

## Clos L'Église 2010

CSPC# 761721

750mlx6

14.5% alc./vol.

**Grape Variety**

80% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc

**Appellation**

Pomerol

**Classification**

Bordeaux AOC (*Appellation d'origine contrôlée*)

**Website**

<http://www.vignoblesgarcin.com/index.php?dom=vg&lang=en>

**Sustainability**

Organic

**General Info**

In the 18th century, Clos L'Église with its 14 hectares was considered to be a very big domain for Pomerol, ahead of about a dozen great wines which formed, and still form, the heart of Pomerol. The estate subsequently took the name of Clos L'Église. However, following succession problems, it was split into two with, on the one side, the original Clos L'Église (Rouchut family) and on the other, Clos L'Église-Clinet (Mauléon family). Clos L'Église therefore has a continuous wine-producing tradition spread of several centuries. It is the soil which gives a great wine its personality and it is the efforts of Sylviane Garcin-Cathiard that have developed it fully. She took over the property in January 1997 and using her experience at Château Haut-Bergey in Pessac-Léognan, she completely reorganized the chai.

Today Helen Garcin-Leveque and her husband own and run Clos l'Église. They immediately stated a program of renovation and re-planting, after they took over which has come to fruition in a spectacular manner.

The property has a second wine, Esprit de L'Église.

**Winemaker**

Hélène and Patrice Lévêque

**Vintage**

In a fine vintage, Pomerol offers perfume, charm, and a discreet structure; tannins tend to be less muscular than in neighbouring St-Emilion. And 2010 was a fine year here, though Pomerol shared the vintage's peculiar character with other regions of Bordeaux.

The hot early summer and warm but cloudy August meant that the grapes ripened steadily, so that by early September they showed good sugar levels but also very high acidity. Growers had to wait for those acidities to drop and for tannins to become less strident. And wait they did, enduring cool nights that kept those acidities stubbornly high. When the harvest began in late September, the wines were high in acidity and tannins (but not excessively) and had unusually high sugar levels.

The resulting wines can feel more like Barossa than Bordeaux, and alcohol levels of 15% or above are by no means unusual. Yet low pH levels meant that the wines have kept their vibrancy and even a degree of freshness. They are not as voluptuous as the resplendent 2009s, but the best is truly exciting.

**Vineyards**

The terroir of Clos L'Église is filled with rich clay and gravel-based soil with iron deposits. Located on a sloping hill, with famous neighbors like Chateau Clinet, Chateau L'Église Clinet and Chateau Trotanoy, most of their 5.9-hectare, Bordeaux wine vineyard stretches to the south west of their wine making facilities. The Pomerol vineyard of Clos L'Église is planted to 70% Merlot and 30% Cabernet Franc. On average, the vines are 35 years of age. Although there is an old parcel of Cabernet Franc remaining that was planted in the 1940's! The vineyard is planted to a vine density of 7,150 vines per hectare.

**Maturation**

The wine is made according to traditional methods. It is for this reason that Sylviane Garcin-Cathiard chose wooden vats for Clos L'Église. Each batch is treated separately in a thermostat-regulated vat of 60 hl. Manual pigeage has been re-introduced; the pulp and mass of skins, known as chapeau, floats to the top during fermentation and is punched down manually several times a day. The wine is left in fermenting vats for a long time, and malolactic fermentation is carried out in 80% new barrels. Ageing lasts 18 months depending on the vintage. Interestingly Clos L'Église uses as many as 12 different coopers to age their wine in.



<b>Tasting Notes</b>	Clos l'Eglise is a serious Pomerol, with ample fruit qualities coupled with intense power and concentration. The wine is ageable, and unlike a lot of other Pomerols, requires a bit of time before it can be enjoyed. With its gorgeous cedar-like aromas and velvety tannins, we can assure you this wine is well-worth the wait.
<b>Serve with</b>	Clos L'Eglise 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>	1,250 cases made.
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2016 through 2030
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>94 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2013</p> <p><b>90-93 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - June 2011</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2020</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #205 - February 2013</p> <p><b>92-95 points</b> - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #194 - April 2010</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Journal #0314 - January 2014</p> <p><b>93+ points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Journal #0313 - November 2012</p> <p><b>93-95 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Journal #0511 - April 2011</p> <p><b>92-93 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2011</p> <p><b>17 points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - January 2014</p> <p><b>16.5 points</b> - James Lawther, Decanter.com - April 2011</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2017</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2013</p> <p><b>93-95 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2011</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Farr Vintner - April 2011</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - April 2020</p> <p><b>95+ points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - October 2020</p> <p><b>96 points</b> - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2016</p> <p><b>91 points</b> - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com (score only) - April 2011</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Falstaff Magazine - February 2016</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - July 2013</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Gilbert &amp; Gaillard - April 2011</p> <p><b>16 points</b> - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2014</p> <p><b>15.5 points</b> - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - February 2013</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>"Offers gorgeous mouthfeel, range of fruit and length. A velvety feel belies the dense structure buried here, while thoroughly enticing linzer torte, plum sauce, and blackberry pâte de fruit flavors pump along, supported by singed spice, apple wood and ganache. Displays flesh, structure, definition, and drive. One for the cellar. Best from 2016 through 2030. 1,250 cases made."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Dark and winey, with lots of cassis and blackberry notes and ample layers of velvety tannins and cocoa. A bit grippy on the finish, but plenty long. Score Range: 90-93"</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Deep garnet colored, the 2010 Clos l'Eglise leaps from the glass with vivacious baked raspberries, warm red and black plums and dried herbs notes plus wafts of pencil shavings and menthol. Medium to full-bodied, the palate has impressive energy with a firm line of chewy tannins and bold freshness, finishing with loads of zip in its step"</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Another brilliant wine from Helene Garcin-Leveque, the 2010 Clos L'Eglise comes from a 15-acre vineyard near the well-known church just to the west of the high plateau of Pomerol. It is a blend of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc. Loads of roasted espresso notes intermixed with white chocolate, plum, Asian soy, blackberry, and black cherry fruit make for an intensely perfumed set of aromatics. Plump, fleshy and full-bodied, with beautiful fruit as well as undeniable purity and an enticing texture, this is a succulent, lush Pomerol to drink over the next 12-15+ years."</i></p> <p>- RP, Wine Advocate</p>

## Reviews

*"The Garcin family has made so many top vintages of Clos l'Eglise since taking over this estate in the late nineties that it is difficult to say 2010 will turn out better than 2009, 2005, 2000 or 1998, but it is unquestionably a top-flight effort for both the vintage and the appellation. A blend of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc, this full-bodied wine exhibits a dense purple color, a sweet perfume of jammy boysenberries and black currants, oak, truffles, and caramel. This opulent, deep yet powerful Pomerol possesses fresh acids and tremendous precision. Enjoy it over the next 15-20 years. By the way, a second wine, the forward, up-front 2010 Esprit de l'Eglise, also performed well."*

- RP, Wine Advocate

*"Tasted blind at the Southwold Bordeaux 2010 tasting. The Clos l'Eglise 2010 has an intense bouquet with dense black fruit mixed with autumn leaves and crushed rock - well defined with good lift. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannins, a little chewy on the fruit palate but plenty of substance and grip towards the liquorice-tinged finish. There is a fine sense of energy here: no frills but everything in its right place. Tasted January 2014."*

- NM, Wine Journal

*"Tasted at Chateau Barde Haute, the Clos l'Eglise is a blend of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc. It has a very intense bouquet with a lot of oak that will need several years to be fully absorbed. It offers some gorgeous floral notes with a faint touch of star anis emerging with time. The palate is medium-bodied with grippy tannins on the entry. Perhaps it does not need quite the 100% new oak, which tends to dominate the finish and why I remain parsimonious with my sky. Nevertheless, it should end up a very fine Clos l'Eglise. Tasted November 2012."*

- NM, Wine Journal

*"Tasted three times including at Barde-Haut, this has a precocious, lifted peppermint-tinged bouquet with black cherries, briary, juniper and a touch of blueberry. Good definition. The palate is medium-bodied with firm tannins, good balance but quite introspective on the tannic, grippy finish. This is a more masculine Clos l'Eglise than recent vintages, one that will repay long-term cellaring. Tasted April 2011."*

- NM, Wine Journal

*"The quality of the tannins in this young red is superb, with a velvety texture. Full and yummy."*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"Spicy, a little lean for a Pomerol. But of course, refreshing with quite dry tannins on the end. Needs time."*

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*"Undoubtedly a very good wine but at an awkward stage. Tight and firm with layered fruit but slightly intrusive oak. Winemaking has the upper hand. Drink 2018-2028."*

- JL, Decanter.com

*"Concentrated with sweet, ripe, lush, concentrated, dark red berries, that are complicated with the addition of dark cherry, even darker chocolate, and truffle. Plush textures, depth of flavor and energy make everything work here. Give it another 5 years and this will be even better."*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"Plush, fat, dense and rich, with silky, ripe tannins, layers of chocolate covered plums, earth, licorice, oak and smoke, the wine is polished, deep and complex, ending with a long, black cherry liqueur filled finish."*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"Clos l'Eglise, From 80% Merlot 20% Cabernet Franc 14.5% alcohol deep purple color, mocha, chocolate, flowers, black raspberry, vanilla, and truffle scents. Mouth filling, lush and opulent, the wine ends with a long, deep, jammy blackberry and licorice sensation."*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

**Reviews**

*“This small 6-hectare Pomerol property is situated between Clinet and L'Eglise Clinet. Quality here used to be dreadful but under new ownership since the late 1990's, the wines now rank amongst the best in Pomerol. 80% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc, winemaking in 100% new oak is overseen by Alain Reynaud formerly of Quinault L'Enclos and La Fleur de Gay. Production is small, rarely more than 1000 cases. This is modern and quite extracted in style. Very plump and decadent. Impressive depth but it lacks a bit of balance and class.”*  
- Farr Vintners

*“The 2010 Clos l'Eglise has a slightly reductive nose that soon blows off to reveal ample red and black fruit melted tar and black truffle scents. The palate is velvety smooth on the entry, displaying a fine bead of acidity and supremely well-integrated oak. This is a classy, seductive Pomerol that lingers long in the mouth. Superb. Tasted blind at Farr Vintners 10-Year on Bordeaux horizontal. 2023 – 2048.”*  
- NM, Vinous

*“More mocha, espresso, and chocolate-laced dark fruits emerge from the 2010 Clos L'Eglise. It's more dense, powerful, and backward than the 2009, yet certainly in the qualitative ballpark. Full-bodied, locked and loaded, with ripe yet certainly present tannins, this is a great vintage that's just now starting to come around. I'd still give bottles another couple of years, but it's a stunning wine.”*  
- Jeb Dunnuck

*“Dark ruby garnet, violet reflections, delicate rim lightening. Delicate herbal spice, ripe black berries, liquorice and blackberries, fresh orange zest, fine precious wood spice. Complex, powerful texture, present tannins, chocolaty finish, dark berries and nougat in the finish, good aging potential.”*  
- Falstaff Magazine

*“Good bright, deep red. Crystallized black raspberry, cherry, bitter chocolate, and graphite minerality on the expressive nose. Dense, sweet, and very deep, with hugely rich flavors of red and darker berries, espresso, and bitter chocolate. As creamy as this is, there's no shortage of energy or underlying tannic support. Very long and lush on the finish. A great vintage for this property, but this will probably be best over the next 15 years.”*  
- ST, International Wine Cellar

*“Intense crimson. Rich, endearing nose with ripe fruit in a lead role, perhaps slightly warm. Powerful, robust, oaked palate displaying good balance. A forceful Pomerol.”*  
- en.gilbertgaillard.com

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