

Château Pontet Canet 2000

CSPC# 744974

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety
Appellation
General Info

66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc
Pauillac

5th classified growth in 1855. Jean-François de Pontet, royal governor of the Médoc, combined several vineyard plots in Pauillac in the early 18th century. Years later, his descendants added neighbouring vines in a place named Canet. This was the beginning of one of the largest estates in the Médoc, which quite naturally added the name of its founder to that of the land registry reference. A century later, Pontet-Canet was included in the famous 1855 classification, thereby confirming its membership among the elite of the Médoc. This privileged position did not go unnoticed by one of the most important Bordeaux shippers of the time, Herman Cruse, who bought the estate in 1865. He built new cellars, modernised the winemaking facilities, and established the wine's reputation around the world. The Cruse family owned Pontet-Canet for 110 years, until another shipper (from Cognac this time), Guy Tesseron, acquired it in 1975. Currently owned by Guy Tesseron's sons, Alfred and Gérard, this means that Pontet-Canet has belonged to only three families in over two centuries. Thirty years after their arrival in Pauillac, the Tesseron can be proud of having gradually restructured the entire vineyard as well as renovating the cellars and service buildings. Château Pontet-Canet is located in the heart of the Pauillac appellation, just south of châteaux Mouton Rothschild and d'Armailhac. It has the poor gravelly soil typical of the greatest vineyards. In fact, the soil has so much gravel and sand that it is difficult to imagine that anything could grow there at all. The château's winegrowing philosophy is to intervene as little as possible and as naturally as possible in the vineyard. Only traditional viticultural and cultivation practices are used, . Chemical weed killers are banned in keeping with environmental protection, and priority is given to the vine's long-term health. Fertilisers are uniquely organic, and only used on plots that genuinely require extra nutrition. This helps to maintain a good balance and self-regulated low yields, as well as to respect the vines, reflect the terroir, and produce pure, natural wine. In 2003, a purification station was built. 2005 was the first harvest using biodynamic practices throughout the whole property of 81 hectares. In 2005, the second vat room was restored and modified at the image of the first one which dates back to the 19th century, with concrete truncated cone-shaped vats allowing fermentation by natural gravity flow, without the use of pressure or pumping. A part of the vineyard is worked with horses since 2008.

Vintage	After a somewhat mixed summer a particularly hot and dry August once again bore out the old saying "It's August which makes the must". The dry weather continued until 10 th October to produce grapes with an outstanding level of ripeness.
Vineyards	Soil: quaternary gravel on a subsoil of clay and limestone; Area: 81 hectares Average age of the vines: 35 years; Density of the vines: 9000 feet per hectare: Yield: 45 hectolitres per hectare
Harvest	21st of September till the 10th of October
Maturation	60% in new barrels during 15 month/s
Tasting Notes	Very intense colour. The very powerful nose features an excellent balance between fruit (blackberry, raspberry) and wood (liquorice, toasty notes). On the palate, the attack is full but very mild. This wine stands out with its fine length and imposing structure – a characteristic of great Pauillacs - made up of extremely smooth tannins. The finish shows no trace of aggressiveness and is very long.
Production	2,330 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2015-2035



Scores/Awards **93 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2003
92-94 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2001
94+ points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #189 - June 2010
92 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #146 - April 2003
92-94 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #139 - February 2002
92-95 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #134 - April 2001
91 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - November 2011
91 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - September 2010
91 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - January 2010
89-90 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - April 2001
90 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 1, 2003
93 points - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2003
17.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 20, 2010
18.5 points - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - February 2010
18 points/4 stars - Decanter.com
18 points/4 stars - Decanter.com
18 points/4 stars - Decanter.com
19 points/5 stars - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com
17 points/4 stars - James Lawther, Decanter.com
93 points - Jean Marc Quarin
91 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 7, 2012
90 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 5, 2012
94 points - Wine & Spirits Magazine

Reviews *"Extremely pretty aromas of mineral, blackberry and raspberry. Full-bodied, with well-integrated tannins and a medium finish. Well-crafted red. The best Pontet-Canet ever. Best after 2010. 2,330 cases made."*
 - JS, Wine Spectator

"Loads of coffee and berry character. Intensely grapey. Full-bodied and very tannic, yet very polished. Long, mineral and berry character. Almost classic. Best Pontet-Canet ever. Score range: 92-94."
 - JS, Wine Spectator

"Upgraded in score over my original rating, which was several points lower, Alfred Tesseron has done a remarkable job since 1994 with Pontet-Canet, which has been hitting first-growth levels since 2003. But the 2000 also shows exceptionally well. In need of another decade of cellaring, this dense purple wine has a classic nose of incense, charcoal, creme de cassis, and subtle new oak. Full-bodied, powerful, still very tannic, and shockingly backward, this is a big, rich wine that has put on weight and seems to need more time than I originally predicted. Anticipated maturity: 2015-2035+."
 - RP, Wine Advocate

"Like its neighbor, Mouton Rothschild, this wine seems to have closed down considerably after bottling. The impressively saturated opaque purple color offers up some promising aromas of black currants, vanilla, truffle, smoke, and mineral. In the mouth, it is full-bodied, powerful, layered, and enticingly textured, but oh, so backward and firm. The finish is long, but this broodingly backward, large-scaled Pontet-Canet will require considerable patience. Does it rival the brilliant 1995 or 1996? I am not sure. Anticipated maturity: 2011-2030."
 - RP, Wine Advocate

"A stunning offering is the 2000. An opaque purple color is accompanied by an impressive aromatic display of pure creme de cassis, high quality oak, sweet earth, and smoke. It is a steely, extremely long classic with noticeable tannin as well as fine concentration and power, and a 45-second finish. This broodingly backward, hulking Pontet-Canet will require patience. Anticipated maturity: 2010-2030+."
 - RP, Wine Advocate

"A spectacular effort from Pontet Canet. The opaque ruby/purple-colored 2000 offers a gorgeously pure, intense bouquet of blackberry liqueur, cassis, smoke, and Asian spices. The Pontet Canet displays a firm, classic feel in the mouth, high tannin, medium to full body, exceptional concentration as well as purity, and a long finish. Bravo! Anticipated maturity: 2007-2030."
 - RP, Wine Advocate

Reviews

"Tasted at Bordeaux Index's Pontet-Canet dinner at The Ledbury. The millennial Pontet-Canet continues to offer that generous nose with black cherries, cassis, leather and sandalwood. Smooth on the entry, like the nose it is gently moving into its secondary phase. Quite linear and style, broad-shouldered with grippy tannins towards the finish, this deserves a few more years in bottle. Tasted February 2011."

- NM, Wine Journal

"Tasted blind at Bordeaux Index's 2000 tasting in London. This has an alluring, open-knit nose, very well defined with ebullient redcurrant and wild strawberry on the nose, sandalwood, leather, cigar box and a touch of pine. The palate is medium bodied with firm but fine tannin, very good weight, quite sinewy and taut with tart red berried fruit towards the long finish. Lively and animated – real energy in this wine, smooth and lactic on the finish. Drink now-2025. Tasted March 2010."

- NM, Wine Journal

"Tasted at Berry Bros. vertical in London. Compared to the 2001, the millennial Pontet-Canet is more expressive on the nose with blackberry, cedar, graphite, tobacco and a slight leafy quality that merely lends it freshness and vitality. The palate is medium-bodied, very pure and refined, lovely balance and yet somehow missing the intensity and vigour of ensuing vintages, a four-gear Pontet-Canet rather than five-gear despite the vintage but it would be churlish to ignore the supple, slightly lactic, chocolaty finish. Delicious! Drink 2010-2020."

- NM, Wine Journal

"A really beautiful cassis and mineral-rich nose. Not a huge, full-bodied palate - quite spicy and sweet. Lacks some body but a lovely crunchy cranberry finish. Very fine but has been superseded by ensuing vintages. Tasted April 2001."

- NM, Wine Journal

"This is a very modern style of wine, with generous new wood and super-ripe fruit flavors, balancing with polished solid tannins. Very international in style, it is good, but could come from anywhere."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Deep red-ruby. Explosive nose combines raspberry, roasted currant, grilled nuts and exotic spices. Rich, sexy, silky and full in the mouth, with expressive flavors of black raspberry, game, smoke and truffle. Finishes with strong but suave tannins and excellent length."

- International Wine Cellar

"Racy and rich with a savoury overlay."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Fabulous nose here, big and smoky, roasted confit fruit, dark and gritty-grainy in character. Wonderful style. Roast coffee grounds, dark in style. Fine fleshy sweetness on entry, but not over-the-top, not a sweet, confit note in sight. There is a firm and polished texture to it, a savoury character, with lots of tannic substance although it does not show through past the texture and fruit on the palate, only on the finish when there is a flourish of grippy tannin coating the mouth. There is a firm, grainy character which sits very well with the rest of the wine. Brimming with potential here, but needs another five years at the bare minimum, and I am sure it will be much better at ten. From a Pontet-Canet retrospective. 18.5+/20 (February 2010)"

- CK, The Wine Doctor

"Wonderfully scented juicy fruit, great quality. Superb rich fruit and ripe tannins - complex and great quality. Drink 2011-13."

- Decanter.com

Reviews *“Incredibly tarry, deep and dense nose. Very juicy palate with persistent strong tannin. Very good depth of fruit - blackberry, blackcurrant, spice and lovely perfumed notes. Delicious, very long.”*

- Decanter.com

“Very forward on the nose with lots of black fruit characters and spicy oak. Very opulent and so much matière, lots of layers and still very compact; full of black fruit and spicy characters with well-integrated oak; nice minerality on the finish. Still a young baby in 2010 - needs much more time in the cellar.”

- Decanter.com

“Intense, focused, cedary nose. Super-ripe and sumptuous, highly concentrated, but has spice and vigour to counter the fruit. Massive, pungent; full of life and nuance. Long, vibrant finish. Drink from 2012. (19 points)”

- SS, Decanter.com

“Deep red, mature rim, ripe Cabernet fruit, good broad wine with the firmness of Pauillac around the clear warmth of the fruit. Drink up to 2020. (17 points)”

- JL, Decanter.com

“Ruby with lightening at the edge, truffle, smoke, tobacco and cassis, full bodied, still tannic, with some dryness in the tannins, this classic, structured style of Pontet Canet ends with cassis, fennel and a touch of fresh herbs with blackberry.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Showing black fruit, tobacco, cherry and herbs in the nose. Full bodied and concentrated, with slightly rustic tannins, the wine ends with ample black fruit in the finish. This needs another 5 years”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
