



June 2015

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Château Malartic-Lagravière Red 2012

*Classified Growth of Graves in Red and in White
Appellation Pessac-Léognan (A.O.C.)*

Vintage

A real winegrower's vintage, with particularly changeable, turbulent weather conditions, requiring extreme precision in the care of the vineyard!

Winter 2012 was dry with a very cold spell accompanied by some snow in February. The spring was rather cool; rainfall was average but frequent (except April with 169 mm). The summer was mainly hot and dry, with two periods of exceptionally high temperatures. September and October were characterized by damp weather.

This was a rather late vintage. Both the flowering in mid-May and the start of ripening in mid-August were slow and somewhat uneven (with some flower abortion and irregular grape size). The sustainable management approach that has been in place in the vineyard for ten years enabled us to compensate for the delayed ripening with ploughing, some light leaf removal at the end of July, and three green harvests to adjust the unevenness between bunches. The white grapes underwent numerous selections on the vine. This constant work enabled us to reach the harvest with the grapes in perfect health, despite the fact that the threat of disease was particularly high this year.

The batches of Merlot present a terrific purity of fruit. Generous and ripe, they have plenty of charm and good structure. The Cabernets are very distinguished, with excellent quality, silky, full-bodied tannins. Very gentle vinification and maturing has enabled us to obtain a finely crafted vintage, with an elegant structure and crisp fruit.

Harvest period

Merlot	From 4 to 12 october 2012
Cabernet-Sauvignon	From 13 to 18 october 2012
Cabernet-Franc	From 13 to 15 october 2012
Petit-Verdot	10 october 2012



Blend

Cabernet-Sauvignon	50 %
Merlot	45 %
Cabernet-Franc	3 %
Petit-Verdot	2 %

Technical data

Total area (A.O.C.)	53 hectares
Area in red (A.O.C.)	46 hectares
Geology	Well-drained gravels and clay gravels on shelly limestone and clay subsoil
Grape varieties	45% Merlot - 45% Cabernet-Sauvignon 8% Cabernet-Franc - 2% Petit-Verdot
Density of plantation	10 000 plants / ha
Pruning method	Guyot double
Average yield	38 hl/ha
Vinification	Thermoregulated stainless steel or oak vats
Fermentation	4 weeks and half - 28 to 30° C
Ageing	Traditional oak barrels: 60% new oak
Ageing period	18 months
Oenologist Consultants	Michel Rolland

Tasting

Colour intense, deep red with hints of violet.

Nose powerful, complex, rich, extremely elegant, refined, very deep. Various notes of red fruit (blackcurrants, raspberries). Concentrated, pure nose, with a smokiness and a minerality that is typical of this wine.

Palate smooth, rich, full-bodied attack. Distinguished, elegant, refined tannin structure. The same aromatic profile as the nose develops, with intense fruit, lovely minerality and pleasant smoky notes. The palate has superb length and supple tannins, making Château Malartic-Lagravière 2012 already very accessible, while at the same developing a complexity that suggests it will improve further with age.



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Safrà 2012. Grands Crus de Bordeaux, 16/06/2018. Fête le Vin.



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Press Release

Robert Parker - robertparker.com - April 2015

94 This large estate of 131 acres has been run brilliantly by a Belgian family, the Bonnies since their acquisition a number of years ago. The quality of the white and red have soared to exceptional heights, and this is certainly still one of the more realistically priced wines of Pessac-Léognan and classified crus. The 2012 is a beauty, with a dense ruby/purple color, a fabulously plush, opulent texture and medium to full-bodied flavors of cassis, spicy earth and blueberry. Quite rich, yet light on its feet, this is an absolutely textbook Pessac-Léognan, with wonderfully velvety tannins. Drink it now, or drink it in 25 years. **This is a brilliant wine.**

James Molesworth - Wine Spectator - March 2015

92 Solid, with dense layers of fig sauce, plum cake and blackberry confiture, laced with graphite and warm tar details. The long finish ripples with spice hints and black fruit, leaving a mouthwatering feel despite the heft. Best from 2017 through 2022.

Guide de la Revue du Vin de France - Meilleurs vins de France 2015 - Septembre 2014

17 Le boisé se montre encore très marqué au nez, mais la bouche est de très belle tenue avec une matière belle et ample. C'est long, mûr, généreux et bien vinifié.

James Suckling - jamesuckling.com - January 2014

95 Impressive nose with leather, dark polished fruit and flowers. Wonderful mouthfeel with soft silky tannins and beautiful texture. Really well put together. Powerful and rich with loads of fruit and ripe tannins. Very ripe. Try in 2016.

Pierre Casamayor - Guide Hubert 2015 - 2016

********* Nez complexe, exubérant et raffiné à la fois, grande maturité de fruits rouges, freesia, eucalyptus, belle minéralité, bouche tendre et savoureuse, avec un joli grain de tanins, de la fraîcheur et un grand équilibre. Beaucoup de présence, classique et très charmeur.

Alain Chameyrat et Véronique Raisin - Terre de Vins - Novembre 2014

16.2 3ème position sur 14 vins de Pessac-Léognan dégustés. Dans un style fruits rouges assez glissant, évoquant le coulis et la framboise, ce 2012 ne joue pas la surpuissance ; fondu, tendre, subtil, il peut surprendre.

Raoul Salama, Antoine Gerbelle, Philippe Maurange, Olivier Poels - Le Monde des Vins Septembre 2014

17 Le 2012 possède un boisé encore marqué au nez, mais la bouche est de belle tenue avec une matière pleine et ample. Le bois va se fondre sans souci d'ici deux à trois ans.

Safrà 2012. Grands Crus de Bordeaux, 16/06/2018. Fête le Vin.

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Press Release

Roger Voss - Wine Enthusiast - April 2013

92 *Barrel sample. This very dry wine shows remarkable chocolate and licorice extraction. It's currently dark, firm, concentrated and solid, but as it develops, it's sure to be a considerable force to be reckoned with.*

Guide Bettane & Desseauve 2014 - Septembre 2013

16.5 *Nez franc, corps souple, de la fraîcheur en finale, corps équilibré, mais moyennement charpenté, belle persistance, ensemble classique du secteur.*

Rolf Bichsel & Barbara Schroeder - Vinum - Juillet - Août 2013

16.5 *Seule la finale enflammée vient légèrement perturber l'harmonie. Elaboré avec talent, ce vin est parfaitement équilibré, frais, avec des tanins croquants.*

Rolf Bichsel & Barbara Schroeder - Vinum - Juillet - Août 2013

16.5 *Nur das feurige Finale stört etwas die Harmonie : erstklassig gearbeitet, perfekt reifes, frisches, knackiges Tannin mit Schliff.*

Jeannie Cho Lee - Asian Palate newsletter - May 2013

90 - 92 *This property continues to be very consistent, making very good wine even in challenging vintages. The red and whites are both very good in 2012.*

Jane Anson - Decanter China - May 2013

17.75 (on 20) & 92 (on 100) - Highly recommended *Malartic dropped the price on both its red and white wines this year, which is unusual for Pessac-Léognan and should be applauded. This is an especially good price as quality has been going up and up over last few years.*

Violet colour. slightly subdued on the nose, but there is plush plummy fruit, good texture on the attack, with a fresh minty start to the wine. These tannins are firm, astringent and should soften nicely. One to age. Drink 2020-2035.

Safra 2012. Grands Crus de Bordeaux, 16/06/2018. Fête le Vin.