

# Château Pichon-Longueville Comtesse de Lalonde 2014

CSPC# 847786

750mlx6

13.2% alc./vol.

<b>Grape Variety</b>	65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc, 6% Petit Verdot
<b>Appellation</b>	Pauillac
<b>Classification</b>	Second Growth. Deuxième Grand Cru Classé in 1855
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.pichon-comtesse.com/">http://www.pichon-comtesse.com/</a>
<b>General Info</b>	<p>Pichon Longueville and Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande were originally one huge property. When Baron Joseph de Pichon Longueville died in 1850, his estate was split between his two surviving children, Raoul and Virginie. Raoul's part became Château Pichon Longueville, while Virginie's became Château Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande.</p> <p>Edouard and Louis Mialhe, descendants of an old Bordeaux family of vineyard owners and wine brokers, bought Château Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande in 1925. May Eliane de Lencquesaing, Edouard's daughter, inherited it in 1978 and ran it with great devotion and rigour for 30 years, during which time it gained international renown. Finally, in 2007, eager to ensure the continuing success of the estate in the future, she decided to sell it to another family firm, the Louis Roederer Champagne house</p>
<b>Winemaker</b>	Frédéric Rouzaud & Nicolas Glumineau
<b>Vintage</b>	<p>Some green harvesting work was carried out in June and July, with leaf stripping to help the development of the grapes. Some carefully targeted thinning work was also carried out late on, at the end of August. Then, the weather became hot and sunny, providing good ripening conditions. These stable weather conditions helped the grapes along smoothly as they reached optimal ripeness and balance in the days just before the start of harvesting. The effect of the different plots of vines played its most significant role in the past decade.</p> <p>The harvest began in late September with the old Merlot vines; the warm, summery weather was very favourable for picking. After picking the Merlot, we stopped the harvest from 9th to 16th October to give the Cabernet-sauvignon grapes the time to achieve perfect ripeness. Even after the strict selection of grapes in the vineyard, rigorous sorting as the grapes arrived in the chai refined the potential quality further.</p> <p>In order to continue the parceled selection carried out in the vineyard, all the small vats were used, and the larger ones were only partly filled. Alcoholic fermentation soon started at a moderate rate, enabling gentle and progressive extraction during the fermenting phase to suit each different terroir. We gave priority to the subtlety of the tannins and the expression of grape varieties according to soil types. Grapes from young vines were macerated for 15 to 18 days and those from older vines for 20 to 24 days, with extractions monitored daily for flavour. Running off was finished by the end of November</p>
<b>Vineyards</b>	<p>The terrace of Château Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande offers a magnificent view of the vineyards of Pauillac and Saint-Julien and the Gironde Estuary. The vines lie mainly in Pauillac, yet 11 of its 86 hectares are actually in Saint-Julien. An unusually high percentage of the vineyard is planted with Petit Verdot, which brings freshness and great aromatic complexity to the wine. In very sunny years such as 1982, 1986, 1989 and 1990, in which the grapes reach excellent maturity, it has a remarkable influence. Since Roederer took over the estate, major work on restructuring the 78-hectare vineyard has been undertaken. Thorough studies of the soils and sub-soils have produced very detailed mapping of the many different plots and better knowledge of the terroir. A replanting programme has been launched to ensure varieties and their root stocks are best suited to the type of soil.</p>



<b>Harvest</b>	The harvest took place over five weeks between 16 September and 20 October, while waiting for the Cabernet sauvignon to ripen.
<b>Vinification/ Maturation</b>	To produce the wine of Chateau Pichon Lalande, the vinification takes place in 70, temperature controlled, stainless steel vats that vary in size that range from as small as 50 hectoliters and increase in size to 50, 70, 80, 120 and even 150 hectoliter vats. This allows for very precise fermentation work. Malolactic fermentation takes place in tank. Aged 60% new oak for 18 months.
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	Precise and energetic, this is another wine which benefited enormously from the Indian summer of 2014. This is serious wine, rich and complex. The bouquet shows focus and pure cassis fruit with hints of cocoa. The well-defined tannins knit the whole result together, expertly complemented by high acidity. There is balance on display here, it tastes exactly how a Pauillac should: ripe, juicy fruit, no hint of extraction and so accessible, even at this early stage. There is a coolness to the wine and delicious freshness. This is wine of great finesse and will surely age superlatively. It is a gorgeous wine
<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.
<b>Production Cellaring</b>	Average of 15,000 cases made annually Drink 2020-2045
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>94 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2017</p> <p><b>92-95 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - June 2015</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2017</p> <p><b>93-95 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #218 - April 2015</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2017</p> <p><b>93-94 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2015</p> <p><b>94 points/Cellar Selection</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 2017</p> <p><b>17.5 points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - February 2018</p> <p><b>91 points</b> - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2015</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - July 2017</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - June 2017</p> <p><b>93-95 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2015</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2015</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Farr Vintner - March 2017</p> <p><b>89-92 points</b> - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2015</p> <p><b>97 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2017</p> <p><b>97 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - October 2017</p> <p><b>93-96 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2015</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - November 2017</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2019</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - March 2015</p> <p><b>96 points</b> - Falstaff Magazine - April 2015</p> <p><b>17.5 points</b> - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - December 2017</p> <p><b>18 points</b> - Bettane &amp; Desseauve (score only) - December 2017</p> <p><b>19.5 points</b> - Vinum Wine Magazine - December 2017</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>"Very solid, with lots of cassis bush and sweet tobacco notes adding texture to the core of crushed ripe raspberry, blackberry and plum fruit flavors. A licorice snap accent dances throughout, while a bolt of iron runs underneath. This is Pauillac. Best from 2020 through 2035."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Vibrant, with a blaze of iron running from start to finish, while dark currant, cherry and plum fruit forms the core. The long, grippy, integrated finish shows excellent vivacity. Score Range: 92-95"</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The 2014 Pichon-Longueville Comtesse de Lalande has an expressive bouquet with lively blackberry, cedar, flint and graphite aromas that are not powerful, yet display admirable precision. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin, the Merlot content lending this Pauillac its trademark fleshiness and roundness, yet there is clearly structure here (not always a trait of this Pauillac growth). It will develop more complexity and personality with bottle age, but at the moment you can sit back and just admire the cohesion and superb</i></p>

length. Winemaker Nicolas Glumineau has overseen a quite wonderful Pichon-Lalande, one with inbuilt longevity.”

**Reviews** - LPB, Wine Advocate

“The Château Pichon-Lalande 2014 ... has a very pure and precise bouquet with a light marine influencing the black cherries and blueberry fruit. The palate is medium-bodied with a tense, graphite-tinged opening, a fine line of acidity (pH 3.72) and a silky-smooth finish. The Cabernet Sauvignon is very expressive and dominates the Merlot at the moment, although the Merlot is essentially counterbalancing what might have been a much more austere Pichon-Lalande. Under Nicolas Glumineau, this Pauillac estate is really beginning to “motor” and this is an excellent wine, one within touching distance of the First Growths.”

- NM, Wine Advocate

“Aromas of cassis bush and shaved chocolate with berries. Full body, velvety-textured tannins and a long and flavorful finish. Tangy undertones with fresh acidity. Drink in 2020.”

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“What a joy to feel the ultra-fine tannins in this wine! It really is like touching fine silk. It's full-bodied with integrated drip fruit of tar, blackberries, minerals as well as a compacted and very long finish. Polished texture. Strong elegance. Reminds me of some outstanding wines of the 1980s such as 1986.”

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“Warm and ripe, this is a beautifully balanced wine. It is packed with black-currant fruits that are bursting out of the glass. A darker side comes with the tannins and new wood flavors that are still prominent. It looks likely the wine will develop slowly, so don't drink before 2025. \*Cellar Selection\*”

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“Tasted blind. Lifted vegy nose. Thick and sweet and pretty aggressively modern. Lots and lots going on here. Should be rewarding but it is not classic. Much lighter than Ch Pichon Baron. Drink 2024-2044.”

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“Rich, deep damson with a violet edge. On the nose it offers dark chocolate and liquorice. The palate is still tight, barely unfurling, more closed than during En Primeur. I love it that even a young Pichon Comtesse works its silky structure and lets a little light and space in between the fruit. Excellent lift on the finish.”

- JA, Decanter.com

“Classic, yet lushly textured, with silky tannins, ripe, polished dark red fruits and a finish that tastes as good as it feels. Even though it's forward in style and will drink well on the young side, this has the stuffing to age and evolve for decades.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Classic and sensuous, with loads of polished, silky fruits, dark berries, soft tannins and cigar wrappers. This will keep any taster happy for at least 2 decades, give or take a few years on either side of the equation.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“This is precisely what I'm looking for in a Pichon Lalande, silken and velvety tannins with a concentration and richness of ripe dark berries, chocolate and black cherries. This wine has length, polish, freshness, and sensuous textures. A blend of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc and 6% Petit Verdot, the wine reached 13.2% alcohol, with a pH of 3.7 and was produced with 50% of the harvest.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Last year's varietal Cabernet Sauvignon wasn't to everyone's taste (although I loved it), but this is a more classic Pichon Comtesse. It's typically fresh and alluring with compact, age worthy tannins, oodles of perfume, fine black cherry, graphite, and blackcurrant fruit and a chalky, minerally lift. Very impressive.”

- TA, timatkin.com

## Reviews

*"One of the great names of the Médoc and a true "super-second". Pichon Lalande is... especially popular in the Far East thanks to its slightly exotic, spicy character and plump ripe fruit and polished texture. The percentage of Merlot in the vineyard is high for Pauillac. The Chateau is now owned by Champagne house Louis Roederer and managed by Nicolas Glumineau, formerly of Montrose. A new winery has just been built. 2014 was the longest harvest ever here - 5 weeks from 16th September to 20th October as they waited for the Cabernet Sauvignon to fully ripen. Deep ruby colour. Deep purple colour. The nose is ripe and perfumed with lots of rich blackcurrant fruit, sweet vanilla, black cherries, and a hint of violet. The palate is supple, plush, silky, and succulent with lots of very fine and ripe tannins giving structure to an intense, dense core of black fruits. Excellent depth and length, and good balance and freshness thanks to the acidity. This is plump and juicy for the vintage, but still has a classic Cabernet character. Very well done."*  
- Farr Vintners

*"Red fruits, bramble the nose is fresh the start of the palate bright quite fragrant and fresh. The mid palate is rich serious deep lots of black fruits enriched by cocoa. Lighter at the back length of fruit precision and harmony the fresher black fruits lingering on the finish. 2027-40."*  
- Derek Smedley MW

*"The 2016 Pichon-Longueville Comtesse de Lalande has an enthralling bouquet of tobacco-infused black fruit, shaved truffle and pencil shavings; crushed stone emerges with continued aeration. The Cabernet Sauvignon is clearly in the driving seat here, just like the 1996. The palate is medium-bodied with grippy tannin, more saline and marine-influenced than Pichon Baron, and a tad spicier toward the finish, which is one of the most impressively persistent I have ever encountered in a Pichon-Lalande, fanning out with gusto, and leaving the mouth still tingling 60 seconds after it has departed. This is a benchmark for the estate, the best Nicolas Glumineau has overseen in his tenure... thus far. Drink 2023-2050."*  
- NM, Vinous

*"The wonderfully nuanced, finessed 2014 Pichon-Longueville Comtesse de Lalande exudes pedigree. Crème de cassis, licorice, lavender, licorice, and sweet spices are front and center, while beams of supporting tannins and acidity give the wine its energy and overall tension. All of the elements are simply in the right place. Powerful and also remarkably delicate, the 2014 Pichon Comtesse might very well be the wine of the vintage on the Left Bank. Don't miss it! Tasted three times."*  
- AG, Vinous

*"One of the highlights in a dark horse vintage for Bordeaux, the 2014 Pichon Lalande is absolutely exquisite. Aromatic and silky on the palate, with bright, finely sculpted fruit and mid-weight structure, the 2014 is a picture-perfect example of the best 2014 has to offer. This tasting only serves to reinforce that feeling. Ideal conditions in September extended the harvest and yielded perfumed, silky wines. 2020 – 2044."*  
- AG, Vinous

*"The 2014 Pichon-Longueville Comtesse de Lalande is a huge wine. Rich, powerful and dense, yet remarkably precise, the 2014 boasts extraordinary density and fabulous balance. Scents of black fruits, graphite, smoke, tobacco, grilled herbs, and incense meld into a huge core of fruit. Hints of black cherry jam, wildflowers and mint add an attractive aromatic top register on the close. Explosive and virile in style, the 2014 appears to have the pedigree to age well for several decades. It is without question one of the wines of the year."*  
- AG, Vinous

*"Showing the hallmark elegance and seductiveness of this terrific estate, the 2014 Pichon Longueville Comtesse De Lalande is deeply colored (especially in the vintage) and delivers a heavenly bouquet of crème de cassis, ripe plums, graphite, cedar pencil, roasted coffee, and tons of building minerality and liquid rock-like nuances. Incredibly pure, textured, full-bodied, and with a seamless integration of its fruit, tannin, and acidity, it's already approachable but will keep for two to three decades. 2020 – 2045."*  
- Jeb Dunnuck

*"Cassis and floral, first opening, some herbs, very soft onset, floury and full of pressure, slowly rolling in as it unfolds, firm mid palate, softly embedded, subtly integrated acidity, which nevertheless shows presence and length, tactile-mineral finish with closed fruit. A first-class Comtesse."*  
- Falstaff Magazine

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