

# Château Pape Clément 2021

CSPC# 753465

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

<b>Grape Variety</b>	50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 47% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot
<b>Appellation</b>	Pessac-Léognan
<b>Classification</b>	Grand Cru Classe Graves
<b>Website</b>	<a href="https://bernard-magrez.com/en/">https://bernard-magrez.com/en/</a>
<b>Sustainability</b>	Terra Vitis Label and HVE3 Label (high environmental value 3rd level)
<b>General Info</b>	<p>The red wine of Château Pape Clément is a classified growth. The vineyards were first planted in the 13th century by Bertrand de Goth, the youngest son of a noble family from Bordeaux. He was elected Pope in 1305, during the reign of Philippe le Bel, and took the name of Clément V. Château Pape Clément belonged to the Archbishop of Bordeaux until the French Revolution. Wine has been made here continuously for 7 centuries. Château Pape Clément is one of the brightest stars in the extensive range of vineyards Bernard Magrez owns worldwide. Based in Bordeaux, the great owner has made quality his personal battle, his strength in facing the increasing competition in the wine business. Hence, the care lavished on this land exceptional qualities of which have made Pessac's reputation for over seven centuries. Pruning and leafing according to unusually demanding standards, hand destemming, vinification, and maturation in accordance with the strictest rules, all implemented so that Nature can freely express the best she has to offer. With his grand Cru Classé de Graves, Bernard Magrez gives us a rare elegance and strength which reminds us how unequalled the Bordeaux tradition remains. The production of the white Château Pape Clément has been increased some years ago. It is in general dry, rarely heavy, with spicy notes which are typical for graves from Pessac.</p>
<b>Winemaker</b>	Julien Vilaud. Michel Rolland consults.
<b>Vintage</b>	<p>2021 is a year that was characterized by complex climatic conditions. The very wet winter gave way to a mild and particularly dry spring, with only 40 mm of precipitation in March-April, compared to 70 mm on average. This month of April was marked by several episodes of frost, causing some damage to the earliest plots. Flowering, at the beginning of June, was particularly uniform. The summer was relatively cool, with the exception of a heat wave at the end of July and mid-August, which led to a slight delay in the veraison.</p> <p>The red grape harvest began late on September 28th and ended on October 14th.</p>
<b>Vineyards</b>	<p>The vineyards today account for 32.5 hectares of the Pessac-Léognan <i>vignoble</i>, with three distinct <i>terroirs</i> across the estate as a whole. Over a limestone bedrock which originated in the Oligocene and Miocene eras, there are the gravels that typify the region as a whole, as well as areas of clay and sand. The vineyards to the west are sandier, with a deep seam of gravel, whereas those to the east have an increasingly significant amount of clay, and those to the north of the estate the soils are particularly thin and poor. The red vines, which cover 53 hectares, are 51% Cabernet Sauvignon, 46% Merlot, 2% Petit Verdot, 1% Cabernet Franc. Here knowledge of the <i>terroir</i> is important, as the former variety is planted mainly to the gravelly areas whereas Merlot is selected for those soils with more clay. The majority of these vines have more than 27 years of age, and many are over 40.</p>
<b>Harvest</b>	The harvest took place September 28 - October 14
<b>Winemaking</b>	Manual plot-by-plot harvest in crates. First sorting in the vineyard. Manual grape-by-grape sorting on the table. Filled into oak vats from 30 to 70 hl by gravity. Pre-fermentation maceration at a low temperature of 8 ° C. Fully manual punching down. Maceration time of 30 days. Direct flow into barrels and French oak casks by gravity. Malolactic fermentation in barrels (2/3 new oak and 1/3 of one previous wine)
<b>Maturation</b>	matured for a planned 18 months in 90% French oak and 10% in the foudres introduced in 2018
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	Deep crimson. Fresh dark cherry, blackcurrant, cedar aromas with sesame/ miso notes. Buoyant and richly flavoured with plentiful dark cherry, blackberry fruits, fine supple/ chocolaty textures and plentiful vanilla/ savoury oak. Finishes claret firm with an inky plume. Very good density and torque



<b>Serve with</b>	Chateau Pape Clement is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. Chateau Pape Clement 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>	unknown
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2025-2050
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>91-94 points</b> - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022</p> <p><b>90-92 points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent - May 2022</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Zekun Shuai, JamesSuckling.com - December 2023</p> <p><b>95-96 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2022</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2024</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - March 2022</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - December 2023</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - May 2022</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2024</p> <p><b>94-96 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2022</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2022</p> <p><b>91-93 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2022</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2024</p> <p><b>92-94 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - May 2022</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2024</p> <p><b>91-93 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2022</p> <p><b>16.5 points</b> - Matthew Jukes - August 2022</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - April 2022</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2022</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Vert de Vin - July 2022</p> <p><b>95-96 points</b> - Bettane &amp; Desseauve (score only) - May 2022</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>“The 2021 Pape Clément exhibits notions of sweet berries and cherries mingled with rich aromas of espresso roast, black truffles, toasty new oak, and loamy soil. Medium to full-bodied, deep, and quite extracted in style, it's a rich, fleshy wine that gained in integration and harmony over the three weeks I spent in Bordeaux. This 32.5-hectare estate is surrounded by the city of Bordeaux, not far from Haut-Brion. In the vineyards, farming is thoughtful, with Esca-infected vines counted and registered by tractor, and both horses and an electric tractor are employed to avoid compacting the soils—and to respect the neighboring dwellings. While the château isn't organic, the use of chemical products is kept to a minimum, and activity in the estate's beehives is monitored immediately after a treatment to verify that there hasn't been any adverse impact. Planted in red with roughly equal parts Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon and in white with roughly equal parts Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon, Pape Clément produces some of Pessac-Léognan's richest, most dramatic wines, though recent years have seen a discreet turn toward a somewhat more restrained style, a shift especially obvious in the château's white wine: Merlot is picked a touch earlier than in the past; foudres and large-format oak barrels now supplement 225-liter barriques; and the percentage of new oak is more modest. While there's still room for evolution, these 2021s represent fine efforts in a challenging vintage.”</i></p> <p>- WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>“This is really polished and beautiful with very fine tannins that caress your palate. Medium body. Refined. Currant, chocolate, hazelnut, and black walnut. Some mushroom. Very complex and subtle. Drinkable now but better in a couple of years.”</i></p> <p>- ZS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>“Pape made a very finely crafted and elegant wine this vintage, with plenty of berry, spice and earth character. Hazelnuts, too. Medium-bodied, savory and lightly spicy on the finish. Creamy tannins. Really fine, with lovely length.”</i></p> <p>- JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>“This legendary estate, created by Pope Clément V, who was from the Bordeaux region, has produced a fine, densely textured wine. Its ripe tannins are typical of this estate, laced in this vintage by acidity and black-currant fruits. Drink from 2027.”</i></p> <p>- RV, Wine Enthusiast</p>

## Reviews

*“Concentrated and intense nose with subtle violet and perfume flecks. Quite chewy and grippy on the palate, this has more of a chunky frame than many others with mouthwatering acidity, plush tannins and a good dose of strawberry, blackcurrant and black cherry fruit edged by eucalyptus and liquorice. You get the liveliness but also the density and the gentle power and I love the minerality at the end, a touch of salinity as well as cedar, clove, bitter dark chocolate, and slate. You've got a lot going on with this wine and it's one of the more confident wines from the Bernard Magrez stable in the vintage. This could be very excellent. 1% Petit Verdot completes the blend.”*

- GH, Decanter.com

*“Enjoyable in bottle, restrained and elegant with finesse and balance, impressive blackberry, loganberry, liquorice, cocoa bean, crayon, and pencil lead, savoury and juicy. Pushing the extraction a little but it works because there is plenty of fruit underneath. 90% French oak barrels, 10% large oak casks for ageing. Can age but has a suppleness that means I would not worry about waiting too long.”*

- JA, janeanson.com

*“Confident extraction, pushing the vintage a little more than most have done, but Pape Clément is on warm soils close to the centre of Bordeaux, and has got more natural ripeness. It will still stand out as savoury in future vertical of the property, but this has tannic weight along with juicy and delicious damson, blueberry, slate, pencil lead and liquorice flavours. Has a sense of careful progression and build through the palate.”*

- JA, janeanson.com

*“Chocolate, espresso, smoke, black cherries, blackberries, and flowers create the attention-seeking perfume. On the palate, the wine is round, supple and deep with layers of creamy, dark chocolate-tinted plums, cherries, licorice, smoke, and espresso. Concentrated, but seemingly less so than in previous vintages, the wine is almost reserved in style, which is due to the vintage, as well as to stylistic opportunities, and choices. Drink from 2025-2050.”*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“Deep and concentrated with a nose brimming with smoke, espresso, red plums and dark cherries, wet earth, and a touch of chocolate ganache. Concentrated, but seemingly less so than in previous vintages, the wine is fresh, bright, chewy, long, and almost reserved, until you get to all the vibrant red fruits, espresso, and smoky cocoa in the finish. The harvest took place September 28 - October 14. Drink from 2025-2050.”*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“The 2021 Pape Clément was picked from 28 September until 14 October matured for a planned 18 months in 90% French oak and 10% in the foudres introduced in 2018. It is a completely diametrically opposite style to the previous vintages, partly a result of Michel Rolland handing the reins over to his right-hand man, Julien Vilaud, who has always had a different winemaking philosophy. On the nose: blackberry, sous-bois and cedar, not austere yet certainly a more reserved style... this is a fascinating, perhaps divisive Pape-Clément that might throw a few accustomed to its style of yore. One you have to get to really understand.”*

- NM, Vinous

*“The 2021 Pape Clément is a very elegant, polished wine. Crushed flowers, red cherry fruit, blood orange, menthol and spice all grace this wonderfully layered, expressive vintage of Pape Clément. Pretty floral top notes add freshness and vivacity. The more laid-back house style these days is so appealing.”*

- AG, Vinous

*“The 2021 Pape Clément is a tightly wound, reticent wine. A core of bright red-toned fruit lies behind a wall of tannin and acids that is pretty impenetrable at this stage. I imagine the 2021 will come around at some point, but it is pretty austere in the early going. (AG) 92-94+.”*

- AG, Vinous

**Reviews**

*“The 2021 Château Pape Clément checks in as a blend of 50% Merlot, 47% Cabernet Sauvignon, and splashes of Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc that was brought up in barrels and tuns. Its deeper ruby/plum hue is followed by a beautifully layered, round, medium-bodied Pèssac offering ripe black cherry and currant-driven fruit, some textbook scorched earth and tobacco notes, a round, layered, expansive mouthfeel, and ripe yet integrated tannins. It's one of the gems from Pèssac that will shine for 15 years.”*

- Jeb Dunnuck

*“The 2021 Château Pape Clément, which was tasted on numerous occasions, is certainly one of the more mid-weight versions of this wine that I can remember. Giving up attractive cassis and currant fruits as well as tobacco and a kiss of graphite, it's medium-bodied, mid-weight, charming, and forward. I think it will be an outstanding wine, but we're a solid step off the top wines in the vintage.”*

- Jeb Dunnuck

*“As always, the oak is somewhat frightening, and the fruit is severe and commanding, but these two forceful elements are balanced, and while this is not a fleshy vintage, there is a good structure, and it feels complete and confident. I would love to see the oak step back a little to see more of the fruit, but this is not going to happen, and so for lovers of more imposing wines, this is a candidate for consideration this year. 16.5.”*

- Matthew Jukes

*“Intense dark ruby, opaque core, narrow rim with purple reflections. Fine noble wood spices, red forest berries, a touch of cassis and orange zest; a multi-faceted bouquet. Juicy, dark cherries, ripe tannins, a little nougat, fresh and lively, sturdy finish, endowed with certain ageing potential.”*

- PM, Falstaff Magazine

*“The nose is elegant, racy and offers complexity, good definition, and harmony. There are notes of pulpy ripe blackberry, freshy, juicy blackcurrant and more lightly fresh sour red berries combined with fine hints of star anise, violet, fine hints of lily, Cuban pepper, subtle hints of spice as well as a subtle hint of blond tobacco and an almost iodine-like hint. The palate is fruity and reveals juiciness, minerality, a certain fat, tension, accuracy, and roundness. On the palate, this wine expresses notes of pulpy, juicy blackberry and redcurrant, and more slightly pulpy sour cherry, combined with hints of tart, juicy violet plum, racy minerality, violet, graphite, tonka bean, and a hint of sweet spice and tobacco. Good length. The tannins are well-managed and sapid. An almost iodine-like finish.”*

- Vert de Vin

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