

Château Pichon-Longueville Baron 2019

CSPC# 834371

750mlx6

14.1% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

87% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13% Merlot

Appellation

Pauillac

Classification

Second Growth. Deuxième Grand Cru Classe in 1855

Website

<http://www.pichonlongueville.com/>

General Info

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 *grand vin* is Chateau Longueville au Baron de Pichon-Longueville. The second wine is Les Tourelles de Longueville, introduced with the 1986 vintage.

Jean-Rene Matignon 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'Arlet. Christian Seely has managed many of these estates since 1993. AXA also owns one of the larger Bordeaux wine négociant companies, Compagnie Medocaine.

Winemaker

Jean-René Matignon - Technical Director

Vintage

2019 was marked by a rainy spring and start to June, followed by a hot, dry summer. Cool spring temperatures alleviated the virulence of the mildew, and the year's favourable weather conditions created an environment free from the threat of cryptogamic infection. The rapid warming of the soil at the end of winter led to steady and even budburst, with slow growth. Unfortunately, these cool spring conditions were not favourable to flowering and caused moderate coulure, except in our earliest-ripening terroirs.

The last ten days of June gave way to hot and dry summer weather punctuated by some rain in late July and early August. The sunshine and heat stimulated the fruit aromas of the Cabernets and the concentration of polyphenols in the skins.

Limited water during ripening accelerated sugar concentration and the breakdown of acids and increased the grapes' phenolic potential. These conditions were also favourable to the quality of the tannins. Mid-veraison was reached between 4th and 5th August on the early-ripening plots and ended quickly and evenly in mid-August. The grapes became particularly rich in mid-September due to the hot, dry conditions, then the first rains in late September weakened the skins and accelerated the harvest. This very welcome moisture stabilised the sugar concentration and allowed us to continue the harvest more serenely. 2019 was characterised by high potential alcohol content and low total acidity (little malic acid).

Vineyards

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



Vineyards	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.
Harvest	The harvest took place from 18th September to 1st October for the Merlot and from 30th September to 11th October for the Cabernet-Sauvignon.
Vinification/ Maturation	Plot-by-plot and intra-plot selection are the foundation of our approach. This year, sorting ensured consistent vatting quality. The temperature increase was gradual in order to favour extraction. Alcoholic fermentation soon started at a moderate rate, enabling progressive extraction during the fermenting phase to suit each variety and each terroir. Temperatures were kept at 25 to 29°C. Maceration lasted from 18 to 23 days. The wine was transferred to barrels by the end of November. Aged 80% in new barrels, 20% from barrels of one vintage for 18 months.
Tasting Notes	Our Grand Vin Château Pichon Baron 2nd 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 2019 reveals a beautiful dark garnet colour with purple hues. The bouquet is precise and very intense, revealing a wide aromatic palette of ripe black fruits and spices. The body is fleshy, creamy, and powerful. The tannins are present and plentiful, without astringency, silky and sleek. It has a beautiful fleshy tension in the mouth, with a sunny and charming style. The finish is elegant, distinguished, with a bright fruitiness. A great wine for ageing as it develops a generous, rich, and elegant fullness.
Serve with	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.
Production	13,821 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2029-2065
Scores/Awards	<p>97 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2022</p> <p>97+ points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022</p> <p>97-100 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - June 2020</p> <p>99 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2022</p> <p>97-98 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2020</p> <p>97-99 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 2020</p> <p>18+ points - James Lawther, JancisRobinson.com - June 2020</p> <p>17.5+ points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - December 2021</p> <p>100 points - Yohan Castaing, Decanter.com - January 2022</p> <p>97 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - June 2020</p> <p>98 points - Jane Anson, Insidebordeaux.com - January 2022</p> <p>98 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2022</p> <p>99 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - June 2020</p> <p>95-98 points - Farr Vintners - May 2020</p> <p>97 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2022</p> <p>96-98 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - June 2020</p> <p>97 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2022</p> <p>96-98 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - June 2020</p> <p>98+ points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - April 2022</p> <p>97-99 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2020</p> <p>97 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2020</p> <p>97 points - Thomas Parker MW - March 2022</p> <p>95 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - June 2020</p> <p>95 points - Vert de Vin - April 2020</p> <p>18.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2022</p> <p>19 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - September 2020</p>
Reviews	<p><i>“Expressive and vibrant, with a cassis bush aroma that leaps to the forefront, followed quickly by sleek and dense black currant, black Mission fig and black cherry preserve flavors flanked by a racy graphite note. Shows a burst of sweet bay leaf and savory accents through the finish, as the fruit takes an encore before zooming off. A serious wine with a hint of bling. Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Best from 2025 through 2045. 13,821 cases made.”</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p>

Reviews

"The 2019 Pichon-Longueville Baron will go down as one of this château's great wines of the modern era, along with 2016, 2010 and 1989. Unfurling in the glass with aromas of cassis and plums mingled with notions of cigar wrapper, sweet loamy soil, and violets, it's full-bodied, velvety, and layered, with superb concentration, lively acids, and rich, powdery tannins. Perfumed and resonant, this is a profound young Pauillac that bears more of a resemblance to its neighbor Château Latour than to Pichon Lalande this year. Pichon Baron was one of the great deals of the en primeur campaign, and readers who purchased futures are to be congratulated on their foresight. Drink Date 2029 – 2065."

- WK, Wine Advocate

"This grand vin represents 49% of the harvest. Very deep purple-black in color, the nose skyrockets from the glass with vibrant scents of freshly crushed blackberries, black raspberries and blackcurrant pastilles followed by perfumed sparks of fragrant earth, clove oil, lilacs, crushed rocks, molten chocolate, and cinnamon toast. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is packed with layer upon layer of black fruit, mineral, and exotic spices, framed by beautifully ripe, finely-grained tannins and tons of freshness, finishing with a lingering soft-spoken whisper of floral and earth notions. This is an absolutely beguiling expression that is classic Pauillac and yet it is Pauillac like no other."

- LPB, Wine Advocate

"Blackberries and blueberries with stone and graphite. Flint and black licorice, too. So perfumed. Full-bodied, very long and linear with incredible length. The new 1990, but better crafted. Chewy, yet so tailored and wonderfully proportioned. Freshness and elegance. Wonderful depth."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Very polished with creamy, lightly chewy tannins and layers of texture. Real cabernet sauvignon here. It's full-bodied with pretty blackberry and blueberry character. Chocolate, too. Long, intense finish of fine, lightly dusty tannins. Tight and focused. Such finesse and class. 87% cabernet sauvignon and 13% merlot."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This great estate has delivered a powerful, dense wine. It brings out both the rich fruit of the vintage and a deceptively massive structure. The blend is dominant in Cabernet Sauvignon, showing a beautifully ripe black-currant flavor. It is intense and set for a long-term future."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Purple-black to the rim. Powerful but less obviously muscular this year. Pure, precise, and fragrant, the tannins plentiful but really refined. Lovely fruit and texture with a pervading freshness that persists. Length on the finish. Up with the best from this estate (2010, 2016). Drink 2030 – 2050."

- JL, JancisRobinson.com

"Black almost to the rim. Rich, dark and chappy on the nose. Really chappy. And yet still has a cassis fragrance. So dark and compact yet it has that lovely stony/rocky finesse, also dark, to bring elegance and finesse. Very dry, finely textured. Elegance in embryo. (JH) 14.5%. Drink 2030 – 2050."

- JH, JancisRobinson.com

"The bouquet enchants by its expression of pure, crunchy fruit and florality without a trace of oakiness despite barrel-aging with 80% new wood. Some touches of graphite and subtle spices come into the aromatic mix. On a par with the great 2016, this stunning wine has a palate that combines fleshy, velvety texture and linearity as well as remarkable length, and provides convincing testimony of the progress achieved by the estate's technical team. Drinking Window 2025 – 2070."

- YC, Decanter.com

"Firm tannic grip lands you squarely in Pauillac from the first moment, with pencil lead and charcoal reinforcing the point. This is a serious Pichon Baron, carefully extracted black fruits that barely put a foot wrong, and a firm core of acidity. Takes its time to open in the glass and will age for decades without breaking a sweat. 80% new oak. 49% of production in this wine. Drinking Window 2029 – 2048."

- JA, Decanter.com

Reviews

"Highest proportion of Cabernet Sauvignon on record, a reflection of how exceptionally well this grape did in 2019 in the gravel-heavy soils of Pauillac. The aromatics are all-enveloping, powerful and nuanced and totally delicious, drawing you in and refusing to let go. Slate, pencil lead, charcoal, cassis, damson, layer upon layer of brilliance. Rivalling the incredible concentration and enveloping character of the 2016, this is a Pichon Baron that is full of confidence, and should not be missed. 80% new oak, 49% of total production."
- JA, Inside Bordeaux

"Power and refinement, the hallmarks of all the great vintages of Pichon Baron are what you find here. Almost opaque in color, the wine exudes blackberries, black currants, tobacco leaf, cedar, wet forest, black pepper, and hints of flowers. On the palate, the wine is multi-layered with waves of dark red and black fruits, regal tannins, and a seamless finish that refuses to quit. Rich, luscious, concentrated, and with a remarkable purity of fruit, this is going to age and develop for decades. Yet, as its tannins are so soft and right, for a wine at this level of quality from Pichon Baron, it will drink well relatively early. With Cabernet Sauvignon checking in at 87% of the blend, this is the highest percentage of Cabernet in the blend in the history of the estate. Drink from 2030-2060."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"The dark inky hue makes it impossible to see through the glass! The nose is like walking into a flower market located next to a fruit stand as those two scents permeate the air. Vanilla bean, earth, forest leaf, pepper and cedar come next. Rich, luscious, concentrated and with a remarkable purity of fruit, the wine coats your mouth, palate, teeth, and gums with layers of black, red and blue fruit, velvety tannins and a finish that doesn't want to leave. At 14% alcohol with a pH of 3.74, the Grand Vin represents only 45% of the harvest, which took place between September 18 - October 9."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Very deep, saturated purple in colour. The nose is initially reticent, with brooding cassis, cedar, and tobacco. With air this unfurls and shows more exotic, ripe, and brambly fruits. The palate is very dense and linear at this stage, a very vertical wine with superb depth of blackcurrant fruit. The tannins are powerful and grippy, but ripe. This wine will need time in the bottle but will be long-lived. The layers build on the finish, showing hints of vanilla, nutmeg, and clove. Incredibly long and intense on a driven, pure, and harmonious finish."
- Farr Vintners

"It has a captivating bouquet of intense blackberry, cedar, Japanese nori, and sea spray notes on the nose, all exquisitely defined and poised. The harmonious palate is medium-bodied and classic in style, with pencil-lead-infused black fruit, lovely poise and not a single hair out of place toward the finish. Christian Seely believes this vintage suited Pichon-Baron, and that is confirmed by the quality in bottle. Outstanding. 2025 - 2060."
- NM, Vinous

"The 2019 Pichon-Longueville Baron was picked from 18 September to 11 October, fermented between 25-29°C and aged in 80% new oak for a planned 18 months. This year it represents just under half the production from their 73 hectares of vine. It has a very refined bouquet, perhaps a little more understated than the 2018, a more cerebral nose with predominantly black fruit laced with cedar, tobacco and a beguiling estuarine scent that becomes more prominent with time. The palate is medium-bodied with sappy black fruit framed by super-fine tannins that lend this a silky smooth, creamy texture. Certainly, this is a rich Pichon-Baron, though it retains all the classicism you could ask for. Very fine salinity comes through on the finish with a persistent spice; after tasted that beckons you back for more. This is an outstanding Pauillac. Tasted twice with consistent notes. 2025 – 2060."
- NM, Vinous

"The 2019 Pichon-Baron is magnificent. In fact, the 2019 is one of the very finest recent vintages I can remember tasting. Cabernet Sauvignon is the highest ever in the Grand Vin at 87%. That comes through in the wine's vibrancy, explosive power, and overall profile. Dark cherry, plum, gravel, licorice and incense infuse the 2019 with tremendous depth to match its virile personality. Pichon-Baron was impressive from barrel, and it is again today from bottle. Superb. Drinking window: 2034 - 2059."
- AG, Vinous

Reviews *"The 2019 Pichon-Baron is a wine of extraordinary depth and resonance. Inky dark red/purplish berry fruit, pomegranate, chocolate, licorice, and spice are all lavishly expressed in a sumptuous Pauillac loaded with character. Time in the glass brings out the wine's depth and vertical explosiveness. There is so much going on here."*

- AG, Vinous

"Based on 87% Cabernet Sauvignon and 13% Merlot raised in 80% new French oak, the 2019 Château Pichon-Longueville Baron is pure class and just a beautiful, seamless Pauillac that does everything right. Revealing a deep purple hue as well textbook notes of blackcurrants, smoked tobacco, freshly sharpened pencils, and liquid violets, it shows the more medium to full-bodied, elegant style of the vintage yet is brilliantly concentrated, has a supple, layered mouthfeel, ripe yet building tannins, and a great, great finish. It's more open and expressive than Mouton and shares plenty of similarities with Comtesse with its layered, supple, just perfectly balanced, and classy style. It unquestionably already offers pleasure today (and it's a good time to try a bottle, as I wouldn't be surprised to see it close down), but it will need a decade to hit maturity and it will be a 50-year wine."

- Jeb Dunnuck

"The flagship 2019 Château Pichon-Longueville Baron from this brilliant address is based on 87% Cabernet Sauvignon and 13% Merlot that will spend 18 months in 80% new French oak. The highest percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon ever for Pichon Baron, it has a beautiful bouquet of pure crème de cassis fruit intermixed with Pauillac-driven notes of lead pencil shavings, graphite, unsmoked tobacco, and damp earth. Dense, concentrated, backward, and tight on the palate, it's nevertheless flawlessly balanced, has a vibrant, pure texture, good acidity, and building tannins. The higher Cabernet percentage really gives this beauty a more focused, serious vibe, and the cellar is going to be your friend on this one. Regardless, it's a majestic, heavenly wine in the making."

- Jeb Dunnuck

"Deep dark ruby garnet, opaque core, violet reflections, delicate ocher edge. Delicate roasted aromas, some nougat, ripe black fruit nuances, fine cassis, a hint of orange zest. Powerful, juicy, extract-sweet texture, present spicy wood, nougat on the finish, mineral and complex, shows very good length, chocolate touch in the finish, fresh aftertaste, definite potential for development."

- Falstaff Magazine

"Saturated purple colour. Very youthful and tight on the nose, this is pure in blackcurrant fruit. With air, there is a little creamy vanilla coming through, but this is focused and pure for now. This follows on the palate, which is pristine and driven by cassis. The tannins are tightly wound, creating mouthcoating but fine structure. One of the sleepers of the vintage, the expansive and very long finish suggests a great future. Give it at least 10 years in bottle before approaching."

- Tom Parker MW

"The nose is elegant and offers freshness, a small concentration as well as a beautiful finesse of the grain, elegant and a certain delicacy. It reveals notes of ripe/pulpy wild blackberry, strawberry, small notes of acidulous/pulpy raspberry associated with touches of small crushed black fruits, violet, chocolate, toasted and a very discreet hints of Cuban pepper. The palate is fruity, well-balanced, elegant and offers a good definition, juiciness, tension as well as a fine acidulous frame, precision, a small richness and deepness. On the palate this wine expresses notes of pulpy/juicy cassis, crushed blackberry, small notes of garriguettes strawberry associated with small touches of violet, chocolate, toasted, toasted almond as well as very discreet hints of spices, black tea, and crushed almond. Good length Tannins are elegant, fine, racy and coating."

- Vert de Vin