

Château Rauzan-Ségla 2018

CSPC# 813895

750mlx6

14.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	56% Cabernet-Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, 2% Petit Verdot, 2% Cabernet Franc
Appellation	Margaux
Classification	Second Growth. Deuxième Grand Cru Classé in 1855. Previously called Chateau Rausan-Segla
Website	https://www.chateaurauzansegla.com/en/
General Info	<p>Château Rauzan-Ségla and Mouton Rothschild were considered the leading 2^{em} Cru Classé Bordeaux properties during the 19th century. However, while the fortunes of Mouton prospered in the 20th century, culminating in its elevation to 1^{er} Cru status in 1973, Rauzan-Ségla's reputation dwindled, and a succession of disappointing wines were produced.</p> <p>In the early 80s the Rauzan-Segla was sold, and the renaissance began. The eminent Professor Peynaud was appointed as a consultant and the proportion of Cabernet Sauvignon in the blend was increased, as was the proportion of new oak used in the maturation process. In 1986, a brand-new cuverie was built.</p> <p>A succession of eye-catching wines was produced at Rauzan-Ségla in the mid to late 80s and early 1990s. Rauzan-Segla was bought by Chanel in 1994.</p> <p>The wines of Rauzan Segla are meant to age, allowing the wine to develop complexity, aromas and textures. They do not offer much pleasure young. Tannic, rich, structured and full bodied, with time, the wine offers complex spicy and floral aromatics, purity of fruit, refined textures, concentration and harmony that few other wines deliver. 2005, 2009 and 2010 are all stunning examples of Chateau Rauzan Segla at its best.</p>
Winemaker	Nicolas Audebert (since 2014)
Vintage	<p>Truly one of the estate's most exceptional vintages, the Chateau Rauzan-Segla 2018 impresses with its density and remarkable ripeness. After rainy weather in winter and spring, the sunshine of the summer and autumn months allowed the harvest to proceed with calm. At Chateau Rauzan-Segla, the harvest began on September 27 and ended on October 11.</p> <p>"It was a tough year—a killer year," began Technical Director Nicolas Audebert. "In fact, it was a disaster in June and July. We had a very hard time in the vineyard to try to balance things. The vineyard workers worked so hard during this time, to be sure to have volume without too much volume. The weather turned at the end of June, making the ripeness go very far and fast. The risk was to have too much concentration, density, etc." When I questioned him about the yields at Rauzan-Ségla in 2018, Audebert replied, "Our yields were a bit lower than average, but we are extremely pleased with the balance we have at those yields. We came in at around 32 hectoliters per hectare." There's notably more Merlot in the Rauzan-Ségla blend this year—40% in 2018 as opposed to 36% in 2017, 30% in 2016 and 33% in 2015. "This year the Merlot has that density and juiciness we are looking for," Audebert told me. "My top tanks are Merlot this year. People are saying forget Merlot because of climate change, but this year proves how great it can be. It should stay!" Rauzan-Ségla's finished blend has been done for four months. My tasting sample was from one-year-old barriques.</p>
Vineyards	<p>The 52-hectare Margaux vineyard has increased in size over the years. Most notably in 2008, when they purchased 8.5 hectares from Chateau de La Bourgade. 52 hectares on deep fine gravel with clay at different layers planted to 6600-10000 vines per hectare. Plantings comprise 54% Cabernet Sauvignon, 41% Merlot, 4% Petit Verdot and 1% Cabernet Franc. Green harvest and leaf thinning. Grapes entirely hand-picked into twenty kilo boxes and then sorted on a vibrating table at the cellar. Grapes are de-stemmed without crushing.</p>



Harvest	Cabernet Sauvignon was harvested from September 27 to October 11; Merlot from September 13-27; Cabernet Franc on September 28; and Petit Verdot from September 28-29.
Vinification	35 stainless steel and temperature-controlled vats# with capacities between 41-220hl which provide for single plot fermentation. 6-8-day alcoholic fermentation with pumping over is followed typically by a maceration of 12-20 days depending on the vintage.
Maturation	18 months in barriques, 65% new.
Tasting Notes	A blend of Cabernet Sauvignon (56%), Merlot (40%), Petit Verdot (2%) and Cabernet Franc (2%), the Chateau Rauzan-Ségla 2018 offers a bewitching aromatic bouquet. With notes of red fruits, followed by delicious black fruits, black cherries and strawberries, the wine evolves tobacco and dark licorice aromas. Then come the delicate floral notes of violet and invigorating citrus, especially red grapefruit. On the palate, the wine spreads out slowly but fully, offering a dense texture and developing fruity flavors. The vintage maintains a perfect balance, without any sensation of heaviness. A great vintage for Chateau Rauzan-Segla.
Serve with	Chateau Rauzan Segla is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. Chateau Rauzan Segla is best paired with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes.
Cellaring	Drink 2025-2045
Scores/Awards	<p>96 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - January 2021</p> <p>96-99 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - June 2019</p> <p>98+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2021</p> <p>97-99+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - April 2019</p> <p>99 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2021</p> <p>99-100 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2019</p> <p>97 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2021</p> <p>17.5++ points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - May 2019</p> <p>17 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - October 2020</p> <p>16.5 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2019</p> <p>97 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - November 2020</p> <p>97 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2019</p> <p>98 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2021</p> <p>97-99 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2019</p> <p>17.5+ points - Farr Vintner - April 2019</p> <p>95 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - March 2021</p> <p>94-96 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - November 2019</p> <p>97+ points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - March 2021</p> <p>97-100 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2019</p> <p>99 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2021</p> <p>98-98 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - May 2019</p> <p>17.5+ points - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2019</p> <p>94 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - February 2021</p> <p>18.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - April 2019 or January 2021</p> <p>16 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2019</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Concentrated, with a deep well of cassis and dark cherry preserve, but it maintains the grace and perfume typical of Margaux, flowing with silky charm as lilac, red tea, mineral and sanguine details fill in gently behind the fruit. Long and very suave finish sparkles with a savory note. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Petit Verdot. Best from 2025 through 2040."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Very concentrated, atypically so for Margaux, with sappy kirsch and plum reduction notes that are well-defined and luxurious in feel, draping beautifully over a graphite underpinning on the finish. Very long. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Petit Verdot."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p>

Reviews

"The 2018 Rauzan-Ségla is composed of 56% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot. The wine has 14% alcohol, and it was aged for around 18 months in barriques, 65% new. Deep garnet-purple colored, it comes galloping out of the glass with powerful, energetic scents of crushed black cherries, blackcurrant cordial and mulberries, plus suggestions of violets, star anise, chocolate mint and crushed rocks with a touch of tobacco leaf. The medium to full-bodied palate is jam-packed with taut, muscular black fruit layers, supported by firm, ripe, grainy tannins, and bold freshness, finishing with fantastic length and loads of earthy sparks. This is a thoroughbred Margaux, for sure, possessing amazing power in a very sleek, sophisticated package. Give it 5-7 years in bottle to unlock all those earth, floral and mineral nuances and drink it over the next 40 years or more. An incredible achievement that adeptly sidesteps the potentially overwhelming stamps of this extreme vintage. Bravo to Technical Director Nicolas Audebert and the team at Rauzan-Ségla! 2026 – 2066."

- LPB, Wine Advocate

"The 2018 Rauzan-Ségla is blended of 56% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot. Cabernet Sauvignon was harvested from September 27 to October 11; Merlot from September 13-27; Cabernet Franc on September 28; and Petit Verdot from September 28-29. The wine has 14% alcohol and aging is anticipated to be 18 months in barriques, 65% new. Deep purple-black in color, it comes bounding out of the glass with exuberant notes of warm plums, crème de cassis, Black Forest cake and candied violets with hints of mocha, Indian spices, and fragrant earth plus a waft of crushed rocks. Full-bodied, multilayered and sporting a lot of freshness and tension in the mouth in spite of all its decadent perfumed black fruits, it has a firm, finely grained frame and seamless freshness, finishing long and fragrant. Seduction in a glass."

- LPB, Wine Advocate

"Aromas of crushed blackberries and blueberries with dried flowers and bark, following through to a full body with a tight and powerful palate of beautiful fruit and chewy yet polished tannins that are compressed and impressive. Extremely linear and intense. Muscular, in a toned way. Yet it opens in the mouth at you taste it. 60% cabernet sauvignon and 40% merlot. Drink after 2025."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This is one of the most structured and deep Rauzan's I have tasted with a full body, layers of fruit and a firm and polished tannin backbone. Compact and composed. Such depth and power. 60 per cent cabernet sauvignon and 40 per cent merlot."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Warm-hearted and rich with black-plum and dark-chocolate flavors, this wine comes from one of the properties owned by the Chanel luxury group. The dense tannins and generous fruits are typical of wines from this top estate. Drink from 2027."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Deep healthy crimson. Rich and sweet on palate entry – almost right bank on the nose! And then pretty firm and left bank on the palate. Sweet ink and nice balance. But fairly subtle. Dry, toasty end."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Organic. 18 months in 65% new oak. Inky black to crimson rim. Dark, savoury black fruit, even a little cherry, though it seems like this is the fruit not the oak. Firm, dry, elegant cassis fruit. Incredibly smooth tannins even though they are deep and compact. Packed with dark fruit and yet avoiding unwanted sweetness. Full and long with a harmonious mix of sweet and savoury on the finish"

- JH, JancisRobinson.com

"Black core. Expressive cassis on the nose, just slightly herbal and very stony/mineral. This has real finesse on the palate, chalky and very fine texture. Dark, almost savoury restraint on the palate. Pretty dry on the finish but in balance with the power on the palate. Notable freshness in 2018. Needs time."

- JH, JancisRobinson.com

Reviews

"I very much enjoyed this en primeur and I am happy to see it living up to billing. There is real nuance here, with a ton of great fruit - layers of cassis, bilberry, charcoal and saffron spice. This really stands out for me as having balance, complexity and the potential to grow. These were tasted blind and I genuinely have to say congratulations to Nicolas Audebert and his team for calling it right in a year in which handling oak over ageing has proved difficult in many cases. 2% Cabernet Franc completes the blend. Drinking Window 2026 – 2050"

- JA, Decanter.com

"Rauzan-Ségla is here proclaiming its right to be considered among the wines of the year in Margaux. In the Chanel stable, Canon has had the edge for me in the past few vintages, but here Rauzan Ségla comes roaring back with its mix of elegance and confidence matched by perfectly ripe, Cabernet-dominant fruit. There's a slightly higher percentage of Merlot than usual - partly because it was so good this year and partly because the concentration in the Cabernets took the yields down (a real feature of the vintage, they were at 32hl/ha here). The Merlot adds flesh through the mid-palate, which is followed by freshly crushed mint on the finish which adds precision and lift. Great quality. Drinking Window 2028 – 2042."

- JA, Decanter.com

"A contender for the finest vintage of Rauzan Segla ever produced, the wine hits all the right notes starting with its complex perfume, which is already showing off its lilacs, violets, tobacco leaf, forest floor, espresso and array of red and black fruits. On the palate, the wine really shines due to its depth of flavor, power, concentration, sensuous, elegant textures and its silk and velvet wrapped finish clocking in at 60 seconds, or more. Give it ten years or just a bit longer and this beauty will shine for 2-3 decades after that. The wine blends 56% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot 14% ABV."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Inky garnet with purple accents in the hue, the depth of color reveals only part of the story. The perfume, with its violets, espresso, smoke, tobacco leaf and a sea of standout ripe, dark red fruits ranging from blackberry to plum. On the palate, the wine is plush, dense, and full-bodied yet it glides. Already expressive in the nose and mouth, the finish matches perfectly with its outstanding level of purity, extract, and freshness. Is this better than the majestic 2015 or the strong 2016? Perhaps it is! I'm waiting for a blind tasting. Give it ten years or just a bit longer and this beauty will shine for decades after that. The wine was produced from blending 56% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot, reaching 14.0% alcohol with a pH of 3.8. The harvest took place September 12 to October 11. The Grand Vin was made from 45% of the harvest."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Deep purple in colour. Violets, blueberries, and meaty, savoury spices on the nose make this complex and enticing. The palate is glossy, with satin-textured tannins enveloping a core of opulent, ripe blackcurrant fruit. Waves of acidity come through on the mid palate, refreshing the fruit and giving a floral lift. The toasty oak is integrated and subtle, with superb precision and refinement in both texture and intensity. The finish is long, pure, and harmonious. An elegant but still exuberant wine from Rauzan Ségla this year."

- Farr Vintners

"The 2018 Rauzan-Ségla has a sublime bouquet of black cherries, violet and lavender, all beautifully defined and focused. The oak is seamlessly enmeshed both here and on the palate. The graphite-tinged black fruit is framed by very fine tannins and matched with a perfect bead of acidity. There is an abiding symmetry about this Rauzan-Ségla that is totally endearing, and it delivers so much freshness on the finish. Absolutely superb."

- NM, Vinous

"The 2018 Rauzan-Ségla was picked starting on September 13 with the young Merlot vines and finishing on October 11 with the Cabernet Sauvignon, the yields at 32hl/ha, and aged in around 60-65% new oak. Inky black cherries, cassis, crushed violets, and a hint of lavender blossom leap from the glass, and the oak is nicely integrated. The palate is medium-bodied and comparatively rich for this Margaux growth; sensual and velvety in texture, it offers layers of precocious black fruit laced with fig, menthol, and spice toward the opulent finish. This is certainly a "big" Rauzan-Ségla, almost unrecognizable from the vintages of old, but certainly well crafted, and it should age with style. 2024 – 2050."

- NM, Vinous

Reviews *“The 2018 Rauzan-Ségla is fabulous. Inky, rich, and explosive, the 2018 offers tremendous depth and soaring intensity. Super-ripe red cherry, cedar, tobacco, mint, and spice all build over time, framed by incomparably silky, polished tannins. Today, the 2018 is dense and packed. I expect it will develop into a stunning Margaux in another 10-15 years or so. Actually, it already is.”*

- AG, Vinous

“The 2018 Rauzan-Ségla is fabulous. Regal and soaring in the glass, Rauzan-Ségla is simply unforgettable. Stunning aromatics and layers of flavor develop in the glass in a drop-dead gorgeous Rauzan that will leave readers weak at the knees. Inky and explosive, the 2018 possesses off the charts intensity and richness. Leather, licorice, spice, and grilled herbs add nuance as the 2018 builds to a huge crescendo of aromas, flavors, and textures on the finish. I won't be surprised if one day the 2018 is considered among the greatest Rauzan-Ségla's of all time. It is a tremendous achievement by the property and the team lead by Technical Director Nicolas Audebert. Don't miss it! Tasted four times.”

- AG, Vinous

“Reminding me of the 2016, the 2018 Château Rauzan-Ségla reveals this beautifully fresh, complex bouquet that still has serious richness and depth. Based on 56% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, and the rest Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot, raised in 65% new barrels, it offers a dense purple hue to go with gorgeous notes of blackcurrants, spring flowers, cigar wrapper, and sandalwood. A quintessential Margaux with its spicy, complex, floral character, it's full-bodied and has a supple, elegant texture, no hard edges, a solid spine of acidity, and a great, great finish. This is a brilliant, heavenly 2018 to enjoy over the coming 30 years or more.”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“Unquestionably in the same class as the 2016, the 2018 Rauzan-Ségla is magical stuff and plays in the top tier of the vintage. A rough blend of 56% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, and 2% each of Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot brought up in 65% new French oak, its deep purple color is followed by complex notes of sweet crème de cassis, cigar tobacco, crushed flowers, lead pencil shavings, and crushed rock-like minerality. Full-bodied, concentrated, and incredibly classic in style, it's made in a style similar to the 2016 yet is slightly more elegant (possibly not as concentrated), with building structure, beautiful purity, and a great, great finish. Like most vintages from this estate today, it will drink beautifully in its youth yet easily evolve for 30 years or more. For the data-driven people out there, this beauty hit 13.2% alcohol with a pH of 3.68. You probably couldn't have too much of this in the cellar.”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“Enticing on the nose with spicy berry fruit notes and nicely integrated oak, there is a cool feel about this wine which points to careful balance and reasonable alcohol – they got the picking dates just right. The texture is not too grainy or tough and the fruit rolls on well for a minute or so and therefore I am confident that this will be a well-earned success for this Château.”

- MJ, matthewjukes.com