

Château Paloumey 2015

CSPC# 756598

750mlx12

13.7% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 45% Merlot

Appellation

Haut Medoc

Classification

Cru Bourgeois

Website

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

General Info

Château Paloumey was highly reputed in the 19th century but its fortunes took a severe dip in the mid 20th century with no wine being produced and its vineyards being uprooted. It was acquired by Martine Cazeneuve in 1990, and she has managed to revitalize the property in a remarkably short time.

Vintage

The Haut Medoc is a sprawling appellation with close to 4,200 hectares planted with vines. When you include the Medoc, you are over 10,000 hectares in size. Moulis and Listrac add to the total. That is an incredibly large area with more than 500 active producers making wine! As you can easily imagine, an area of that size is going to have an array of different terroirs. And to be honest, much of that terroir is not great, so in difficult vintages, for example 2015, where the growers had to deal with drought and overflows from too much moisture, the level of quality can be variable. Still, there are estates that made successful 2015 Haut Medoc wines and also chateaux producing solid 2015 Medoc wines as well. Depending on where your vineyard was located this vintage really made a difference here. The warm, dry, drought conditions during the summer caused a lot of stress to the vines. The late season rains were a lot to handle for vineyards that not able to offer the necessary amount of drainage.

Vineyards

Paloumey's 18 hectares of vineyards lie adjacent to those of Giscours and La Lagune. They are planted with Cabernet Sauvignon (55%), Merlot (40%) and Cabernet Franc (5%). Nowadays attention to detail is paramount, for instance careful ploughing in the vineyards to avoid grass springing up and cutting out rootlets to allow the principal roots to delve deeper are just two examples of how a young, diligent team are successfully producing elegant, smooth wines true to the property's terroir. Yield 35,4 hl/ha

Vinification/

Vinification Plot by plot. Temperature controlled fermentation in stainless steel tanks.

Maturation

Post fermentation maceration between 25- and 30-days Malolactic fermentation of the free-run juice in oak barrels after drainage. All press cuts are kept separately in barrels during a period of 10 days in order to refine the selection. 12 months in oak casks. 90% French oak 10% American oak medium toasted 30% new oak. Fining with egg albumin after final blending. No filtering before bottling

Tasting Notes

The 2015 vintage is definitely meeting expectations, showing a deep color, intense fruity aromas and a nice body.

Production

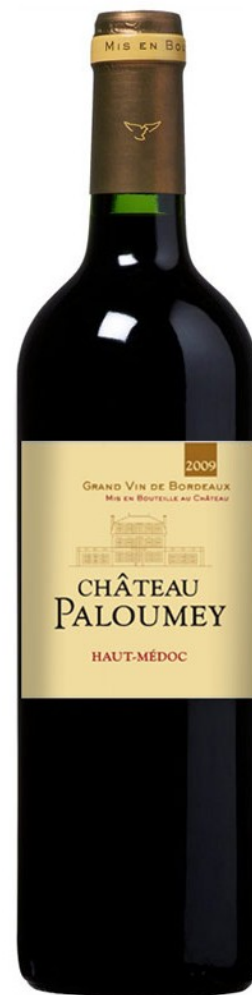
11,000 cases made."

Cellaring

Drink 2018-2021

Scores/Awards

- 88 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2018
- 85 points** - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - February 2018
- 91 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #233 - October 2017
- 89-91 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #224 - April 2016
- 91 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2018
- 92 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 2018
- 92-94 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2016
- 16.5 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - September 2017
- 85-87 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2016
- 85-87 points** - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - March 2016
- 91 points** - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - May 2016
- 87-89 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2016
- 14.5-15.5 points** - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - June 2016



- Reviews** *"A bright mix of red and black currant fruit is carried by a light brambly edge, ending with a snap of licorice on the juicy finish. Drink now through 2021. 11,000 cases made."*
- JM, Wine Spectator
- "Medium garnet-purple in color, the 2015 Paloumey is scented of black fruits, cedar and sautéed herbs with an underbrush waft. It's a little woody in the mouth with soft tannins and a good amount of fruit."*
- LPB, Wine Advocate
- "Tasted at the Cru Bourgeois annual tasting, the 2015 Paloumey was missing a little freshness on the nose compared to other vintages but it soon addresses that with aeration and offers a lovely pressed flower/dark berry scent. The palate is medium bodied with supple tannin, well-judged acidity, crisp and quite minerally with bright red cherry and strawberry fruit on the finish. This is a well-crafted Paloumey that should be given an hour to decant. Tasted September 2017."*
- NM, Wine Advocate
- "The 2015 Paloumey is a blend of 55% Cabernet Sauvignon and 45% Merlot. It has a perfumed, quite floral nose with rose petals infusing the red berry fruit, the oak nicely integrated. The palate is medium bodied with supple ripe red berry fruit, a gentle grip in the mouth, fresh and vibrant with a dash of spice on the muscular finish. It will mellow during élevage and turn into a thoroughly enjoyable Haut-Médoc."*
- NM, Wine Advocate
- "Violets and cassis married with rich, dark berries and hints of iodine, all leading to a palate that has smooth, layered tannins in pastry-like mode. Rich plums to close. Drink or hold."*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- "From a grand estate, whose owners also have vines in Margaux and Moulis, this wine is well proportioned and dense. Rich tannins and concentration are just part of what will become a generous, full wine. With great black-currant fruit and acidity to match, this structured wine will need to age. Drink from 2024,"*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- "92–94. Barrel Sample. This is a bold, fruity wine, with structured tannins and ripe berry fruits. There is a succulent, juicy character that adds to the richness of the wine yet remains taut come the finish with balanced acidity."*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- "55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 45% Merlot. Tea leaves and concentration on the nose. Dry finish. But correct and satisfying. Not luscious but should be good with food. Stony."*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- "Charming, easy drinking, forward styled Haut Medoc with soft, fresh, red berry fruit and an uncomplicated finish."*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "Deep and saturated look; purple edge; black cherry and smoke; fresh palate with some oak influence; has depth and structure. Drink 2021-2025. Tasted Cru Bourgeois event at d'Arcins 7/4/16. 85-87"*
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com
- "Lively, fruity and upfront with ripe, plums and freshness. There is little over-extraction in this wine with all the freshness one can expect from an Haut-Medoc."*
- JCL MW asianpalate.com
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