

PALMER (MARGAUX)

One of the region's finest estates! Its sprawling property claims some great views of Château Margaux and is surrounded by others like the Rauzans' and d'Issan. Its first-growth neighbor is not the only one producing large-scaled, nuanced wines from this area. At times it performs brilliantly, churning out remarkable wines of concentration and elegance.

If one looks back in time to vintages like 1995, 1990, 1989, 1986, and 1982 you will find thrilling efforts that represent Palmer's best. Palmer offers remarkable precision, vibrancy, and opulence, with wonderful color, abundant blackberry aromas, crème de cassis, and crushed, lead-pencil *dust*. Usually they are approachable after 6-8 years and depending on the vintage can age for 22-32 years or longer. They are built to age thoroughly and evolve to delicious flavors of liquefied minerals and *savories* of mushroom. Its finest, most complete offering from the decade of the 1980s is the 1986. It is sure to thrill collectors and continue to offer terrific drinking for another 15 years. It is a compelling example of this *terroir!*

Recently, Châteaux Malescot St.-Exupéry and Rauzan-Ségla are excelling with larger-scaled wines, adding to the great success stories of the appellation. Now that the estate has the experience of Thomas Duroux, the CEO, and Sabrina Pernet, the woman in charge of the technical aspects, there is much to look forward to.

Vintage Specifications >
Bottles Produced: n/a
Cabernet Franc: 9%
Cabernet Sauvignon: 40%
Merlot: 51%
Petit Verdot: 0% (hl/ha: 41)

1995: This is a superb Palmer of finesse and power! Its saturated ruby color does show noticeable hints of rust at the edge, followed by sumptuous fragrances of cassis, lead-pencil shavings, cherry extract, and a hint of toast. Silky-entry, a fabulous extraction of flavor, opulent, and boasting some irresistible intensity and vibrancy in addition to a medium to full-body and seducing richness of fruit. Showing great now but one should continue to cellar it for the next 12-18 years.

94

Vintage Specifications >
Bottles Produced: n/a
Cabernet Franc: 1%
Cabernet Sauvignon: 50%
Merlot: 47%
Petit Verdot: 2% (hl/ha: 47)

1994: The noteworthy vintage may have up-side potential. Its saturated plum/ruby color with lighting at the edge proceeds to candied-plum, crème de cassis aromas infused with cherry galore. Beautiful purity of plum and mulberry extract intermingled with cassis, a medium to full-body, fabulous-texture, and abundant berry flavor. It will continue to deliver for the next 12-16 years. This is good!

92

Vintage Specifications >
Bottles Produced: n/a
Cabernet Franc: 7%
Cabernet Sauvignon: 52%
Merlot: 41%
Petit Verdot: 0% (hl/ha: 56)

1993: A charming wine to consume over the next 10-14 years. The wine boasts sweet aromatics of cherry, crème de cassis, berry, and stony minerals in addition to a plum-ruby color with maturing rusty-edges. Pleasing entry with a medium-body, loads of sweetness, deep flavor of fruit, and seamless finish. This finessed and mature vintage offers much appeal.

88

Vintage Specifications >
Bottles Produced: n/a
Cabernet Franc: 5%
Cabernet Sauvignon: 50%
Merlot: 43%
Petit Verdot: 2% (hl/ha: 58)

1992: The vintage may be simplistic and fruit-filled, however it's well-made, balanced, and exposes some attractive fragrances of crushed-chalk, plum, and sweet flowers. Quite the mature Palmer with its plum-brown edged hue, plenty of plump-berry flavor, and fresh-acidity. Drink for the next 6-9 years.

85

Vintage Specifications >
Bottles Produced: n/a
Cabernet Franc: 4%
Cabernet Sauvignon: 58%
Merlot: 36%
Petit Verdot: 2% (hl/ha: 24)

1991: The tasty, pale to medium ruby-rusty hued Palmer exhibits lead-pencil scents infused with boysenberry, wet-earth, and flower pedals. An average, fresh, low-acidic, medium-bodied, fruit-filled offering, with much in plush fruit, and subtle hints of tannin. Consider drinking for the next 9-12 years.

86

Vintage Specifications >
Bottles Produced: n/a
Cabernet Franc: 7%
Cabernet Sauvignon: 54%
Merlot: 37%
Petit Verdot: 2% (hl/ha: 60)

1990: The well-made, outstanding 1990 offers a deep plum/ruby color with a rusty rim, followed by seared juices, crushed lead-pencil *dust*, tight flowery notes, and tar aromas. Extremely close to the quality of the 1989 boasting a structured mouth-feel, loads of sweetness, and irresistible nuances of cherry and earthy mineral. It comes across backward, but delivering on delicious fruit and tannin. Continue to cellar this mature Palmer for the next 10-15 years.

93

Vintage Specifications >
Bottles Produced: n/a
Cabernet Franc: 1%
Cabernet Sauvignon: 52%
Merlot: 41%
Petit Verdot: 6% (hl/ha: 62)

1989: A fabulous offering! Palmer's plum-ruby color with brown-edges is followed by crushed-limestone elements infused with crème de cassis, and mulberry extract. It is in its secondary phase of maturity boasting a medium to full-body, an opulent fruit structure, and irresistible flavors of cassis and cherry liqueur, along with a pristine finish, and length. Currently revealing hints of savory flavors, as a result I recommend cellaring for the next 12-16 years.

94

Vintage Specifications >
Bottles Produced: n/a
Cabernet Franc: 8%
Cabernet Sauvignon: 51%
Merlot: 39%
Petit Verdot: 2% (hl/ha: 47)

1988: This vintage is comparable to the 1987 but does not offer as much fruit as that vintage. Its dense ruby/brown/rusty edged-hue precedes simple earthy flavors intermixed with boysenberry and hints of plum, a light-body, and a lively after-taste. It is well-made and satisfying. Meant to be consumed in its first 10-15 years of life.

85