

# Château Rauzan-Ségla 2020

CSPC# 813895

750mlx6

13.5% alc./vol.

## Grape Variety

60% Cabernet-Sauvignon, 36% Merlot, 3% Petit Verdot, 1% Cabernet Franc

## Appellation

Margaux

## Classification

Second Growth. Deuxième Grand Cru Classé in 1855.

Previously called Chateau Rausan-Segla

<https://www.chateaurauzansegla.com/en/>

## Website

## General Info

Château Rauzan-Ségla and Mouton Rothschild were considered the leading 2<sup>em</sup> Cru Classé Bordeaux properties during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. However, while the fortunes of Mouton prospered in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, culminating in its elevation to 1<sup>er</sup> Cru status in 1973, Rauzan-Ségla's reputation dwindled, and a succession of disappointing wines were produced.

In the early 80s the Rauzan-Segla was sold, and the renaissance began. The eminent Professor Peynaud was appointed as a consultant and the proportion of Cabernet Sauvignon in the blend was increased, as was the proportion of new oak used in the maturation process. In 1986, a brand-new cuverie was built.

A succession of eye-catching wines was produced at Rauzan-Ségla in the mid to late 80s and early 1990s. Rauzan-Segla was bought by Chanel in 1994.

The wines of Rauzan Segla are meant to age, allowing the wine to develop complexity, aromas, and textures. They do not offer much pleasure young. Tannic, rich, structured, and full bodied, with time, the wine offers complex spicy and floral aromatics, purity of fruit, refined textures, concentration, and harmony that few other wines deliver. 2005, 2009 and 2010 are all stunning examples of Chateau Rauzan Segla at its best.

## Winemaker

Cellar Master: Henry de Ruffray

Consulting oenologist: Jacques et Eric Boissenot

## Vintage

Winter: particularly mild

Spring: warm and very wet

Summer: very dry from mid-June to mid-August with high temperatures in early September

Autumn: temperatures fell, and the rain returned in the second half of September

## Vineyards

The 52-hectare Margaux vineyard has increased in size over the years. Most notably in 2008, when they purchased 8.5 hectares from Chateau de La Bourgade. 52 hectares on deep fine gravel with clay at different layers planted to 6600-10000 vines per hectare. Plantings comprise 54% Cabernet Sauvignon, 41% Merlot, 4% Petit Verdot and 1% Cabernet Franc. Green harvest and leaf thinning. Grapes entirely hand-picked into twenty kilo boxes and then sorted on a vibrating table at the cellar. Grapes are de-stemmed without crushing.

## Harvest

Cabernet Sauvignon: 21 to 29 September; Merlot: 8 to 18 September; Petit Verdot: 25 September;

Cabernet Franc: 21 September

## Vinification

The berries are poured on a first vibrating table where the clusters not having a perfect sanitary state are eliminated manually. Each vine plot is vinified separately in thermo-regulated stainless-steel vats. 35 stainless steel and temperature-controlled vats# with capacities between 41-220hl which provide for single plot fermentation. 6-8-day alcoholic fermentation with pumping over is followed typically by a maceration of 12-20 days depending on the vintage.

## Maturation

In French oak barrel, with a medium or medium-long toasting. Racking via the bunghole. Fining with egg whites in barrel. 18 months in barriques, 60% new.

## Tasting Notes

This is a true perfume, very Margaux, floral, spicy, herbs, citrus aromas, liquorice, a poem. The palate is precise and very fresh, dense, with top quality tannins, very good acidity, and no excess alcohol, this is pure elegance, the fruit is crisp, every element has its place. A wine with finesse and an almost never-ending finish. One of the finest wines of the vintage.

## Serve with

Chateau Rauzan Segla is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. Chateau Rauzan Segla is best paired with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes.

## Cellaring

Drink 2030-2065



**Scores/Awards** **93 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2023  
**98 points** - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2023  
**96-98+ points** - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - May 2021  
**96 points** - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent - March 2023  
**97 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2023  
**97-98 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2021  
**96 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 2023  
**17.5 points** - James Lawther, JancisRobinson.com - April 2021  
**98 points** - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - January 2023  
**96 points** - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - May 2021  
**96 points** - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - January 2023  
**92 points** - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - May 2021  
**98 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2023  
**97-99 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2021  
**94 points** - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2021  
**93-96 points** - Farr Vintners - May 2021  
**96 points** - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2023  
**97 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2023  
**95-97 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - June 2021  
**98 points** - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2023  
**95-97 points** - Jeb Dunnuck MW - May 2021  
**94-96 points** - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2021  
**95 points** - Vert de Vin - May 2021  
**92-94 points** - Michael Schuster, The World of Fine Wine - May 2021  
**17.5 points** - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - September 2021

**Reviews**

*“Shows nice range and texture, with a mix of plum, black currant and black cherry preserves carried by a very silky structure, while black tea, alder and sweet tobacco fill in through the finish. Approachable for its caressing edge, but there’s no rush. Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, and Petit Verdot. Best from 2024 through 2036.”*

- JM, Wine Spectator

*“The 2020 Rauzan-Ségla is showing brilliantly in bottle. Wafting from the glass with aromas of cassis and minty blackberries mingled with violets and licorice, it’s medium to full-bodied, suave, and seamless, with a deep core of vibrant fruit, beautifully refined tannins and a harmonious, integrated profile that exudes elegance. A wine of immense character and refinement, it’s the best vintage from this estate in recent times.”*

- WK, Wine Advocate

*“Composed of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36% Merlot, 3% Petit Verdot and 1% Cabernet Franc, the 2020 Rauzan-Ségla is aging for 18 months in French oak barrels, 60% new. It has an alcohol of 13.5% and a pH of 3.74. Deep purple-black colored, aromas of blackcurrant cordial, stewed red and black plums, chocolate-covered cherries and raspberry coulis erupt from the glass, leading to an undercurrent of tar, licorice, red roses, and menthol, plus a hint of unsmoked cigars. The medium-bodied palate is elegant and yet manages seriously impressive intensity, which is well-sustained throughout the mid-palate and finish. Refined and refreshing, delivering beautifully soft, silt-like tannins and bags of bright red and black fruits, it finishes with amazing length and a stunning perfume. Between this and Château Canon, Nicolas Audebert and his team have knocked it out of the park this vintage.*

*“The mildew was our biggest challenge this year,” said Technical Director Nicolas Audebert. “It is a very heterogeneous vineyard. More than 20 different soil types. And it is true, the August rain was not the same across Bordeaux. We have 40% Merlot in the blend, like Palmer, which works well this year. The impact of the dry period was stronger on the Cabernet Sauvignon. We had very small berries. The effect of the dryness and the ripeness is there in the wine, but there is no excess of ripeness. There is a little bit of an exotic style. It could be a place where you have a mix of culture and civilization. It is generous but extremely elegant. This was a vintage where we had to fight to get it. It’s like in rugby when you win by just one point on a rainy day. This is a special wine for me—it has the taste of victory!”*

- LPB, Wine Advocate

**Reviews** *"Composed of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36% Merlot, 3% Petit Verdot and 1% Cabernet Franc, the 2020 Rauzan-Ségla has a very deep purple-black color. It charges out of the glass with vibrant scents of fresh black currants, black raspberries, and chocolate covered cherries, leading to touches of lavender, tar, and tree bark. Medium-bodied, the palate is lively and bright-fruited with alluring mineral accents, delivering ripe, grainy tannins and great length."*

- LPB, Wine Independent

*"A very polished red with blackberry, black olive, walnut, and crushed stone aromas that follow through to a medium to full body with polished, velvety tannins that go on for minutes. Surprisingly open and so attractive. Wonderful length to this. Needs four to five years to open. Best after 2026."*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"Full-bodied and layered with velvety layers of tannins that are beautifully interspersed with ripe fruit and dark-chocolate notes. Silky and lightly chewy texture. Very long, solid finish."*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"This wine has a fine structure, with dense tannins from the Cabernet Sauvignon in the blend. It is a full wine, the spicy character mingling with black currant flavors. This wine has an excellent future. Drink from 2027."*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36% Merlot, 3% Petit Verdot, 1% Cabernet Franc. Cask sample.*

*Almost the same blend as last year. Perfumed violet, floral aroma with a hint of minty freshness. Smooth and spherical on attack then long and linear. Plentiful but finely honed tannins. Lovely poise and balance. A touch steelier than 2019 but clear potential. (JL) Drink 2028 – 2045."*

- JL, JancisRobinson.com

*"Perfumed nose, heady and seductive, the aromas shining out of the glass. Full, rich, and vibrant tones of blackcurrant and black cherry. Ripe and chewy, the tannins really are present and grippy but have a plushness and a bounce to them, they coat the entire mouth, seriously wide and expansive but are gentle even in their fillingness. A powdery blueberry juiciness with intense liquorice touches walks the line between freshness and power so well. Really a step up in quality, still tight, strong, and not exactly charming at this point but there's no faulting the winemaking here, this is direct, powerful, and firm but so long with great acidity. Packed and charged, ripe and rich, yet round and balanced. I adore it."*

- GH, Decanter.com

*"Turmeric and cumin spices alongside concentrated cassis and bilberry fruits, this has a powerful structure where the tannins layer up through the palate. There is no question that this is intense, and a reflection of the low yields of the vintage, but Rauzan Ségla manages what it always does, which is to take the foot off the pedal at exactly the right moment, and allow the juice to come rushing in. The push and pull of muscular tannins and deft supple acidity gives an extra layer of success. Should be ready to drink a little earlier than the biggest years such as 2016 or 2019, but this will still age for decades."*

- JA, Decanter.com

*"Edge of smoked and salted caramel, along with blackberry, cassis, bilberry, liquorice root, incense, giving depth and character. Elegant, satiny tannins, very much an architecture that makes you stop and appreciate the craftsmanship that has put it all together. Second time tasting this freshly-released vintage in recent weeks, and it's one to savour. 3.74, 60% new oak, harvest September 8 to 29. Nicolas Audbert director, Eric Boissenot consultant."*

- JA, janeanson.com

*Small berries meaning a ton of colour and a sign of a vintage that had ripe fruits and thick skins. On the palate there is a clear Cabernet definition to the fruits, bringing savoury bilberry flesh, tight and spicy with firm tannins. A serious but seriously delicious Ségla. 100% organic farming. Barrel Sample: 92."*

- JA, janeanson.com

## Reviews

*"The complex perfume stands out with its array of flowers, cinnamon, currants, cherries, cigar box, and touch of tobacco. The wine is full-bodied, deep, sensuous, silky, and yes, sexy, finishing with a wealth of expansive fruit, espresso and dark cocoa that holds our focus for over 50 seconds. Drink from 2027-2060."*

- JL, [thewinecellarinsider.com](http://thewinecellarinsider.com)

*"Incredibly dark in color, the wine explodes with violets, boysenberry, cigar box, graphite, blackberry, plum, black cherry, toasty oak, and spice. Full-bodied, with a fabulous depth of flavor, energy, purity and refinement, the wine is long, intense, and silky. The finish, with its velvet-drenched layers of fruits, entices you to take another sip, simply because it is that good. The finish holds for close to 50 seconds, leaving you with a wealth of expansive fruit, espresso, and dark cocoa. The wine blends 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36% Merlot, 3% Petit Verdot and 1% Cabernet Franc, 13.5% ABV, pH 3.74. The harvest took place September 8 - September 29."*

- JL, [thewinecellarinsider.com](http://thewinecellarinsider.com)

*"The 2020 is a blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36% Merlot, 3% Petit Verdot and 1% Cabernet Franc at a yield of 30hl/ha. It will be aged for 18 months in 60% new French oak. Deep ruby in colour. Pure fresh blackcurrant, graphite and a little red cherry and cedar on the nose. This is focused and fresh. The palate follows, with an elegant and compact core of fruit framed by refined but grippy tannin. This is a wine of depth rather than breadth, driven by zesty black fruit and a hint of blossom. This is cool and savoury through to a long, fine finish. Harmonious."*

- Farr Vintners

*"The 2020 Rauzan-Ségla is more open on the nose than when I tasted it from barrel. Quite intense with blackberry, crushed violet, oyster shell and just a touch of pencil box. It actually pulls back a little with aeration, almost as if it is (to quote *The Specials*) showing too much, too young. The palate is pixelated on the entry, perfectly proportioned with seamlessly integrated oak, a silver bead of acidity. Not ostentatious in any way, but streamlined and holding something back on the finish, which bodes well for the future. This is deeply impressive."*

- NM, *Vinous*

*"The 2020 Rauzan-Ségla is a huge, explosive wine. Black cherry, plum, chocolate, licorice, smoke, and incense are some of the many notes that infuse the 2020 with tremendous richness. With *élevage*, the 2020 has grown into a huge, brooding wine endowed with notable presence. There's great purity and class here. The 2020 is a powerful, brooding Rauzan-Ségla for readers who can be patient."*

- AG, *Vinous*

*"The 2020 Rauzan-Ségla is all reserved and nowhere near as showy as the last few vintages. Don't be fooled though, this tightly-coiled, brilliant wine has the potential to be magnificent, but it needs time. Sweet floral, spice and cedar nuances open with a bit of coaxing, but the 2020 is in no mood to show all its cards yet. The 2020 is a super-classic Rauzan-Ségla that will delight readers in search of restrained elegance, something that is not so easy to find in Bordeaux these days."*

- AG, *Vinous*

*"The 2020 Château Rauzan-Ségla is pure Margaux brilliance, and this beautifully elegant wine embodies the best of the vintage. Revealing a deep ruby/purple hue as well as a great bouquet of blackcurrants, black cherries, lead pencil, sandalwood, smoked tobacco, and hints of incense, it hits the palate with medium to full-bodied richness, a layered, seamless mouthfeel, integrated acidity, and a great finish. It offers pleasure today (although it closes down with extended air) but deserves 5-7 years of bottle age and will evolve for 30 years or more. This is clearly in the same league as the 2015, 2016, 2018, and 2019. Tasted on multiple occasions with consistent results."*

- Jeb Dunnuck

*"The 2020 Château Rauzan-Ségla checks in as 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36% Merlot, and the balance Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc. It's one of the more inky, backward wines I can recall from this address and has brooding notes of blackcurrants, spring flowers, tobacco, graphite, and crushed stone. A big, rich, concentrated 2020, it's medium to full-bodied, has ripe, building tannins, fabulous purity, and a great finish. There's a certain austerity here that makes me think this will be one for the cellar."*

- Jeb Dunnuck

**Reviews** *“Deep dark ruby, opaque core, purple reflections, broadening rim. Attractive black cherries, a hint of blackberries, plums, and fresh orange zest. Juicy, elegant, cassis and blackberry fruit, fine nougat, ripe tannins, chocolaty, mineral finish, gently spiced aftertaste. Good ageing potential.”*  
- PM, Falstaff Magazine

*“On the nose, fruity and elegant offering a just concentration, freshness, a little intensity (in finesse), depth, harmony, and a fine tight grain. It reveals the notes of bright cherry, bright blackberry, and more lightly bright black berry combined with hints of lily, racy minerality, Sichuan pepper, sweet spice, as well as hints of violet, zan, discreet saffron, and an imperceptible touch of camphor. The palate is fruity and offers minerality, freshness, a nice definition, roundness, a nice racy minerality, an airy side, delicacy, a certain unctuousness as well as a tight grain. The wine expresses the notes of pulpy/fresh blackberry, pulpy/fresh raspberry and more lightly fresh/juicy red berries combined with hints of licorice, violet, cherry blossom/cherry pit, hints of cardamom, nutmeg as well as an imperceptible hint of cinnamon, blond tobacco, and sweet spices. The tannins are racy and smooth. A wine with full of delicacy, freshness, and roundness.”*  
- Vert de Vin

*“(60% CS, 36% M, 3% PV, 1% CF; 30hl/ha; 13.5% ABV; 60% new)*  
*Quite dense, blackberry, blackcurrant, and gravel, very persistent; rich midweight, with a most attractive fleshy yet fresh feel and a superfine, almost imperceptible tannin, a very fine balance; a lovely impression of richness without force, sweetly ripe, long, refined, subtle, succulent, satiny, so even, so effortless, and finishing with a wonderful freshness. A new, particularly plush, silky texture, a real beauty in the vintage. A gem, which will become a great RS with age. 2030–50+.”*  
- MS, The World of Fine Wine

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