

Château Rauzan-Ségla 2021

CSPC# 102704

750mlx6

13.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety
Appellation
Classification

75% Cabernet-Sauvignon, 25% Merlot
Margaux

Second Growth. Deuxième Grand Cru Classé in 1855.

Previously called Chateau Rausan-Segla

<https://www.chateaurauzansegla.com/en/>

Website
Analysis

pH: 3.72

Sustainability

The vineyard has undergone many changes over time, with meticulous tilling of the soil. Similarly, a rigorous study has enabled us to select suitable areas for sustainable cultivation. Since 1984, with the arrival of the Wertheimer family, a total commitment to sustainable viticulture has been adopted. Modern methods are also taken into account for purely organic cultivation.

General Info

Château Rauzan-Ségla and Mouton Rothschild were considered the leading 2eme Cru Classé Bordeaux properties during the 19th century. However, while the fortunes of Mouton prospered in the 20th century, culminating in its elevation to 1er Cru status in 1973, Rauzan-Ségla's reputation dwindled, and a succession of disappointing wines were produced.

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.

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.

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.

Winemaker

Winemaker: Nicolas Audebert

Cellar Master: Henry de Ruffray

Consulting oenologist: Jacques et Eric Boissenot

Vintage

May and June recorded quite a bit of rainfall, and we had to be watchful to prevent the spread of fungal diseases. The determination of our team eventually paid off and we were able to maintain the grapes and leaves in good health. Budbreak occurred between the 1st and the 6th of March in average conditions, however the fruit-set was excellent, with only a few of the older plots falling prey to coulure or shatter. After the rainy month of July, August and the first half of September were extremely dry. Just after we had finished picking the white grapes, we had about 45 mm of rain, raising concerns of a poor red harvest.

Vineyards

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.

Harvest

Yield: 38 hl/ha. Merlot: 20 September to 3 October. Cabernet Sauvignon: 1 to 8 October.

Petit Verdot: 2 & 10 October.

Vinification

The berries are poured on a first vibrating table where the clusters not having a perfect sanitary state are eliminated manually. Each vine plot is vinified separately in thermo-regulated stainless-steel vats. 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

In French oak barrel, with a medium or medium-long toasting. Racking via the bung hole. Fining with egg whites in barrel. 18 months in barriques, 60% new.



Tasting Notes	The 2021 achieves a balance of fruit and floral notes which is simply astounding. The nose announces itself with an enticing flourish of wild strawberry, its exuberance reined in by a hint of fresh rose petal. The floral notes unfurl at their leisure, led by delicate notes of peony and white sap. All the while, a spicy undercurrent of pepper, chocolate, and raspberry bubbles beneath the surface. The attack is as lively as it is indulgent, exploring the delicious duality of its blood orange flavours, at once sweet and sharp, followed by a gentle bitterness which lingers long on the palate. The sense of balance is razor-sharp, sublimated by Cabernet Sauvignon harvested at absolutely perfect ripeness.
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.
Production	unknown
Cellaring	Drink 2030-2065
Scores/Awards	<p>92 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - January 2024</p> <p>93+ points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - February 2024</p> <p>93-95 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022</p> <p>90-92 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent - May 2022</p> <p>95 points - Zekun Shuai, JamesSuckling.com - December 2023</p> <p>93-94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2022</p> <p>17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - May 2022</p> <p>96 points - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - March 2022</p> <p>93 points - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - December 2023</p> <p>93 points - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - May 2022</p> <p>94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2024</p> <p>94-96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2022</p> <p>94 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2022</p> <p>93-95 points - Thomas Parker, Farr Vintners - April 2022</p> <p>94-96 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2022</p> <p>97 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2024</p> <p>94-97 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - May 2022</p> <p>94 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2024</p> <p>93-95 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2022</p> <p>18 points - Matthew Jukes - August 2022</p> <p>93 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - April 2022</p> <p>94 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2022</p> <p>95 points - Vert de Vin - July 2022</p> <p>95-96 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - May 2022</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Shows the savory edge of the vintage, but harnesses it to complement a mix of violet, black cherry, and red currant fruit flavors. The finish reveals almost no grain as a subtle black tea note weaves through, also delivering a light iron underpinning. A solid effort -- kudos. Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Drink now through 2035."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The 2021 Rauzan-Ségla has turned out very nicely, offering up aromas of dark berries and plums mingled with subtle notions of baking chocolate, mint, pencil lead and vanilla pod. Medium to full-bodied, velvety, and suave, with a seamless core of fruit that's framed by polished tannins and bright but nicely integrated acids, it concludes with a long, delicately mordant finish. Drink 2027-2045."</i></p> <p>- WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Representing around 44% of the estate's production (more or less as usual), the 2021 Rauzan-Ségla unwinds in the glass with aromas of minty cassis, blackberries, loamy soil, dark chocolate and warm spices. Medium to full-bodied, deep, and impressively concentrated, it's layered and seamless, with a sweet core of fruit, powdery tannins, lively acids, and an impressively penetrating finish. The Rauzan team opted to ferment Merlot rather cooler than normal this year to moderate extraction. Tasted six times."</i></p> <p>- WK, Wine Advocate</p>

Reviews

"The 2021 Rauzan-Ségla is a blend of 75% Cabernet Sauvignon and 25% Merlot, aged 18 months in 60% new oak. Deep garnet-purple colored, it is a little closed to begin, delivering subtle notes of cassis, raspberry leaves, and mulberries with hints of fallen leaves, cinnamon stick, and pencil shavings. Medium-bodied, the palate is tightly knit with black and red berry layers and a grainy texture, finishing with good intensity on a lingering mineral note. 2026-2043."

- LPB, Wine Independent

"Black berry, black cherry and sandalwood aromas and flavors. Medium to full body, with chewy tannins that are polished and fresh. Linear and racy at the end. A crisp and solid young Bordeaux. Give this three or four years to come around. Best after 2027."

-ZJS, JamesSuckling.com

"A firm and linear wine with crushed stone and some citrusy acidity, medium body, creamy tannins, and a fresh finish, lively at the end. Currant, blackberry, and fresh tobacco in the aftertaste. 75% cabernet sauvignon."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot. Cask sample. Pretty solid crimson. A much more complex nose than the Rauzan-Gassies. Sweet start and very polished tannins. A saline note adds interest. No sign of oak. The finish is impressively long and interesting without any dryness nor any excess of acidity. Very well judged and very Margaux though the opposite of concentrated or flashy. Complete and already relatively accessible. Drink 2026 – 2042."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"A showstopper of a wine for me in 2021. Wonderful aromatic intensity on the nose filled with perfumed fruits, chocolate, and wildflowers. Gorgeous clarity and precision, the tannins are fine and powdery supporting the vibrant and energetic purple and black fruit, zingy blackcurrant, strawberry, cherry and plum with an overall creamy chalky texture and grip. Elegant and glamorous - so much styling on show, it feels polished and pristine with clear markings from the terroir but no harshness or austerity just great acidity and liveliness. Such mouthwatering salivation and lift at the end making you want another glass just to taste it again. Tasted twice and both times I loved it. Pure and precise with everything you want from a 2021. A yield of 38hl/ha. Ageing 18 months, 60% new barrels."

- GH, Decanter.com

"Classic Rauzan Ségla in that it is sculpted and finessed, with rose petal and black tea notes. Far from the concentrated gourmet take that we have had in vintages like 2022 or 2020, but it has real precision, with sinewy, graceful blueberry and blackcurrant fruits, and a juicy finish. Tasted twice, 45% of overall production. First full year of conversion to organics. Nicolas Audebert director, Eric Boissenot consultant."

- JA, janeanson.com

"A clear step up from the Ségla, proving why in 2021 even with the best names and most accomplished winemakers, it pays to head to the 1st wines. This is excellent for the vintage, with sinewy-juice-filled blue and black fruits. Cabernet-dominant, fresh, well-constructed, precise, you feel a slightly higher acidity than usual, giving a muscular, angular feel. As it opens cloves, cassis bud and rose stems appear. 60% new oak, well balanced, clear classicism and the alcohol level feels refreshing and restrained. Working with the vintage, a little shorter on the finish than the biggest vintages but this is easy to recommend. Tasted twice, 45% of overall production. A candidate for up score in bottle."

- JA, janeanson.com

"The complex aromatics here pop with dried flowers, espresso, cigar wrapper, spice, brown sugar, and an array of red with black fruits. The wine is elegant, refined, fresh, silky, and fresh. The fruits are sweet, pure, refined and defined. In fact, this is so good, it would be a success in any vintage. But, in 2021, it is a screaming success and is clearly one of the wines of the vintage! Drink from 2026-2052."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

Reviews

“With a nice richness to the color, the wine opens with lilies, roses, coffee bean, Indian spice, and black plums. On the palate, the wine is medium-bodied, elegant, refined, and silky. There is freshness and energy, along with a nice sweetness to the fruits. There is a touch of chalk at the backend of the finish. You will be able to enjoy this in its youth, which is not always the case here with this age-worthy Margaux. The wine was produced from blending 75% Cabernet Sauvignon and 25% Merlot, 13% ABV. The harvest took place September 20 to October 8. Drink from 2025-2050.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“The 2021 is a blend of 75% Cabernet Sauvignon and 25% Merlot. This is the highest proportion of Cabernet seen in the final blend for a long time. The yield of 38 hl/ha was more than in 2020 but a little less than in 2019. Deep purple colour. Violets, blue fruit, and cool blackcurrant tones. The palate has a weightless intensity - the vibrant cassis turning to blossoms thanks to bright acidity. Quintessentially Margaux in style, the persistent, ripe, and fine tannins provide an elegant structure for the compact core of fruit. Very fine, with a long, pure finish.”

- TP, Farr Vintners

“According to Nicolas Audebert, the 2021 Rauzan Ségla has a reduced proportion of Merlot, as a consequence of which it was felt that the Petit Verdot crowded out the final blend and was thus demoted to the Deuxième Vin. Matured in 60% new oak for an intended 18 months, it has a surprisingly opulent bouquet with conspicuous Merlot that has the hubris to vie for attention with the Cabernet. Very pure and well-defined, this gains intensity in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with very finely chiseled tannins, displaying disarming purity and poise. Minerally on the finish, with just the faintest hint of dark chocolate on the aftertaste. Precision, precision, precision. (13.0% alcohol).”

- NM, Vinous

“The 2021 Rauzan-Ségla is impressive. Dark, somber, and brooding, the 2021 offers up a heady concoction of black cherry, plum, graphite, new leather, scorched earth, game, and tar, all amplified in a dramatic, super-classic Margaux. I would not dream of touching a bottle anytime soon. I loved this en primeur, and I love it just as much today. Élevage made all the difference here. Tasted three times.”

- AG, Vinous

“The 2021 Rauzan-Ségla is absolutely gorgeous. It offers up scents of graphite, savory herbs, licorice, chocolate and plum, all beautifully lifted by strong Cabernet Sauvignon inflections. Naturally, the 2021 doesn't have the mid-palate richness and overall intensity of recent years. Readers will find a tightly wound Margaux that balances classic structure with modern-day precision. I can't wait to see how it ages.”

- AG, Vinous

“One of the best in the vintage, the 2021 Château Rauzan-Ségla has beautiful cassis and red currant-like fruit that gives way to notes of tobacco, cedar pencil, and hints of flowers. It's medium-bodied, has a supple, layered mouthfeel, beautiful tannins, plenty of mid-palate depth, and a great finish. It's a gorgeous 2021 that has an almost Château Lafite-like sense of balance and elegance. Readers will love drinking bottles over the coming 15-20 years. The 2021 is 75% Cabernet Sauvignon and 25% Merlot, hitting 13.5% natural alcohol (pH 3.72), which was brought up in 60% new French oak.”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“One of the undeniable successes is the 2021 Château Rauzan-Ségla, which emerges from yields of 38 hectoliters per hectare and is a blend of 75% Cabernet Sauvignon and 25% Merlot. It has remarkable depth and density as well as classic aromas of cassis, tobacco, spicy oak, and subtle floral notes. These all carry to a medium-bodied, concentrated 2021 with polished tannins and a great finish. It's one classy, seamless, elegant Margaux that will drink well right out of the gate yet keep for 20 years.”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“45% Grand Vin, 55% second wine Ségla and 5% is sold as generic Margaux. This is a rare, structured wine in 2021 with decent fruit weight and correspondingly strident oak. It is also a classy effort with assured balance and prodigious length. The density of flavour, the length and the layers of complexity are incredibly impressive for a Margaux, bearing in mind that this is a patchy commune at best in 2021. The challenge at Razan-Ségla was to maintain aromatics while preserving freshness, and judicious viticulture was required to either 'clean' or remove every bunch on every vine. Bit by bit, the vines cleaned up, and they seemingly realised that they were

Reviews *being looked after incredibly carefully by the viti-team, and the results are evident in the glass. In the 70ha property, they employed 30-40 staff (with even more brought in at specific moments), showing the commitment here. This colossal effort has paid off with one of the region's most expressive and joyous wines. 18."*

- Matthew Jukes

"Opaque ruby core, purple reflections, subtle brightening on the rim. Elegant dark berry fruit interwoven with cassis, liquorice, ripe plums, candied orange zest and wood spices. Complex, juicy and elegant with ripe heart cherries. Harmonious, already very well balanced with substantial length, precise acidity and holding great potential to age."

- PM, Falstaff Magazine

"The nose is fruity and reveals brightness, aromatic purity, delicacy and a certain accuracy and finesse, airy silkiness. There are notes of pulpy blackcurrant, blueberry and more slightly violet combined with delicate touches of blue berries, strawberry and delicate zan/badian, a discreet hint of eucalyptus and bourbon vanilla. The palate is nicely mineral, subtle and reveals a lacy, acidic spine, a wine nicely marked by minerality. On the palate this wine expresses juicy/pulpy blackberry and more lightly violet, fresh blackcurrant with hints of raspberry as well as subtle hints of lily, small bright red berries, subtle hints of blueberry, cardamom, tonka bean, crushed toasted almond, subtle hints of bourbon vanilla, sappy (in the background). Good length."

- Vert de Vin
