

Château Grand Puy Lacoste 2015

CSPC# 749555

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	74% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc
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/2015#/en/wine/1/chateau-grand-puy-lacoste/2015
General Info	<p>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.</p>
Vintage	<p>In terms of the weather, although 2015 was slightly warmer than average, it was above all very dry (706 mm of rain, compared with an annual average of 862 mm), especially between February and July, from budbreak to veraison. As a result, the berries remained small, which explains why the yield was rather low even though we had hopes of a normal crop after flowering.</p> <p>Rainfall in August and September was higher than average, which helped to prevent the ripening process from coming to a halt in a vineyard already stressed by the lack of water. As a result, the grapes matured at rather different rates from one plot to another, according to the variety, the age of the vines and the terroir.</p> <p>In order to ensure that each grape variety and each plot was picked at optimum maturity, the harvest period was the longest in living memory. It lasted 23 days between our three estates, from the first Merlot clusters on 14 September to the last Cabernet Sauvignon grapes on 6 October.</p> <p>The grapes were magnificent, and fermentation took place quickly. The wines immediately showed plenty of colour and a complete array of very intense aromas ranging from red and black fruit to spice and incense.</p> <p>The tannins are generally very well-rounded, dense and seamlessly smooth. After blending, the wines still have the same aromatic intensity and complex, full-bodied structures which barrel-maturing should further enhance.</p> <p>Our 2015 vintage in Pauillac is very similar in its heft and opulence to the 2005 vintage.</p>
Vineyards	<p>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</p>
Harvest	Handpicked from September 14th to October 6th 2015
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 Grand Puy Lacoste 2015 will go down in history as one of the great vintages, a vintage which demonstrates the great class and wonderful quality of the vineyard. Made with a majority of Cabernet Sauvignon (74%) the wine has a lovely structure and balance, which amply demonstrate the complexities and opulence of this truly wonderful vintage. The wine is an intense, deep red. The nose is opulent with notes of black fruit and ripe blackcurrants. These notes are complemented by notes of spice and violets, all with a lovely freshness, underlined by the presence of cabernet franc (3%) in the final blend. On the palate the wine is dense and precise, the aromas and textures build on the mid-palate and are carried by rich, powerful, well rounded tannins. The 2015, precise and complex, with freshness and excellent length is a very classy wine indeed. It compares well with the best vintages of Grand Puy Lacoste and its complexity is a wonderful expression of terroir.

Production 10,000 cases made

Cellaring Drink 2020-2032

Scores/Awards **92 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2018
91-94 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2016
91 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - February 2018
94-96 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #224 - April 2016
95 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - March 2018
96 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2018
94-95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2016
93 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 2018
17+ points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - October 2017
17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2016
94 points - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2016
93 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - November 2017
94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2018
94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - July 2017
93-95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2016
93-95+ points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - July 2016
93-94+ points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - March 2016
95 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2016
17 points - Farr Vintner - March 2016
93-95 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2016
93 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - May 2016
95 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2018
94-95 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2016
19+ points - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2016
94-96 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - May 2016
17.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - June 2016
17 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - April 2016

Reviews *"This is on the charming side of the spectrum, with a rounded hint to the mix of violet-infused plum and cherry fruit, accented by notes of singed cedar and sandalwood. Light black tea and warm cast iron accents pervade the finish, returning this to a more typical Pauillac profile. Best from 2020 through 2032. 10,000 cases made."*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"Pure, sleek and minerally today, with chalk and iron driving the core of red currant and damson plum fruit. The fruit is steadily emerging, and the length is there. Textbook Pauillac. Score range: 91-94"
- JM, Wine Spectator

"The 2015 Grand-Puy-Lacoste is medium garnet-purple colored with a nose of red and black currants, cedar chest and roses with a touch of dusty earth. The medium-bodied mouth is chewy, with lively fruit and good balance."
- NM, Wine Advocate

Reviews

"The 2015 Grand-Puy-Lacoste, 74% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot and 3% Cabernet Franc, matured in 75% new oak and was picked between September 18 until October 4 (although the "real" picking commenced from September 21). Now, Grand-Puy-Lacoste is often quite "aloof" at this early juncture, but that is not the case with the 2015. This is more approachable aromatically, beautifully defined, thanks to that expressive Merlot and Cabernet Franc. The palate is medium bodied with svelte tannin and finely tuned acidity (pH 3.68). Beguilingly harmonious in the mouth, it boasts a silky-smooth texture with wonderful salinity on the aftertaste that is sustained in the mouth. As usual, Xavier Borie has produced a "classic" Pauillac, but one that is a little more appeasing to those that don't want to cellar for 20-30 years. You could describe the 2015 as being between 2009 and 2010...and that, folks, is not a bad place to be."

- LPB, Wine Advocate

"The 2015 Grand-Puy-Lacoste was an impressive Pauillac from barrel and likewise, it continues to impress in bottle. It has an intense bouquet with blackberry and strawberry fruit laced with cedar and graphite and as I mentioned in my original note, the Merlot component is a little more expressive compared to other vintages. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin and well-judged acidity. This feels so harmonious and caressing, very tensile and poised, fanning out wonderfully with a graphite-infused finish that is perhaps more approachable than recent vintages, just a wonderful wine for long-term aging."

- NM, Wine Journal

"Swathed in spicy and toasty oak aromas, this has a wealth of superbly expressed red and dark berries, flowers and mint. The palate delivers a very assertive and energetic array of dark berries and spiced plums with a fresh, focused, vibrant finish. Superb wine. Try from 2023."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This is very fine and elegant GPL with black currant and hints of walnuts, chocolate. Full body, sweet and pretty tannins. Persistent. So polished."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"The wine from this estate, owned by one of the great Bordeaux families, is already balanced between fruit and tannins. Black currants from the Cabernet Sauvignon comes through strongly, giving a juicy character to the wine's structure. It is rich and will mature well. Drink from 2025. (RV)"

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"So suave and well mannered! Nicely balanced with lots of ripe fruit in a suitably bordelaise corset but not a standout. Well mannered rather than amazing. A big charge of tannin here. Dry finish."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"74% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc.

Mid crimson. Relatively voluptuous for a 2015 Pauillac on the nose then racy and sucky-stony on the palate. Very Pauillac. Great energy."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Very good fragrance and florality – the typical slatey, stony Grand-Puy-Lacoste style shows even more precision and grip than usual, with wonderful middle fruit richness. Will make a really classic claret"

- SS, Decanter.com

"Cedar-brushed toasted oak on the nose is backed up by spicy, bitter chocolate which leads a tight but mouthwatering attack. Lovely complexity builds slowly but surely through the palate, revealing a seam of cassis and caraway seed, full of spice, flesh and promise. It has the feeling, as with much of Pauillac in 2015, of being fully ripe, but not a breath more. 75% new oak. (JA)"

-JA, Decanter.com

Reviews

"You can already sense the development of the smoke, truffle, tobacco, pencil lead and cedar in the nose. The wine is soft in texture, full bodied, fresh, lively, and sweet. There is a lot of fruit, and tannin to match, along with the structure and substance to age for decades. With 74% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot and 3% Cabernet Franc in the blend, this is the first vintage since 2009 in which the estate added Cabernet Franc to the blend."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"A strong showing provided all the tobacco, earth, cedar and bright, dark red fruits one could ask for. Full bodied, focused and with a great Pauillac charm, this is a really wine."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"In the nose this wine summons iron, cassis, tobacco and cedar. On the palate it is full-bodied and concentrated, offering layers of luscious, ripe, cassis, blackberry, pepper and ripe tannin. Give it time and it will come together. With 74% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot and 3% Cabernet Franc in the blend, this is the first vintage since 2009 in which the estate added Cabernet Franc to the mix. This wine reached 13.5% alcohol with a pH of 3.68, representing 62% of the harvest. Just in case you have not been following, Grand Puy Lacoste has really been on a roll, producing a string of great wines and releasing them for prices that are more than fair to wine loving consumers. Here's a little insiders tip for you... I know more than one director and owner that always adds Grand Puy Lacoste to their cellars."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Deepish; healthy looking; lovely blackcurrant fruit – nice purity; roundness; pretty fruit – very 'jolie' again; nice cassis tones; blackcurrants; ripe fruit; more oak to integrate on the palate but that is fine [75% new oak]; nice grip and structure; lovely wine here as usual. [74% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc, 45hl/ha]. Drink 2024-2035. Tasted 7/4/16 at Grand-Puy-Lacoste. 93-95+"
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

"[Earlier note]. Deep at core; earthy purple; graphite; blackcurrants; attractive and layered; palate full of plenty of fruit and round, harmonious tannins; full and harmonious; lovely blackcurrant fruit here as usual. Very good indeed. [74% Cabernet, 23% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc, 13.5%]. Drink 2023-2035. Tasted 5/4/16 at UGCB. 93-94+"
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

"It's time GPL were known as a great wine per se, rather than a great value for money claret (although it's certainly that, too). This is the latest in a run of balanced, refined, "classic" Pauillacs with serious, scented oak complemented by cassis and tobacco notes, fine-grained tannins and bright acidity. Drink: 2022-35"
- 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. The 2015 GPL is made from 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot and 2% Cabernet Franc. 62% grand vin, 38% Lacoste Borie. Since 2010 they have used 75% new oak here. Deep purple colour, with a classic, precise nose of blackcurrant, mint, cedar and cigar box. The palate is very elegant, with pure cassis layered by notes of incense, camphor and clove. The tannins are ripe and clearly defined, providing a balancing structure to the fruit profile. This wine is understated elegance defined, with each element finding an effortless balance, such is the precision. The finish is long, subtly layered and perfectly poised. Very, very good work that will surely be one of the best value wines of the vintage."
- Farr Vintners

"The fruit on the nose is ripe a rich mix of black fruits the palate supple velvety with fine ripe tannins. Silky and smooth the black fruits are backed by dark chocolate and although rich and ripe at the back the finish is lighter fragrant with style and elegance."
- Derek Smedley MW

"A firm, traditional Pauillac with great structure and cedar, cassis flavors. The wine is stylish, balanced and very well made with a long finish. The softness hides the intensity of this wine"
- JCL, asianpalate.com

Reviews *“The 2015 Grand Puy Lacoste is just as compelling from bottle as it was from barrel. Sensual, polished and refined, the 2015 is all class. Silky tannins, perfumed aromatics and beautifully delineated fruit are some of the signatures. The natural richness of the year comes through nicely, but without overpowering the wine’s mid-weight sense of structure. This is a fabulous example of the year. (AG)”*
- AG, Vinous

“A rich, super-finessed wine, the 2015 Grand-Puy-Lacoste brings together the ripeness of the vintage and classic elegance of Pauillac in stunning style. Today, the 2015 is gloriously ripe and intense, with fabulous follow-through and remarkable balance. Dark red cherry, pomegranate, exotic, spice and blood orange hit the flamboyant finish. This is one of the wines of the vintage. Don’t miss it. Tasted four times.”
- AG, Vinous

“This is a stern and commanding Grand-Puy-Lacoste with a serious, firm, statesmanlike nose and a taut, chassis, rippling with muscles and brawn. There is so much to admire before you even take a sip and when you do the power and poise ratio is sublime. Like its stablemate, Haut-Batailley, this is an epically balanced wine and while there is a more decadent nose here with more obvious oak and some wilder, exotic nuances yearning to be set free, this is a benchmark Grand-Puy-Lacoste and it is built to live forever. The tannins are regal, and firm and the finish are immense but at no stage does it break out of its Pauillac straightjacket nor does it lapse into excess in any department. Utterly mesmerizing this estate is kicking goals year after year and this is undoubtedly one of the top wines of the vintage.”
- MJ, matthewjukes.com
