

CHÂTEAU
CLINET
Pomerol

PRODUCT SHEET

CHÂTEAU **CLINET** POMEROL ■ 2009



CHÂTEAU CLINET is located at the highest point of the Pomerol Plateau on the famous Günz gravel terrace, origin of the appellation's most prestigious crus.

A remarkable **terroir** of old gravel and deep clay over a subsoil of clinker.

The vines are grown with total respect for the environment, giving pride of place to tilling and grassing rather than using chemicals, placing greater confidence in the human hand than in the profitability of the machine.

The **state-of-the-art installations** in the cellars complement the natural assets of the appellation and the resources of the vineyard to get the very best out of the grapes and the wine.

This outstanding wine, the result of the combination of a generous terroir, a friendly climate and human foresight, is unanimously hailed as one of the most prestigious wines in the world.



AREA	8,64 ha
GRAPE VARIETIES	85 Merlot, 12% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Cabernet Franc
AVERAGE AGE OF VINES	49 years
SOILS	Ancient gravel, deep clay, iron deposit in the subsoil
SOIL MAINTENANCE	Tilling, natural grassing, barley
AGEING	60% new oak barrels, 40% 1-wine barrel
PRODUCTION	45 000 bottles



2009, THROUGHOUT THE SEASONS...

A late bud-break

A cold, dry winter and early spring caused a late start to the vine's growing season (end of March). April was cool and very damp, bringing about slow vine vegetation growth.

Perfect conditions for the flowering process:

There was a sharp rise in temperatures from the beginning of May, with stormy conditions and even two hailstorms on May 11th and 15th which caused considerable damage in the neighbouring appellations of Pomerol.

The flowering took place at the end of May/beginning of June in dry, sunny weather. These conditions helped enable a quick, even flowering which is always a sign of potentially generous crop loads.

The driest summer in a decade:

The summer which followed was the driest of the decade. Fortunately, the rainy spring weather had allowed the soils to build up good water reserves and enabled the vines to avoid any early water deficit stress, such as experienced in 2003, 2005 and 2006. The summer temperatures were among the highest of the past ten years.

In these extremely favourable weather conditions, the Château CLINET vineyard team carried out specific canopy work to help the vines benefit from their water deficit stress. The team decided in particular to do only one de-leafing (that on the cooler east side of the rows) so as to avoid the hot sun burning the grape skins on the west side, and to do a light crop thinning in mid-July.

Plot by plot harvesting:

Château CLINET practised its policy of harvesting plot by plot, aiming to pick each plot at perfect phenolic ripeness. For the 2009 vintage, this sometimes resulted in bringing in grapes that had over 14° potential alcohol!

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At CLINET, the harvest began on the 11th, 15th and 16th September with the young Merlot vines. One of the most significant events of this vintage was the rainfall on 18th, 19th and 20th September.

It brought much-needed coolness to the vines and enabled the grapes to take full advantage of the dry, sunny weather during the weeks that followed. The harvest continued on 25th September, 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th October for the old-vine Merlot in perfect weather.

Finally, the Cabernets (Sauvignon and Franc) were picked on 7th October.

The harvest was therefore the longest in the history of the estate: 9 days of picking spread out over a month! The macerations lasted 4 to 5 weeks, with regular pigeages (punching down the cap of skins), enabling the gentlest possible extraction.

The 2009 vintage, helped by outstandingly advantageous weather conditions, looks to be one of the greatest wines ever produced by Château CLINET.

WINE ADVOCATE - 100

Clinet has been on a hot streak lately and the 2009 appears to be the greatest wine ever made at the estate, surpassing even the late Jean-Michel Arcaute's monumental 1989. A blend of 85% Merlot and tiny amounts of Cabernet Sauvignon (12%) and Cabernet Franc (3%), this big Pomerol boasts an opaque, moonless night inky/blue/purple color in addition to a gorgeous perfume of blueberry pie, incense, truffles, black raspberries, licorice and wood smoke. Viscous and multi-dimensional with silky, sweet tannin, massive fruit concentration and full-bodied power, there are nearly 4,000 cases of this thick, juicy, perfect Clinet. It should drink well in 3-5 years and keep for 25-30.

Robert Parker - March 2012

LISA PEROTTI BROWN IN ASIA - 97 - 99

Wow – pronounced aromas of cassis, blackberry, tree bark, cloves, iron ore and a touch of smoky bacon. Full bodied with medium to high acidity and layers of rich fruit supported by an abundance of very finely grained tannins. Very long finish.

- July 2010

WINE SPECTATOR - 94

"Very lush and exotic, boasting plum sauce, crushed fig, warm raspberry confiture and steeped black currant fruit all dripping over a racy but buried graphite spine. The long, dark finish has plenty of stuffing for the long haul. Really beautifully rendered. Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc." - *James Molesworth January 2012*

NEIL MARTIN 'S WINE JOURNAL - 96

"The Clinet '09 is a massive wine but on this occasion it is curiously reticent at first and demands coaxing. Perhaps this is on the cusp of closing down. The palate is full-bodied and dense, loaded with glycerin but still beautifully balanced with firm backbone and massive grip on the finish. This is a child prodigy that is about to enter what might well be a turbulent adolescence, but is certain to inspire awe just as the 1989 and 1990 Clinet can do at present. Tasted June 2013

DECANTER - 18/20 ★★★★★

Superb. Probably the best Clinet since the famous duo 1989-1990. Dense, opulent with beautifully textured tannins. Very gourmand. Loads of charm. With the right élevage could be a 5-star wine. Drink 2017-2035. (18 points) - *James Lawther April 2010*

JANCIS ROBINSON - 18

Blackish purple. Tarry and glossy. Very sweet and polished. Utterly seductive. Sufficient freshness on the finish. Though it's a tightrope with the alcohol. But overall it's very well done and archtypally 2009. Essence of 2009? Very well done. - *Jancis Robinson - April 2013*

TIM ATKIN - 96

«...Beguiling, with intricate, floral aromatics and plush, satiny textures...» - *November 2013*

LA REVUE DE VIN DE FRANCE - 16 - 17 / 20

Peu à peu, Clinet revient à son meilleur niveau. A ce stade, les arômes toastés sont un peu envahissants, mais tout devrait se fondre et rentrer dans l'ordre avant les mises. Repérée dans le chai, une barrique faite avec un chêne planté par Colbert... qui va sûrement réserver des surprises! A suivre donc. - *Avril 2010*

LE POINT - 15,5

Fruits noirs, un peu confituré, bouche moelleuse, ronde, puissante, un peu d'amertume en finale mais un vin dense, équilibré, avec beaucoup de moelleux. - *Jacques Dupont April 2010*