

ALTER EGO DE PALMER 2020

PRESS REVIEWS

Jane Anson Decanter 93 – "Chocolate shavings and smoked coffee bean on the nose, it's a vintage where you can't get away from the tannins, but here they have sinew and juice, like the best translation of the tannins in the year. This has real purity of fruit (very low SO2 addition at Palmer), together with the gourmet touch that you want in Alter Ego."

Neal Martin Vinous 92-94 – "The 2020 Alter Ego is very pure on the nose, almost Burgundian in style with lush blueberry, boysenberry, crushed violets and a touch of vanilla. It is not a powerful bouquet but it seems to gain momentum with aeration, finding its own voice with each swirl of the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with quite grippy tannins for Alter Ego, possibly because of tasting slightly later (Thomas Duroux commented it is the most tannic that he has produced.) Crustacea-tinged black fruit lacquer the mouth, fresh and very delineated on the finish. Maybe it needs a little more sustain on the aftertaste, though that may evolve throughout its élevage."

Wine Advocate 93 pts "The 2020 Alter Ego de Palmer has turned out beautifully, bursting with aromas of violets and rose petals mingled with notions of sweet dark berries and baking chocolate. Medium to full-bodied, fleshy, and seamless, it's vibrant and perfumed, with a bright core of fruit, powdery tannins, and a long, expansive finish. It's a blend of 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 46% Merlot and 4% Petit Verdot. Thomas Duroux continues to produce singularly textural, powerful wines at this historic Margaux property, where he has introduced a new focus on parcel-by-parcel viticulture and vinification, as well as pioneering biodynamic methods, over the better part of the last two decades. Today, cover crops are the order of the day, much of the vineyard isn't hedged, and fruit trees are being planted in the rows as part of an agroforestry initiative. The core of Palmer derives from the plateau around the château, where soils consist of a millefeuille of sandy gravel, clay-rich gravel, sandy gravel again and then a meter of pure clay. It's old-vine Merlot, planted on these soils, that lends Palmer its richness and flesh. There are other parcels dotted around the appellation, of course, including a large block of coarser gravel surrounded by trees, not far from Bel Air Marquis d'Aligre."

James Suckling 96 pts "Gorgeous perfumes of plums, berries, light chocolate, and walnut follow through to a medium body, fine tannins, and crunchy finish. Bright and fresh. Precise tannins. Drinkable but better after 2027."

Falstaff 93 pts "Dark, bright ruby garnet, purple reflections, subtle rim brightening. Ripe red cherries, wild berries, fresh orange zest, delicate floral nuances. Juicy, fresh, elegant and animating to drink, red berry texture, fine tannins, mineral-salty finish, pleasant cherry fruit on the finish, a lively food companion."



Lambrecht

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