



CLOS L'ÉGLISE - Pomerol

A.O.C :	POMEROL
Surface of production:	5.9 ha
Soil:	Clay and Gravel
Grape varieties:	80% merlot - 20% Cabernet-Franc
Age of the vines:	35 ans
Soil culture:	Organic and sustainable
Harvest:	Hand-picked
Fermenting vats:	55 hl stainless steel
Ageing & Barrels:	100% new french oak barrels for 18 months

To be welcomed into the aristocracy of the Grands Crus of Bordeaux is a testament to patience and dedication towards excellence, details and traditions. Our philosophy: Working with the most beautiful terroirs to reflect our passion in our wines and to always remain committed to the land we belong to. *Hélène Garcin-Lévêque & Patrice Lévêque*

VINTAGE 2015:

The Wine Advocate, eRobertParker Bordeaux: 2015 Pomerol

April 29, 2016 Across the road at *Clos l'Eglise*, there is definitely a new approach by *Hélène Garçin-Léveque* and her husband *Patrice*. *Hélène* has always been candid about her wines that have many plaudits. That said, I often see her as someone constantly seeking a style of wine that satisfies her own taste, the criteria that both her and *Patrice* believe in. She is always enthusiastic about the new vintage, but in 2015, this was the first year where I felt that the decisions made during the growing season - some of them not easy to take - have given her genuine satisfaction. As if to say: this is how we should do things from now on. Both her Pomerol vineyard *Clos l'Eglise* and *Barde-Haut* in Saint Emilion displayed a newfound sense of refinement and class that signposts their future direction. Key to this was an earlier picking date for her wines, from September 8 until 23, in order to capture the freshness that was sometimes missing in previous wines. This has resulted in a sense of coolness and classicism, wines not over-trying and thereby achieving great harmony and finesse. This is coupled with a continuing sélection massale program for their Cabernet Franc and the decision to add SO2 only after the malolactic fermentation in small doses. Those expecting the more opulent style associated with *Clos l'Eglise* and indeed, *Barde-Haut*, might be surprised or disappointed; however, I adored the balance, their sense of panache and that intangible concept of "personality" in these wines. **NEAL MARTIN**

CLOS L'ÉGLISE Pomerol 94-96 The 2015 *Clos l'Eglise* was picked on 8, 14 and 23 September apropos the Merlot and the Cabernet Franc on 23 September. Co-proprietor *Hélène Garçin-Léveque* told me that for the first time, *Clos l'Eglise* was one of the first Pomerols to be picked since they felt that the grapes were fully ripe. So why wait? That clearly is vindicated by the bouquet with ebullient, ripe blackberry and wild strawberry fruit, almost Burgundy-like in terms of its purity. The palate is medium-bodied with very fine, tensile tannin, brimming over with energy, tightly packed towards the more linear finish than usual. This is a *Clos l'Eglise* built for long-term bottle ageing, though I suspect it will actually come round a little earlier than usual. A wonderful Pomerol, almost understated, but full of personality

ESPRIT DE L'ÉGLISE Pomerol 88-90 The 2015 *Esprit de l'Eglise*, which is 100% Merlot from a single parcel, has a fragrant blackberry and raspberry preserve-scented bouquet. The palate is medium-bodied with raspberry and white pepper on the entry. The palate is medium-bodied with slightly gritty tannin, attractive peppery black fruit with a delicate pinch of spice on the finish. This is a fine deuxième vin from *Clos l'Eglise*.

The wine spectator James Molesworth - Posted: Mar 31, 2016 Top-Scoring 2015 Bordeaux Reds Tasting notes and scores for 39 red Bordeaux barrel samples that showed best

CLOS L'ÉGLISE Score: 92-95 Offers a delicious core of plum, raspberry and cherry preserve notes, backed by flavors of apple wood and licorice that still need to integrate fully. A solid wine in the making. —J.M.

Esprit de L'Église Score: 87-90 Round and open, with inviting notes of plum, blood orange and cherry preserves, followed by a very fresh, open finish. —J.M.

Decanter: 92 pts « Aromatic complexity on the nose with a Burgundian nuance. The palate is fresh, fragrant and caressing, then powerful tannins provide plenty of length and drive on the finish ». Decanter Staff April 19, 2016

James Suckling : 92/93 A soft and fruity red with walnut, plum and earth aromas and flavors. Full to medium body, clean finish. Refined and pretty. Posted, March 24th , 2016

Jean-Marc Quarin: 17/94: "En choisissant de vendanger parmi les premiers à Pomerol cette année, Patrice Lévêque a décidé volontairement de bouger le profil de ce cru que j'aime par ailleurs. Cette approche pourrait le mener vers un nouveau style plus prisés des

esthètes. Couleur sombre et intense. Nez parfumé. Jolie entrée en bouche raffinée, puis le vin se développe fondant, très nuancé avant de prendre de la puissance en milieu de bouche et la finale. Il s'achève long sur une corpulence plus subtile que de coutume. Construction sur l'arôme. Très bonne longueur. Tannin fin".

Bettane + Dessauve 95-96 (17,5-18/20) Intense, généreux, profond, tannin caressant, allonge svelte et profonde. Goûté plusieurs fois, ce grand classique de Pomerol a pris progressivement de l'assise et a gagné en raffinement, il surpassera le superbe 2001 dégusté le même jour, on est sur une tendreté toute en profondeur avec le juste retour floral. Notes de guimauve au nez comme en bouche, on joue sur ce millésime la carte de la finesse et de la fraîcheur.

René Gabriel -BDX TOTAL 18/20 "Extrem dunkles Purpur mit lila und violetten Reflexen. Sehr dichtes Bouquet, wirkt noch leicht hölzern im Ansatz, es ist aber auch genügend Fruchtdruck vorhanden. Im Gaumen fest, stoffig, noch fein aufrauend, da ist viel Material drin, nicht unbescheiden in seiner Extraktion. Ich hätte weniger Kraft und mehr Saft erwartet. Das Potential ist aber beeindruckend. Also; let's see in 10 years". 2025 – 2050

La Revue du Vin de France 17/20 : L'état sanitaire parfait des raisons a permis de vinifier le 2015 sans dioxyde de soude à la vendange. Le vin est fidèle à son style, intense et expressif, construit autour d'arômes de fruits noirs (myrtille, cassis...) et d'épices douces. Textue enjôleuse, belle persistance aromatique.

Anthocyanes, Clos l'Eglise, 17,5 / 20 : Très belle trame aromatique sur les fruits bien mûrs, les fleurs, la fraîcheur. Pureté et élégance du nez. Rond, suave, frais avec une très belle matière, de la densité, le tout dans une élégance folle et des tanins veloutés. Le retour de Clos l'Eglise, il était temps.

Anthocyanes, Esprit de l'Eglise 15,5/20 : "Frais, fruité, gourmand au nez. Bouche ronde, souple, légère. Finale aérienne et fraîche".

Thewinecellarinsider.com 94 – 96 Pts Clos LEglise – A blanket of deep, dark, red punctuated with peppery aromatics and complicated by black cherry liqueur, flowers, caramel, truffle and licorice, this wine is rich, full-bodied and concentrated with silky, supple textures and a fiery, fresh finish. The Merlot harvest started September 8, finishing September 15. The Cabernet Franc was picked in one day, September 23. The blend is 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc.

The wine spectator James Molesworth -Posted: Jan 4, 2016

Tasting the 2015 vintages from Clos l'Eglise, Barde-Haut and Poesia with Hélène Garcin-Lévêque

If there were a poster child for the connection between the wine lifestyle and a long, healthy life, it'd be Hélène Garcin-Lévêque, and her husband, winemaker Patrice Lévêque. They still seem as young, attractive and energetic as when *I first met them over a decade ago down in Argentina*. At the time, they were drawn by the freedom of New World winemaking, where AOC regulations and cultural hierarchy aren't nearly as codified as in France.

They've kept their Bordeaux roots, however, and they've pushed their efforts back home as well. Over the past year, they've split the family holdings up so that they can focus on their Right Bank properties—Clos l'Eglise in Pomerol and Barde-Haut and Poesia in St.-Émilion (châteaux Branon and Haut-Bergey in Pessac are now managed by Hélène's brother).

Clos l'Eglise is a tiny property that makes a deliciously pure, fruit-driven wine. **Barde-Haut** is their homebase, where they've converted the winery into Bordeaux's first carbon-neutral facility. And Château Poesia is their just-renamed project, born after the purchase of **Haut-Villet**. This small property had fallen into financial distress, but it's well-situated on the limestone plateau and, with some old Cabernet Franc vines, it was too good an opportunity to pass up.

"The 2015 vintage was hot, so you could easily harvest ripe," says Patrice. "The trick was not to get overripe. July was warm and dry, but with the limestone, there was stress but no suffering. It's a delicate balance, but when it works that way it keeps the freshness and ripeness."

A sample of the 2015 **Château Barde-Haut St.-Émilion** is a blend, but not finalized. In addition, for the first time Patrice vinified the wine without adding any sulphur until after the **malolactic** was done, in order to maximize the purity of fruit (a tactic being experimented with by others in Bordeaux, including **Thomas Duroux at Palmer**). The wine is gorgeously pure, with a beam of unadulterated plum fruit, and just the slightest charcoal edge giving it grip on the finish. The 2015 **Château Poesia St.-Émilion** sample is still going through malo, so while there's a nice sappy kirsch note, it's still a bit jangly.

Both Patrice and Hélène have been shifting to fresher-styled wines in recent years, and their 2015 Clos l'Eglise Pomerol shows the progression. "This didn't happen overnight," says Hélène, of the steady change in style. "The vineyards have evolved and so have our own tastes."

The couple were among the first to start picking in Pomerol in 2015, on Sept. 8, and were finished by Sept. 25, dates which they're proud of as they go a bit against the grain—most wineries tout late picking dates instead (aiming for much riper-styled wines). The 2015 Clos l'Eglise shows a dense but pure and fresh core of kirsch and blackberry fruit, as well as an already-prominent graphite spine. The wine is bright, youthful and energetic, just like Patrice and Hélène.