

Château LaGrange 2018

CSPC# 848129

750mlx12

14.6% alc./vol.

Grape Variety
Appellation
Classification
Website
General Info

67% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot.

Saint-Julien

Third Growth. Troisième Grand Cru Classé in 1855.

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

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 restructuration which is considered as the most spectacular of the Medoc. In May 2007, Bruno Eycard succeeded to 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

In 2018 the total rainfall was above the average of the last two decades, mainly due to the heavy rainfall in the first half of the year. The average temperatures were also among the highest ever recorded by our weather station. The summer was, however, one of the driest recorded at Lagrange since 1996.

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 plots. 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. Average vine age is 37 years.

Harvest

From September 20th to October 13th, 2018. Grapes are handpicked into individual crates. A first selection is done by hand on whole bunches, and a second one grape by grape with an optical camera

**Vinification/
Maturation**

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: (50% new for the Grand vin) for 21 months. 54% of the production went into the Grand vin.

Tasting Notes

Dark color with purple tint on the rim, black cherry, blackcurrant, and fresh prune. Powerful and unctuous with a lot of freshness. This vintage seems to be very approachable and well balanced. Tannins are dense and very silky. This amazing wine looks like a blend between the 2009 and the 2016. 2018 is the ultimate generous wine.



Serve with	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.
Production	20,800 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2022-2050
Scores/Awards	<p>93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2021</p> <p>93-96 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - June 2019</p> <p>95 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2021</p> <p>93-95+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - April 2019</p> <p>94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2021</p> <p>93-94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2019</p> <p>94 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 2021</p> <p>93-95 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2019</p> <p>16.5 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - March 2019</p> <p>16++ points - Tom Parker, JancisRobinson.com - October 2020</p> <p>94 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - November 2020</p> <p>95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2021</p> <p>93-95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2019</p> <p>16+ points - Farr Vintner - April 2019</p> <p>93 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - March 2021</p> <p>92-94 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - November 2019</p> <p>94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - March 2021</p> <p>92-95 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - May 2019</p> <p>97 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2021</p> <p>92-93 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - February 2021</p> <p>90 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com (score only) - March 2019</p> <p>94 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - March 2019</p> <p>17 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2019</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Rock solid Cab here, with mouthwatering black currant and blackberry fruit flavors laced with a graphite edge and innervated with bramble, tobacco, bay and violet notes through the finish. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Petit Verdot."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"This has a notable tobacco and bay leaf profile out front, followed by bramble-textured, gently mulled plum and black cherry fruit. Barrel Sample: 90-93."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Medium to deep garnet-purple colored, the 2018 Lagrange explodes from the glass with bombastic notes of crème de cassis, chocolate-covered cherries and baked red and black plums with suggestions of rose oil, cedar chest, pencil lead and hoisin. Medium to full-bodied, the palate has fantastic vibrancy for the ripeness, packed with juicy black fruits and compelling tension with a finely grained texture to support, finishing on a lingering mineral note. Nicely done!"</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2018 Lagrange opens a little closed and broody, slowly revealing cedar chest, tar, pencil shavings, camphor and fragrant earth scents with a baked plums and warm cassis core plus a hint of yeast extract. Full-bodied and jam-packed with black fruits and earthy accents, it has a solid frame of firm, chunky tannins and just enough freshness, finishing on a persistent mineral note."</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Extremely perfumed with currant and blackberry aromas, as well as flowers. It medium-to full-bodied with firm, creamy tannins that frame some pretty, elegant fruit for the vintage. Try after 2024."</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"This is a very velvety-textured Lagrange with blackberry and purple-fruit character. Lavender and black-tea undertones. Full body. Long and caressing."</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p>

Reviews *"This smoky wine still shows some wood aging flavors. Structure comes from this wood aging as well as the rich blackberry-fruit tannins and concentration. The succulent Cabernet Sauvignon is ripe and full. It needs time, so drink from 2026."*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"This is a dense wine with a balanced character that shows both richness and freshness. Its tannins are firm but are equaled by the fine black currant flavor and lively acidity. Barrel Sample: 93-95."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"67% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot; 50% new oak. Barrel sample. Black core. Pretty black and red fruit on the nose and an attractive layer of crushed rocks. Even a touch of cassis leaf. Juicy and fresh on the palate, a little bit raw but lots of energy and more freshness than most. (JH)"

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"67% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot.

Deep ruby colour. Powerful ripe cherry fruit with hints of nutmeg and cedar. Very fleshy and rounded on entry, but with bolstered firm tannins to counter the ripe cassis and sweet spice. A wine that expresses vintage character without being dominated by it – and as a result should drink well fairly early. (TP)"

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Beautiful reflections through the body of this wine, with fresh acidity, and an attractive sense of uplift through the palate, although the actual fruit is a little subdued right now, which as it opens shows damson and bilberry. There is real tannic frame, and build-up on the finish as you see just how concentrated these dark fruits are. Drinking Window 2026 – 2044"

- JA, Decanter.com

"Deep in color, the wine wastes little time strutting its stuff. The spicy, fresh, vibrant red berries, cigar box, tobacco leaf and cedar grab your attention. When the wine hits your palate with all its layers of juicy, sweet, energetic fruits, things really get going, ending with a finish that is lush, round, supple, fresh, and lively. As I wrote during the barrel tastings, this is the finest vintage of Chateau Lagrange ever produced! As this ages and develops more softness and nuances, the wine could score even higher."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"It is great to see Lagrange on a hot streak. The wine is full-bodied, round, ripe and loaded with tobacco, black currant, herbs, leaf, espresso, boysenberry and floral aromatics. With its concentration and depth of flavor 2018 is - without a doubt --the best wine ever produced here. The wine will age for decades with ease."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Deep ruby, with focused and precise cassis and nutmeg on the nose. The palate is juicy and pure, with blue and black fruits at the core. The tannins are sumptuous and ripe but mouthcoating, making for a fleshy and rich finish that will need time to unfurl. The length on the finish suggests very good potential."

- Farr Vintners

"The 2018 Lagrange appears to have gained a little more opulence since I tasted it in barrel. Quite precocious for the vintage, it presents lush black fruit with hints of menthol, a bouquet you might assume comes from a warmer growing season, though it is still well defined and focused. The palate is medium bodied with supple tannin's, fleshy and ripe, demonstrating beautiful balance and poise toward the finish. I suggested that it might drink sooner than its peers, and this affirms that to be the case. One of the more approachable Saint-Julien wines, yet it is endowed with the substance to last. Drinking window: 2023 – 2045."

- NM, Vinous

Reviews *"The 2018 Lagrange is deep in colour. It has a plush and generous bouquet with blueberry and black cherry fruit, a touch of clove and menthol developing with aeration. The palate is medium bodied with supple tannins and very pure fruit. This has a Burgundy-like allure and though there is some new oak dominating the finish, there is sufficient fruit to support that. This is potentially a very lovely Lagrange, one that I suspect will drink sooner than other recent vintages. (3.53pH, 14.6% alcohol). Drink 2021-2040."*
- NM, Vinous

"The 2018 Lagrange is charming and gracious. Sweet, lifted aromatics and mid-weight structure give the 2018 tons of immediacy. Bright red berries, blood orange, mint, spice, rose petal and cedar build with time in the glass. Polished, silky tannins grace the beautifully persistent finish. Best of all, the 2018 will be ready to go with only minimal cellaring. (AG)"
- AG, Vinous

"The 2018 Lagrange is off the charts. Bold, plush, and beautifully resonant in the glass, the 2018 possesses tremendous richness and textural intensity. Super-ripe dark cherry, plum, espresso, mint and licorice build in a racy, sumptuous Lagrange loaded with personality. The 2018 is one of the best recent vintages I have tasted. Tasted two times."
- AG, Vinous

"The flagship 2018 Château Lagrange is a more dense, backward, serious wine, offering an unevolved yet incredibly promising bouquet of cassis, blackcurrants, scorched earth, graphite, and violets. A big, rich, full-bodied Saint-Julien, it delivers thrilling purity of fruit, plenty of background oak, ripe, silky tannins, and a great mid-palate. This is serious stuff, but it's going to require patience. Hide bottles for 7-8 years, count yourself lucky, and enjoy over the following two decades."
- Jeb Dunnuck
