

Château Pichon-Longueville – Comtesse de Lalande 2021

CSPC# 869816

750mlx6

13.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	88% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Cabernet Franc, 2% Merlot
Appellation	Pauillac
Classification	Second Growth. Deuxième Grand Cru Classé in 1855
Website	http://www.pichon-comtesse.com/
Analysis	pH: 3.8 IPT: 76
Sustainability	Sustainable viticulture with biodynamic practices on 30 ha. Vineyard in conversion to organic farming - 1st year of certification
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	Head of Oenology: Stéphanie Danglade
Vintage	<p>After a mild and wet winter, the bud break of the vines started quite early, at the end of March. April and May, dry and cool, delayed the developing vegetation, causing a little coulure. June, which was milder, started the flowering and the growth of the vines suddenly accelerated. But this milder weather was also accompanied by record rainfall, particularly in the south of the Pauillac appellation. The young vegetation was then subjected to very strong pressure from fungal diseases, particularly mildew, which had a serious impact on the fruit set and berry development. While the Merlot was severely affected, the Cabernet, the majority of the grape varieties at Pichon Comtesse, resisted better.</p> <p>The cool and wet summer did not stop the progression of mildew and led to a very slow veraison. The Harvest began on September 22nd, after a few rainy spells with no real consequences, and ended on October 5th.</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. 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>
Harvest	Yield 15 hl/ha. The Harvest began on September 22nd, after a few rainy spells with no real consequences, and ended on October 5th.
Winemaking	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 tanks. Aged 60% new oak for 18 months. Egg white fining
Tasting Notes	The very Pauillac nose of cedar, graphite and blackcurrant is mixed with bewitching notes of morello cherry, peony, and violet. The palate is complex, with fruity nuances of blackberry and morello cherry, the sweetness



Tasting Notes	of praline and the delicious bitterness of cocoa beans. The tannic structure is very marked, a sign of a very precise extraction. These well-coated tannins give this wine a sumptuous body, with a savoury and dynamic finish that characterises the Cru.
Serve with	Chateau Pichon 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 2027-2052
Scores/Awards	<p>94 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - December 2023</p> <p>95 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - February 2024</p> <p>94-95 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022</p> <p>91-93+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent - May 2022</p> <p>94-95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2022</p> <p>95-97 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 2022</p> <p>17 points - James Lawther, JancisRobinson.com - May 2022</p> <p>96 points - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - March 2022</p> <p>95 points - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - February 2024</p> <p>95 points - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - May 2022</p> <p>94-96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2022</p> <p>93 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2022</p> <p>94-97 points - Thomas Parker, Farr Vintners - April 2022</p> <p>94 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2023</p> <p>93-95 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2022</p> <p>98 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2024</p> <p>96-98 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - May 2022</p> <p>94-96+ points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2022</p> <p>18.5 points - Matthew Jukes (score only) - August 2022</p> <p>94 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - April 2022</p> <p>96-97 points - Yves Beck (score only) - June 2022</p> <p>94 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2022</p> <p>96-97 points - Terres de Vins (score only) - April 2022</p> <p>95 points - Vert de Vin - July 2022</p> <p>94-96 points - Colin Hay, The Drinks Business - September 2022</p> <p>93-94 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - May 2022</p> <p>97 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - May 2022</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Plush, warm, and inviting, offering waves of cassis, crushed plum and blackberry puree that cruise through, while a fine-grained structure provides support. Shows alluring accents of black tea and alder on the finish, with the fruit keeping the upper hand easily. Very polished for the vintage. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Cabernet Franc. Best from 2026 through 2040."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The 2021 Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande wafts from the glass with aromas of blackberries and minty cassis mingled with notes of violet, lavender, pencil shavings and rose petals. Medium to full-bodied, velvety, and polished, it's beautifully seamless and complete, with a fleshy core of fruit, ripe acids and sweet, powdery tannins that assert themselves on the gently structured finish. This will offer a broad drinking window. It's one of the vintage's real successes, but it also represents only one-quarter of a "normal" production."</i></p> <p>- WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"This estate is one of the most dynamic in contemporary Bordeaux, so it's no surprise that the 2021 Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande is a terrific wine—though it's a very atypical blend of 88% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Cabernet Franc and 2% Merlot, cropped at a derisory 15 hectoliters per hectare, hints at what a challenging year this was in the vineyards. Unwinding in the glass with aromas of wild berries, blackcurrants, iris, licorice, black truffles, cigar wrapper and sweet soil tones, it's medium to full-bodied, layered, and textural, with beautifully refined tannins, lively acids and a supple but serious profile. It will see 60% new oak and, in all likelihood, a classical élevage of fully 18 months."</i></p> <p>- WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"A blend of 88% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Cabernet Franc, and 2% Merlot, the 2021 Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande is deep garnet-purple in color. It springs from the glass with a beautiful perfume of violets,</i></p>

Reviews *fallen leaves, and menthol, followed by a core of cassis, iron ore, and tree bark. Medium-bodied, the palate has a sturdy frame of chewy tannins and a lively line supporting the delicately styled, mineral-tinged fruit, finishing with impressive length. 2027-2052."*

- LPB, Wine Independent

"This is really spicy with peppercorns, cloves and Chinese spices, especially on the finish. Blackcurrants, too. Medium-bodied, firm and polished with a long, intense finish. 88% cabernet sauvignon, 10% cabernet franc and 2% merlot."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"The wine's structure is a major factor here. It brings out sumptuous tannins to go with the juicy black fruits and spice tones. Black currants sing from this wine with its dominating Cabernet Sauvignon."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"88% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Cabernet Franc, 2% Merlot. Cask sample. Characteristic elegance but the Pauillac character is still evident. Fragrant nose with dark-fruit and floral notes and just a hint of chocolate. Persistent fruit through the mid palate with finely edged tannins. Well-structured with good energy and drive, the finish persistent. Balanced and harmonious."

- JL, JancisRobinson.com

"Cocoa powder, iris notes, pink roses, and black fruits - so fragrant - you just want to smell the wines in 2021 for hours. This is a seriously impressive Comtesse and stands out as one of my favourite wines of the vintage with real promise. Power and depth from the get-go, tannins are massy, softly fleshy but also provide support and structure, giving layers to the fruit and savoury elements that combine clove, cedar, cola, vanilla and cinnamon with teeth-coating liquorice and graphite too - the soft salinity entering towards the finish. It's concentrated and serious with a tightly knitted core, a consequence of the tiny yields and strict selection as well as the highest percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon in the blend since 2013. I love the terroir signature on show in the glass as well as an overall sense of retaining elegance and finesse. A top buy for me! 3.76pH, 75IPT. 18-19 months ageing. Tasted twice."

- GH, Decanter.com

"This delivers fragrant, understated, sculpted, classic Pauillac, with savoury cassis bud, liquorice, fennel, mint leaf, cigar box, cassis, rose petals and undergrowth. Fine but plentiful tannins, with tension and elegance, plenty of ageing ahead, although no need to wait as long as in vintages like 2020 or 2022. 15hl/h yield, 3.76ph. 60% new oak for ageing (up to 700% for first three months only). First year organic conversion."

- JA, janeanson.com

"Concentrated, with mint leaf, black chocolate, cassis and blueberry, spice, and clear tannic hold. This is the highest level of Cabernet Sauvignon in Comtesse since 2013 when it was 100% Cabernet (and 13hl/h yield) and you feel it in the character of the fruit, and the tension through the core. A more serious Comtesse than we have got used to in recent years, without sacrificing the signature finesse and elegance. IPT 76. Tasted twice. Harvest September 22 through to October 6. First year of organic conversion, 60% of production in 1st wine, 15hl/h yield, 3.76ph. 65% new oak for ageing."

- JA, janeanson.com

"With a nice depth of color for the vintage, you find flowers, blackberries, black cherries, tobacco wrapper, cigar box and spice in the nose. There is a sweetness to the fruit, combined with salinity, soft tannins and freshness on the palate, finishing with a strong touch of salt that accompanies the peppery, chewy red fruits in the endnote. This is a modern-classically styled vintage for Pichon Lalande. The wine blends 88% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Cabernet Franc and 2% Merlot. 12.9% ABV. pH 3.75. This is the second highest percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon in the history of the estate. The harvest took place from September 22 ending October 5. Yields were incredibly low at only 15 hectoliters per hectare, almost 70% below a normal harvest. Drink from 2025-2055."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

Reviews

"There is only 2% Merlot here (the second lowest ever) and 10% Cabernet Franc. The 88% Cabernet Sauvignon gives the wine strongly Pauillac character although it still has the Lalande charm. The yield was an exceptionally low 15 hl/ha and then 40% was demoted from the Grand Vin, meaning a tiny production here in 2021 that will likely be heavily allocated. Deep ruby colour. Highly refined, floral tones jump from the glass with an immediately cool, ripe nose. Subtly savoury spices add layers of complexity but are well integrated. The palate has a briary fruit intensity together with elegant, intense blackcurrant fruit. Compact and unforced, this is beautifully delineated with blue, black and red fruits together. With airy, precise intensity and fine, ripe and very persistent tannins, it should have a long and open drinking window."

- TP, Farr Vintners

"The 2021 Pichon-Longueville Comtesse de Lalande needs more coaxing from the glass than previous vintages. Blackberry, juniper and iris flower scents reluctantly unfold, though tasting a second glass, I found the nose more forthcoming. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannins. The Cabernet is in the driving seat, imparting black fruit, a touch of graphite and chimney soot."

- NM, Vinous

"The 2021 Pichon-Longueville Comtesse de Lalande is a towering wine. Just as it did en primeur, the 2021 dazzles from start to finish. The Cabernets are very high in the blend, and that comes through in a Saint-Julien endowed with ton of explosive vertical lift. Lavender, dried herbs, mint, spice, rose petal and a kick of orange peel are some of the notes that run through this striking Pichon Comtesse. The aromatics alone are compelling, but everything about the 2021 speaks to class personified. Bright saline notes extend the finish. In a word: sublime."

- AG, Vinous

"Do you want the good news or the bad news first? Let's start with the good. The 2021 Pichon Comtesse is epic and certainly among the great wines of this vintage. Sadly, the coulure and mildew in the first year of organic farming plus dehydration at the end of the growing season took with it fully two thirds of the crop. In other words, there's not much wine to go around. Rich and sumptuous in the glass, yet clocking in at 12.9% alcohol, the 2021 is beautifully layered and totally sensual from the very first taste. Hints of red fruit, flowers, mint, white pepper and dried savory herbs develop with a bit of coaxing. The Cabernet Sauvignon, at 88%, is very high by historical standards. Quite simply, the 2021 is a tour de force from Technical Director Nicolas Glumineau and his team. If there is one wine readers will absolutely jump on en primeur it is Pichon Comtesse. Should the bottled wine turn out as well as this sample, pricing is likely to jump materially because of the tiny production. Don't miss it."

- AG, Vinous

"One of the gems in the vintage is the 2021 Château Pichon-Longueville Comtesse de Lalande, a Cabernet Sauvignon-heavy blend that includes 10% Cabernet Franc and just 2% Merlot, aging in 60% new barrel. Yields here were devastated due to mildew and poor flowering, and the final wine comes from a horrific 15 hectoliters per hectare. The final alcohol hit 13%, and it has a healthy pH of 3.69 and an IPT of 75. In addition, a fair bit of press wine was used this year. Regardless of the numbers and technical data, the wine is brilliant and offers a pure, seamless, medium to full-bodied style carrying notes of dark currants, liquid violets, graphite, and chalky minerality. Possessing ultra-fine tannins, beautiful mid-palate depth, and a great finish, it's going to benefit from 7-8 years of bottle age and be a long-lived Pauillac. It's another incredible success from this team."

- Jeb Dunnuck

"Lalande has made another love story to Cabernet Sauvignon in 2021, and it is thrillingly pure and direct on the nose and palate, and the slender chassis are also riveting. The oak is fairly firm, adding delicious detail to the overall experience. There is a keen edge to this wine that is both refreshing and also uplifting, and it will propel it forwards for thirty or more years with ease. I am falling for Lalande's newfound confidence and flair, and in 2021 it deserves to have a strong following."

- Matthew Jukes

"Deep almost opaque ruby core, purple reflections, subtle brightening on the rim. Elegant wood spice nuances, a touch of nougat, a hint of cardamom and candied orange zest. Complex and substantial palate offering, blackberry nuances, well-integrated, supporting tannins, chocolate notes on the finish. A structured wine with great ageing potential. Stylistically as closed as Latour is rare."

- PM, Falstaff Magazine

Reviews *"The nose is elegant, nicely intense and reveals a very fine grain, controlled, just right power, depth, a nice airy side to the approach and a very nice powdery character. There are notes of violet blackberry, bright strawberry and, more slightly, bright blue berries combined with touches of liquorice, cornflower, and discreet hints of Cuben pepper, a subtle touch of tobacco, blue tea, Bourbon vanilla and a discreet hint of camphor. The palate is elegant, fresh and offers juiciness, a nice acidity/minerality, good definition, gourmandize, a nice roundness, tension, a nice crunchiness, and a controlled explosion in the mouth. On the palate this wine expresses bright cherry, blueberry and more slightly fleshy/juicy blackcurrant notes combined with touches of blueberry, violet as well as zan/badian (almost mentholated which brings pep), discrete hints of pepper, lily, graphite, a subtle hint of fresh saffron and fine hints of toastiness/caramelisation. On the finish there are fine roasted/grilled hints in the background."*
- Vert de Vin

"88% Cabernet Sauvignon; 10% Cabernet Franc; 2% Merlot; 13% alcohol; a final yield, tragically, of just 15 hl/ha; tasted at Pichon Comtesse de Lalande overlooking the river. Lovely violets and cedar wrapped around the black cherry fruit, with subtle cassis notes peaking though. This is quite closed at first, but it opens beautifully in the glass. It has that gloriously sumptuous texture that is the very essence of Pichon Comtesse de Lalande – present really in all recent vintages. It is, as ever, luminous, with lots of finely-pixelated detail and with that lovely sinuous, gliding, glossy crystalline limpid mid-palate. There is also an impressive sensation of density, structure and compactness. Superb, but not quite at the level of the miraculous 2018-2020"
- CH, Thedrinksbusiness.com
