesting followed by a meticulous sorting (on a sorting table and then optically), the fruits are fermented in vats without crushing for about 30 days before being aged in oak barrels (50% new and 50% one wine).
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	2015 will go down in the history of Prieuré Lichine's vintages as one of extreme refinement, brought by ripe Cabernet Sauvignon and amazing density. The wines show modern-style profiles with a flavorsome and powerful palate. Unquestionably, the end of season weather helped make 2015 a stand-out vintage in its time with good balances, fabulous aromatic precision and rarely achieved density on the palate. Most definitely a great vintage for Margaux and for Prieuré-Lichine.
<b>Serve with</b>	The pure Margaux style of Château Prieuré-Lichine will pair with all the traditional dishes of French cuisine and cheeses.
<b>Production</b>	17,500 cases made
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2025-2044
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>93 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2018</p> <p><b>88-90 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #224 - April 2016</p> <p><b>89 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - March 2018</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent (score only) - November 2022</p> <p><b>96 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2018</p> <p><b>95-96 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2016</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - January 2018</p> <p><b>17 points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - February 2019</p> <p><b>16.5 points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - November 2017</p> <p><b>17 points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2016</p> <p><b>96 points</b> - Decanter.com - April 2016</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - May 2022</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2018</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - July 2017</p> <p><b>92-94 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2016</p> <p><b>88 points</b> - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2016</p> <p><b>86-89 points</b> - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2016</p> <p><b>89 points</b> - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com (score only) - May 2016</p> <p><b>89 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - July 2019</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2017</p> <p><b>15+ points</b> - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2016</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - March 2019</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Alexandre Ma MW (score only) - September 2021</p> <p><b>89 points</b> - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - March 2018</p> <p><b>16.5 points</b> - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2019</p> <p><b>18 points</b> - Bettane &amp; Desseauve (score only) - April 2016</p> <p><b>16.5 points</b> - Gault &amp; Millau (score only) - June 2016</p> <p><b>17.5 points</b> - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2018</p>

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