
Château LaGrange 2017

CSPC# 848129

750mlx12

13.3% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

78% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Merlot, 4% Petit Verdot

Appellation

Saint-Julien

Classification

Third Growth. Troisième Grand Cru Classé in 1855.

Website

<http://chateau-lagrange.com/en/>

Sustainability

It is also our tenth vintage of biodynamic experimentation on ten hectares. Despite production being completely affected by frost, we are continuing our biodynamic efforts in 2018 and extending the area over 30 hectares, after having validated in 2017 ISO 14001 and High Environmental Value (HVE) level 3 certification. Meticulous work of sorting, monitoring the vinification and self-sacrifice of our teams, this 2017 vintage offers us round, elegant wines, in the pure style of the wines of the estate.

General Info

The vast vineyard of Lagrange spreads over 117 uninterrupted hectares in the Saint-Julien-appellation. In 1855, its passionate and visionary owner, the Count Duchâtel, ex-Home Secretary to King Louis-Philippe, who had introduced a drainage system in the vineyard, contributed to its classification as a third growth. The beginning of the 20th century was much less glorious as the economic conditions deteriorated. Despite several changes in ownership, the decline in business meant the estate had to be broken up: from 280 hectares in 1840, the domain had been reduced to 57 hectares by December 1983, when the Japanese group Suntory bought it from the Cendoya family, owners since 1925. By dint of more than twenty years of major efforts and investments, Château Lagrange is universally acknowledged as being back in excellent form after this restructuring which is considered as the most spectacular of the Medoc. In May 2007, Bruno Eycard succeeded Marcel Ducasse (1984-2007) as Director of Château Lagrange. In 2008 was realised a new refurbishing of the vinification room. In 2009, Château Lagrange innovated with the optical sort-out of the berries in order to face the great volume of berries to sort out in this big estate. The great care taken to the vineyard (yield control, harvest by hand) and the vinification plot by plot give birth each year to a rich and elegant wine, with a long ageing potential.

Winemaker

Matthieu Bordes

Vintage

2017 was early and contrasted. The total rainfall is lower than the average of the last twenty years. The month of April was particularly dry. The cool nights culminated in severe frost on the 27th April. Spring was warm with average rainfall. Flowering occurred early, quickly and in ideal conditions. The summer was warm and dry until September 8th.

During a vintage that will be remembered for its difficult weather conditions, the vineyard of Château Lagrange was not spared by the frost that hit Bordeaux in late April. The First Wine of the property, the Château Lagrange 2017 rewards the endless effort of the technical team. It is necessary to emphasise the extreme attention paid to the vine, with the team manually marking each to designate the level of damage caused by the frost.

Vineyards

Located entirely within the appellation of Saint-Julien, our vineyard stretches in a single block over two North-South rises of Gunzian gravelly soil. In parts, large and coarse and in others finer, this gravel is combined with sand or iron-rich clay depending on the plot. With an altitude of 24 metres, the centre of the domain marks the highest point of Saint-Julien. The estate covers 157 hectares (390 acres), of which 115 hectares (284 acres) are under vine. Most of the plots benefit from a drainage system. The red grape varieties planted are those that typically thrive on the Médoc terroir, with 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Merlot and 7% Petit Verdot. The Cabernet Sauvignon contributes structure and ageing potential, the Merlot roundness and body, and the Petit Verdot fruit and complexity.

Harvest

A tremendous work carried out to mark 250 000 vine stocks during colour change made the intraplot selection process easier at harvest time. Rigorous plot selection during harvest made it possible to extract the very best of this vintage, despite all of its challenges. Picked from 20 September until 4 October at 28hl/ha, the smallest since 1991.



Vinification/ Maturation	<p>Elaboration in thermo-regulated stainless-steel vats of 66 to 220 hl. Traditional Bordeaux vinification at 28°C, maceration of two or three weeks. Selection and blending of the cuvee to create the « Grand Vin in French oak barrels: (60% new for the Grand vin) for 21 months.</p> <p>The technical excellence and precision of winemaking conducted under the watchful eyes of the famous oenologist consultant Eric Boissenot revealed the purity and freshness of the fruit through gentle extractions.</p>
Tasting Notes	<p>With its blend dominated by Cabernet Sauvignon (78%), complemented by Merlot (18%) and Petit Verdot (4%), the Château Lagrange 2017 displays all the typical characteristics of the charming Saint-Julien. Vibrant and full of freshness, the aromatic bouquet exudes pure notes of cassis, blackberries, and raspberries. In the mouth, the attack is frank, revealing crunchy fruit, while the palate is outlined with a superb density and silky texture. Already demonstrating beautiful depth and perfect balance, this wine is structured upon delicious and ripe tannins that offer a vibrant acidity. A model of elegance, the Château Lagrange 2017 promises a remarkable vintage for the property.</p>
Serve with	<p>Chateau Lagrange is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. Best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes.</p>
Production Cellaring	<p>14,166 cases made Drink 2020-2038</p>
Scores/Awards	<p>92 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2020 89-92 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2018 93 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - March 2020 93 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent - December 2022 93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - January 2020 92-93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2018 94 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 2020 88-90 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2018 16.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - May 2018 16.5 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2018 90 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - October 2020 90 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2018 92 points - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - March 2022 90 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2020 90 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2018 88-90 points - Derek Smedley, MW - May 2018 87-89 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2018 89-92 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - May 2018 91-93 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - April 2018 17+ points - Matthew Jukes - April 2018 91 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2020 89 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2018 94 points - Vert de Vin - January 2020 16 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - May 2018 17.5 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - September 2020</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"A juicy, forward style, featuring blackberry, blueberry, and black currant notes, mixed with dashes of cocoa, singed cedar and sweet tobacco. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Petit Verdot. Drink now through 2030. 14,166 cases made."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Juicy and open-knit, with blueberry and black currant fruit energized by brambly structure and fresh acidity. A touch shy on density but has purity and typicity."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Medium to deep garnet-purple colored, the 2017 Lagrange strides confidently out of the glass with notes of warm blackberries, black cherry compote and black currant jelly plus nuances of Indian spices, garrigue and lilacs. Medium-bodied, the palate is elegantly played with plush tannins and an impressive intensity of crunchy black fruits, finishing with great length and plenty of depth."</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate</p>

- Reviews** *"The 2017 Lagrange has a medium to deep garnet-purple color. It bursts with notes of blackberries and wild blueberries, plus suggestions of raspberry leaves, pencil shavings, and crushed rocks. Medium-bodied, the palate is taut and muscular, framed by firm, grainy tannins, and impressive tension, finishing long."*
- LPB, Wine Independent
- "A very linear yet creamy red with blueberries and hints of stone and cement. Medium to full body. Firm, silky tannins and a flavorful finish. Tight, focused flavors and structure."*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- "A 2017 with serious depth of fruit and firm tannins. Solid center palate. Fresh and long finish. Should come out nicely. Barrel Sample: 92-93."*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- "Balanced and stylish, this wine conveys the elegant side of Saint-Julien. With some firmness, the wine has a fine future, bringing out tannins to balance the blackberry fruits. Drink from 2024."*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- "Barrel Sample. The intense use of wood is in danger of smothering the fruit in this wine. There is a hint of juicy acidity and black currants on the finish. Although the fruit should develop, it is likely to remain tough."*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- "The medium to deep garnet-purple colored 2017 Lagrange opens with a seriously plummy nose with a compelling undercurrent of spice cake, potpourri, and chocolate box plus a waft of sage. Medium-bodied, taut, and muscular with a rugged frame of chewy tannins and lively acid, it finishes with an energizing herbal lift."*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- "Mid cherry red with bright red rim. Smells sweeter than the Gloria just tasted. A little charry on the palate but nicely balanced by the freshness. Moreish and mouth-watering, tannins already supple with a hint of that char on the finish. Drink 2024-2034."*
- JH, JancisRobinson.com
- "Deep ruby in colour, with spice, blackberry and cloves on the nose and attack. A sense of delicate control to the tannins, they have really done an expert job of handling the challenges of the year (Lagrange was more affected by frost than other St-Julien properties) and there is pleasure to be had, even if less impact than with the 2016 or 2018s."*
- JA, Decanter.com
- "This has been a tough vintage for Lagrange, but they have worked well with it. It has carefully extracted cassis and blackberry fruit, and some lovely, elegant oak dusting. It doesn't have the depth of expression of the past few years but is extremely accomplished and softly spoken. It will offer huge amounts of pleasure. Tasted several times."*
- JA, Decanter.com
- "Savoury and concentrated dark fruit, with raspberry puree alongside cassis, rose stem, cloves, and chocolate shavings. The frost that struck in the early part of the year impacted Merlot more than Cabernet, meaning very little Fiefs de Lagrange 2nd wine, and a full 55% of production went into the 1st wine. 50% new oak packed full of the precision that is more and more clear in recent vintages of Lagrange. Eric Boissenot consultant."*
- JA, janeanson.com
- "Medium-bodied, classically styled with an herbal edge to the cassis and cranberry notes found here. The wine has dusty tannins and a sharp, sweet, and tart finish."*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

Reviews *“Energetic, bright, medium bodied with tobacco and cedar-wrapped red fruits, the wine is tannic with quite a bit of freshness and a crunchy, illuminated finish.”*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“The nose has a mix of fresh fruits the palate ripe fruited soft and easy. Under the soft core there is freshness, quite firm tannins but the ripe fruit comes through giving depth on the finish. Drink 2025 - 2034.”
- Derek Smedley MW

“The 2017 Lagrange was picked from 20 September until 4 October at 28hl/ha, the smallest since 1991, the Grand Vin matured in 50% new oak. The pH is around 3.6 and the alcohol around 13.3°. I found the bouquet missing the same cohesion as the 2014, 2015 and 2016 at this stage, a little light and missing the complexity that this property can produce. The palate is medium-bodied with firm tannin, a little masculine in style compared to the 2016 with a noticeable saline influence. What is missing is the flair and weight of the best vintages of Lagrange can offer, a Saint-Julien somehow “distracted” by the frost that reconfigured the final blend and feels less assured.”
- NM, *Vinous*

“The 2017 Lagrange is wonderfully pliant, with creamy tannins and more than enough juiciness to make it extremely appealing, even in the early going. Ripe dark cherry, chocolate, new leather, licorice, cedar, and dried herbs run through this super-expressive, inviting Saint-Julien. Tasted two times.”
- AG, *Vinous*

“The 2017 Château Lagrange is certainly a success in the vintage. Possessing a great nose of crème de cassis, violets, and spicy oak, it hits the palate with medium to full-bodied richness, a terrific mid-palate, present tannin, but a sexy, forward, charming style that’s already hard to resist. It should keep for two decades or more. Barrel Sample: 91-93.”
- Jeb Dunnuck

“As always this is a powerfully oaky wine and in 2017 nothing has changed, but there is a lot of vibrant fruit here and some spice and char and it all seems to work. The total experience is rather flashy and modern, but this is not an issue. I would always love to see more of the fruit at this Château but in 2017 the various ingredients are in balance, and I commend this effort.”
- Matthew Jukes

“Deep dark ruby garnet, violet reflections, delicate lightening of the edges, vegetal, restrained bouquet, delicately balsamic, a hint of dark berries. Light-bodied, dark cherries, some balsamic vinegar again, medium length, salty finish, somewhat rustic overall impression.”
- PM, *Falstaff Magazine*

“The nose is elegant, racy and offers a beautiful grain, a small concentration as well as a fine power/intensity. It reveals notes of ripe cassis, small ripe red berries, small notes of violet associated with a touch of ripe cherry, fine hints of camphor, racy minerality as well as discreet hints of gravels, spices, and a discreet hint of Sichuan pepper. The palate is fruity, well-balanced and offers a juicy/acidulous frame, a good definition, tension, a fine power as well as a fine racy concentration. In the mouth this wine expresses notes of fresh/ripe raspberry, cherry, small notes of juicy cassis associated with fine touches of blackberry as well as fine hints of nutmeg, sweet spices, toasted and discreet hints of ripe almond/cocoa. Tannins are precise and racy. A good persistence with fine notes of chocolate and liquorice”
- Vert de Vin
