RED

2021

Le Comte de Malartic



BLEND

Merlot 80 %

Cabernet-Sauvignon 17 %

Petit-Verdot 3 %

DATES OF HARVESTS

Merlot
Septembrer 29 to 11 October

Cabernet-Sauvignon
October 12 to 19

Petit-Verdot
October 2 to 4

THE DOMAINE

Second label of the Château in Red and in White

Pessac-Léognan Appellation (A.O.C.)

Owner Bonnie Family

Total area (A.O.C.) 73 hectares (180 acres)

Total area in red 66 hectares (163 acres)

Geology Quartenary Günzian well-drained gravels and clay gravels on shelly limestone and clay subsoil

Grape varieties 56% Merlot - 41% Cabernet-Sauvignon – 2,5% Petit-Verdot - 0,5% Cabernet-Franc

Density of plantation 10 000 plants / ha

Average age of the vineyard 28 years old

Pruning method Late pruning, in double Guyot

TECHNICAL

Vineyard Management Agroecology, plant cover, eco-pasture, minimal ploughing, with horses

Certifications Sustainable farming, High Environmental Value certification 3 Opt A, ISO 14001 (EMS)

Harvest Manual harvest by intra-plot passes, double sorting tables, optical sorting (X-tri)

Vinification Double cap, thermoregulated stainless steel and oak vats

Vat period 3 weeks

Yields 45.25 hl/ha

Ageing Early blending, traditional on fine lees in French oak barrels, 30% new oak

Ageing period 15 months

Œnologiste Consultant Eric Boissenot

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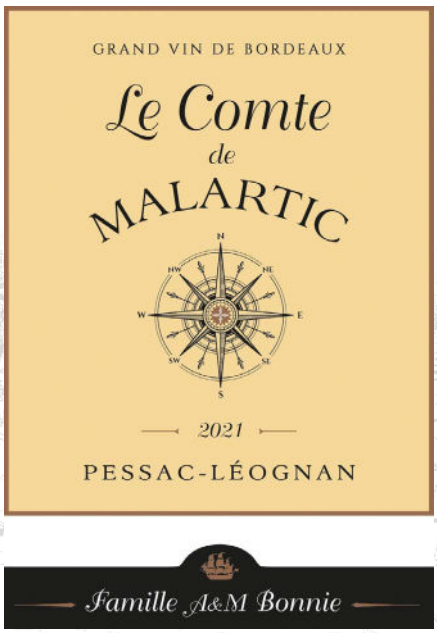

THE VINTAGE

A terroir-focus and expert vintage.

The mild, warm winter and early spring resulted in an **early bud break**, which was then slowed down by a cold and dry second half of spring. **Severe frosts** on 6 and 7 April left their mark. Late pruning, carried out in March on our most sensitive plots, significantly **reduced their impact**.

May was rainy and cool, but the **flowering**, which was rather early at Malartic, benefited from a window of **mild weather** (end of May, beginning of June). As a result, it was **homogeneous and fast**. This was followed by a stormy period until mid-July, which led to a strong mildew pressure and very active growth of the vines.

Fortunately, from the end of the *véraison* to the beginning of the harvests, there was a very beneficial dry period. The skins and seeds matured to **excellent degrees of ripeness as the harvests approached.**

The white grape harvest started on the 15 September: the grapes were healthy, with great aromatic freshness and good density thanks to the beautiful sunny weather.

The Merlot harvest started at the end of September after a rainy and stressful fortnight. A dry period followed, enabling us to pick well-ripened, supple, harmonious grapes. We finished with the Cabernet, harvested from 12 to 19 October, in fine weather with marked differences between day and night-time temperatures. The long maturing period resulted in **superb density and magnificent freshness**. The alcohol-acidity balance was excellent.

Initial tastings reveal **great elegance,** with silky, very sophisticated red wines, characterized by freshness and aromatic clarity. There is good density with a velvety tannin texture. The whites are very fresh and offer **good concentration with a beautiful fruitiness.**

It is thus **a vintage that depended very much on the terroir and the winegrower**: adaptation, agility and responsiveness were necessary at all stages of the vintage, with late pruning, maintenance of the plant cover with little ploughing, early and high-quality green harvesting to ensure uniform ripening, and management of the harvests on a daily basis with rapid decision-making.

Our excellent knowledge of Malartic's terroir enabled us to anticipate its reactions and thus maintain the quality and excellence of Malartic's grands vins.

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PRESS REVIEW

Bernard Burtschy – Primeurs 2021 – Mai 2022
91-92

Jamessuckling.com – James Suckling - Bordeaux annual report: unicorns cushion 2021's rough ride – May 2022
89-90
A fresh and easy second wine with lots of bright acidity and a light and fine tannin backbone. 80% merlot, 17% cabernet sauvignon and 3% petit verdot.

Robertparker.com – William Kelley – April 2022
88-90
Notions of cherries, sweet berries and spices introduce the 2021 Le Comte de Malartic, a medium-bodied, supple and charming wine that's pretty and expressive. This will drink well young.

Vinous.com - Antonio Galloni - 2021 Bordeaux En Primeur: Back to Classicism – May 2022
88-90
The 2021 la Comte de Malartic is bright, fruity and super-expressive. A rush of red berry fruit, spice, mint and wild flowers gibe the mid-weight second wine tons of appeal and charm.

Janeanson.com - Jane Anson - En Primeurs Bordeaux – May 2022
88
Precision and juice runs through the redcurrant and raspberry fruits, tannins a little angular.

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