
PRIVATE CELLAR

## The Krajewski Family Wines 2022

In the mayhem of the April *primeurs* jamboree, a visit to the Krajewski properties provides an oasis of relative calm. Martin and Charlotte are plain speaking, openly honest about the vintage conditions, and you feel you can really get under the skin of the wines rather than trying to work out what isn't being said. Tasting with Charlotte is a challenge of rapid writing and even more rapid thinking, as she moves from one fact to another – all hugely relevant and interesting, and so much more than we often get elsewhere.

2022 was, of course, a year of unprecedented heat everywhere, but even with vineyards only five kilometres apart the differences between Pomerol and St Emilion were stark. The Clos Cantenac vineyards are west of St Emilion and close to the Dordogne River, on gravel which sits on a deep layer of clay and which is close enough to the river to retain moisture even in hot years. At Château Séraphine, on the other hand, Charlotte carried out no fewer than three green harvests to reduce the load on the vines and ensure that the remaining grapes could find enough moisture to ripen fully. Pomerol had unprecedented permission to irrigate in 2022 but, as with most growers, the option was only exercised to keep young vines alive – as Charlotte pointed out, when your vineyard isn't set up for irrigation, it isn't easy to suddenly make it work!

Vinification at both properties was geared to a very gentle extraction to ensure smooth tannins rather than angular edges, with gentle pumping over but no déléstage which could have unbalanced the wines. In the case of Séraphine, some of the young Cabernet Franc was fermented and will age in amphora whilst the remaining wine is being aged in 300 litre barrels (as opposed to the more normal 225 litres), all in the pursuit of fruit precision and reduced oak influence. Both properties have produced exceptional wines in 2022, both despite and because of the weather, and they will give a huge amount of pleasure in the mid to long term. Indeed, Charlotte thinks it is the best wine they have ever produced at Clos Cantenac – and from a hard taskmaster, that is some praise.

*We tasted these wines in April 2023*

*These wines will be shipped in the spring of 2025 | E&OE | Private Cellar's Terms & Conditions for en primeur purchases apply.*

## Clos Cantenac

| | | | *£ per case in bond* |
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| Petit Cantenac, Grand Cru St Emilion | 2022 | 12 bottles | £210 |
| | | 6 magnums | £215 |
| | | 1 double magnum | £78 |
| | | 1 Imperial | £152 |

80% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon; 40% new oak.

This is a true second wine in that some plots are always in Petit Cantenac but others move between Petit and Clos, depending on the year. Deep, not dense to the rim with a nose of creamed red berry fruit with a hint of green leaf and bright, rich black cherry, lightly spiced, creamy and fresh. The palate is sweet and ripe, juicy and vibrant with notes of raspberry and blueberry and a light black cherry spice, with supple tannins completely enveloped by the fruit, going to a long, mouth-watering finish. This will drink early and for some time – a perfect combination. Drink 2027 - 2032+

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| Clos Cantenac, Grand Cru St Emilion | 2022 | 12 bottles | £365 |
| | | 6 magnums | £375 |
| | | 1 double magnum | £132 |
| | | 1 Imperial | £260 |

90% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc; normally this is 100% Merlot but the Cabernet was so good this year it was included in the blend. Part of the fermentation was carried out in barrel with whole, uncrushed berries to emphasise the fruit flavours and help integrate the oak.

Deep, dense and dark to the rim, vibrant and bright on the nose with big blackberry fruit, very primary, with a grilled note behind. Intense black fruits on the palate with notes of dark cherry, grilled with a hint of coffee; there are plenty of tannins but they are so incredibly supple and wrapped in fruit, with notes of incense and spice going to a lovely long, fresh, fruited finish. Deceptively supple at present, this is gorgeous and one of Lisa Perrotti-Brown MW's bargain-hunter wines in 2022.
Drink 2028 - 2038.

## Château Séraphine

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| Château Séraphine | 2022 | 6 bottles | £600 |
| | | 3 magnums | £600 |
| | | 1 double magnum | £410 |
| | | 1 Imperial | £820 |

95% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc; just 4,000 bottles made in 2022.

Dense red, limpid and clear, not opaque, with a nose of spiced dark fruits, cinnamon and oriental spices, with juicy fruits and a distant grilled note leading to a rich, dense palate of smooth blueberry and blackberry fruit, spiced with intense tannins, layered with mocha and black cherry notes, going to a long, almost chewy, grilled fruit finish which just goes on and on. Highly recommended. Drink 2029 - 2040+