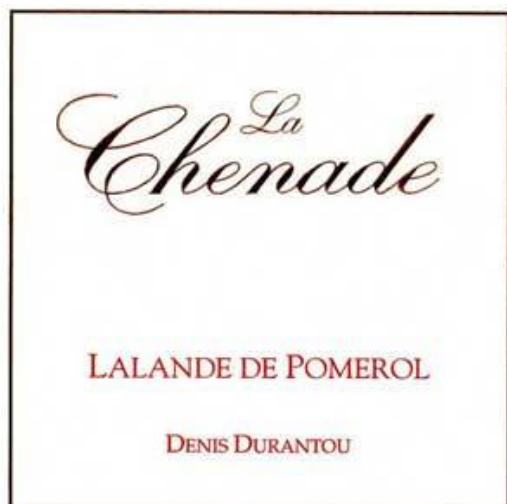


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HERITAGE • TRADITION • CRAFT



La Chenade Background

Owner: Durantou family

Country / Region: France / Bordeaux

Description: After taking over the family vineyards in 1985, Denis Durantou built a reputation as one of Bordeaux's greatest winemakers. His flagship property, Eglise Clinet, became one of the appellation's benchmark estates, regularly compared to greats such as Petrus and Lafleur. Durantou, who sadly passed in 2020, was known as the "genius of Pomerol", both for the tremendous quality of his wines as well as for his extraordinary precision in the vineyard and cellar. His daughters have since assumed control, assisted by longtime winemaker Olivier Gautrat.

Wine Notes – 2018 La Chenade, Lalande-de-Pomerol

La Chenade is an 80/20 blend of Merlot and Cabernet Franc, made from a distinct set of vines located in the southwest corner of the Durantou's Les Cruzelles vineyard. The vines were originally taken from Durantou's flagship estate, Eglise Clinet, which is less than a mile away. Although located in Lalande-de-Pomerol, the estate is effectively a northern extension of the Pomerol plateau and boasts virtually identical gravel and clay soils. La Chenade is aged in 30% new oak, with up to 1500 cases made each vintage. This is undoubtedly one of the wine world's great bargains, offering extraordinary pleasure now, superb QPR and the ability to age and improve for a decade or more.

Ratings Information

The 2018 La Chenade is more backward and demands more coaxing than the Lés Cruzelles, reluctantly unfolding to reveal scents of blackberry, melted tar and violet petals, all very well defined. The palate is medium-bodied with slightly grainy tannins, well-judged acidity, gentle grip and a slightly smoother but slightly less engaging finish than the Lés Cruzelles. Still, this is very fine.

Neil Martin, Vinous, March 2021 – 91 Points

The 2018 Château La Chenade has a classy, beautiful nose of crème de cassis, dried tobacco, lead pencil, and earth. This carries to a vibrant, medium-bodied Lalande de Pomerol with fine yet present tannins, a solid spine of acidity, and a great finish. It's another release from Denis Durantou that's going to benefit from just short-term cellaring and cruise for a decade.

Jeb Dunnuck, March 2021 – 92 Points

A pleasing wine with plum, chocolate and walnut character. Medium body, nice integration of fine tannins and a savory finish. Try after 2022.

James Suckling, [jamesuckling.com](https://www.jamesuckling.com), January 2021 – 92 Points

A heady, sumptuous wine, the 2018 La Chenade is so delicious right now. Inky dark fruit, mocha, chocolate, spice, new leather and licorice race across the palate. The 2018 is plush, open-knit and ready to give pleasure. There is a lot of substance to La Chenade in 2018, but I would prefer to drink it over the next decade, while the fruit is vibrant.

Antonio Galloni, Vinous, March 2021 – 92 Points