

# Château Puygueraud 2015

CSPC# 801739

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

## Grape Variety

80% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc, 5% Malbec

## Appellation

Francs Cote de Bordeaux

## Website

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

## General Info

Chateau Puygueraud was purchased by George Thienpont all the way back in 1946. The Thienpont family were already quite successful in Bordeaux by those days, as they were popular négociants and they owned Chateau Vieux Chateau Certan in Pomerol as well as Chateau Troplong Mondot in St. Emilion at one point as well.

The 27-hectare vineyard of Chateau Puygueraud was in such poor shape by the end of the 1960's, it needed to be almost completely replanted in 1970. This proved to be a good decision because prior to the replanting, a good portion of the vines were devoted to Cabernet Sauvignon.

Those vines were ripped out and replaced with Merlot. The last remaining Cabernet Sauvignon vines were removed in 1984. The first official vintage of Chateau Puygueraud that was produced under the direction of Nicolas Thienpont took place in 1983. The estate has not looked back since.

On average the annual production of Puygueraud is about 6,500 cases. There is a second wine, Lauriol.

In select vintages, a special wine is produced. Cuvee George, (Named after the father and founder of the estate) is a limited production wine with a unique blend that varies from vintage to vintage, but it always features a large portion of Malbec.

## Vintage

While the 2014 vintage was saved by some late summer sunshine, in 2015 it was rain that vines desperately needed as a drought that had delivered half the normal rainfall ended in mid-August. A uniform flowering had led to a good fruit set and healthy bunches, but as temperatures soared in June and July the grapes stopped growing and skins thickened prematurely, leading to widespread anxiety. Significant rainfall then fell in August which helped to reinvigorate the vines and the sun returned until 12<sup>th</sup> September. That was the day that 'shuffled the pack' as Bill Blatch put it, as there was torrential rain in certain places that affected the potential of the harvest quality for those that received it. The rain fell heaviest in the Northern Medoc, the area that has more clay soils planted with Merlot than in the gravelly southern Medoc which Cabernet Sauvignon prefers. Margaux and Saint-Julien, Graves and most of the Right Bank escaped excessive rainfall. The rain came at a tricky moment for the earlier ripening Merlot, with humidity threatening botrytis rot. Some chateaux had to pick early as a result, while those unaffected went on to enjoy sunny days and cool nights for most days until the harvest was completed in mid-October. Those cooler temperatures helped to retain acidity as the vines reached full maturity.

## Vineyards

Chateau Puygueraud is planted to 70% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Franc and 5% Malbec. The estate has a terroir of clay and limestone with chalky sub-soils. The Cotes de Bordeaux vineyard is planted with a vine density of 4,500 vines per hectare. Located on the plateau of Cotes de Francs, they are at the peak of the appellation at 117 meters. In fact, they are close to the peak of the entire Right Bank! The vines are maintained at an average of 30 years of age. Progressive replanting is taking place all the time. This means the individual vines are replaced one at a time.

Traditional soil management: light ploughing and aeration of the soil with inter-row planting of cereals in the winter. Gradual introduction of biological prevention



<b>Vineyards</b>	against diseases and pests. Continual program of renovation of the vines: grubbing up and replanting. Numerous manual interventions: de-budding, leaf-thinning and green harvest.
<b>Harvest</b>	picked between September 28 and October 13
<b>Vinification</b>	To produce the wine of Chateau Puygueraud, during the vinification, Chateau Puygueraud sees a 30 to 35-day cuvaision in stainless steel vats using microbullage under the cap. This is followed by aging on the lees for the first six months. The wine sees very little racking and ages in up to 50% new, French oak barrels.
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	One of the best buys in the 2015 vintage, this has caught the attention from buyers and press alike. Made from a blend of 80 Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc and 5% Malbec picked in mid-October, this is a bright, dark coloured wine, very pretty and fresh on the nose with lots of personality. On the palate there is lots of dark plums, cedar, liquorice, spice and tannin – all well blended and integrated.
<b>Serve with</b>	Chateau Puygueraud Rouge is best paired with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted braised and grilled dishes.
<b>Production</b>	12,500 cases made
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2021-2028
<b>88-90</b>	<p><b>90 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2018</p> <p><b>90-93 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2016</p> <p><b>92-94 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #224 - April 2016</p> <p><b>Review Only</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - March 2018</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2018</p> <p><b>16.5 points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2016</p> <p><b>90 points</b> - James Lawther, Decanter.com - April 2016</p> <p><b>90 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2018</p> <p><b>89 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2016</p> <p><b>86-88 points</b> - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - March 2016</p> <p><b>88 points</b> - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2016 (score only)</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2018</p> <p><b>87-89 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2016 (score only)</p> <p><b>15 points</b> - Bettane &amp; Desseauve (score only) - April 2016</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>Lively, with a light brambly hint throughout, while damson plum, raspberry and bitter cherry notes dart to and fro. The sleek finish has juniper and savory hints for added energy. Drink now through 2021. 12,500 cases made.</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"This has a strong tobacco leaf edge, along with a dark tea note and a twinge of alder, all mixing with the medium-weight core of black cherry fruit. Shows good range and length. Score range: 90-93"</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The 2015 Puygueraud was picked between September 28 and October 13, and is a blend of 80% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc and 5% Malbec. It was a little reduced on the nose at first, though it cleared to reveal stony blackberry fruit, quite "airy" and lifted. The palate is medium bodied with light tannin, fresh and lively, a pleasant mineral core already tangible with a brisk, fresh, crisp finish. This is a little delight."</i> - NM, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The 2015 Puygueraud had a simple bouquet that did not quite meet my expectations garnered from barrel. The palate is medium bodied with firm tannin, quite masculine in style with a gritty finish. This was a difficult wine to fathom out and should be revisited with bottle age."</i> - NM, Wine Journal</p> <p><i>"A dense and layered red that is tight and focused with blackberries, currants and blueberries. Pure. Full body, superfine tannins and a long finish. Sophisticated. Best ever. Drink in 2020 but already beautiful."</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p>

**Reviews** *“80% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc, 5% Malbec. Rich and round - very punchy. Lots of friendly attack. Maybe not for the long term but a sure-fire crowd pleaser. GV”*

*- JR, JancisRobinson.com*

*“The leading player in the appellation. A blend of Merlot and Cabernet Franc with 5% Malbec. Lovely aromatic expression – blueberry and dark fruit notes. Sweet fruited palate with a touch of oak present. Fine, rounded tannins and a firm, chalky finish. Fine ageing potential.”*

*- JL, Decanter.com*

*“The wine is forward, sweet and round in character which is perfect for its soft, lush, earthy, spicy juicy red and black fruits. This is already easy to enjoy. “*

*- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com*

*“With an earthy, clay and dark, red plum nose, the wine is forward, sweet and round in character. Produced from a blend of 80% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc and 5% Malbec, the wine has length, character and charm.”*

*- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com*

*“Mid depth; some spice; round; minerals; nicely done; emphasis on the fruit; nice and vibrant; alive. Well balanced. [80% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc, 5% Malbec, 45hl/ha]. 2019-2025. 86-88+”*

*- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com*

*“The 2015 Puygueraud is a plump, delicious wine. Dark cherry, plum, new leather and chocolate are nicely pushed forward in this succulent, racy Merlot-based red. Silky tannins, a host of floral/savory aromatics and plush fruit add to the wine's appeal. The blend is 80% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc, 5% Malbec. Tasted two times. (AG)”*

*- AG, Vinous*

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