

Château Pontet Canet 2008

CSPC# 869819

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit-Verdot
Appellation	Pauillac
Classification	5th classified growth in 1855.
Website	http://www.pontet-canet.com/en/
General Info	<p>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.</p>
Vintage	<p>After a difficult 2007 growing season, a degree of serenity was hoped for in 2008. It was not to be, as mother nature instead provided 4 months of cloud and rain over the summer. Fortunately, the majority of September was hot and dry, allowing the grapes to ripen fully and reversing the prognosis from bad to good. Predominantly Cabernet Sauvignon (65%) with the balance made up of Merlot (30%) and a drop of Cabernet Franc (4%) and Petit Verdot (1%) used very much as a chef seasons a dish.</p>
Vineyards	<p>Thirty years after their arrival in Pauillac, the Tesseron's 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.</p> <p>Soil: quaternary gravel on a subsoil of clay and limestone; Area: 81 hectares.</p> <p>Château Pontet-Canet has shot to stardom over the last decade. The vineyard management is done in as natural a way as is possible and each parcel is thought of as unique and looked after in its own way. For the first time in more than 40 years, 2008 saw the sound of horses' hooves replace that of tractors as an experiment destined to avoid compacting the soils.</p>
Harvest	Hand harvested



Maturation	50% in new barrels during 15 month/s
Tasting Notes	Particularly intense colour heralds the quality of the vintage. This impression is confirmed by a ripe nose on black and red fruit aromas, a slight hint of oak and a few floral notes. The new style is showcased in a wine which professes vibrant character, remarkable amplitude and delicious tannins.
Serve with	Shoulder of lamb studded with garlic, rosemary, and anchovies.
Cellaring	Drink 2016-2045
Scores/Awards	<p>92 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - April 30, 2011</p> <p>90-93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2009</p> <p>96 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #194 - May 2011</p> <p>96-98+ points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #182 - April 2009</p> <p>94 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - January 2011</p> <p>94-96 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - October 2009</p> <p>93-95 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - April 2009</p> <p>93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - June 2016</p> <p>90-93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2009</p> <p>95 points/Cellar Selection - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2011</p> <p>94 points - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - Jul/Aug 2011</p> <p>18 points - Richard Hemmings, JancisRobinson.com - February 2018</p> <p>16 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - January 2013</p> <p>17.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - January 2012</p> <p>17+ points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2009</p> <p>95 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - December 2017</p> <p>96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - September 2018</p> <p>94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - November 2017</p> <p>93 points - Derek Smedley, MW - November 2012</p> <p>89-93 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2009</p> <p>96 points - Jamie Goode, wineanorak.com - November 2012</p> <p>94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - July 2011</p> <p>92 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2018</p> <p>86 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - August 2012</p> <p>96 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2019</p> <p>19.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)</p> <p>18 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)</p> <p>16.5 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only)</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Quite dense, but pure and fresh, with the core of fig, damson plum and mulled cherry fruit already well-defined and the back end of rounded loam and roasted cedar grip fully integrated. The finish is long and powerful. Best from 2013 through 2020."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Very dark and brilliant in color, showing wonderful pure fruit, with crushed blackberry, currant and fresh-cut flowers. Full-bodied, with ultrafine tannins and a long, crisp, fruity finish. This offers impressive finesse and length. Score range: 90-93"</i></p> <p>- JS, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"A candidate for the "wine of the vintage," Pontet Canet's 2008 boasts an opaque purple color as well as copious aromas of sweet blueberries, blackberries and black currant fruit intertwined with lead pencil shavings, subtle barbecue smoke and a hint of forest floor. Full-bodied, with fabulous richness, texture and tremendous freshness, this first-growth-like effort is more developed than the uber-powerful 2010. Give it 5-8 years of cellaring and drink it over the following three decades. Bravo!"</i></p> <p>- RP, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"A wine for our children's children. Nobody in Bordeaux is more attentive to detail than Alfred Tesseron is at Pontet-Canet. Fashioned from incredibly low yields, a very late harvest, and a Draconian selection, the 2008 will not be close to drinkability for at least a decade, and it should still be in superb form circa 2060. An absolutely amazing effort, it boasts an inky/black/purple color as well as an extraordinary bouquet of creme de cassis, graphite, charcoal, and incense, blockbuster depth, and full-bodied power. The tannins are high, but they are remarkably velvety as well as well-integrated. Sensational acidity gives the wine precision and vibrancy, but the impression is one of massive concentration and power. The 2008 Pontet-Canet, a candidate</i></p>

Reviews *for the wine of the vintage, is a tour de force in viticultural precision and winemaking savoir faire.”*
- RP, Wine Advocate

“Tasted at the UGC 2008 tasting in London. The Pontet-Cantet 08 has a rich, almost decadent bouquet with black plum, espresso, vanilla and a touch of coca, unashamedly modern in style but retaining good definition. The palate has very fine grip and backbone, a savoury edge on the entry, touches of white pepper and tobacco dominating the finish that has real persistency. It has a certain -gloss- that I think it will shed over time and it needs to meld together on the finish, but it will reward those that can resist its youthful decadence. Drink 2015-2035. Tasted October 2010.”

- NM, Wine Journal

“A limpid deep ruby colour. The nose has wonderful definition, very pure with crème de cassis, black plum, a touch of graphite and cedar. It has certainly become less flamboyant and more precise since tasting out of barrel. The second bottle in October 2009 has an added dimension of fresh tangerine. The palate is full-bodied, firm tannins, quite attacking on the front palate, strong Cabernet flavours with that seam of graphite running from start to finish. Blackberry leaf, a touch of black plum and cassis struck through with vibrant acidity. Quite sinewy and less fleshy than I remember but undoubtedly a classy wine. Coming back after ten minutes, the 2008 has more puppy fat than the 2005 and the wine is finally revealing its cashmere finish. Drink 2013-2030. Tasted October 2009.”

- NM, Wine Journal

“We learnt a lot after 2007. A deep purple colour. The nose has very good intensity, brambly black fruits, a touch of boysenberry, a hint of the Thames estuary, a slight clayey scent although it is more akin to mudflats. Good definition. With aeration it starts to gain cedar scents. The palate is full-bodied with firm, grippy tannins, pure blackberry, cassis, blueberry, this is a Pauillac that really lacquers the mouth. Great persistency on the finish with a touch of black pepper and violets right on the aftertaste. Excellent. Tasted three times, the sample at a négociant showing a little more tension and structure.”

- NM, Wine Journal

“I love the nose of sweet tobacco, currants, minerals, flowers, and stones. Full bodied, with dark chocolate flavors, silky tannins, and beautiful fruit. Long and beautiful, with a succulent finish and a great overall balance. Best in three or four years.”

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“Very dark and brilliant in color, showing wonderful pure fruit, with crushed blackberry, currant and fresh-cut flowers. Full-bodied, with ultrafine tannins and a long, crisp, fruity finish. This offers impressive finesse and length”

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“Smooth, with dense tannins hidden behind the ripe, pure fruit, this important wine shows class and an impeccable balance of fruit and tannin. Rich as well as structured, this is a beautiful wine.”

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“Deep ruby-red. Knockout nose combines black cherry, lavender, potpourri spices and graphite minerality; high-toned and slightly liqueur-like. Then dense, seamless and vibrant in the mouth, with firm acidity giving outstanding energy to the dark fruit, floral and mineral flavors. Really spreads out on the back end and stays a while. Brilliantly delineated, complex wine with superb cut and penetration. (ST)”

- ST, International Wine Cellar

“Lovely beetroot aromas with chalky tannins and vivid but integrated acidity. Superb fruit power which is satisfying and complete but retains a sense of classic restraint and savouriness. Such a lovely wine, this. Every element is spot on. 18/20 points. (RH)”

- RH, JancisRobinson.com

- Reviews** *"Very lightly oxidised on the nose but both fun and serious on the palate – Cullen or Ridge? Solid, very Latour-like in its dryness (bone dry, very unlike Seña which has nearly 3 g/l residual sugar) – but over time this became rather a trial. At first, I gave it 17. "*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- "Quite deep crimson and on the nose almost overripe. However, did they manage that?! Very impressive satin texture. Lots of work in this wine. Flattering."*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- "Expressive dark fruit and sweet citrus freshness. Deep and mouthfilling, deep pile tannins, finishing fresh and satisfying. Plenty of freshness on the finish. Drink 2013-2020."*
- JH, JancisRobinson.com
- "Oh, I love this! This is Pauillac distilled, flirting on the edge of ripeness with brambly cassis and dark chocolate. This is just the right mix of open and closed for me, layered and confident but not overdone. It has feathery, well brushed tannins, and firm, generous black fruits. A great Pauillac which is just starting to rev its engine. Again, it's not as concentrated and long-living as in the ripest vintages, but it's a real success with decades ahead of it. Drinking Window 2018-2036. (JA)*
- JA, Decanter.com
- "Rich, full-bodied, deep, intense and loaded to the brim with crème de cassis, tobacco, smoke, wet forest floor and cherry pipe tobacco elements, the wine is mouth-filling, tannic, long, deep and complex. Everything about this is just great. But patience is going to be needed, as this will probably not hit its peak for at least another 5-8 years.*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "Still holding much of what this has to offer in reserve, the wine is tight at the moment. With air and effort, the concentrated waves of ripe, fresh, juicy, blackberry, tobacco and earth make their way to the surface. This is quite nice, with ripe, soft tannins, but it is still primary. Another 7-10 years will add a lot to the wine, and it could deserve a higher score. The wine was made from a blend of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot"*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "There is a nice mix of black fruits on the nose and the start of the palate. Although the tannins are firm they are not aggressive not totally overpowering the mix of cassis and black cherry. The finish has a good depth of flavour yet an appealing elegance. 2015-2030"*
- Derek Smedley MW
- "The freshness of the raspberry and loganberry on the nose ensures fragrance and tends to lighten the start of the palate. Behind this red fruit front is cassis and plum enriched by sloe. Rounded tannins allow the flesh of the fruit to win through."*
- Derek Smedley MW
- "The 2008 Pontet-Canet has a very perfumed, outgoing bouquet with raspberry coulis, blackberry, briary and graphite aromas. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, crisp acidity, classic in style with a firm, grippy finish that suggest it will need more ageing. (NM)"*
- NM, Vinous
- "Unquestionably one of the gems in the vintage is the 2008 Pontet-Canet, which reminds me of the 2005 with its concentrated, deep, powerful style. Beautiful dark fruits, graphite, obvious minerality, and classic Pauillac lead pencil notes all emerge from this still youthful, full-bodied, and pure 2008 that's 4-5 years away from maturity and will keep for 30+ years. Hats off to Alfred Tesseron for another awesome wine that ranks up with the crème de la crème of the vintage."*
- JD, Jeb Dunnuck
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