

Château Grand Puy Lacoste 2014

CSPC# 790545

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	82% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Merlot
Appellation	Pauillac
Classification	Fifth Growth. Grand Cru Classé in 1855
Website	http://www.chateau-grand-puy-lacoste.com/en/wine/1/chateau-grand-puy-lacoste/2014#/en/wine/1/chateau-grand-puy-lacoste/2014
General Info	5th classified growth in 1855. The name of Grand-Puy comes from the old expression "puy" which means "hill, little hill", and this land is mentioned in documents dating from the Middle Ages. Indeed, the vineyard extends on one of the ridges of land which were made the first wines of the Medoc. Since the sixteenth century, the thought has passed from generation to generation and, by way of alliances between families, he stayed within the same descent until 1920, before resuming a destiny with Borie family in 1978. Under the leadership of François-Xavier Borie (Chateau Ducru-Beaucaillou), GP Lacoste is the perfect example of a classic Pauillac, tannic and full bodied. A wine for keeping, which makes part of the top of the Medoc wines.
Vineyards	The vines of this Fifth Growth chateau stretch across 55 hectares of the Pauillac commune, lying across well-draining gravel soil. The result is a concentrated, polished wine, showing classic Pauillac notes of dark berries, plum, spices and earth. These bottlings are dominated by Cabernet Sauvignon, which benefits from the deep gravel topsoil with a limestone basis. The Cabernet provides structure which allows these wines to generally outperform their classification. There's good aging potential here too. The estate produces a second wine called Lacoste-Borie. 90 hectares around the castle. Grape varieties of vines 75% Cabernet Sauvignon - Merlot 20% - 5% Cabernet Franc; 10,000 vines / hectare; Average vine age 38 years
Harvest	Handpicked from September 25th to October 9th 2014
Maturation	A long period of maceration (about 3 weeks). In French oak barrels (75% new barrels each vintage) for between 16 to 18 months depending on the vintage.
Tasting Notes	The 2014 blend for Grand Puy Lacoste has, once again a large proportion of cabernet sauvignon (82%) proving once more the potential of this vineyard to really express all the best characteristics and charm of the cabernet grapes. This wine has an impressive intense ruby red colour. The nose expresses ripe, concentrated black fruits, blueberries and blackcurrant liqueur, typically Grand-Puy-Lacoste, with a slight spicy, peppery note. On the palate, the first impressions are of density and great precision, carrying on with ripe tannins, powerful and elegant. This 2014 possesses a beautiful balance and freshness with a long finish and an intense note of cocoa. We find in this wine the framework of the great vintages of Grand-Puy-Lacoste where the richness and complexity of the terroir, combine with the refined fruit and ripe tannins which are perfectly expressed.
Production	10,000 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2020-2050
Scores/Awards	93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2017 93-96 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2015 92+ points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate Interim - March 31, 2017 93-95 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #218 - April 29, 2015 97 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - February 2017 93-94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2015 92 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2017 92-94 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2015 17++ points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2015 17.75 (92) points - Steven Spurrier, Decanter.com - June 2015 95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 2017



Scores/Awards **93-95 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2015
91-93+ points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2015
94 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2015
16.5 points - Farr Vintner - March 2015
89-92 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2015
94 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - March 2015
95 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2017
92-95 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2015
93-95 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only)
18 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)
18 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)
18 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only)
16 points - Gault & Millau (score only)

Reviews *"A sleek, graphite-fueled version, with ample cassis and black cherry fruit racing along, picking up light tobacco, anise and bramble notes along the way. The fruit is vivid, presenting pleasant coiled-up energy. Should age nicely. Best from 2020 through 2030. 10,000 cases made."*

- JM, Wine Spectator

"Rock-solid, with a gutsy core of plum, black currant, steeped fig and melted licorice snap, all carried by a gorgeous, charcoal-edged spine. Long, and loaded with fruit and grip. As solid as they come. Score range: 93-96"

- JM, Wine Spectator

"The 2014 Grand-Puy-Lacoste has a much more approachable nose than usual, vibrant with red cherries, wild strawberry and cedar aromas, backed up with mineral-soaked blackberry fruit. This gathers momentum wonderfully in the glass. The palate is medium bodied with fine tannin. The acidity is very well judged with purity and elegance on the finish, if not the structure or backbone commonly found in very top vintages. I've been a bit conservative with my score at the moment, but I am sure it will prove its worth with 3-5 more years in bottle, hence the plus sign. One to watch."

- NM, Wine Advocate

"The Château Grand Puy Lacoste 2014 is a blend of 82% Cabernet Sauvignon and 18% Merlot between 25 September and 9 October at 33 hectoliters per hectare. The aromatics are not as immediate as the Haut-Batailley and demand more coaxing from the glass, but that comes with the territory. It unfurls with each swirl, black fruits at first, then GPL's trademark, graphite and gravel scents storm into the room. Leaving the glass aside for 10 minutes there is a distant tang of shucked oyster shells. The palate is understated on the entry. This is not a powerhouse Grand-Puy-Lacoste, rather one that emphasizes finesse and precision. It is almost unerringly low-key and yet there is an enormous length already in place. As usual, I suspect that its secrets (or at least some of them) will be unlocked during its barrel maturation. One of the appellation's most cerebral offerings."

- NM, Wine Advocate

"This red shows lots of redcurrants and fresh flowers on the nose. It's full-bodied with juicy tannins and a long, flavorful finish. Needs three or four years to resolve some of the tannins. Beautiful cabernet character, but already a joy to taste."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This is a wine with a dense center, wonderful fruit, polished and refined tannins and a persistent finish. Full-bodied, long and intense. Beautiful pure cabernet character. Real wine. 82% cabernet sauvignon and 18% merlot. Higher percentage of cabernet than normal."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Firm with dark tannins, this is a structured wine. It is still reticent, likely to take several more years to show its fruit. It is dense with the black-plum fruit behind the firm tannins. With all this concentration, expect this wine to need at least until 2024 before drinking."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"92-94. Barrel Sample. This wine is dark and brooding, a powerhouse of tannins. It is seriously structured and could be too extracted and bitter except for the super ripe fruit that is cut by lively acidity."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

Reviews

"A bit richer than the Haut-Batailley. Something floral on the nose. Polished and straightforward though a little denser and longer term than its stablemate Haut Batailley. Very round and a sort of cross between Pauillac and Pomerol. In fact, many of these Pauillacs are richer than many of the Pomerols in 2014. Very solid. Needs lots of time with all that tannin but very honest and a little more refined than the Pontet-Canet. Great minerally finish and lovely purity. Drink 2025-2040 17++ "
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"All the clarity and depth expected of GPL, with an added level of fragrance, elegance and purity. Simply wonderful in this vintage."
- SS, Decanter.com

"This is really outstanding in every way. The wine has generosity, with all its ripe, juicy, fruits, spice, tobacco, cassis and blackberry. The tannins are soft and smooth. There is structure and ample raw material to age, and complexity, meshed with character, from start to finish. It is going to be hard to find a better Pauillac for the money than Grand Puy Lacoste this year."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Spill a bottle of cassis in your grandfather's cigar box and you will replicate the fragrance of this wine. Full-bodied, rich, deep, plush and polished, the wine feels good on your palate and tastes even better with a fresh, fruit-filled finish of blackberry and another big splash of juicy cassis. With 82% Cabernet Sauvignon and 18% Merlot in the blend, the wine reached 13.5% alcohol and represents 60% of the harvest. 93-95 Pts"
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Deep and attractive looking; opaque at centre; legs: blackcurrant cassis; quite supple; cassis; freshness; some cherry; cool entry; blackcurrant fruit; nice precision and harmony; attractive fruit; nicely handled on the palate; nice fresh; blackcurrants; very nice purity overall; very harmonious Pauillac. 82% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Merlot, 13.5 alc, 75% new oak]. Drink 2020-2035. 91-93+ [Earlier note] Deep-ish; minerals, chalk; cool blackcurrants at the back; tight on the palate; cold sample; acidity present. Has all the elements but subdued sample [cf one tasted at Grand-Puy Lacoste earlier in the day]. Drink 2017-2032. Tasted UGC 2 April 2015. 89-91"
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

"The Borie family told me that they are a little exasperated that I keep talking about the value that this Pauillac fifth growth offers, to the exclusion of its other qualities, but it's true. This is a very feminine Pauillac, all grace and poise rather than muscle, with silky perfume and impressive depth of flavour."
- TA, timatkin.com

"Xavier Borie consistently makes one of the finest and most classic of all Pauillacs here. Frequently GPL is a match for the top names of Pauillac but is usually cheaper en primeur. Much of the fruit is used to make the second wine - Lacoste Borie. A very popular Chateau at Farr Vintners. 82% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Merlot this year, with the Cabernet Franc all in the second wine. 75% new oak, with a yield of 33hl/ha. Deep purple colour. Blackcurrant, fresh mint, camphor and sweet vanilla on the nose. Classic Medocain style. Precise, with good freshness. There is good intensity to the cool black fruit on the palate. A very classic style with lots of freshness, cedary Medocain tannins, light toast and spice, and pure blackcurrant flavour. Spice and toast from oak builds on the finish. Excellent Grand Puy Lacoste typicity."
- Farr Vintners

"The nose has a strong black fruit character the start of the palate quite light and fresh. Sweeter and richer in the middle black cherry and cassis but the fresh fruit at the back lightens and balances and bring out fragrances on the finish. 2026-36"
- Derek Smedley MW

Reviews *“Subtle layers of dark berry fruit and spices. This wine is suave and seamless with lovely texture on the palate. All the elements are in balance with good intensity of flavors and a persistent finish. A very successful Grand-Puy-Lacoste that may be even better than its 2010.”*
- JCL, asianpalate.com

“The 2014 Grand Puy Lacoste is superb. Dark, dense and inviting, the 2014 possesses remarkable depth and richness. Black cherry, plum, smoke, licorice and tobacco all develop in the glass, but it is the overall feel that is most impressive. Silky, polished tannins nicely balance the wine's overt personality. In short, the 2014 has it all. Don't miss it. This is a knockout wine from proprietor François-Xavier Borie.”

- AG, *Vinous*

“Vibrant and pulsating in the glass, the 2014 Grand Puy Lacoste impresses for its superb overall balance. The flavors are bright and beautifully expressive, with sweet floral notes woven throughout that give the wine much of its nuance, while the seamless, silky tannins speak to finesse. Even with all of its explosive energy, the 2014 is not an obvious or huge wine; rather it is a Pauillac that draws the taster in with its multiple shades of dimension. A wine of true class and pedigree, the Grand Puy Lacoste is shaping up to be a real gem in this vintage. Tasted twice.”

- AG, *Vinous*
