



LA PÈIRA



2018 VINTAGE

“SOUTHERN FRANCE’S FIRST GROWTH”

AUCTION HOUSE ZACKYS





LA PÈIRA MARKS 15 YEARS

It's been 15 years since our first harvest at La Pèira. So, this year, as well as introducing the 2018 vintage, we thought to take stock. The goal from the beginning was to be equal in vineyard practices as any of France's finest, but to allow the wine to be very different - even unafraid - in terms of what it expressed. In short: to be uncompromisingly focused on quality, but to allow nature to determine the characteristics of the wine to express a sense of place.

“SOUTHERN FRANCE'S FIRST GROWTH”

Along the way there have been kind comments about the quality of La Pèira:

“Easily one of the top estates in all of France”, wrote Jeb Dunnock in the Wine Advocate

“Make no mistake about it, this is a very special wine made on a very special estate”: Jancis Robinson

“A range of wines of striking depth and originality yet great truth to place, too”: Andrew Jefford - Financial Times

La Pèira has been mentioned as “Southern France's First Growth”.

The chart below looking at vintages 2005-2015 (our first decade) bears that out.

But we are still beginning when it comes to discovering the qualities of our place.

Thank you for your continued support and interest in going along with us on that journey.

LA PÈIRA & FIRST GROWTHS 2005-2015 – WINE ADVOCATE AVERAGE 2005-2015 (AUG 2017)

MILLÉSIME	Château Haut-Brion	La Pèira	Château Latour	Château Margaux	Château Mouton Rothschild	Château Lafite Rothschild
AOP	Pessac-Léognan	Terrasses du Larzac	Pauillac	Margaux	Pauillac	Pauillac
Surface	45 hectares	15 hectares	77 hectares	82 hectares	80 hectares	103 hectares
Production	20,000 cases	400 cases	30,000 cases	30,000 cases	25,000 cases	45,000 cases
2015	98-100	94-96+	95-97	98-100	97-99	94-96
2014	93-95	93-96	95-97	93-95	94-96	94-96
2013	90-92	93	88-90	88-90	91-93	87-89
2012	98	92	94+	95	94	91
2011	95	96	93-95	93	92	90-93
2010	100	97+	100	99	97+	98
2009	100	99	100	99	99	99+
2008	96	95	96	94	94	98
2007	92	98	92	92	88	94
2006	96	95	94	94	97	95
2005	100	97	98	98+	97	96
AVERAGE / MOYENNE	96,82	95,82	95,73	95,36	95,09	95
PLACE	1ST	2ND	3RD	4TH	5TH	6TH

La Pèira & First Growths 2005-2015

Wine Advocate Average 2005-2015 (Aug 2017)

96.82
1ST



95.82
2ND



95.73
3RD



95.36
4TH



95.09
5TH



95
6TH



PREAMBLE

We were delighted to participate in Meininger's FINEST 100 at the end of 2019. 100 of the world's best wine producers and 100 of the most prestigious sommeliers from Germany are chosen to join this international summit alongside alongside 100 of the best wine merchants from Austria, Switzerland and Germany. La Pèira presented alongside producers such as Krug, Pichon-Longueville-Comtesse de Lalande, Gaja, López De Heredia, Conterno Giacomo, Biondi Santi, Ridge Vineyards. We were kindly hosted by Albert Kierdorf, famed for working with many of the world's finest estates - not the least of which, Domaine de la Romanée-Conti. More about the vintage including our extraordinary 2018 bottling of Las Flors, where to mark this new era for the blend we have we have decided to christen the vintage 2ÈME. Finally the whites at La Pèira and the reporting of Jancis Robinson are mention within.

Bottling 2018 IN OUR 15TH YEAR

The news at La Pèira is that the 2018 (alongside the 2019) is excellent. Yet not without challenges. As Decanter Magazine in its November 19, 2018 article, *Languedoc-Roussillon's eventful year*, reported:

"Mildew losses at La Pèira were 30%... while 35% were lost to mildew at Mas de Daumas Gassac".

Some areas even suffered devastating floods in October and November. Yet as the article goes on:

"The consolation was that quality, after a warm summer, was excellent: 'the best we've ever made,' according to Nicolas Raffy [Mas Amiel]".

One exciting piece of news is that, with the 2018 blend, the Las Flors cuvee has reached new heights.

With the maturity of vineyards planted years ago, we found in 2018 we really could take a leap in terms of Las Flors, delivering that wonderfully approachable and supple experience of a second wine while at the same time progressing ahead in terms of quality.

And so, this standout 2018 vintage has a name: 2ÈME.

In our last vintage report, we noted how our partner in Belgium, the famed Young Charly, discovered that La Pèira had outperformed almost all of Bordeaux's five First Growths over the decade 2005-2015 (See pages 4-7 in this report).

Likewise, our commitment and work with the Las Flors de la Pèira vineyard can be seen in the fact it has outperformed France's greatest second wines in the years 2005-2017 as per Wine Advocate reviews over the period 2005-2017 (see pages 15-21).

Despite this, we still felt we could do better. And the 2018 and 2019 Las Flors may be in style and quality the greatest blends of the cuvee.

We've also exciting news of the Obriers. And Jancis Robinson reports on the white Deusyls de la Pèira 2008 (after 12 years in bottle) and others:

"Lovely to taste an old white wine that has not lost its fruit. This promises rather well for Terrasses du Larzac whites..."

Thank you for your support which has made this ongoing improvement possible.

Rob Dougan et l'équipe de La Pèira

2019

MEININGER'S
FINEST 100

LA PÈIRA

CHATEAU PICHON LONGUEVILLE
COMTESSE DE LALANDE

BIONDI - SANTI
TENUTA GREPPO

LOUIS ROEDERER
CHAMPAGNE

KRUG

GAJA

FAMILLE PERRIN

DOMAINE DE LARLOT

Vietux Chateau Certan
PONSEROL

CONTERNO GIACOMO

POL ROGER

VILA DE TORROJA
TERROIR AL LIMIT SOC. LDA.
PRIORAT

DOMAINE
FAIVELEY

RIDGE
VINEYARDS

HENSCHKE

CLOS MOGADOR

HARLAN ESTATE

CHATEAU HAUT BAILLY

La Pèira

SPOTTSWOODDE
ESTATE VINEYARD & WINERY

Weingut Joh. Jos. Prüm

“...This [La Pèira 2018] shows the potential to rival or even exceed the 2016 in terms of subtlety and sophistication.”

JANCIS ROBINSON





THE TWO FACES OF THE 2018 VINTAGE

Janus, the Roman two-faced deity (one looking to the past, one to the future) was said to be the god of beginnings, of doorways, duality, passages, frames, and endings. For much of the first-half of 2018 it felt like a door was closing on us. Despite treatment after treatment, mildew returned, time after time, taking with it a much of the crop at La Pèira. By contrast, July onwards until the end of harvest were worry free, with perfect weather conditions and ripening. The Wine Scholar Guild vintage chart for the region (compiled by Andrew Jefford) gives the vintage a four out of five glass rating ('Excellent').

2018 LOSSES AND GAINS

First the losses: one third of the crop was lost in 2018 at La Pèira. One in every three bottles were lost due to the worst outbreak of mildew in 25 years. The cause? A wet spring followed by heavy rain in May and June with high humidity.

After these early losses, July and August saw the warm weather return. The sun led the vines from September to October, with not a drop of rain from the beginning of the harvest right until its end. And so, fortuitously, our luck having changed, we gained the opportunity to harvest each grape variety at the best moment. This is the second year of low production. You may remember from last year's vintage report Decanter magazine wrote wine production to be at "historic lows" in 2017.

2018 in brief:

- A rainy wet spring great for the vines during budding and at the beginning of growing season
- Heavy rain during May and June. This led to high humidity and mildew on a level that has not been seen in the last quarter of a century
- Around 30% of crop was lost at La Pèira due to mildew in 2018
- July and August saw warm summer weather return. September remained sunny with cooling nights
- Then not a drop of rain from the beginning of the harvest until its end in early October. This allowed harvesting the grapes at the best moment without the pressure from changeable weather conditions.
- After this restraint, when harvest finished a terrible storm broke in the neighbouring Aude area caused destruction and damage. By this point the grapes has been all brought in.

And the result?

- An exuberant vintage with wines of concentration, structure, and generosity.
- Production down by a third
- La Pèira 2018 has exuberant creamy red fruits on the nose, then notes of cedar, spice, sous bois, earth, leading to wine of concentration, structure, and balance full-bodied southern French generosity.
- 2018 La Flors is we think one the greatest Las Flors blends yet. Surprisingly dark colour. The same creamy red fruits of its older sibling (La Pèira) on the nose. On the mouth crisp feeling of red and black fruits you can almost bite into.

The whites

- An extraordinary year for the whites. More about the expressive, exotic, and very different whites along with Janis Robinson's notes follow in the pages ahead.
- A level of expression of Terrasses du Larzac whites that articulates something unique not found elsewhere in other French AOPs



“...I’ve called this estate one of the best in France, and I stand by that statement today.”

JEB DUNNUCK

JANCIS ROBINSON RECENT REVIEWS

“...this [La Pèira 2018] shows the potential to rival or even exceed the 2016 in terms of subtlety and sophistication”

La Pèira 2018 Healthy purplish crimson. Savoury, vigorous nose. Good lift with a floral top note. Still embryonic but this shows the potential to rival or even exceed the 2016 in terms of subtlety and sophistication. Real energy here as well as gloriously ripe, cosseted fruit. I’d love to taste this again once bottle. Admirably persistent already.

La Pèira 2017 Mid shaded crimson. Fresher nose than the 2016 at present, though the texture is just as opulent and the palate, if anything, more obviously sweet. With just a hint of heat on the finish. I wonder whether this has a little more Mourvèdre in the blend? There’s a slightly gamey note – but it’s a marvellous throat-soother. Very long and ripe. Just not quite as fresh on the palate.

La Pèira 2016 Heady, intense, already complex nose that’s enormously ripe and concentrated yet beautifully refined with the smoothest tannins. Really very classy indeed. A seamless blend, with notes of both chocolate and vegetation to keep it fresh. Exceptionally long and pure without any excess heat on the end...This is great winemaking and, presumably, terroir and vine growing.

Jeb Dunnuck’s review of the La Pèira 2016 called it:

“Up with the finest vintages of this cuvée and a candidate for perfection” {97-99/100}

He went on,

“...despite being a rich, powerful wine, has remarkable elegance and purity. I’ve called this estate one of the best in France, and I stand by that statement today.”

2018 looks set to be one of the great La Pèira vintages.



LAS FLORS 2ÈME - FRANCE'S GREATEST SECOND WINE?

We've made our second wine, Las Flors de la La Pèira since 2005. For 15 vintages. As you can see it compares favourably with France's greatest second wines:

	La Pèira	Château Latour	Château Mouton Rothschild	Château Haut-Brion	Château Margaux	Château Lafite Rothschild
MILLÉSIME	Las Flors de la Pèira 	Les Forts de Latour 	Le Petit Mouton de Mouton Rothschild 	Le Clarence de Haut-Brion 	Pavillon Rouge du Château Margaux 	Carruades de Lafite 
AOP	Terrasses du Larzac	Pauillac	Pauillac	Pessac-Léognan	Margaux	Pauillac
2017	92-95	94	91	92	92	91
2016	93	95	93	93	93	92
2015	94-96+	94	93	93	92	91
2014	89-92	93	92	91	90	88
2013	91	91	89	87	87	79
2012	89	92	90	90	90	89
2011	92	91	87	90	89	89
2010	93	94	93	93	91	92
2009	96	95	93	92	93	93
2008	91	91	89	91	88	91
2007	97	89	88	88	89	90
2006	96	92	92	86	86	90
2005	94	93	91	93	88	89
AVERAGE / MOYENNE	93,1	92,6	90,8	90,7	89,8	89,5
PLACE	1ST	2ND	3RD	4TH	5TH	6TH

2018 LAS FLORS 2ÈME - WHAT MAKES A GREAT SECOND WINE?

Over 12-years or so it comes in on average in first place against some of the greatest (source: Wine Advocate 2005-2017).

Carruades de Lafite, Le Petit Mouton de Mouton Rothschild, Pavillon Rouge de Château Margaux, Le Clarence de Haut-Brion, Les Forts de Latour range from €200 to €250 a bottle. Las Flors de la La Pèira a smaller fraction of that.

Yet we thought we could do even better. And, in 2018 & 2019, we think we've blended the greatest Las Flors yet.

We always wanted to make a perfect second wine in terms of style. What makes a classic second wine?

For us, it's a wine made with all the care and attention as an estate's *Grand Vin* but is astonishingly supple, approachable, balanced, and elegant at an early age.

A great second wine is bit like a time machine where you can see tonight what the *grand vin* might be like in decade or two.

To mark this new era of Las Flors, the 2018 vintage is simply titled: 2ÈME.

France's Greatest 2nd Wine 2005-2017

Wine Advocate Scores Averaged Over 2005-2017

93.1
1ST



92.6
2ND



90.8
3RD



90.7
4TH



89.8
5TH



89.5
6TH



“In 2018 & 2019, we think we’ve blended the greatest Las Flors yet”



Obriers: Éditions Monocépage

The Obriers cuvee was first bottled in 2005 as a tribute to Southern France's most unloved (at the time) and reviled grape varieties: Cinsault and Carignan. These days both varieties are positively fashionable. As 2019 was a year of such low yields at La Pèira we found we were not in a position to bottle the Obriers, we had so little of it. Never fear, however, for we will be bottling some of the standard Obriers cuvee in March 2020. In the meantime, we have something exciting that goes back to the original idea behind the Obriers cuvee. The initial release of what may become a series (Obriers: Éditions Monocépage) looking at local, typical or overlooked varieties in southern France.

This first release is of an extraordinary plot of 100% Cinsault.

Éditions Monocépage : An Extraordinary Plot of Cinsault

These days Cinsault is the Pinot Noir of the South according to some.

Yet only a decade or two ago it was (along with Carignan and others) one of the most despised and rejected of grape varieties. It hid its face and was esteemed not. Grants were given to growers who would pull it up, get rid of it, and plant something more commercial.

It was derided as a workhorse grape, a beast of burden, a filler for unremarkable blends and roses.

Plantings fell from the 1980s on to a mere fraction of what they were.

The Oxford Companion to Wine on Cinsault reads:

"the wines it produces tend to be lighter, softer, and, in extreme youth, more aromatic and charmingly cherry-fruited than most of its peers."

Jancis Robinson writes, *"with its lighter skins and soft perfume it is particularly suitable for rosés and fruity, early-drinking reds, although low yields are needed to eke out much flavour."*

In 2005, we thought we could do something wonderful with these grape varieties of Cinsault and Carignan.

The now-retired Robert Parker describe the first vintage he tasted (the 2006) as:

"Falling somewhere between a great Cote Rotie and a top-notch Hermitage".

In 2020, in same way, we wished to see what individual indigenous or long-standing traditional southern varieties can do when bottled alone.

So, this is not the normal base Obriers cuvee. That will be released in March 2020.

Rather it is a special bottling of an exceptional plot of this Cinsault that has played a part in the Obriers blend for many years and now has a chance to shine alone.

15-vintages have seen a good degree of care and attention in the Obriers vineyards, and well as a gaining of understanding as to what each individual plot can deliver.


It's a wonderful bottle of pure Cinsault. One we hope at La Pèira will play its small part among others in ensuring a more effusive entry in future editions of the Oxford Companion.

OBRIERS

- ÉDITIONS MONOCÉPAGE -
CINSAULT



OBRIERS: ÉDITIONS
MONOCÉPAGE - CINSAULT




“...despite being a rich, powerful wine, has remarkable elegance and purity. I’ve called this estate one of the best in France, and I stand by that statement today.”

JEB DUNNUCK

LA PÈIRA WHITES





“Lovely to taste an old white wine that has not lost its fruit. This promises rather well for Terrasses du Larzac whites.”

JANCIS ROBINSON ON THE DEUSYLS 2008



TOWARDS A TERRASSES DU LARZAC WHITE AOP

“Headily floral perfume”, “Satin texture and excellent cut of acidity”, “Distinctly Condrieu-ish”, “Very well done!”, “Dense and racy and honeyed”, “like a lovely Northern Rhône white”, “A very interesting, but already fully formed, wine”, “Really exciting and good”, “Honeysuckle”, “Ripe apricots with a savoury undertow”, “A kick of citrus, even lime-peel, acidity”. All comments from Jancis Robinson from her reviews of La Pèira’s whites from 2005 to 2018. Most recently, Jancis reviewed the 2008 Deusyls de la Pèira in 2020 after 12 years in bottle: Her note:

“Deep copper colour. Strong honey and spicy biscuits on the nose but still lively. Very rich with an edge of veg to keep it fresh. Lovely to taste an old white wine that has not lost its fruit. This promises rather well for Terrasses du Larzac whites...”

TERRASSES DU LARZAC WHITES

A Terrasses du Larzac white AOP (Appellation d’Origine Protégée) is what we are working towards. In fact, La Pèira’s Bois de Pauliau plot has been part of the white wine Clairette AOP for over half a century since 1948.

We grow Clairette, but include other grape varieties such as Roussanne, Marsanne, Viognier, Grenache blanc in the La Pèira whites:

Both the Deusyls and La Pèira Blanc in 2019 are stunning. The vintage is not yet reviewed but past reviews are below.

Here are the most recent Wine Advocate reviews:

2018 La Pèira Blanc Rating 91 – 93
“It’s full-bodied and creamy in texture, a rich white that retains a bit of citrus zest”

2016 La Pèira Blanc Rating 93 – 95
“first-rate purity and freshness, it’s probably the white wine of the vintage.”

2015 La Peira Blanc Rating 91 – 93
“It’s certainly an outstanding wine”

2014 La Pèira Blanc 94
“this beauty is up with the top whites of the appellation.”

2018 Deusyls de la Pèira (90 - 92)
“Full-bodied and lush.”

2016 Deusyls de la Pèira 90 – 92
“Like everything here, it’s impeccably made.”

2015 Deusyls de la Pèira (89 – 91)
“Medium-bodied, elegant and balanced”

2014 Deusyls de la Pèira 92
“Fresh and lively, with superb purity of fruit”

2013 Deusyls de la Pèira 92
“Layered, downright classy, medium to full-bodied”

2012 Deusyls de la Pèira 94
“It’s a smoking white”

2011 Deusyls de la Pèira 94
“Vibrant, energetic and with a great finish”

2010 Deusyls de la Pèira 92
“Elegant, seamless”

2009 Deusyls de la Pèira (90 – 91)
“outstanding effort”

2008 Deusyls de la Pèira 91
“Intriguing, elusive mineral traces”

2006 Deusyls de la Pèira 92
“Demonstrates the striking potential of this site and talented team extends to white wine”



“The rare white from La Pèira is surprising even its creators with its excellence and stamina.”

WINE ADVOCATE



JANCIS ROBINSON LA PEIRA BLANC REVIEWS

“...Any oak is exceptionally discreet in these three whites (2016, 2017 and this 2018). Very well done!”

Jancis Robinson’s La Pèira white wine reviews got off to a great start with her first review of the Deusyls 2005 and the words:

“Dense and racy and honeyed and like a lovely Northern Rhône white. Really exciting and good.”

Here are her recent La Pèira Blanc reviews.

La Pèira Blanc 2018 17 Relatively youthful, muted nose but with everything in the right place. Very powerful Viognier character here – ripe apricots with a savoury undertow. Distinctly Condrieu-ish. Some spice is bubbling up too, but not in an oak idiom. Any oak is exceptionally discreet in these three whites (2016, 2017 and this 2018). Very well done!

La Pèira Blanc 2017 16.5 Deeper, yellower gold than the 2016. Exotic, fully ripe, blossomy hedgerow aromas. Much fatter and more evolved than the 2016. This is no aperitif! But could sit happily with a rich shellfish dish, not least because it does finish with a kick of citrus, even lime-peel, acidity. A very interesting, but already fully formed, wine.

La Pèira Blanc 2016 17 Crystal-clear greenish yellow. Headily floral perfume seems informed by the Viognier. Little notes of hazelnuts too. Satin texture and excellent cut of acidity. Very youthful for a three-year-old wine. Carries its alcohol well. Just a tiny bit of texture on the end. Sophisticated wine.



LA PEIRA
EN DAMAISELA