

Château Prieuré-Lichine

GRAND CRU CLASSÉ EN 1855
MARGAUX

CABERNET SAUVIGNON: THE KING GRAPE OF THE VINTAGE

2018



The 2018 is the quintessential expression of great Cabernet Sauvignon vintages.

The dry end of season weather brought out all the elegance and breed of this king grape variety of the Médoc.

The 2018 growing season was defined by two very distinct periods: a rainy beginning to the cycle with a high level of fungal disease threat, particularly of downy mildew which was very severe, followed by a period of very dry weather that set in at the beginning of July.

The abundant rain that fell in winter and spring ensured good water reserves for the vines for the whole of the vine cycle.

The first signs of water deficit stress appeared at the end of September and succeeded in concentrating the thick-skinned berries.

This year once again, the work done in the vineyard proved decisive in bringing the grapes of Prieuré-Lichine's patchwork of vineyard plots to full ripeness.

The harvesting was performed without one single break enabling us to pick perfectly healthy grapes in each sector of the vineyard.

Pigeage (punching down the cap of skins), enabling the release of the juices during the fermentation through physical means, was an extra asset in the extraction of ripe, silky tannins.

The structured and dynamic Cabernet Sauvignon grapes provided the balance for the Merlot, which was rich in alcohol.

The colour is deep and brilliant. Black fruit with great aromatic power comes through with an elegant mouth-feel.

The richness and complexity of the Margaux terroir are expressed in the most perfect way in this King Cabernet vintage, demonstrating the pertinence of the technical approach adopted by the Ballande family over the last 20 years.

- **OWNERS:** SAS Château Prieuré-Lichine
- **WINEMAKER:** Étienne CHARRIER
- **CONSULTANT:** Stéphane DERENONCOURT
- **TOTAL SURFACE AREA:** 85 ha
- **AVERAGE AGE OF THE VINES:** 30 years
- **SOIL TYPE:** Günz-area Garonne gravel
- **VINEYARD GRAPE COMPOSITION:**
 - Cabernet Sauvignon: 50%
 - Merlot: 45%
 - Petit Verdot: 5%
- **DE-LEAFING:** On one side of the row in June on Merlots
- **START AND END OF HARVEST:**
 - Merlot: 24th Sept. – 1st Oct.
 - Cabernet Sauvignon: 2nd – 10th Oct.
- **HARVEST RECEPTION:**
 - Grapes picked into small crates
 - Vibrating sorting tables
 - Manual sorting and optical line
 - No crushing
 - Gravity flow vat-falling
- **SURFACE AREA OF VINE (ACRES):**
77.5 ha (191 acres)
- **VATTING PERIOD:** 28-30 days
- **OVERALL YIELD:** 39hl/ha
- **YIELD FOR FIRST WINE:** 35hl/ha
- **BLEND FOR FIRST WINE 2018 VINTAGE:**
 - Cabernet Sauvignon: 65%
 - Merlot: 30%
 - Petit Verdot: 5%
- **AGEING:**
 - 45% new barrels
 - 55% second fill barrels