

Château Pichon-Longueville Comtesse de Lalonde 2015

CSPC# 847786

750mlx6

13.60% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot
Appellation	Pauillac
Classification	Second Growth. Deuxième Grand Cru Classé in 1855
Website	http://www.pichon-comtesse.com/
General Info	<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>
Winemaker	Stephanie Danglade
Vintage	<p>In terms of the weather, although 2015 was slightly warmer than average, it was above all very dry (706 mm of rain, compared with an annual average of 862 mm), especially between February and July, from budbreak to veraison. As a result, the berries remained small, which explains why the yield was rather low even though we had hopes of a normal crop after flowering.</p> <p>Rainfall in August and September was higher than average, which helped to prevent the ripening process from coming to a halt in a vineyard already stressed by the lack of water. As a result, the grapes matured at rather different rates from one plot to another, according to the variety, the age of the vines and the terroir. The grapes were magnificent, and fermentation took place quickly. The wines immediately showed plenty of colour and a complete array of very intense aromas ranging from red and black fruit to spice and incense.</p> <p>The tannins are generally very well-rounded, dense, and seamlessly smooth. After blending, the wines still have the same aromatic intensity and complex, full-bodied structures which barrel-maturing should further enhance.</p> <p>Our 2015 vintage in Pauillac is very similar in its heft and opulence to the 2005 vintage.</p>
Vineyards	<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. Pichon Comtesse is Château Latour's neighbour and, like the illustrious Premier Cru, has poor soil of gravel mixed with clay, which benefits from excellent drainage. Poor, yet ideal, since the vine needs hardship if it is to produce good wine, and its roots must plunge several metres down in the quest for nutrition.</p> <p>An unusually high percentage of the vineyard is planted with Petit Verdot, which brings freshness and great aromatic complexity to the wine. 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>
Harvest	The harvest took place from September 10 to October 8.
Vinification/ Maturation	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.



Tasting Notes	A classic Pauillac nose offering blackcurrant, blackberry, and cedar. A light, creamy, long, and well-balanced palate dominated by complex notes of blackberry, tobacco, and graphite
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	Average of 15,000 cases made annually
Cellaring	Drink 2023-2040
Scores/Awards	<p>95 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2018</p> <p>94-97 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2016</p> <p>96 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - February 2018</p> <p>95-97 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #224 - April 2016</p> <p>97 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2018</p> <p>96-97 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2016</p> <p>96 points/Cellar Selection - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - January 2018</p> <p>94-96 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2016</p> <p>18 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - February 2019</p> <p>17.5+ points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - November 2017</p> <p>17.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2016</p> <p>97 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - February 2019</p> <p>95 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - November 2017</p> <p>92 points - Steven Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2016</p> <p>97 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - July 2022</p> <p>98 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2018</p> <p>97 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2018</p> <p>96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - July 2017</p> <p>96-97 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2016</p> <p>96 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2016</p> <p>94-96 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2016</p> <p>96 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2018</p> <p>98 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2018</p> <p>96-98 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2016</p> <p>97 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - November 2017</p> <p>18.5 points - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2016</p> <p>96 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com (score only) - May 2016</p> <p>95 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - March 2019</p> <p>96-97 points - Vert de Vin - March 2018</p> <p>18 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2019</p> <p>19 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - February 2018</p> <p>19.5 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2018</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"A fresh and focused style, with a terrific beam of black cherry and black currant compote flavors. Strong graphite and black tea notes harness the finish, ending with alder and tobacco echoes. This has serious length without losing any drive along the way. Best from 2022 through 2038"</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"This has excellent energy, featuring voluptuous blackberry and black currant fruit lined with cassis bush, bay leaf, wet stone, and iron notes, with sweet tobacco filling in the background. The finish is broad and long, with a nice graphite edge. This is Pauillac"</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The 2015 Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande displays a medium to deep garnet-purple color and is elegantly fruited with crushed red currants, black raspberries, and cassis with touches of lavender, rose hips, tilled soil, fungi, and charcuterie. Medium-bodied, finely crafted, remarkably pure, and beautifully poised, it has a firm frame of very fine-grained tannins and oodles of freshness, finishing on a lingering mineral note."</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The 2015 Pichon-Longueville Comtesse de Lalande is a blend of 68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot that was picked from 10 September with the young Merlot, finishing on 9 October. It includes 12.5% vin de presse (which incidentally was included in the blend). It has a very pure bouquet with expressive Merlot imparting black cherries and wild strawberry aromas that are embroidered</i></p>

Reviews *with a thread of graphite. I noticed how it errs more towards black fruit with extended aeration. The palate is medium-bodied with edgy tannin on the entry, the Cabernet Sauvignon here in the driving seat despite that level of Merlot trying to get in a look. Together they give a sense of completeness to this Pichon Lalande that has semblances towards the great 1996. Whereas this Pauillac has a tendency to be more approachable than others, in fact, the 2015 has the backbone and substance to suggest that it will require a minimum of ten years' ageing, but patience will be amply rewarded. Nicolas Glumineau has overseen a quite brilliant Pichon Lalande here. Drink 2027-2060"*

- NM, Wine Advocate

"This shows spices, pepper, blueberries, and blackcurrants on the nose. Full body, very polished tannins, and a long and beautiful finish. Shows such gorgeous texture. Precise and transparent. Try in 2022."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This is absolutely beautiful with super tannin quality that gives you the most silky texture. Precise. It goes for minutes. Full and concentrated yet all in balance."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This is the new taste for this estate: richly endowed while remaining elegant and suave. Certainly, there is great concentration here as well as rich black fruits. But they are given a sense of style and poise that will remain with this wine as it ages. Drink from 2026."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"This is a surprisingly tender wine with its opulent Merlot filling out the firmer Cabernet. The acidity cuts to the heart while leaving room for a fresher, crisper character that is juicy and delicious. This will be a very fine wine."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Tasted blind. Meaty, polished, sweet, and glamorous. Racy and well put together. Masses of pleasure. Very long. Seriously intense. Very successful in this vintage. Drink 2024-2044."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Mid crimson. Heady and dense and so thick it almost tastes as though you could stand a spoon up in this wine!! Lots of fun. Not too sweet and masses of structure but maybe slightly less sophisticated than the other Pichon? Drink 2025-2045."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Very sweet and round and velvety. Lots to treasure here. Especially for those in a hurry! Ripe and rich. Lip smacking. But to be avoided by those who like their Pauillac's to have a hint of austerity."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Beautifully extracted, this is rich, ripe, and layered. It is utterly gorgeous and has real precision and tension. It delivers its Pauillac swagger with the most gentle of hands - the tannins are fine, layered-up and building their defenses without imposing too heavily on the succulent black fruits. It judges the vintage extremely well and is the best in this line-up for me. 1% Petit Verdot completes the blend. 60% new oak."

- Decanter.com

"I love the burnished damson fruit on the nose. This has that sexy, charred damson and charcoal thing going on, with smooth silky tannins and real impact. Great Pauillac typicity with a floral flourish. It turns up the dial fairly high and has real impact, but just manages to err on the right side of restraint, with savoury herb notes bringing elegance. It has a juicy, creamy texture, which is not true in all Pauillac's in 2015."

- JA, Decanter.com

"Fragrance and depth on the nose but a sense of over-ripeness puts it out of step with the vintage at the moment – even with the Comtesse lift and freshness. But time will probably be on its side. Drink: 2022-2035."

- SS, Decanter.com

Reviews *"Rich, silky, opulent, and packed with layers of rich, ripe, supple-textured, fresh, ripe fruits, you find a multi-layered, experience with length, volume, and complexity that is made even better with the velvety tannins and a finish that does not want to quit. You can start drinking this now, or you can age it for the secondary nuances that are going to start arriving with just a few additional years. Drink from 2025-2050."*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"It is the overtly sensual character that rocks this wine. The nose, with its truffle, olive, cigar wrapper, smoke, espresso, and dark red berries is attention seeking. But it is on the palate, with its velvety textures and layers of fruit that grabs all the attention."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"The overly sensual character here is a real charmer. With tannins and silk and velvet, the sweet, ripe, sexy fruits flow over your palate with grace and elegance, few other wines offer. There is length, purity of fruit and complexity that is impossible not to be wowed by!"
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Elegance and sensuous is all one really needs to say here. The wine is fresh and concentrated, with refined fruits, polished tannins, length, and purity. The wine will hit the middle or top of my range with no effort as its aging quite nicely. Made from blending 68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot, the harvest took place from September 10 to October 8."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"This beauty is hard to resist. Deep, dark ruby in color, this wine opens with licorice, tobacco and cassis dusted with cocoa, herbs, spice, and blackberries -- and that's just the beginning. Pure silk and velvet in texture, this wine feels delightful on your palate and the sensuous experience carries all the way through. With a smattering of dusty tannins, the dark ripe fruits in the finish combine freshness and purity. ... this wine reached 13.6% alcohol with a pH of 3.68 and was produced from about 50% of the harvest. 2015 could turn out to be the best vintage of Pichon Lalande in 20 years! Nicolas Glumineau is really starting to get things right at Pichon Lalande. It is going to be great seeing both Pichon's go "Mano a Mano" as to which estate produces the best wine. However, the consumer is the real winner because each property is going to continue upping their game."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"This is a delicious Pichon, showing the château's classic femininity and poise. The Cabernet is particularly fine and aromatic, providing the core of the wine, and is complemented by the spice, perfume, and plushness of the other varieties. Brilliant winemaking. Drink: 2022-35."
- Tim Atkin MW

"The fruit on the nose is ripe the start of the palate has depth a rich mix of cassis and black cherry. Lighter in the middle fragrant charm the sweet fruit is underpinned by bramble freshness silky velvet smooth at the back yet it finishes firmer and fresher with elegance and length."
- Derek Smedley MW

"The 2015 Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande has a beautiful bouquet that soars from the glass: blackberry, bilberry, potent graphite scents that lend it an air of Pauillac. I love the precision here and the manner in which it builds and gains momentum with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, good depth and delineation, layers of black fruit infused with graphite. There are certainly semblances to the great 1996 here, the Cabernet Sauvignon remaining in the driver's seat and lending structure and a sense of aristocracy on the finish. This is a serious Pichon Lalande for long-term aging. Anticipated maturity: 2021 – 2045."
- NM, [Vinous](http://Vinous.com)

"The 2015 Pichon Comtesse is a towering wine, as it has always been. Rich, sumptuous and totally hedonistic, the 2015 melds together intense fruit with structure. Far from an easygoing wine, the 2015 is going to need a number of years and will then drink well for several decades. Grilled herbs, smoke, new leather and licorice are some of the many notes that are layered into the dark-fleshed fruit for complexity. As good as the 2015 is today, it also has room to grow. Technical Director Nicolas Glumineau has done a tremendous job with the

Reviews *2015s at Pichon Comtesse. The blend is 68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot, aged 18 months in oak, 55% new."*

- AG, Vinous

"A dazzling, towering wine, the 2015 Pichon-Longueville Comtesse de Lalande has put on considerable weight in just the last few months. Today, the 2015 is vivid and intense, with a huge backbone of tannin and marvelous complexity. In 2015, the Cabernet Sauvignon is pushed higher as the Merlot was less consistent in its ripening. Graphite, charcoal, tobacco, crème de cassis and new leather are some of the signatures in what is shaping up to be a super-classic Pichon-Lalande. Simply put, the 2015 is one of the wines of the vintage. Tasted four times."

- AG, Vinous

"I tasted the 2015 Château Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande on three separate occasions rating it 97 twice and 98 once. Checking in as a final blend of 68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot and the rest Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot, this is a nuanced style of wine that grows on you with time in the glass, and the larger Merlot component always gives it a more supple, seductive texture. Crème de cassis, black raspberries, spring flowers, leafy herbs and lead pencil notes all flow to a full-bodied, ultra-pure, seamless beauty that builds on the palate, has fine tannin and a great, great finish. As classy as they come, it will continue to impress for two to three decades"

- Jeb Dunnuck

"Winemaker Stephanie Dangler described Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot as 'hearts' and Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc as the 'links'. While both of these links were considered to be better this year, selection was important, and they play a huge part in this wine. The press wine (12%) was very good quality, too, and it has a marked effect on the final blend. There is sooty depth and wonderful plushness here with lovely round notes punctured by acidity and wildness. The oak is spectacular, and I am seduced by the way in which it has sunk its teeth into this wine. More expressive and more immediate than I thought it would be, it's also worth noting that in spite of its exuberance the tannins are here for the long run, too."

- MJ, matthewjukes.com

"Dark ruby garnet, violet reflections, delicate rim lightening. Attractive dark berry confit, fine cassis, some nougat, subtle precious wood spice. Complex, juicy and elegant, ripe cherry fruit again, integrated tannins, mineral and persistent, fine touch of chocolate in the finish, well developed, should still be allowed to mature for a few more years."

- PM, Falstaff Magazine

"The nose is elegant, aromatic, racy and precise. It reveals notes of wild blackberry, crushed berries, ripe strawberry, and terroir (gravels) associated with slight touches of small wild berries, cardamom, slight toasted touches as well as a subtle hint of spices, a very discreet hint of Cuban pepper and an imperceptible touch of gray pepper. The palate is fruity, well balanced, very slightly tight, straight, precise, silky and offers a nice freshness, a beautiful elegance, fat, a beautiful suavity, and a good structure. On the palate this wine expresses notes of ripe cassis, black cherry, cherry, and slight notes of strawberry associated with discreet touches of fresh blackberry, racy minerality (almost saline) as well as subtle hints of toasted oak, sweet spices as well as a very discreet hint of tonka bean and an imperceptible hint of vanilla. Tannins are elegant, fine and slightly chewy. Good length. Gourmandise, a hint of salinity and appetite on the finish / persistence. Outstanding wine! (2025+)"

- Vert de Vin