January 2022

Château Malartic-Lagravière Red 2014

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

Vintage

Spring 2014 was pleasant with fairly good, uniform flowering at Malartic. July was fine, but August, which was initially wet and hot, and then very cool, caused a significant threat of mildew and then outbreaks of Botrytis on the white grapes at the end of the month.

Fortunately, on 27 August, a period of superb weather arrived that was to continue throughout the harvests. Decisions were fast and well-managed thanks to a reinforced team that worked hard throughout the growth cycle to compensate for these special conditions (meticulous removal of unwanted shoots and regular trimming; several rounds of leaf stripping; green harvests).

Ripeness progressed exponentially, enabling us to harvest very concentrated grapes that produced powerful, aromatic musts, enlivened by very good levels of acidity.

The red grape harvests ended on 21 October under sunny skies. The Merlot is dense, rounded and rich, with lots of volume. Very uniform, embodying a real Malartic style.
The Cabernet is very clean, pure and long, with bright, almost sunny fruit, and a noticeable sweetness. The tannins present volume and flexibility. Remarkable!

This vintage offers amazing precision and great quality, largely due to the superb Indian summer, and enhanced by our growing techniques and management of the terroir.

Harvest period

Merlots	From 30 september to 10 october 2014
Cabernet-Sauvignon	From 16 to 21 october 2014
Cabernet-Franc	8 october 2014
Petit-Verdot	9 october 2014

Blend

Cabernet-Sauvignon	52 %
Merlot	40 %
Cabernet-Franc	5 %
Petit-Verdot	3 %

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
Average age of the vineyard	31 years old
Pruning method	Guyot double
Average yield	**42 hl/ha**
Degree	**13,5% vol**
Harvest	Hand picking - Sustainable farming - High Value Environmental certification*
Vinification	Thermoregulated stainless steel or oak vats
Fermentation	About 30 days - 28 to 30° C
Ageing	Traditional on fine lies in French oak barrels - New oak 70%
Ageing period	18 months
Oenologist Consultants	Michel Rolland

*(HVE, level 3 (the highest) since 2015. A unique reference of environmental quality, prioritizing biodiversity inside and all around plots.)

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Press Release

Mathieu Doumenge - Terre de vins - Sélection vins de fêtes : Grandes bouteilles, grandes retrouvailles – November/Décember 2021
La séduction et la force. Le nez est flatteur, sur la vanille et le tabac mentholé. La bouche évolue entre le plaisir d'une chair ronde, texturée et soyeuse, sur un fruit très enrobant, portée par une trame tannique qui offre un beau toucher de bouche, et une finale salivante sur un végétal noble avec juste ce qu'il faut de tension. A carafer 1 heure avant.

Roger Voss - Wine Enthusiast - May 2017
95 Tight tannins mask the ripe fruit in a wine that is set for long-term aging, so there is a dry core that dominates at the moment. But not for long: the bold black fruits are insistent and are going to be delicious. This is a structured wine that will be ready in 2026.

Neal Martin - erobertparker.com - May 2017
92 The 2014 Malartic-Lagraviere had quite a high-toned, upfront bouquet with kirsch, crushed strawberry, iodine and iris scents that do not hold back. The palate is rounded on the entry with supple tannin, possesses slightly lower acidity than its peers yet remains balanced. There is impressive depth to this Malartic-Lagravière with a subtle white pepper/sage note towards the finish. Though it will be overshadowed by the 2015, this is a well-crafted Pessac-Léognan with the chutzpah that it showed in barrel.

Jeb Dunnuck – jebdunnuck.com – November 2017
91 A terrific success in the vintage, the 2014 Chateau Malartic-Lagraviere is a blend of 52% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc and 3% Petit Verdotthat was brought up in 70% new oak. Hitting 13.5% natural alcohol, it offers a vibrant ruby/purple color as well as vibrant aromatics of cherries, mulberries, red plums, exotic
flowers, and lead pencil shavings. Medium-bodied and beautifully polished and elegant, with solid acidity, it's a juicy, vibrant, fresh 2014 that's going to drink nicely for 15-20 years.

Bettane et Dessauve – En Magnum – September 2017
17 Superbe de chair et de fraîcheur, c'est un rouge enlevé, savoureux, long et élégant. Une belle bouteille en perspective.

Guide des Vins Bettane + Dessauve 2018 – August 2017
******17.5/20** Superbe de chair et de fraîcheur, c'est un rouge enlevé, savoureux, long et élégant. Une belle bouteille en perspective.

Gilbert & Gaillard - June 2017
95 Robe concentrée, grenat. Nez boisé vanillé fin sur fond de prunelle, framboise et cassis, confituré. Un millésime de haute volée, très élégant, très raffiné. Equilibre entre élevage et fruits. Les tanins déroulent leur coté soyeux et velouté. Bravo.

Antonio Galloni - Vinous - February 2017
94+ The 2014 Malartic-Lagravière is a gorgeous wine, but it is also flamboyant and exotic, especially in its flavor profile. Super-ripe red cherry and plum make a strong first impression. Sweet floral and spice notes, along with ripe, silky tannins, add to the wine's sensuality. A rich, powerful wine with soft contours and striking depth, the 2014 is a real beauty. It will be even more compelling once the new oak tannins soften a bit further. The blend is 52 % Cabernet Sauvignon, 40 % Merlot, 5 % Cabernet Franc and 3 % Petit Verdot. Tasted two times.

James Suckling - jamessuckling.com – February 2017
94 So perfumed with a freshness and beauty that is amazing. Blackberries, black cherries and violets. Full-bodied yet so polished and velvety. Gorgeous finish. A beauty. Best ever in bottle from here? Drink in 2020.

Jeff Leve - thewinecellarinsider.com - February 2017
93 With a round, silky, texture, the wine shows plenty of smoke, licorice, dark chocolate, espresso bean and ripe, juicy, plums. There is depth of flavor and fruit in the finish that carries through. The wine was made from a blend of 52% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc and 3% Petit Verdot

James Molesworth - Wine Spectator - February 2017
91 Very solid, with a core of dark plum, blackberry and fig preserve notes held in check by tarry grip. Ample singed apple wood and cocoa elements form the frame. Give this time to meld fully. Best from 2019 through 2026. 9,167 cases made Very solid, with a core of dark plum, blackberry and fig preserve notes held in check by tarry grip. Ample singed apple wood and cocoa elements form the frame. Give this time to meld fully. Best from 2019 through 2026. 9,167 cases made.

Guide de la Revue du Vin de France - Meilleurs vins de France 2017
Coup de cœur de l'année
17 Voici un très beau vin, complet, puissant et généreux, à la matière dense, serrée, concentrée et richement fruitée sur une expression mature du raisin. Un ensemble corpulent et généreux d'une belle intensité de corps. Le boisé doit encore se fondre.

Markus del Monego - February 2016
94 Dark Dark purple red with violet hue and black centre. Opulent and concentrated nose with blamy hints, aroma reminiscent of stewed berrues, ripe plums and black cherries. Rich spicyness and hints of toasted flavours in the background. On the palate well structured with medium weight and good length, juicy fruit and blalanced tannins. Elegant and persistant.

Guide Bettane & Desseauve 2016
17 - 17.5

Rolf Bichsel & Barbara Schroeder - Vinum – June 2015
17.5 Ce n'est pas un secret, Malartic possède un terroir d'exception. Aujourd'hui, il est interprété avec brio : le vin allie une ampleur dosée avec précision à une fraîcheur et un racé uniques, les tanins sont raffinés, le bois imperceptible. Excellent vin qui devrait valoir un 18 une fois en bouteille.

Abi Duhr - Vino - June 2015
Coup de cœur. Violette, fruité intense, épices, noyau de pêche, encens, cèdre, fraîcheur, belle matière tannique.

Michael Schuster - The World of Fine Wine - June 2015
16 - 16.5+ Black-red; dense to smell, ripe black fruit, an immediate impression of considerable concentration ; and indeed, rich, concentrated finely and firmly tannic alongside the fresh acidity ; the typical Malartic abundance of deep, dark, ripe blackcurrant and blackberry fruit, long and dense and juicy. Full mater, muscular in structure, long and sapid and chewy, where in the end the structure seems to dominate the fruit and finesse. A fairly massive, very particular expression of both vintage and terroir. But I wonder how long it will take to harmonize? Plenty of time, for sure, meanwhile provideng considerable fruit-bomb pleasure within the tannic frame. If that is what you want. A nice complexity and tenacity of flavor, but a powerful wine for strong food all the same. 2016-36.

Bettane et Desseauve - En Magnum - Terre de Vins - May 2015
17 - 17.5 Classiques et classés, les valeurs sûres Noblement aromatique, superbement constitué dans ce millésime, complexe, harmonieux et surtout de la forte personnalité.

Jacques Dupont - Le Point - May 2015
16 Nez, feuillage, pivoine, bouche tannique, serrée, tendue, un peu séché par le bois à ce stade, mais bonne matière derrière. O : 2020 - G : 14 ans.

Jancis Robinson - jancisrobinson.com - April 2015
16+ Particularly dark crimson. Somehow gives the impression that there are lots of hidden depths. But just a little sour with marked acidity. Rigorous and bone dry, with very drying tannins on the end. Some green vegy character towards the end.
Drink 2023-2036

Jane Anson - Decanter - April 2015
18 (93/100) - Highly Recommended - Noted in her five personal favourites. Clear breeding and ambition. Damson, pencil lead and wet stones on the nose, full extraction, more so than many others but without losing a sense of vibrancy and grip. This is excellent within the context of the vintage, a real sense of floating above the tannins, one to wait for. Drink 2023 – 2040.