

Château Grand Puy Lacoste 2021

CSPC# 866096

750mlx6

13.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	85% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% 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
Sustainability	Grand-Puy-Lacoste is deeply committed to a very precise management of its vineyard: for the past 20 years, chemical treatments have been halved. No insecticide has been used in the past 10 years, restoring the natural fauna. The soil has always been worked manually, using physical labor, no herbicides, double Guyot pruning.
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.
Winemaker	Oenologist - R&D Director: Ms Christel Spinner. Cellar Master: M. Benoît Estassy.
Vintage	Vineyard Manager: M. Antonio Flores. Consultant oenologist: M. Eric Boissenot. After a mild and wetter-than-average winter, budbreak took place early and evenly in late March. This was followed by a very dry April, including a significant cold spell, fortunately without incidence on our vineyards thanks to the influence of the nearby Gironde estuary. May brought cool and damp weather which slowed vine growth. Flowering consequently took place within the average dates and in excellent conditions resulting from a marked rise in temperature. Unsettled and stormy conditions from mid-June to mid-July activated mildew, which remained virulent until the end of veraison. Fortunately, drought in August and early September halted the disease, while the resulting water stress improved the quality potential of the grapes grown on our gravel soils. This period was crucial for the maturity of the pips, the development of the tannic structure and the appearance of fruit aromas and flavours. Despite a severe threat of disease at the approach of harvest, the quality of our terroir combined with an alert, responsive and cohesive team of pickers working at a sustained pace enabled us to bring in a healthy crop at optimum maturity. The 2021 vintage, having matured in conditions more typical of northerly latitudes, shows a return to the classic equilibrium of vintages from a generation ago, yielding fresh, well-balanced, and well-structured wines that will reveal their full complexity with time.
Vineyards	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 a 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	Exclusively hand-picked. September 24th to October 8th, 2021
Maturation	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.



Tasting Notes	Grand Puy Lacoste 2021 is a deep ruby colour. The nose is of red fruit, violets, vanilla, and spices. On the palate the wine is clean, dense, and fresh. The floral and red fruit notes knit with the soft and ripe tannins. Overall, the effect is of a wine with elegance, charm, and vitality, leading to a pure and persistent finish. In this 2021 we have all the style and quality to be found in fine vintages of Grand Puy Lacoste where our refined fruit combines with stylish smooth tannins. This vintage is also distinguished by a balance of alcohol and acidity different from its three predecessors, returning to a more moderate alcohol level, similar to the majority of previous vintages of Grand Puy Lacoste which have had class and balance, and given great drinking pleasure.
Serve with	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.
Production	10,000 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2025-2035
Scores/Awards	<p>92 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - December 2023</p> <p>92-94+ points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022</p> <p>87-89 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent (score only) - May 2022</p> <p>95 points - Zekun Shuai, JamesSuckling.com - December 2023</p> <p>94-95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2022</p> <p>95 points - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - March 2022</p> <p>93 points - Jane Anson, Inside Bordeaux - May 2022</p> <p>94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2024</p> <p>92-94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2022</p> <p>94 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2022</p> <p>93-95 points - Thomas Parker, Farr Vintners - April 2022</p> <p>92-94 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2022</p> <p>94-96 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - May 2022</p> <p>95 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - April 2022</p> <p>93 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2022</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Pure and fresh, with a mix of damson plum and red cherry notes laced with sandalwood, red tea, and sanguine accents. Shows a lively savory streak, which adds energy to this relatively understated style. Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Drink now through 2035. 10,000 cases made."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The 2021 Grand-Puy-Lacoste is one of the vintage's successes, wafting from the glass with aromas of cassis and raspberries mingled with notions of violets, rose petals, pencil shavings and cigar wrapper. Medium to full-bodied, with a deep, layered core of pure fruit framed by ripe acids and sweet tannins, its suave, charming profile means that it will offer a broad drinking window. A slightly lower percentage of new oak, with lighter toasts, is reflected in better barrel integration out of the gates. Drink 2027-2047"</i> - WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The 2021 Grand-Puy-Lacoste is a beauty, bursting with aromas of dark berries, plums, rose petals, violets, warm spices, and cigar wrapper. Medium to full-bodied, supple, and seamless, it's fleshy and enveloping, with melting tannins, succulent acids and a pleasure-bent, demonstrative personality. While it's clear that this is an irresistibly charming, satisfying Pauillac from the Borie family, it wouldn't surprise me to see it acquire additional depth, flesh, and seriousness with further barrel maturation."</i> - WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"A refined, classic Pauillac with cassis, pencil shavings, ash, and cherries. Juicy and really fine on the palate with silky tannins unwound into a layered, long finish. A refined, elegant interpretation that does not fall short on intensity. Real finesse here. Already delicious, but can hold, too."</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"Very fine and polished tannins with lovely balance and beauty. Blackberries, blackcurrants, and a creamy texture. Lovely finesse and focus. There's delicacy and beauty to this. 85% cabernet sauvignon and 15% merlot."</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p>

Reviews

"A superb GPL this year with one the highest percentages of Cabernet in the blend. Rose hawthorn notes on the nose - really nuanced. A little bit more closed on the palate in terms of overt acidity and fruit but this has such a beautiful texture, silky smooth with fine tannins that are persistent and mouth filling but very elegant too, they frame the ripe fruit and mineral flavours - lots of bitter black chocolate and liquorice on this as well as salinity too. This has a much more subtle power than many others - a tense core, tightly wrapped but presenting a lovely juicy fragrant cherry flavour with terroir markers in the liquorice and lick of wet stone and the gorgeous Cabernet eucalyptus on show. So much potential - this will be excellent. I love it! Once it comes around it will have a very long life indeed. Ageing 75% new barrels. 55% grand vin."
- GH, Decanter.com

"Traditional and classic Pauillac character, a little more old-school than usual, certainly than the last few years. Plum, cassis, cocoa bean, and liquorice keep things firm, with strait-laced tannins tight and pulled in. Will soften further over ageing, and no question that this is delivering appellation typicity. Tasted twice."
- JA, Decanter.com

"Blackberries, cigar wrapper, roses, cocoa, currants, and cedar create the aromatics. The palate is even better with its layers of rip, sweet, creamy, fresh, bright red fruits. There is solid lift and energy here with a chewy bite of cassis in the backend that lingers. This is a super wine that exceeds the vintage. Drink 2026 - 2050."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Spiced cassis, cedar, tobacco wrapper and leafy herbs create the nose. On the palate the wine is bright, chewy, crisp, and fresh, with a solid blast of peppery currants in the endnote. 13% ABV. The harvest took place September 24-October 8. Drink from 2026 - 2050."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"A healthy yield here of 40 hl/ha and the highest proportion of Cabernet Sauvignon ever in the blend of the grand vin at 85%. They will again produce, on request, cases containing 1 double magnum, 2 magnums and 4 bottles. Deep ruby-purple colour. Fresh blackcurrant and ripe black cherry on the nose together with subtle, savoury spices from the wood. The palate has a sappy, savoury, moreish edge to the black fruit at the core, complemented by fine but grippy, persistent tannins. Weightlessly intense, this is a wine of fantastic harmony and effortless balance. Compact but driven, this is a finely etched wine that shines a light on the positive elements of 2021. It proves that much of the joy of Bordeaux comes in its refinement, elegance, and depth, rather than raw power. Fine."
- TP, Farr Vintners

"The 2021 Grand Puy Lacoste was picked from September 24 to October 8 at 40hL/ha and matured in 75% new oak. There is quite a conspicuous gap between this and the Deuxième Vin this year, the Grand Vin delivering much more cohesion and fruit intensity: blackberry, tobacco, mahogany bureau, and a touch of sage. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannins, well balanced, and predictably unapologetically classic in style. If you love GPL, then you're going to appreciate this return to its quintessential style after three opulent vintages."
- NM, Vinous

"Lacoste is fabulous. Bright and punchy, with terrific aromatic presence, the 2021 is a terrific example of the modern classicism of the year at its best. It's the sort of wine that needs years or maybe even decades to truly blossom, and yet all the requisites are there for that to happen. There is something about Grand-Puy-Lacoste that is absolutely striking in 2021. I can't wait to taste it from the bottle. Tasted two times."
- AG, Vinous

"Dark ruby core, purple reflections, subtle brightening on the rim. Tobacco and herbal spices are woven against vibrant blackberries, fresh red currants and hints of liquorice and orange zest. Juicy, elegant, fresh red cherries with taut, well-integrated tannins and freshly structured nougat nuances on the finish. Good ageing potential."
- PM, Falstaff Magazine