



October 2014

Château Malartic-Lagravière Red 2013

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

Vintage

A late, demanding vintage, in which the adaptation of growing practices enabled us to reach the harvests with fine, healthy grapes.

Despite a cool, overcast, historically wet spring, flowering went well and was uniform, if somewhat late.

Fortunately, we had one of the best summers of recent years. July and August were splendid, with high temperatures and not much rain. These two months allowed the vines to catch up a little, but the start of ripening, although fast and fairly uniform, was still fifteen days later than a classic vintage. The end of August and early September saw two rounds of leaf removal and some green harvesting (including the "wings" of the Cabernet) in order to even out differences in degrees of ripening and improve air circulation, thereby reducing the risk of rot.

The Sauvignons white grapes harvest started on 26 September, and was followed, most unusually, by the first Merlot just two days later! A larger team of pickers this year (nearly 100 in total) increased our flexibility and enabled us to deal with a very tight timetable for picking the Merlot. Sometimes more fragile, the grapes were picked with extreme care, finishing on 7 October.

Adaptation of canopy management techniques for the Cabernets allowed us to approach the last days of the harvests in the third week of October with confidence: 50% of them were picked up after the summery weekend of 20 October, for even greater ripeness!

The vintage is therefore likely to be dominated by the exceptional quality of the Cabernet, due to drastic selection. The wines are very pure and flavourful.

These elegant wines are both well-structured and well-balanced with supple and precise tannins.

Harvest period

Merlots	From 28 september to 7 october 2013
Cabernet-Sauvignon	From 16 to 22 october 2013
Cabernet-Franc	15 and 18 october 2013
Petit-Verdot	15 october 2013

Blend

Cabernet-Sauvignon	56 %
Merlot	38 %
Cabernet-Franc	4 %
Petit-Verdot	2 %

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	30 years old
Pruning method	Guyot double
Average yield	23 hl/ha
Harvest	Hand picking - Sustainable farming
Vinification	Thermoregulated stainless steel or oak vats
Fermentation	About 25 days - 28 to 30° C
Ageing	Traditional in French oak barrels - New oak 70%
Ageing period	In progress
Oenologist Consultants	Michel Rolland





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Press Release

Robert Parker - erobertparker.com - August 2014

90-93 Under the impressive Belgian ownership, this property has been on a hot streak for a number of years. The wine exhibits a dark plum/ruby/purple color as well as notes of graphite, licorice, blueberries, black raspberries and a hint of barbecue smoke, and a medium-bodied, rich, concentrated mouthfeel and finish. There is no evidence of rot, astringent tannin or excessive acidity. It has turned out to be **one of the more successful wines in this vintage**. Enjoy it over the next 12-15 years.

Rolf Bichsel & Barbara Schroeder - Vinum - Juillet - Août 2014

17 *Fondant et dense, racé, unique, vin de tempérament, inspiré et travaillé avec précision : joue dans la cour des grands ! 2018 à 2025.*

Roger Voss - Wine Enthusiast - April 2014

90 - 92 *Barrel Sample. Soft, ripe and fruity, this is an attractive wine that is developing fast. It is pleasantly perfumed and lightly textured, with balanced acidity at the end.*

James Suckling - jamesuckling.com - April 2014

90 - 91 *Very attractive core of berry, mineral and fresh-tobacco character. Medium to full body, velvety tannins. Balanced.*

Steven Spurrier - decanter.com - April 2014

17 - 90 *Black-red, well-expressed cassis and tobacco leaf fruit, dense yet elegant palate, always a little tight but very good wine. Drink : 2018 - 2028*

Antonio Galloni - vinousmedia.com - April 2014

88 - 91 *The 2013 Malartic-Lagravière is wild, intense and savory in the glass. A mélange of sage, rosemary, graphite, game and smoke hits in the palate in an exotic bursting with personality. The 2013 is not fully put together yet, but if all the elements meld a little bit more during élevage, this could turn out to be an overachiever.*

Matthews Jukes - matthewsjuke.com - April 2014

16.5+ *Good depth of fruit and concentration, but the oak is huge and the fruit can only just handle it. This will need to settle down and I think it will need 5 years to do so, but this is a good wine.*

Michel Bettane - Thierry Desseuve - Avril 2014

91 16.50 *Très beau nez ample et précis de fruits rouges, (cerise dominante), bien typé 2013 par sa fraîcheur et sa netteté, tannin racé.*



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Press Release

Jacques Perrin - le blog de Jacques Perrin - Mai 2014
90 Château Malartic-Lagravière cité dans les grands vins.

Philippe Maurange - La Revue du Vin de France - Avril 2014
15.5 - 16.5 *C'est un rouge complet, plus dense que la moyenne, avec une imposante finale. Il doit gagner en rondeur.*

Farr Vintners - farrvintners.com - April 2014
15 *Medium ruby in appearance with a nose of bramble fruit and summer pudding. The palate is soft, silky and polished with a medium body and a supple, creamy texture. A rounded and clean wine, with a length finish.*

Yves Beck - beekustator.com - April 2014
89 - 91 *Pourpre de bonne intensité. Nez séduisant avec des notes de pruneau, chocolat noir et de bâton de réglisse. La mise en bouche est élégante et fruitée. On trouve du fruit et des notes de cacao ainsi qu'une certaine densité. La structure est plutôt vive et les tannins se révèlent en fin de bouche. Notes d'amertume sur la finale mais aussi un peu de fruit. A suivre. 2018-2028.*

James Molesworth - Wine Spectator - April 2014
88 - 91 *Pure, with a note of raspberry and damson plum flavors running along, lined with subtle spice and floral hints and backed by an iron note.*

Ben Kennedy - www.thedrinksbusiness.com - April 2014
Malartic Lagravière has bright, vibrant red fruit on the nose, modern, almost flashy in style, plenty to chew on in the mouth, pure and deep, with a gravelly texture and sweet, smooth tannins; very nice indeed.