

# Château Malartic Lagraviere 2018

CSPC# 870080

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

<b>Grape Variety</b>	57% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36% Merlot, 4% Petit Verdot, 3% Cabernet Franc.
<b>Appellation</b>	Pessac-Léognan
<b>Classification</b>	Grand Cru Classé de Graves in 1959
<b>Website</b>	<a href="https://www.malartic-lagraviere.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/malartic-lagraviere-red-2018.pdf">https://www.malartic-lagraviere.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/malartic-lagraviere-red-2018.pdf</a>
<b>Sustainability</b>	Sustainable farming - High Value Environmental certification. HVE, level 3 (the highest) since 2015. A unique reference of environmental quality, prioritizing biodiversity inside and all-around plots.
<b>General Info</b>	<p>Chateau Malartic Lagraviere started out life with a shorter name. Originally, it was known as Domaine de Lagraviere. The Malartic family obtained the Bordeaux vineyard at the close of the eighteenth century. In the 1850's, the chateau changed their name to Malartic Lagraviere. The name change was to honor the family's famous son, Comte Anne-Joseph-Hippolyte Maures de Malartic, who was a well-known French colonial Governor and French Navy Admiral. In fact, this explains the reason for the boat on their logo.</p> <p>Chateau Malartic Lagraviere passed from the family of Maures de Malartic family to Arnaud Ricard. The Ricard family were quite well-known in the Graves region as they also owned Chateau de Fieuzal and Domaine de Chevalier . The Ricard family eventually sold the property in 1990 to the famous Champagne producer, Laurent-Perrier. In 1997, Chateau Malartic Lagraviere, became the property of Michele and Alfred-Alexandre Bonnie in 1997. Without prior experience in the wine world, the Bonnie family dove right in at Chateau Malartic Lagraviere, spending close to \$20,000,000 to modernize the estate.</p>
<b>Winemakers</b>	Michele and Alfred-Alexandre Bonnie. Michel Rolland consults,
<b>Vintage</b>	<p>A year in two parts, resulting in a great vintage. Awesome!</p> <p>The year was characterized by two contrasting periods of weather. Spring was particularly wet and warm, with record rainfall that caused major concern for the vines' health but very satisfactorily contained.</p> <p>After a very nice flowering at the end of May - beginning of June, conditions changed dramatically in early July. The summer is sunny and warm with a few storms in August that brought some freshness.</p> <p>The late season is spectacular. Until the end of the Harvest mid-October, perfect ripeness conditions for the Merlot and Cabernet enabled them to develop refined tannins while preserving their flavours and aromas.</p> <p>The wines had all the characteristics of a great vintage. 2018 was a very hot year, but this had relatively little effect on the aromatic profile of the white wines. They have superb balance, tremendous freshness, and a distinguished, elegant character. The reds are beautifully crafted. The Merlot offers a sublime mid-palate, with a silkiness and density that are rarely achieved. The Cabernet is spectacular, with exceptional aromatic profiles and levels of quality. The Petit-Verdot's, co-fermented with the merlots, are particularly silky.</p> <p>This superb 2018 vintage comes after more than 20 years of environmentally-friendly practices at Malartic, continually striving for the best possible quality. The vineyard's maturity is now giving its full expression, enabling us to obtain remarkable precision on the palate and incredibly well-defined tannins.</p>
<b>Vineyards</b>	The 53-hectare vineyard of Chateau Malartic Lagraviere is planted to produce both red and white Bordeaux wine. 46 hectares are planted for red Bordeaux grapes with 45% Merlot , 45% Cabernet Sauvignon , 8% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot . The terroir for the red wine grape varieties is gravel and clay with limestone soils. Their best terroir is probably the parcel behind their cellars, with the really deep gravel soil that can be as deep as at 8 meters. All work in the vineyards is done using only



<b>Vineyards</b>	self-sustaining, farming techniques.
<b>Harvest</b>	Merlots from September 26th to October 8th, 2018; Cabernet-Sauvignon from October 8th to 12th 2018; Cabernet-Franc from October 2th, 2018; Petit-Verdot from October 3rd, 2018.
<b>Vinification/ Maturation</b>	To produce the red wine of Chateau Malartic Lagraviere, vinification takes place in a combination of 20 stainless steel vats and 10 oak tanks. The 30 different, conical shaped vats allow for parcel-by-parcel vinification. Malolactic fermentation takes place in barrel. Fermentation 3 to 5 weeks - 28 to 30° C. Aged in traditional oak barrels: 70% new oak for 20 months.
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	The wines had all the characteristics of a great vintage. 2018 was a very hot year, but this had relatively little effect on the aromatic profile of the white wines. They have superb balance, tremendous freshness, and a distinguished, elegant character. The reds are beautifully crafted. The Merlot offers a sublime mid-palate, with a silkiness and density that are rarely achieved. The Cabernet is spectacular, with exceptional aromatic profiles and levels of quality. The Petit-Verdot's, co-fermented with the merlots, are particularly silky. This superb 2018 vintage comes after more than 20 years of environmentally-friendly practices at Malartic, continually striving for the best possible quality. The vineyard's maturity is now giving its full expression, enabling us to obtain remarkable precision on the palate and incredibly well-defined tannins.
<b>Serve with</b>	Chateau Malartic Lagraviere is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. Young vintages can be decanted for 1-3 hours. This allows the wine to soften and open its perfume. The wine will also gently warm in the glass, releasing its aromatics. The red wine of Chateau Malartic Lagraviere is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes.
<b>Production</b>	10,000 cases made
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2020-2030
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>91 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2021</p> <p><b>92-95 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - June 2019</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2021</p> <p><b>92-94 points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - April 2019</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2020</p> <p><b>93-94 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2019</p> <p><b>96 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 2021</p> <p><b>94-96 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2019</p> <p><b>16.5+ points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - February 2022</p> <p><b>16 points</b> - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2019</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - November 2020</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2021</p> <p><b>94-96 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2019</p> <p><b>90+ points</b> - Farr Vintner - April 2019</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - March 2021</p> <p><b>92-94 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - November 2021</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - March 2021</p> <p><b>92-95 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - May 2019</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2021</p> <p><b>91-93 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - May 2019</p> <p><b>15.5+ points</b> - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2019</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - March 2019</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com (score only) - March 2019</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Falstaff Magazine - February 2021</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Vert de Vin - April 2019</p> <p><b>15.5 points</b> - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2022</p> <p><b>17-17.5 points</b> - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - April 2019</p> <p><b>17.5 points</b> - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - September 2021</p>

**Reviews** *“Fresh, forward style with a nice burst of Bing cherry preserves as well as plum sauce, melted red licorice and singed vanilla notes. Juicy, friendly finish has a late tug of tar. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc. Drink now through 2030. 10,000 cases made.”*

- JM, Wine Spectator

*“This has a big ball of warm plum and boysenberry compote notes at the core, framed with a liberal dose of singed cedar and apple wood. Hasn't integrated fully yet, but there's good length and energy here, with a positive vibe. Barrel Sample:92-95.”*

- JM, Wine Spectator

*“Composed of 57% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36% Merlot, 4% Petit Verdot and 3% Cabernet Franc and aged in 70% new oak barriques, the 2018 Malartic Lagraviere has a medium to deep garnet-purple color and pronounced notions of stewed black and red plums, boysenberries, and cassis on the nose, with hints of hoisin, dried Provence herbs and unsmoked cigars. The medium-bodied palate has a firm, grainy texture and just enough freshness to support the black fruit preserves flavors, finishing savory.”*

- LPB, Wine Advocate

*“Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2018 Malartic Lagraviere gives scents of baked red and black cherries, warm blackcurrants and balsamic with touches of underbrush, moss-covered bark, and tobacco. Full-bodied, firm, and chewy in the mouth, it packs in the berry preserves with some pepper and spice sparks coming through on the long finish.”*

- LPB, Wine Advocate

*“Blackberry, hot-stone, and blueberry aromas follow through to a full body with chewy, dusty tannins that are long and chewy. It shows lots of Pessac character, reminding me of the stony soils of the area. Give this at least three or four years to come together. Try after 2024.”*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*“Freshness and depth to this wine with blackberry, blueberry and crushed-stone character on the nose and palate. Full and flavorful, yet with underlying reserve.”*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*“Despite its weight, this is a well-crafted wine. It combines richness with sophisticated tannins, dense black fruits, and considerable potential. Ripe berry flavors give depth. Drink this wine from 2026. Cellar Selection.”*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*“This powerful wine combines juicy black fruits with concentrated tannins to good effect. This density and grip lends to excellent aging potential.”*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*“Diam 30 closure. Tasted blind. Big and sweet. Really dramatically different from the norm here. Lots of exotically spicy promise. 14%. Drink 2028 – 2044.”*

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*“Black core, cherry rim. Ripe damsons and blackberries, rich in fruit. Ripeness showing in a touch of mint. Then the tannins really take over on the palate, dry and chalky, though there is some freshness here to suggest it will open to reveal more. Drink 2024-2032.”*

- JH, JancisRobinson.com

*“This remains a little hidden and distant at this point in time, but there are some gorgeous rich liquorice and cassis fruits here, and the texture stands out for its silkiness. Clearly a very good wine, which opens up slowly and carefully. Classic but with depth and grip, continuing a run of successful vintages at Malartic. Last vintage before they take on Eric Boissenot as consultant. 2% Petit verdot makes up the blend, with 70% new oak for ageing. Drinking Window 2026 – 2042”*

- JA, Decanter.com

## Reviews

*“Deep in color, this beauty pops with licorice, smoke, tobacco, coffee and roasted, deep red fruits on the nose. Lush, round, fruity and creamy, with waves of sweet black, red, and blue fruits that keep on coming. Give this at least 5-7 years in the cellar and enjoy it for the following 2 decades after that. The wine blends 57% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36% Merlot, 4% Petit Verdot and 3% Cabernet Franc.”*

- JL, [thewinecellarinsider.com](http://thewinecellarinsider.com)

*“Almost opaque in color with violet, purple hues around the rim, the wine is intensely concentrated. Opulent, silky, sexy, and dense, the necessary addition of acidity keeps this focused on the right direction. The fruit offers a spectrum of black and red berries, smoky licorice and espresso infused plums. The velvet textured finish comes with lift, energy, and length. This is a very polished, seductive expression of the vineyard.... the wine reached 13.8% alcohol. Aging will take place in 70% new, French oak barrels for 18-22 months. The harvest took place from September 26 to October 12 and 55% of the harvest was placed into the Grand Vin.”*

- JL, [thewinecellarinsider.com](http://thewinecellarinsider.com)

*“Wood smoke, camphor, and fresh red fruits on the nose here. The palate is fresh, silky, and medium bodied, with approachable and delicate tannins and a touch of pepper to add spicy complexity. Compact, well-proportioned, and approachable, avoiding excess heat or ripeness.”*

- Farr Vintners

*“The 2018 Malartic-Lagravière was a little variable when I tasted it from barrel. Now bottled, it has closed down on the nose, yet given a couple of hours decant, it opens nicely to offer black fruit, sage, tobacco and subtle floral scents (iris and violet). The palate is well balanced with a dense entry and good acidity. It would benefit from a little more refinement and I still sense a scintilla of greenness on the aftertaste. Hopefully that will disappear with bottle age because it deserves time in the cellar.”*

- NM, Vinous

*“The 2018 Malartic-Lagravière was tasted in Bordeaux, where I was not happy with the sample bottle that came across perplexingly green. The château sent two bottles so that I could re-taste them at home and these bore none of those traits. It has an intense bouquet with copious red cherry, blackcurrant, and blueberry fruit. Monitoring over an hour it evolves attractive floral scents of lavender and iris flowers. The palate is medium-bodied, the new oak quite prominent on the entry though there is sufficient fruit to back it up. This is a more sumptuous Malartic Lagravière, armed with impressive density towards the finish. 2023 – 2045”*

- NM, Vinous

*“The 2018 Malartic Lagravière is every bit as compelling as it was en primeur. Inky dark fruit, dried herbs, licorice, lavender, and chocolate are all kicked up in this sumptuous Pessac-Léognan. Soft curves and silky tannins add to the wine's considerable appeal. The 2018 is undeniably flashy and alluring, I loved it. (AG)”*

- AG, Vinous

*“The 2018 Malartic Lagravière is powerful, rich, and explosive, all while retaining a mid-weight sense of structure. Black cherry, plum, gravel, chocolate, leather, lavender spice, and licorice all run through this driving, juicy Pessac Léognan. I very much admire the weight and substance here. The blend is 57% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36% Merlot, 4% Petit Verdot and 3% Cabernet Franc, with the Cabernet very much front and center. Tasted three times.”*

- AG, Vinous

*“An outstanding wine, the 2018 Château Malartic Lagravière offers a deep purple hue as well as beautiful cassis and blackberry fruits intermixed with lots of graphite, gravelly earth, violets, and spring flower-like aromas and flavors. Beautifully balanced, medium to full-bodied, with ripe tannins and impressive purity of fruit, it's another gorgeous 2018 that can be drunk today or cellared for 15 years.”*

- Jeb Dunnuck

*“The medium-bodied 2018 Château Malartic-Lagravière comes from high-density plantings on gravelly soils and is a rough blend at this point of 57% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36% Merlot, 4% Petit Verdot and 3% Cabernet Franc representing only 55% of the total production. Elegant notes of dark fruits (cassis, blackberries), gravelly earth, and forest floor all flow to a seamless Graves that has good balance, some grainy tannins, good mid-palate density, and ample length. It's certainly going to be an outstanding wine. Tasted twice.”*

- Jeb Dunnuck

**Reviews** *“The oak is the main culprit here and it is responsible for bashing up the fruit. Too much furniture polish notes and too chappy as well, this wine is unlikely to even out.”*

- MJ, [matthewjukes.com](http://matthewjukes.com)

*“Deep dark ruby garnet, violet reflections, delicate water rim. Fresh, dark wild berry fruit, delicate liquorice, orange zest is highlighted, fine tobacco nuances. Juicy cherry fruit, elegant, lively structure, round tannins, mineral, and fine blackberry confit in the aftertaste, will benefit from bottle aging. (2025-2050)”*

- Falstaff Magazine

*“The nose is fruity, racy and offers structure. It reveals notes of wild strawberry, wild berries, and small notes of blackberry associate with touches of liquorice stick, flowers, cardamom as well as a very discreet hint of spices. The palate is fruity, well-balanced and offers juiciness, a good definition, a beautiful tension, precision, freshness, a beautiful minerality as well as straightness and a fine acidulous frame. On the palate this wine expresses notes of cassis, blackberry and small notes of black cherry associated with small touches of wild strawberry, red berries, liquorice, violet as well as fine hints of spices, chocolate, and an imperceptible hint of coffee (in the background). Tannins are elegant and very slightly firm.”*

- Vert de Vin

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