

Château Puygueraud 2016

CSPC# 813907

750mlx12

14.5% 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.

Winemaker

David Suire & Nicolas Thienpont

Vintage

A complicated start: heavy rains during winter and springtime (double the normal amount) have put a lot of pressure from diseases.

Luck was on our side: after 15 days of rain in June, the flowering stage, an essential step, took place in a very homogeneous and rapid way suggesting a generous harvest

A fantastic Summer: a long period from mid-June to mid-September without a drop of water generates a water constraint propitious for the concentration of the grapes and therefore to the density of the wine. The accumulated rainwater reserves and the cool nights (favorable for the preservation of aromas) allowed the berries to ripen without difficulty. The storms of mid-September, which we needed to finish the process of maturation of the plant, allowed an unexpected end of 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 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.

Vineyards

Harvest

Merlot picked from Oct 11-21; Cab Franc picked from Oct 21-22; Malbec picked on Oct 21.



Vinification	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 33% new, French oak barrels, for 12-16 months.
Tasting Notes	This is a really charming vintage with a dark crimson colour, fresh and spicy nose with wild herb aromas, blueberries and blackcurrants; lovely spice and freshness, on the palate with great persistence. Delicious with lots of life and verve. Super.
Serve with	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.
Production	14,166 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2019-2026
Scores/Awards	<p>90 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2019</p> <p>89-92 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2017</p> <p>86 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - November 2018</p> <p>86-88 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #230 - April 2017</p> <p>94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2019</p> <p>93-94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2017</p> <p>84 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 2019</p> <p>16.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2017</p> <p>86 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2017</p> <p>90 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2017</p> <p>86 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - January 2019</p> <p>89 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - January 2019</p> <p>88-91 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2017</p> <p>87 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2019</p> <p>92 points - Bettane & Desseave (score only) - April 2017</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"This has a good juicy core of red currant and damson plum fruit flecked with mouthwatering savory and tobacco notes through the finish. Drink now through 2022. 14,166 cases made."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Fresh cassis and blackberry fruit races along, with a light anise accent shading the back end. Not big, but pure and tasty. Score range: 89-92"</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Medium to deep garnet-purple colored, the 2016 Puygueraud comes bursting out of the glass with notions of red and black currants, blackberries and dried Provence herbs with a hint of charcoal. Medium to full-bodied, firm and chewy, it has a good core of fruit and a savory finish."</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The 2016 Puygueraud is a blend of 80% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc and 5% Malbec that was picked from 11-22 October. This was showing a little over-ripeness on the nose that just detracted from the delineation. The palate is chewy on the entry with plenty of black fruit, a little rustic in style with a slight attenuation towards the finish. I feel that the 2015 demonstrated more complexity last year. Let's see."</i> - NM, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"This is so good! I want to drink it now. Iodine, mushrooms, dark fruit and orange peel on the nose and palate. Full-bodied, yet polished and fresh. Lovely tension A blend of 80 per cent merlot, 15 per cent cabernet franc and five per cent Malbec."</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"This is really rich and powerful. Full-bodied, round and chewy. Very long and dense. It's really something. Better than the 2015. Best ever? Rating: 93-94"</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"An earthy, barnyard wine with soft tannins and red fruits, this is juicy and has plenty of acidity. Drink from 2020."</i> - RV, Wine Enthusiast</p>

Reviews *"Nicolas Thienpont. Rich nose and real active freshness. Lots to like. So compact and well balanced. Maybe not the concentration and tannin for a very long life but excellent in the short term. VGV."*

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"This starts well but doesn't quite go the distance - the attractive, ripe fruit dips on the mid-palate and doesn't quite climb back up."

- JA, Decanter.com

"Lots of fresh, sweet, ripe, flowers and black raspberry notes on the nose. On the palate, the wine has sweet fruits, soft tannins and a ripe, fresh, fruity finish. I'm sure this is the best vintage of Puygueraud ever produced! 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."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"The 2016 Puygueraud has a slightly pinched bouquet that needs some aeration to loosen up. It doesn't quite flow like some of the other Francs-Côtes de Bordeaux that I have tasted. The palate is medium-bodied with quite rustic, grainy tannin, and a slight metallic tincture detracts from the saline/briny finish."

- NM, Vinous

"The 2016 Puygueraud is unusually rich and dense in this vintage. Jammy blue/purplish fruit, spice, licorice and menthol flesh out in a soft, unctuous Côtes de Bordeaux endowed with depth and texture. Opulent and inviting, with no hard edges, the 2016 will drink well right out of the gate. Small berries produced an especially rich, deep Puygueraud. In a second tasting, the tannins were a bit more evident. The 2016 is an intense, fruit driven, ripe Puygueraud. This is a stellar wine in its class. Tasted three times."

- AG, Vinous

"From the team of David Suire and Nicolas Thienpont, the 2016 Château Puygueraud is Merlot-dominated, yet has 15% Cabernet Franc and 5% Malbec. It has plenty of blue fruits, graphite, and some minerality as well as medium body, a fresh, clean, silky texture, and moderate length. It's a well-made, charming, delicious wine to drink over the coming 5-7 years."

- Jeb Dunnuck