RED

2021

Château Malartic-Lagravière



BLEND

Cabernet-Sauvignon 67 %

Merlot 32 %

Cabernet-Franc 1 %

DATES OF HARVESTS

Merlot
Septembrer 29 to 11 October

Cabernet-Sauvignon
October 12 to 19

Cabernet-Franc
October 2

THE DOMAINE

Classified Growth of Graves in red and 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

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

Pruning method Late pruning, in double Guyot

TECHNICAL

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, 65% new oak

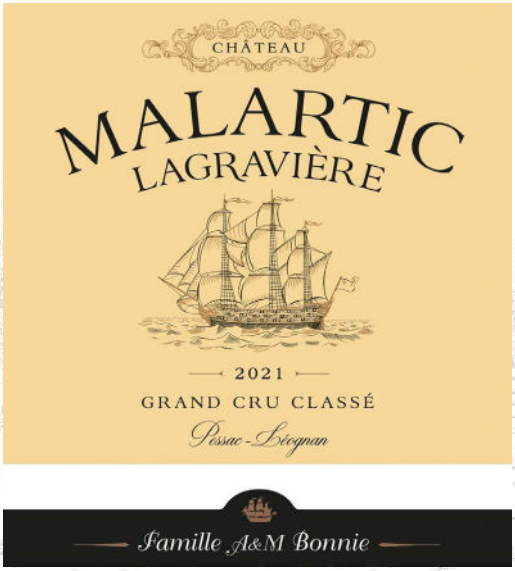
Ageing period 18 months

Œnologiste Consultant Eric Boissenot

Château Malartic-Lagravière
43 Avenue de Mont de Marsan - 33850 Léognan
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malartic-lagraviere@malartic-lagraviere.com

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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

Jamessuckling.com – James Suckling – January 2024
94
5 Dec, 2023 – A bright, vibrant nose full of minerals and fresh red cherries, olives and a hint of pencil shavings. The silky tannins are fresh and tidy, with spot-on succulence, finesse and linearity. Svelte and long. The tannin quality deserves recognition. Drink or hold

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Yvesbeck.wine – Yves Beck – January 2024
94
67% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot, 1% Cabernet Franc
Malartic Lagravière est très convaincant, d'entrée ! La complexité de son bouquet y contribue largement au travers de nuances de pivoine, de cerises et de baies rouges. Harmonieux, le vin est doté de tannins porteurs tandis que la structure acide confère des watts ! Un vin fin et sapide. 2025-2038 94/100

Alexandrema.com - Bordeaux 2021 In Bottle – Alexandre MA – March 2024
93
Malartic Lagravière 2021 attacks me with some graphite powder, creating a pleasantly firm structure. Thanks to the new X-Tri optical sorter and extremely late harvest time, Malartic Lagravière 2021 presents some fantastic phenolic ripeness, and a grand and rich body shaped by pure and clean fruity fragrance and mellow and supple tannins. Presented in a blind tasting, not so many people would have guessed it was born in a moderate vintage. Definitely a shiny gem of Pessac-Léognan 2021.

Jebdunnuck.com – Bordeaux 2021 from bottle – Jeb Dunnuck – April 2024
92
Black raspberries, redcurrants, tobacco, and floral/violet notes all emerge from the 2021 Château Malartic-Lagravière, a medium-bodied, supple, incredibly elegant 2021 with fine tannins. This layered, elegant Péssac-Léognan will surprise in the cellar due to its overall balance. The 2021 is 67% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot, and the rest Cabernet Sauvignon, and it saw a slightly shorter maceration than normal (21 days) and was brought up in 65% new oak.

Le Figaro.com - Bordeaux 2021 : notre sélection imbattable de vins rouges de Pessac-Léognan, à tous les budgets – Ella Lister – April 2024
92
Un nez assez captivant par sa délicatesse, qui révèle des notes de fruits croquants et de fleurs. En bouche, le vin est fin, vivace, fruité, avec des notes de sève et beaucoup de gourmandise en finale.

Thewinecellarindsider - 2021 Pessac Leognan Red and White Wine, Vintage Report, 80 Wines Rated – Jeff Leve – March 2021
92
Cherries, flowers, tobacco, smoke, and show in the perfume. On the palate, the wine is medium-bodied, fresh, vibrant, and crisp with brightness, lift and energy that shows in the dusty red fruits along with spearmint, and a hint of cocoa that shines at the end of the finish. With the 2021 vintage, things changed at Malartic Lagraviere when they brought in Eric Boissenot as their new consultant, You can easily taste the major shift in the style of wine being produced that is exacerbated by the vintage conditions. The wine blends 67% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot, and 1% Cabernet Franc. Drink from 2025-2040.

Vinous.com – 2+2 = 5 : Bordeaux in bottle – Neal Martin – February 2024
92
The 2021 Malartic-Lagravière, which has a little more Cabernet Sauvignon than usual, has an attractive bouquet-not amazingly intense, yet delineated with predominantly black fruit, black olive and light estuarine scents. It feels focused, though without the frills. The palate is medium-bodied with a touch of orange rind on the entry. Finaly integrated oak here lends this Pessac-Léognan an appealing silky texture, and it fans out gracefully toward the finish. This feels like it has evolved nicely

during its barrel maturation, and it should drink well for 20 to 25 years.

Vinous.com - 2021 Bordeaux: L'Enfant Terrible – Antonio Galloni – February 2024
91
The 2021 Malartic-Lagraviere has come together well with elevage. It remains a bit one-dimensional, but it is a solid effort for the year. It would be nice to see more depth and overall energy, but this is 2021. This just lacks excitement. Dark-toned fruit, gravel, spice and leather struggle to emerge

Vinum - Rolf Bischel - Bordeaux 2021 Komplex und klassisch – June 2022
18
Viel versprechende Aromatik roter Beeren; geradlinger Auftakt, schlanke, rassige Entwicklung über Gerbstoffen ausgesuchter Finesse, grosse Länge; hervorragend, durch den Cabernet Sauvignon geprägt.

thedrinksbusiness.com - Colin Hay – Bordeaux 2021 en primeur : the verdict – June 2022
92-94+
Among the "Truly great" wines of the appellation.

Quarin.com - Carnet 109 : les Bordeaux 2021 en bouteilles – JM Quarin – June 2024
16.25//91
Couleur sombre, intense, pourpre. Nez très aromatique, subtil, fruité. Touche de cuir et de bois de pin. Délicat à l'attaque, un brin salin au milieu, le vin évolue suave, fondant et délicatement charnu vers une finale savoureuse à la salinité présente.

Thewinedoctor.com - BORDEAUX 2021 AT TWO YEARS: PESSAC-LÉOGNAN, RED – Chris Kissack – March 2024
90
The 2021 from Malartic-Lagravière presets a straightforward nose of red cherry, redcurrant, cranberry and matchstick, with a delicately sweet edge to it all. While it feels rather low key the palate does at least present harmony and a sense of persistence, with a finely rolled core of dried berry fruits, leading to a powdered finish of modest tannins. Dry, gripped, with a little length, this holds together. Give it a few years and this will drink well. 90/100

Vino.be - Millésime 2021, le retour du classicisme bordelais ? – Bernard Burtschy – March 2024
***** (excellent)**

Vertdevin – Jonathan Chicheportiche Choukron – July 2022 17.75 // 95-96
Le nez est joliment mené, élégant, délicat, racé et offre de la complexité en finesse, une certaine puissance en délicatesse ainsi que de l'harmonie. […] La bouche est joliment menée, équilibrée et offre une très jolie acidité, un joli fruit pulpeux/acidulé, de la suavité, une trame acidulée, de la délicatesse, un joli côté aérien ainsi que de la subtilité dans la puissance. En bouche ce vin exprime des notes de mûre de Boysen éclatante, de myrtille et plus légèrement de cerise presque rôtie associées à des petites touches de baies rouges assez mûres, de graves racées (terroir), de mine de crayon ainsi qu'à de fines pointes de cardamone, de fève tonka et à une imperceptible pointe d'amande toastée. Un petit moelleux en fin de bouche/persistance. Les tannins sont jolis, frais, élégants et délicats. Jolie harmonie. Un vin tout en finesse et délicatesse.

Hans Martin Gesellmann - Bordeaux 2021 Ein jargang der glücklichen überraschungen – June 2022
17
Elegantes Bouquet, Waldfrüchte, Wildkirschen, Johannisbeeren, Zimt, heller Tabak. Gute Dichte, saftig, fein adstringierend, elegante Säure, feine rotbeerige Frucht, Brombeeren, Himbeeren, feine Kräuterwürze im Finish, gute Länge.

thedrinksbusiness.com - Colin Hay – Bordeaux 2021 en primeur : the verdict – June 2022
92-94+
Among the "Truly great" wines of the appellation.

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Wine-chronicles.com – Panos kakaviatos – Bordeaux 2021 from barrels: the reds – May 2022
92-93+
Like the Latour Martillac, I like the attack from this wine and the palate exhibits even more density, with the depth and power of a 67% Cabernet Sauvignon in the blend, but not quite the follow through you'd expect, with some hard tannin. Time in barrel should resolve matters.

Xl-vins.fr – Xavier Lacombe - Primeurs 2021 : Pessac Leognan, Sauternes et autres Bordeaux – June 2022
95
Nez intense et profond, sur des notes de noisettes et de petites baies noires qui affichent une très belle concentration. La matière en bouche est ample et crémeuse, avec des notes de cassis, et quelques noisettes qui offrent une très belle envergure en bouche. La finale est intense, avec une pointe sapide qui est distinctive et qui offre un incroyable relief à l'ensemble ! Grande longueur, très grande réussite de l'appellation Pessac-Léognan en 2021 !

Mybettanedesseauve.com – Michel Bettane – Primeurs 2021 Bordeaux dans son match – May 2022
94-95
Très net au nez et en bouche, sur le cèdre et les notes classiques de cabernet-sauvignon, avec une vigueur quelque peu contenue dans les échantillons présentés.

Bernard Burtschy – Primeurs – May 2022
95-96
Le millésime 2021 confirme le changement de style assez radical opéré l'année dernière avec l'arrivée d'Eric Boissenot. La robe est grenat sombre avec un joli nez complexe à la fois fumé, mais aussi de fruits rouges. Le vin est élégant et très classique avec une jolie matière équilibrée, le vin est très harmonieux et finement extrait, loin de la puissance brute des années précédentes. Il rejoint les grands malartics d'autrefois. Rendement de 45,25 hl/ha et il titre 12,8.
Caractéristiques techniques. Cépages : 67 % cabernet-sauvignon, 32 % de merlot et 1 % cabernet-franc.

Janeanson.com - Jane Anson - En primeurs 2021 : All notes – May 2022
92
Impressive texture and clever construction, with structure and power, delivering aniseed, fennel, blueberry, raspberry, liqourice and cocoa bean. Harvested from the end of September through to October 19, allowing the Cabernet to get to a good ripeness, and you can feel it in the overall structure of the wine. 42.25hl/h yield, tasted twice.

WeinWisser.org - Tjark Witzgall - The best of list bordeaux 2021– May 2022
17.5
70 % Cabernet Sauvignon, 30 % Merlot. Intensives Bouquet, reife Schattenmorelle, verspieltes Veilchenparfüm und roter Johannisbeernektar. Am eleganten Gaumen mit weicher Textur, reifem Extrakt, balancierter Rasse, engmaschigem Tanningerüst und mittlerem Körper. Im gebündelten Finale rote und blaue Beeren, Rosenholz, helles Graphit und fein sandige Adstringenz. 2027 – 2047
70 % Cabernet Sauvignon, 30 % Merlot. Intense bouquet, ripe morello cherry, playful violet scent and red currant nectar. On the elegant palate with soft texture, ripe extract, balanced breed, tight tannin structure and medium body. Finishes bundled with red and blue berries, rosewood, light graphite and fine sandy astringency. 2027 – 2047

Le Point - Jacques Dupont et Olivier Bompas – Le millésime 2021 – May 2022
17
Fruits noirs, de la chair, épices douces, élevage équilibré, amer délicat, boisé blond, tannins veloutés, harmonieux

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Yvesbeck.win.fr - Yves Beck – May 2022
93-94
56% Merlot, 41% Cabernet Sauvignon, 2,5% Petit Verdot, 0,5% Cabernet Franc
Bouquet filigrane, subtil, aux nuances florales et fruitées suivies d'une touche de graphite. Attaque friande et légèrement crémeuse.

Le vin se distingue par sa finesse et par des tannins bien en intégrés. Ces derniers créent une bonne symbiose avec la structure acide, qui assure la fraîcheur et l'expression fruitée de la finale. Un vin qui se révèle lentement et qui est prometteur. 2026-2046

Larvf.com – Primeurs Pessac Léognan – May 2022
91-90
Comme ailleurs le cabernet-sauvignon a été privilégié à Malartic (67 %). Le fruit délié, alerte, épicé, possède un bel éclat, pour l'heure en partie masqué par une affirmation un peu péremptoire du bois sur un corps gracile. Quitte à paraître malingre, la forme du vin privilégie en effet l'élégance, la finesse, l'articulation.

Matthewjukes.com - Matthew Jukes – Bordeaux en primeurs vintage report 2021 – May 2022
16
Malartic Rouge always seems to err on the side of too much oak and not quite enough fruit to balance it, and this is the case in 2021. I can taste decent cassis notes here, and there are no green notes, but this is not a big wine, and the oak somewhat bullies it.

Bmybordeaux.com - Christer Byklum - 2021 Pessac Leognan- May 2022
91-93
APR 22 Ruby. Dark fruits, anise, spices, liquorice nose. Fresh acidity, ripe tannins, anise, liquorice, spices, dark fruits, vanilla, layered, long finish. 91-93

Vvwine.ch - Adrian Van Velsen – Bordeaux Primeurs 2021 – May 2022
90-92
Rouge rubis. Nez subtil, herbes, baies rouges et noires, tons floraux, frais. La bouche est fine, précise, fruit croquant, tanins fins, presque bourguignon et avec beaucoup de finesse, le vin persiste longtemps en finale et se termine sur des oranges sanguines. Succès cette année aussi ! 2027-2042 (Dégusté en avril 2022. Syndicat Viticole de Pessac-Léognan)

Magazine - Terre de Vins – April 2022
94-95
Un touché de bouche charmeur, velouté. Sur le panel des Crus Classés, il présente une maturité plus contenue, toujours avec élégance. Il nous vient rapidement à l'esprit des notions de terroir, de plaisir et de partage. Le style classique est préservé, avec un parti pris de souplesse, un bon équilibre entre opulence des merlots et structures des cabernets.

Robertparker.com – William Kelley - France, Bordeaux: Sauvé des Eaux – Bordeaux's 2021 Vintage – April 2022
90-92
A blend of fully 70% Cabernet Sauvignon and 30% Merlot, the 2021 Malartic Lagravière offers up aromas of sweet berries, plums, burning embers and warm spices, followed by a medium to full-bodied, ample and powdery palate that's impressively concentrated, refined and elegant. It's a fine effort from an estate on the rise.
An estate on the rise, with a new approach to viticulture, the fruit of over a decade's work, is delivering smaller grapes, lower pHs and greater concentration at Malartic Lagravière; and now, since 2019, Eric Boissenot's input as consultant is privileging balance and structural finesse over extraction and impact. These 2021s, fine successes in a challenging year, are testament to the promise of this new direction.