

# Château Pichon-Longueville Baron 2009

CSPC# 764173

750mlx12

13.3% alc./vol.

<b>Grape Variety</b>	70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot
<b>Appellation</b>	Pauillac
<b>Classification</b>	Second Growth. Deuxieme Grand Cru Classe in 1855
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.pichonlongueville.com/">http://www.pichonlongueville.com/</a>
<b>Sustainability</b>	The estate is actively committed to protecting the environment to safeguard this exceptional legacy for future generations.
<b>General Info</b>	<p>Château Pichon-Longueville Baron, a leading Pauillac 2ème Cru Classé estate, is one of Bordeaux's most illustrious "super seconds". In 1987 it was bought by the AXA Millésimes Group, who also own Cantenac-Brown, Petit-Village, Suduiraut. AXA built a state of the art cuverie and chai at Pichon-Longueville Baron, while, in 2000, Christian Seely took over from Jean-Michel Cazes as general manager. The Cabernet-dominated Pichon-Longueville Baron is a more muscular, tannic and full-bodied wine than that of its neighbour across the road, Pichon-Longueville Comtesse de Lalande. The <i>grand vin</i> is Chateau Longueville au Baron de Pichon-Longueville. The second wine is Les Tourelles de Longueville, introduced with the 1986 vintage.</p> <p>Jean-Rene Matignon (Technical Director ) started with the Left Bank Bordeaux property in 1985. In three short years, Pichon Baron once again began producing wines of world class quality. The first vintage that brought this historic estate back to prominence was the sublime 1989 followed by the even better 1990. When Jean-Michel Cazes retired from Pichon-Baron in 2000, Christian Seely was asked to take over the management of Pichon Baron as well as the other seven properties of the wine group including Château Suduiraut in Sauternes, Château Petit Village in Pomerol, Chateau Pibran in Pauillac and Quinta do Noval in Portugal. AXA also maintains and interest in Burgundy with Domaine de l'Arlot. Christian Seely has managed many of these estates since 1993. AXA also owns one of the larger Bordeaux wine négociant companies, Compagnie Medocaine.</p>
<b>Winemaker</b>	Alexandra Lebossé - winemaker.
<b>Vintage</b>	The spring was marked by uneven temperatures. Vegetation growth was boosted by a warm spell in early April, and then slowed down by very cool conditions. A very changeable, stormy spell then set in, with hail on 11 May, in particular, although it spared Pauillac. Flowering started at the end of May, in hot weather conditions that boosted growth. To keep this in check, green harvesting work was carried out to remove shoots and tie the vines in. This was followed by leaf (June/July) and crop thinning (August) in hot, sunny, dry weather conditions. The end of the season enjoyed ideal ripening conditions: lots of light, little humidity, hot days and cold nights. As is often the case in dry years (1995, 2003), the polyphenols ripened slowly and progressively. Acidity remained stable, however, without showing any signs of weakness.
<b>Vineyards</b>	The 73 hectare vineyards of Chateau Pichon Baron are planted to 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot. However, the Cabernet Franc and the Petit Verdot are reserved exclusively for the second wine. This marks a change in the makeup of the vineyard with the addition of Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. The vineyard is planted to a vine density is 9,000 vines per hectare using a double Guyot training. The average age of the vines is 30 years. However, the estate has old vines. The oldest vines date all the way back the 1930's. While the vineyard occupies 73 hectares of vines, the grapes used for Pichon Baron come from the 40 best hectares in the vineyard. The vineyards of Pichon Baron are situated at the southern end of Pauillac, across the street from Pichon Lalande, not far from Chateau Latour and close to the St. Julien border. The soil is mostly deep gravel.
<b>Harvest</b>	Hand harvested. Carried out in 3 phases, making for a bespoke grape-picking process: from 24 to 28 September for the young Merlot, the old vines from 29 September to 2 October, the Cabernet-sauvignon



<b>Harvest</b>	from 3 to 9 October. Stable, cool weather conditions kept the grapes in good condition, preserving all their freshness and firmness. Sorting in the vat-house was highly meticulous, keeping only the very best grapes. Enjoyed the best possible conditions. Rich levels of sugar and anthocyanins turned out to be well above those that had been estimated in the pre-harvest ripeness analyses. The polyphenols were extracted very rapidly, which is a sign of good grape ripeness.
<b>Vinification/ Maturation</b>	Malolactic fermentation takes place in tanks. The wine of Chateau Pichon Baron is aged in an average of 80% new, French oak barrels for 20 months. Of course, the percentage of new oak and the time in barrel varies, depending on the character of the vintage.
<b>Tasting Note</b>	Our Grand Vin Château Pichon Baron 2nd Grand Cru Classé in 1855 comes from the very oldest vines grown on the historic plots of the estate. This authentic Pauillac offers an amazing sensory experience with its black fruit flavours and spicy hints. Château Pichon Baron shows great elegance, intensity, and exceptional length on the palate. It is a wine that improves year after year and can age for over 40 years in the cellar. Château Pichon Baron 2009 presents a deep garnet red colour. It has a wide, powerful, and deep aromatic range with notes of dark fruit such as blackberry. The tannins are fleshy, opulent, and juicy. The palate progressively gains amplitude, becoming elegant, precise, complete to finish with a great complexity and charm. Château Pichon Baron 2009 is a very harmonious wine. It is built to last for several decades while remaining highly accessible. <i>Jean-René Matignon - Technical Director - May 2018</i>
<b>Serve with</b>	Chateau Pichon Baron is best paired with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes. Chateau Pichon Baron is also good when matched with Asian dishes, rich fish courses like tuna, salmon, mushrooms, and pasta.
<b>Production Cellaring</b>	13,000 cases made. Drink 2013-2030
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>95 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - April 2012</p> <p><b>92-95 points</b> - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - March 2010</p> <p><b>96 points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2019</p> <p><b>98 points</b> - Robert M. Parker Jr., Wine Advocate #199 - December 2011</p> <p><b>93-95 points</b> - Robert M. Parker Jr., Wine Advocate #188 - April 2010</p> <p><b>96 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Journal #0713 - January 2013</p> <p><b>96 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Journal #0112 - November 2011</p> <p><b>95-97 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Journal #0510 - March 2010</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Stuart Pigott, JamesSuckling.com - February 2019</p> <p><b>96 points / Cellar Selection</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2012</p> <p><b>18 points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - March 2019</p> <p><b>18 points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2010</p> <p><b>98 points</b> - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - March 2019</p> <p><b>96 points</b> - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - December 2021</p> <p><b>98 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - July 2022</p> <p><b>98 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - September 2019</p> <p><b>96 points</b> - Tim Atkin MW, timatkin.com - April 2010</p> <p><b>98 points</b> - Farr Vintner - April 2010</p> <p><b>92-95 points</b> - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2010</p> <p><b>96 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - March 2019</p> <p><b>96 points</b> - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2019</p> <p><b>97 points</b> - Thomas Parker MW - March 2023</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - February 2020</p> <p><b>97 points</b> - Tom Cannavan, wine-pages.com - January 2014</p> <p><b>96 points</b> - Stephen Tanzer, International Wine Cellar - July 2012</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Gilbert &amp; Gaillard (score only) - March 2012</p> <p><b>19 points</b> - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2011</p> <p><b>18 points</b> - Bettane &amp; Desseuve (score only) - March 2012</p> <p><b>18.5 points</b> - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - March 2012</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<i>"This delivers a massive core of black Mission fig, blackcurrant paste, and roasted fig fruit, backed by alder wood, bay leaf, singed cedar and maduro tobacco. The finish lets a racy iron note take over. Long and authoritative, with gorgeous acidity giving the balance for long-term cellaring. Best from 2013 through 2030. 13,000 cases made."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator

**Reviews** *“Loads of currant and blackberry, with mineral and dried flowers. Full-bodied, with ultrafine, very long tannins. Really builds on the palate. A racy style, with excellent length.”*  
- JM, Wine Spectator

*“The 2009 Pichon-Longueville Baron has a medium to deep garnet color and a very meaty/savory nose over a core of sweaty leather, baked blackberries, and plums with notions of crème de cassis, sautéed herbs and black olives coming through with coaxing. Full, rich, concentrated and decadently fruited in the mouth, the palate has beautifully plush tannins and an herbal lift on the long finish.”*  
- LPB, Wine Advocate

*“Revealing incredible quality and performing better than it did from barrel, the 2009 appears to be the greatest Pichon Longueville Baron since the 1990 and 1989. An amazing opaque blue/purple color is followed by scents of spring flowers, graphite, smoky charcoal, incense, blackberries, blueberries and hints of coffee and chocolate. Incredibly intense, pure, and flawlessly constructed with extravagant layers of fruit and richness, this offering has developed beautifully under the management of Christian Seeley. It is a voluptuous, opulent Pichon Longueville Baron that may eclipse anything they have made in the past.”*  
- RP, Wine Advocate

*“An inky/blue/purple color is followed by aromas and flavors of incense, flowery black currants, and subtle smoke and oak. This full-bodied 2009, which exhibits wonderful intensity, purity, and length, is an exceptional effort, but in this vintage, it must take a back seat to some of its peers, such as Pichon Lalande, Pontet-Canet and Lynch-Bages, not to mention all the first-growths. Nevertheless, it is a beautiful wine that should drink well for 30+ years. (Tasted three times.)”*  
- RP, Wine Advocate

*“Served blind at the Southwold 2009 tasting. The Pichon Baron 2009 is a great wine destined to last for many years. It has a very well-defined bouquet with blackberry, crème de cassis and still some vanillary new oak that needs bottle age to be subsumed. The palate is medium-bodied with filigree tannins. This is beautifully composed and pure with an unerring symmetry. It is tightly coiled and very precise, yet the finish has enormous length. Outstanding. Tasted January 2013.”*  
- NM, Wine Journal

*“Tasted at the Union de Grand Cru and then in Hong Kong. The Pichon Baron 2009 has wonderful freshness and lift on the nose: pure black fruits interlaced with cedar and graphite, Cabernet in full force. The palate has a sorbet-like freshness on the entry and then the firm tannins take over. Great weight and structure but very composed and focused towards the finish. Outstanding yet again Mr. Seely. Tasted November 2011.”*  
- NM, Wine Journal

*“Tasted at the chateau and at the UGC. A blend of 67% Cabernet Sauvignon and 33% Merlot, picked between 24th September and the 9th October, cropped at around 35hl/ha and bestowed with 13.76% alcohol. This has a very tight nose at first, demanding coaxing from the glass. Very fine definition, a strict linearity at first, opening up a glacial pace, graphite, smoke, small black cherries, a hint of bilberry and crushed stones. The palate is full-bodied with brilliant definition and focus, even finer tannins than the stupendous 2008, very rounded and supple and yet with a firm linear backbone. No frills at the moment, just pure concentration. Wonderful persistency towards the finish. Top class. Tasted March 2010.”*  
- NM, Wine Journal

*“Bold, smoky, and chocolatey, this is a concentrated and massive wine for the Medoc, the alcohol showing slightly at the bold warm finish. Where is that T-bone steak?”*  
- SP, JamesSuckling.com

*“With a structure that runs between acidity and dark smoky tannins, this is a wine with potential opulence. Very rich in character; dense and dark. The black plum flavors are dominant, along with excellent acidity. For the long-term. \*Cellar Selection\*”*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

**Reviews** *"Sweet ink and purity. What's not to like in this essence of not-too-hot claret? Very pure indeed with an amazingly cool finish. Drink 2016-2038."*  
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*"33 hl/ha, older vines. Two thirds Cabernet Sauvignon, one third Merlot - they say Merlot quality in 09 was very Cabernet Sauvignon-like. IPT (total polyphenol index) 88, TA 3.4 g/l. One of the most concentrated vintages ever - from fruit not extraction. Very, very, dark crimson. Very mineral and grown up. Lovely lift and great, polished tannins. Very fresh and fine tannins with density and lift on the finish. Very sophisticated. Lots of mass. Reminds me a little of their 1990, though the yields were very much lower in 2009. Very glossy and confident. Very sophisticated. Date tasted 31st March 2010. Drink 2018-2030."*  
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*"This is opulent with fleshy tannins and spiced dark fruit, again showing a restrained core of tannins that was so obvious at the Bordeaux 10 Years On tasting in London a few weeks ago. It's just a brilliant wine, one that will age effortlessly from here, and is still not quite ready to give up its secrets. It's concentrated and confident and hard not to fall in love with. The vines for the grand vin come from the plateau opposite Latour and were the heart of the original Pichon estate."*  
- JA, Decanter.com

*"Crayon, cigar and cedarwood aromatics, relatively subdued because this is tightly packed with still-chewy tannins, but there is so much waiting underneath. Give this another few years, or a good few hours in a carafe, to fully appreciate how the dense brambly fruits unroll and expand outwards through the palate. Great quality, with muscular tannins that ensure the ripe fruit remains engaged and at the very beginning of their life. An exceptionally successful wine. 80% new oak. Jean-René Matignon technical director."*  
- JA, janeanson.com

*"A year in which Pichon-Baron outperformed Pichon-Comtesse. Christian Seely describes this is a vintage in which "we went for finesse instead of over-extraction" and he succeeded in my view. Black fruits, some spice on the nose and palate, with acidity cutting through the chocolate and coffee bean oak. Fine tannins on the palate. 20+ years."*  
- TA, timatkin.com

*"Showing a bit of lightning to the color, the wine combines power, concentration, supple textures, density, complexity, and opulence. Not a typical vintage for Pichon Baron. But who cares? Typical is overrated. Sensual and showy on the palate, the wine is long, creamy, rich, and shows a real staying power on your palate and in the lingering finish. This is one of the top vintages produced by the departing Jean Rene Matignon. Drink from 2022-2055."*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"Smoke, tobacco, cigar box, crème de cassis, black cherry, forest leaf and truffle pop from the glass. Still dark in color, the wine offers volume, depth, precision and strong, ripe, tannins. The blackberry, dark cocoa and plums are sweet, fresh, and juicy. The rich finish offers fruit, spice, and lift. Still young, the tannins and fruit are so ripe, it is easy to drink today. But hold off if you can, as the wine is only going to better with another 5-10 years of aging, and will offer pleasure for another 20-30 years after that."*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"This great vineyard has been producing classic Pauillac since the late 1980's when Jean-Michel Cazes of Lynch Bages took control. For the last few years Englishman Christian Seely has been in charge and quality continues to rise. Latour-like in style, Pichon Baron has been a star performer in all our recent blind vintage tastings. 67% Cabernet Sauvignon, 33% Merlot and aged in 80% new oak. The Grand Vin is now produced only from the vineyards near Latour with those that used to go into the blend now making the second wine - Les Tourelles de Longueville. The breakdown is 45% grand vin, 50% Tourelles and 5% generic. An opaque colour. A huge, soaring nose of dense black fruit. On the palate it is absolutely massive with layer upon layer of cassis fruit spiced with hints of vanilla, spice and cigar box. The massive fruit is more than matched by the huge tannins. The balance is perfect. This is certainly going to take time to mature but when it does the wine will be a modern-day equivalent of the awesome 1990 that was made here. An absolute classic that rivals the very top names in 2009. Brilliant."*  
- Farr Vintners

**Reviews** *"It is a very serious wine that has a mass of powerful black fruits enriching the nose. The palate has depth of flavour, sweetness of fruit and ripe tannins that although they give structure do not impede fruit expression. The finish is lovely, long, and rich. Drink 2022-2050."*

- Derek Smedley MW

*"The 2009 Pichon-Baron replicates its epic performance at the vertical tasted last year. It has one of the finest bouquets among the group of Pauillac with copious blackberry, mint, melted tar and graphite notes, fresh and supremely well focused. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannins, very well-judged acidity. Harmonious with plenty of tobacco and pencil lead infused black fruit towards the persistent finish. Awesome."*

- NM, Vinous

*"Dark ruby garnet, violet reflections, delicate rim lightning. Fine floral nuances, a hint of liquorice, red berry notes, mineral touch, orange zest, multi-faceted bouquet. Fine extract sweetness, ripe cherries, peppery spiciness, present tannins that still seem a bit brittle, slims down on the finish, salty-lemon notes in the aftertaste, still needs time. Definitely wait, it will only be drinkable in five years."*

- PM, Falstaff Magazine

*"Deep ruby in colour with ripe, fine cassis fruit on the nose. Super purity of dark fruit is laced with hints of dark chocolate and cedar. The palate is very classy, focused, and pure yet framed with persistent, chalky tannins. Taming the ripeness of the vintage, this is solare yet has a deftness, it is not at all heavy and the Cabernet tones are chalky, lightly savoury, and fine. This is ready to drink, but it will only get better with more bottle age - for now it is all about purity and precision."*

- Tom Parker MW

*"Upgraded by Parker from 95 to 98 apparently, and the price has correspondingly shot up since release. Soaring perfume from this, the lift, the flowers, the spices, and exoticism is remarkably different from 2010, but for me equally attractive. Christian says the average temperature during the growing season was 2c higher in 2009. Again, that wonderful core of black fruit, glossy and creamy, but elegantly ripe. On the palate this glorious flesh and substance, with cedary edges and tobacco to sweet, thick plum and blackcurrant fruit. Creaminess to the tannins here, real ripeness, with delicious fruit and acidity and lovely quality throughout."*

- TC, wine-pages.com

*"Pungent, brooding, very ripe aromas and flavors of cassis, blueberry, licorice, bitter chocolate, espresso, and minerals, along with hints of spices and underbrush. Large-scaled, rich, and deep, with superb chewy ripeness and terrific mineral lift. At once plush and powerful, boasting the texture of a first growth, with a near-perfect sugar/acid balance. The palate-staining finish features substantial ripe, chewy tannins and rising length. This should evolve gracefully in bottle for two or three decades."*

- ST, International Wine Cellar