

# Château Grand Puy Lacoste 2018

CSPC# 848125

750mlx12

14.0% alc./vol.

<b>Grape Variety</b>	78% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot
<b>Appellation</b>	Pauillac
<b>Classification</b>	Fifth Growth. Grand Cru Classé in 1855
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.chateau-grand-puy-lacoste.com/en/wine/1/chateau-grand-puy-lacoste/2015#/en/wine/1/chateau-grand-puy-lacoste/2016">http://www.chateau-grand-puy-lacoste.com/en/wine/1/chateau-grand-puy-lacoste/2015#/en/wine/1/chateau-grand-puy-lacoste/2016</a>
<b>General Info</b>	<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>
<b>Winemaker</b>	Ms. Christel Spinner. Consultant oenologist M. Eric Boissenot
<b>Vintage</b>	<p>2018 Pauillac is a contender for the appellation of the vintage. The wines are flat-out extraordinary! Universally, they are deeply colored, concentrated, supple, firm, full-bodied and occasionally, ostentatious. But even with all their flair, they retain their firm, regal, Pauillac nature.</p> <p>With many wines, 2018 Pauillac is a better version of 2009. It is also in the same mold as 2015 as well.</p> <p>In short, the growing season started out extremely wet. The vineyards experienced rain almost daily until the middle of July. This rain created the rapid onset of mildew that attacked some vineyards more than others.</p> <p>By the time summer set in, beginning in the middle of July, everything turned around and Bordeaux experienced hot, sunny, dry conditions that carried all the way through harvest time. The best wines were able to handle the water stress from the dry, summer months. The vineyards with old vines, access to water, deep gravel soils that allowed from the roots to reach water, or vineyards with more clay in the soil performed best.</p>
<b>Vineyards</b>	<p>The vines of this Fifth Growth chateau stretch across 58 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>
<b>Harvest</b>	<p>Exclusively handpicked from September 21st to October 5th, 2018.</p> <p>A yield of 40hl/ha.</p>
<b>Maturation</b>	<p>Two successive selections before and after the destemming process. A long period of maceration (about 3 weeks). Ageing in French oak barrels (75% new barrels each vintage) for between 16 to 18 months depending on the vintage.</p>
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	<p>Grand-Puy-Lacoste 2018 is one of a series of great vintages. The blend has a majority of Cabernet Sauvignon (78%) whose character and charm so perfectly express the richness and quality of this distinguished terroir. This wine is deep magenta, intense and brilliant. The bouquet reveals aromas of ripe black fruits and liquorice, underlining the grapes' perfect maturity, whilst keeping a pretty freshness and good minerality. On the palate, the attack is precise, very dense, and complex. This 2018</p>



<b>Tasting Notes</b>	has a very fine balance combining power, elegance and complexity. It has a long, very aromatic, and tannic finish. The whole emphasizing the great ageing potential of this wine.
<b>Serve with</b>	Chateau Grand Puy Lacoste is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. Chateau Grand Puy Lacoste 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>	10,000 cases made
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2024-2038
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>95 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - January 2021</p> <p><b>95-98 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2019</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2021</p> <p><b>92-94+ points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - April 2019</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2021</p> <p><b>94-95 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2019</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 2021</p> <p><b>92-94 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2019</p> <p><b>16.5++ points</b> - Tom Parker, JancisRobinson.com - October 2020</p> <p><b>17.5 points</b> - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - March 2019</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - November 2020</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2019</p> <p><b>93-95 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2019</p> <p><b>17.5 points</b> - Farr Vintner - April 2019</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - March 2021</p> <p><b>93-95 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - November 2019</p> <p><b>93-96 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2019</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2020</p> <p><b>18.5+ points</b> - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2019</p> <p><b>95-96 points</b> - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - February 2021</p> <p><b>96 points</b> - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - March 2019</p> <p><b>18 points</b> - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2019</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>“Juicy and compact now, with dark currant, blackberry and fig notes at the core, surrounded by lots of warm earth, singed alder and tobacco leaf notes. Cast iron note helps extend the finish, with the fruit and earth notes keeping pace. Has a slight throwback feel, so if you like old school, age worthy Pauillac, this is your wine.”</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>“This captures the style of the vintage to a T, with vividly ripe cassis and plum fruit, carried by solidly built but fine-grained structure. Lots of graphite and tobacco accents hang in the background for now. A firmly grounded wine.”</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>“The 2018 Grand-Puy-Lacoste displays a deep garnet-purple color and slowly emerging notes of ripe blackberries, blackcurrant pastilles and redcurrant jelly plus hints of cedar, underbrush, cinnamon stick and potpourri. The medium-bodied palate has well-managed, slightly chewy tannins and a refreshing line lifting the black and red berry layers, finishing earthy.”</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>“Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2018 Grand-Puy-Lacoste is scented of warm blackcurrants, black cherries, spice box, florals and chocolate box with a menthol hint. Full-bodied, the palate is rich, plush and generous, finishing long and perfumed.”</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>“Cherries and walnuts with dried flowers on the nose. It’s medium-to full-bodied with very fine tannins, creamy texture and a bright, vivid finish. Plenty of currant and tar. Such polish and beauty. Drink after 2023.”</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p>

**Reviews** *"This is a deep and beautiful 2018 with blackcurrant, wet-earth and fresh-tobacco undertones. Full-bodied, tight and polished. Gorgeous finish. The tannins kick in at the end. Fine texture."*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"This is a relatively soft wine, its tannins already embracing the black-currant fruits. The structure is there, smoothly textured and ripe with fruitiness as well as good acidity. This wine is likely to develop relatively quickly, so drink from 2024."*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"Showing fine, rich dark berry flavors, this is a structured wine that has concentration. It comes from an estate that seems to have come together well. Barrel Sample: 92-94."*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"78% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot. Deep ruby colour. Fresh blackcurrant and some riper black cherry with subtle savoury spices in the background. Chalky tannins coat the palate and allow the bright red and black fruit to shine through. Compact and fresh, this will need some time to reveal its best. (TP)"*

- TP, JancisRobinson.com

*"78% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot. 40 hl/ha. Barrel sample. Black core with wide purple rim. Great purity of intense, ripe but fresh black fruit. The fruit flavours are ripe not overripe and scented with cassis and blueberry yet overall, there is a freshness to balance the fruit and that rocky/pencil quality that was also on the Lacoste-Borie. Darker and more mineral on the palate, then really bright on the finish with refined tannins. There's a real elegance here thanks to the purity of the fruit and the finesse in the tannins. Harmony and finesse right to the end. A very good year for Grand-Puy-Lacoste. (JH)"*

- JH, JancisRobinson.com

*"Sweet black cherry fruits, bilberry and hedgerow. A little austere at this stage but confidently so, with a slice of bitter black chocolate. Big Pauillac tannins, no question - a little more prominent than they were en primeur. The wine has taken on weight over ageing, so I am slightly extending the drinking window. Harvest 21 September and 5 October. 12% press wine. 75% new oak. Drinking Window 2026 – 2044."*

- JA, Decanter.com

*"Another success from Grand-Puy-Lacoste – it's bright and full of juice, prioritising vibrancy over power. As such, it has a touch less Pauillac typicity than in the absolutely brilliant 2016 vintage at this estate, although as it unfurls through the palate you do get the menthol, cassis and smoked cedar that is just such a beautiful sign of ripe Cabernet up in this corner of the world. They were extremely careful with extraction because of the high alcohols, so grapes underwent the shortest maceration to date with no pumping over just an infusion during the extraction process. Harvest took place between 21 September and 5 October. 12% press wine. 75% new oak used. A yield of 40hl/ha. Drinking Window 2026 – 2040."*

- JA, Decanter.com

*"Showing a beautiful depth in the color, the array of flowers, tobacco leaf, cedar, spice, cigar box and crème de cassis hits the right spot. Full-bodied, dense, tannic, and piquant, this is a perfect amount of crunch and firmness complimenting the juicy Cabernet from start to finish. This is quite classic and firm in style, so be prepared to allow this gem at least 10-12 years or more before opening. The wine is a blend of 78% Cabernet Sauvignon and 22% Merlot, and the harvest took place September 21 to October 5."*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

## Reviews

*“Deep in colour, with a succulent nose of cassis and black cherries, lifted by notes of cherry blossom and subtle nutmeg and clove. The palate has bright acidity, bringing real vibrancy to the ripe but restrained black fruit. There is a mineral core to the wine, but the ripe and refined tannins give more voluptuous feel, adding gentle spice and sweetness. Velveteen and beautifully poised, there is a long, harmonious finish. A fantastic Grand Puy Lacoste.”*

- Farr Vintners

*“The 2018 Grand Puy Lacoste has a quintessential Pauillac nose of intense black fruit infused with graphite scents, pencil shavings and a very discreet marine influence. It is beautifully defined, less opulent than the 2018 Lynch Bages tasted alongside, yet maybe more complex. The palate is medium-bodied and taut, offering sappy black fruit, gritty tannins, and a lot of crushed stone. The focused, graphite-driven finish could only come from this appellation. Superb. A wine to correct those bemoaning that Bordeaux no longer makes “proper Claret.” 2023 – 2050.”*

- NM, Vinous

*“The 2018 Grand-Puy-Lacoste was picked at 40hl/ha from September 21 to October 5. It is tightly wound on the nose, although it was due for a racking that will open up the aromatics. Black currant mixes with raspberry and a touch of graphite and brine, gradually revealing light floral top notes. The palate is medium bodied with fine-grained tannins. Classic 'GPL' in some ways, delivering off-dry black fruit mixed with tobacco and black pepper, and cedar notes toward the finish. With around 14% alcohol, it has one of the highest levels at this property, although there is no warmth, and it is not noticeable. Those who love Grand-Puy-Lacoste will enjoy this, and it should drink well for 20 years.”*

- NM, Vinous

*“A wine of precision, energy and nuance, the 2018 Grand-Puy-Lacoste is fabulous. Freshly cut flowers, mint, and sweet red berry fruit grace this exquisite, nuanced Pauillac. Medium in body, understated and classy, Grand-Puy-Lacoste is one of the highlights of the year. In a word: impeccable. The 2018 is 78% Cabernet Sauvignon and 22% Merlot from yields of 40 hectoliters per hectare.”*

- AG, Vinous

*“A beautiful Pauillac, the 2018 Château Grand-Puy-Lacoste has a classic nose of ripe blackcurrants, scorched earth, cedarwood, and tobacco. This carries to a medium to full-bodied 2018 offering wonderful balance, ripe, polished tannins, and gorgeous purity of fruit. A wine that grows on you with time in the glass, it has building mid-palate depth and tannins, again, terrific balance, remarkable purity of fruit, and outstanding length on the finish. It should round into form in 4-5 years and keep for 20+”*

- Jeb Dunnuck

*“(78 Cabernet Sauvignon, 22 Merlot) | 75% new oak | 14% alc | 40 hl/ha There is an amazing volume of aroma when you approach this wine, and it is ripe, bold, ever so slightly exotic and also all-enveloping. It alerts the senses and prepares you instantly for tasting the wine. On the palate all of the fruit notes and oak tones are marshalled perfectly, and they are already in sync. Unlike some of the wines from this vintage, this is a well-drilled wine with not a molecule out of place. It is long, fine, detailed and also youthful and the tannins are some of the finest and chewiest I have seen. This bodes well. While many 2018s are unnervingly forward, but will also hold well, GPL warns the drinker that while the fruit is certainly exuberant and toothsome it would be a mistake to tackle this wine too early in its lifetime. I would leave it for at least ten years before uncorking a bottle. By this time, I think that this will be considered one of the most elegant and finely-tuned wines of the vintage.”*

- MJ, matthewjukes.com

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