December 2022

Château Malartic-Lagravière White 2016

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

Vintage

Extreme weather conditions resulted in an exceptional vintage
A particularly wet winter and spring promised good yields. One of the best summers of the decade, with a long dry period, brought power and concentration. A remarkable late season, with substantial differences in temperatures, ensured **elegance for this exceptional vintage**. Each of these stages, with an extreme climatology, has been chained with a **perfect tempo**: This is the singularity of this vintage.

Flowering was rapid and uniform and summer extremely hot and dry. But Malartic vines' deep roots were able to find water reserves in the clay-limestone subsoil and benefit fully from the summer heat. The grapes changed colour with the same uniformity as the flowering.

After the very dry conditions, the rain on 13 September (40 mm) was welcome. An Indian summer lasted through to the end of the harvests with some big differences between the day and night-time temperatures, encouraging the accumulation of anthocyanins and aromatic richness.

The white grapes, with a slightly lower yield than 2015, were harvested from 19 to 27 September. Despite the very dry summer, acidity levels were good, giving a nice balance to the particularly aromatic, dense wines.

Harvest period

Sauvignon	From 19 to 26 September 2016
Sémillon	27 September 2016

Blend

Sauvignon	85 %
Sémillon	15 %

Technical data

Total area (A.O.C.)	53 hectares
Area in white (A.O.C.)	7 hectares
Geology	Well-drained gravels and clay gravels
Grape varieties	Sauvignon 80% - Semillon 20%
Density of plantation	10 000 plants / ha
Pruning method	Guyot double
Average age of the vineyard	31 years old
Average yield	34 hl/ha
Harvest	Handpicking - 2 Successive sorting - Sustainable farming - and High Value Environmental certification*
Vinification	Slow pressing, cold stabilization and fermentation in barrels
Fermentation temperature	20-22°
Ageing	On lees with bâtonnage in traditional French oak barrels
New oak	55%
Ageing period	12 mois
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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Château Malartic-Lagravière White 2016
Press Release

Roger Voss – winemag.com – April 2019
96 Beautifully wood aged, with subtle hints of spice, this is an elegant, textured wine, ripe with white fruit tones and layered with intense, fresh acidity. Its bright highlights are tempered by warm fruitiness and by the mineral texture that promises aging. Drink from 2023.

James Suckling - jamessuckling.com - February 2019
95 Very bright and floral with plenty of passion fruit, kiwi and melon on the nose. Juicy and elegant with a stunning balance of fruit, delicate oak and elegant acidity that drives the very long, energetic finish. Drink or hold.

Vinous.com – Neal Martin – Southwold 2016s – August 2020
94 The 2016 Malartic-Lagravière Blanc has an intense bouquet of orange blossom, quince and light yellow flower aromas that burst from the glass. The palate is well balanced with a lightly spiced entry and good weight and tension, but it tightens up toward a saline, seaweed-influenced finish that is bitter and penetrating. On its own, it feels a little aggressive; however, with bottle age and partnered with food, this will drink supremely well. Tasted blind at the annual Southwold tasting.

Jeb Dunnuck – jebdunnuck.com – March 2019
94 A terrific white that's up with the top efforts in the vintage, the 2016 Château Malartic-Lagravière Blanc comes from a 7-hectare vineyard in the Graves region and is 85% Sauvignon and 15% Sémillon raised in 55% new barrels. It has terrific freshness and purity as well as medium body, a concentrated, layered, texture, perfumed notes of lemon curd, white grapefruits, and flowers, and a distinct sense of minerality. The whites in the vintage have a good mix of purity and richness, and this is a great example. It's going to benefit from a year or two and drink well for at least a decade. Tasted twice, count me in as a fan.

Panos Kakaviatos – wine-chronicles.com – March 2019
95 "Top first wine whites? Domaine de Chevalier Blanc and Château Malartic-Lagravière and Château Smith Haut Lafitte.
The nose? There is iodine, there is lemon, there is kiwi: all kinds of stuff going on and this is a very fine white – but do not neglect their second wine, which in 2016 is darn good. There is white peach and pear on the palate, just a robust and lively white that keeps on giving! 13.5% alcohol. Bravo!"

Jane Anson –decanter.com – January 2019
94 Just as it was from barrel, the Malartic-Lagravière Blanc is one of the better and more complete whites of 2016. Vivid, precise and finely sculpted, the 2016 has quite a bit of floral and mineral-infused energy to play off the creamy, textured fruit. I very much like the purity here. Tasted two times.
2019-2023

Guide RVF des Meilleurs Vins de France 2020 – Panel de dégustateurs – Janvier 2020
17 "Illustrant parfaitement le renouveau de l'appellation, Malartic-Lagravière a spectaculairement progressé depuis son rachat, en 1998, par l'entrepreneur belge Alfred-Alexandre Bonnie. Avec son fils Jean-Jacques, sa fille Véronique et sa belle-fille Séverine, la Propriété a rattrapé en peu d'années le retard qu'elle avait accumulé lors de son passage dans le giron du groupe champenois Laurent-Perrier. Le vignoble, superbement situé sur une croupe de graves à l'arrière du Château, est parfaitement tenu, et les installations techniques modernes ont permis aux rouges de gagner en ampleur et en profondeur de corps, notamment grâce à un vignoble qui prend de l'âge et s'enracine davantage. Les rouges n'ont jamais été aussi bons et s'inscrivent parmi les plus intéressants de l'appellation. Les blancs adoptent également un style très abouti, travaillé et généreux. Un travail d'observation sur les élevages a conduit le cru à investir pour la vinification et l'élevage das des contenants en bois de 350 et 500 litres.

Jancis.Robinson.com – Jancis Robinson – Southwold 2016s – February 2020
17 Tasted blind. Well balanced. Very fresh and lively with sufficient fruit and a dry, powdery finish. Zippy and well constituted. Not heavy but long. Nutty and interesting. Drink 2019 – 2024

Jeb Dunnuck –jebdunnuck.com – March 2019
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Neal Martin – vinous.com – January 2019
94 The 2016 Malartic-Lagravière Blanc has a clean, precise bouquet that evokes a cold northern sea, this being one of the most saline-influenced of the Pessac whites. The palate is well balanced, with orange zest and marmalade notes spicing up the entry, and superb weight in the mouth. The finish feels extremely long. Outstanding.
2019-2038

Chris Kissack –thewinedoctor.com – January 2019
93 A Sauvignon-heavy blend, at 85%, with 15% Semillon, and the vinification was entirely in barrel, using 55% new oak. I get wonderful seams of orchard fruit character on the nose, with scents of peaches, mango, pineapple and pear. It has a similar style on the palate, all wrapped up with coarse gravel, a great pithy substance and a moderate acidity which is typical of the vintage. A rich and classically styled wine, broad and pithy, and very long too.

Antonio Galloni – vinous.com – January 2019
92 Just as it was from barrel, the Malartic-Lagravière Blanc is one of the better and more complete whites of 2016. Vivid, precise and finely sculpted, the 2016 has quite a bit of floral and mineral-infused energy to play off the creamy, textured fruit. I very much like the purity here. Tasted two times.
2019-2023

James Molesworth –winespectator.com – February 2019
92 This is lovely, offering straw, white peach, chamomile and lemon curd flavors that glide through, with a glistening salted butter note gilding the chalk-edged finish. Drink now through 2021. 1,583 cases made.

Yves Beck – yvesbeck.wine – January 2019
93 Jaune aux reflets verdoyants. Bouquet intense et complexe aux notes de fèves de cacao, d'anis et de pain fraîchement grillé. Au palais, le vin confirme les promesses olfactives. Il a du corps, du caractère et est doté d'une excellente expression aromatique. Cette dernière est idéalement soutenue par une vive et mordante structure. Finale intense et persistante où je relève des arômes de menthe et de citrons. Quelle belle réussite ! 2020-2034

Olivier Poels –larvf.com – Février 2019
16,5 Bien que sortant de la mise en bouteille, ce 2016 présente un étonnant potentiel, avec du muscle et surtout un fruit plein d'éclat. Juteux et très défini. 58 €

Lisa Perrotti-Brown – robertparker.com – November 2018
93 The Malartic Lagraviere 2016 Blanc is a blend of 85% Sauvignon Blanc and 15% Sémillon. The nose is youthfully muted, revealing subtle scents of lemongrass, crushed rocks, lime cordial and green mango with a waft of orange blossoms. Medium-bodied, the palate features great intensity with a lively backbone and long, textured finish.

Guide des Vins Bettane+Desseauve – Septembre 2018 « Coup de Cœur »
18 Nez très original, fumée, buis, lys, pêche blanche, agrumes, résineux, bouche superbe, charnue, fondante, très aromatique, avec des notes de citrus rafraîchissantes et une grande tenue. 2018-2025

Frédéric Durand-Bazin - Figaro Vin - Avril 2017
18/20 Dégustation de la rédaction du Figaro Vin : Nez de fruits jaunes, ananas, buis. Bouche fraîche, épicée, longueur, élégante, très joli vin.

Alexis Goujard, Jérôme Baudouin – RVF Hors Série – Novembre 2018 « Les stars de l'année 2018 »
17 Le nez est ouvert sur des notes de fruits jaunes. Belle attaque en bouche, nette et un rien discrète, puis il prend de l'ampleur et explose en finale. Très long.

Challenges – Novembre 2018 "7 Crus d'exception"
Ce château de Pessac Léognan produit aussi bien des vins rouges que des vins blancs. Ces derniers sont à déguster en toute circonstance tant ils sont vifs et joyeux, notamment ce 2016. Les arômes vont des fruits exotiques à la pêche jaune. Le touché en bouche est délicat pour ne pas être dans l'exubérance. La finale intense est portée par les agrumes.

Sylvain Ouchikh – Les Echos – Novembre 2018 "Dossier Vin: Flacons d'exception"
En à peine trois décennies, la famille Bonnie a imposé ce château comme un grand de Bordeaux. Aujourd'hui la nouvelle génération a repris le flambeau. L'appellation la plus proche de la ville de Bordeaux, pessac-léognan, produit de grands vins blancs. Ils ont une belle élocution. Ce sont des nectars qui ont le language érudit. Ce vin est vibrant avec des notes de citron et de fruits exotiques. La bouche est droite mais sans excès. Il ne faut jamais parler trop fort. Tout est dans l'élégance et le choix des mots.

Thomas Boxberger-von Schaabner - Extraprima – 2017
92-94
85% Sauvignon Blanc und 15% Sémillon kamen auf 14% Alkohol und wurden in 55% neuen Fässern vergoren. Jugendliches Duftbild mit nussiger Reduktion, weit aufgespannt und weich im Mund, mit viel Saft und Keinerlei Holzeindruck. Tief, saftig und frisch, druckvoll-kompaktes Mittelstück, lang und nachhaltig am Gaumen. Da er etwas helltönig und schlank wirkt, kann man diesen schlafenden Riesen leicht unterschätzen!

Bernard Burtschy - Mai 2017
18 La robe est pâle avec un nez fortement marqué par le sauvignon. Le vin est souple, plus facile d'accès que dans d'autres millésimes avec un joli boisé charmant, presque prêt à être dégusté, mais il ne manque pas de ressort. 3-8 ans

Le Point - Jacques Dupont - Mai 2017
16,5 Note exotique, floral, beaucoup de gras, classe, matière dense, fine amertume, riche, fraîcheur en finale.

Sylvie Tonnaire - Terres de vin - Mai 2017
18 Dense, mûr, un je-ne-sais-quoi d'exotique et d'agrumes confits, aromatique complexe et paniers de fruits jaunes, blancs, agrumes, fleurs, le vin en a long à raconter. Tout comme la finale, légèrement saline, déroulant fraîcheur et onctuosité au palais. Un des plus beaux de 2016.

Markus del Monego - May 2017
92

Antoon Laurent - The Wine Patriot - Mai 2017
96+ Fleurs blanches, citrons (vert et jaune), attaque fraiche, bouche élégante et équilibrée, finale douce en longueur, retro-olfaction agrumes et brioche toastée

Bettane + Desseauve - En Magnum - Mai 2017
96 Très belle réussite, vin complet, d'une magnifique générosité et montrant une évolution de style qui ne peut que nous plaire et séduire le plus grand nombre.

Jeannie Cho Lee - May 2017
92