

## Château Pontet Canet 2009

CSPC# 744974

750mlx12

14.0% alc./vol.

**Grape Variety**  
**Appellation**  
**General Info**

65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot  
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** Fortunately, we were spared from devastating hailstorms. But the vision of ravaged vineyards leaves a lasting impression of injustice and waste for those who are its victims. As summer arrived, the sun settled over the region lasting through the harvest season and bringing hope for the vintage. At every stage of their development, we stood by our vines to lend a helping hand where needed. Each grape variety, in each terroir, requires specific care determined by means of observation and sense, demanding a constant presence in the vineyard.

**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** Monday, September 28, 2009 - Thursday, October 15, 2009  
**Maturation** 60% in new barrels during 15 month/s



<b>Tasting Notes</b>	Alfred Tesseron has been making classic Pauillac here every year since the excellent 1994 and recent vintages have been amongst the best ever, scoring impressively when shown in blind tastings. Pontet Canet is now pushing the Pichons as Pauillac's top non-first growth yet we hope that the price will remain considerably lower. Grapes are manually sorted by a team of 30 people on specially made sorting tables. The vineyard is now bio-dynamic and even being worked by horses. 64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot in two thirds new oak. Pontet Canet is now consistently producing wine of "super-second" quality. A powerful, explosive, dense black fruit nose. Massive and absolutely packed with ripe intense fruit on the palate. Tons of glycerol with a hint of prunes. Huge, complex and long. Amazing richness and power with perfect structure to balance. Long, quite tannic at this stage but a long life ahead. Great potential. A real monster.
<b>Production</b>	26,665 cases made
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2018-2038
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>96 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2012</p> <p><b>95-98 points</b> - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2010</p> <p><b>100 points</b> - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #199 - February 2012</p> <p><b>97-100 points</b> - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #188- April 2010</p> <p><b>94-97 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2010</p> <p><b>95-98 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2010</p> <p><b>98-100 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - September 8, 2010</p> <p><b>91-94 points</b> - Ian D'Agata, ST's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2010</p> <p><b>18 points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 20, 2010</p> <p><b>17.5 -18.5 points</b> - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - May 2012</p> <p><b>18-19.5+ points</b> - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - March 2010</p> <p><b>18.5 points/5 stars</b> - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2010</p> <p><b>94 points/17 points</b> - Jean Marc Quarin - March 2010</p> <p><b>98 points</b> - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2010</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>"This is amazingly expressive now considering how huge it is, with stunning espresso and warm fig confiture aromas followed by lush layer after layer of blackberry paste, cassis and plum sauce. A terrific loam underpinning strides in on the finish, which is weighty but sports serious cut. Equal parts fruit and earth. Best from 2018 through 2038. 26,665 cases made."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Delivers aromas of blueberry skin, fresh flowers, licorice and raspberry sauce, with something exotic underneath it all. Full-bodied, with wonderful clarity and freshness. It's like looking at a full moon on a crystal-clear night in the country. This keeps coming at you, with tannins and ripe fruit. What balance, yet power to the wine. I love how the wine changes and challenges you with every sip. Score range: 95-98"</i></p> <p>- JS, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"An amazing wine in every sense, this classic, full-bodied Pauillac is the quintessential Pontet Canet from proprietor Alfred Tesseron, who continues to reduce yields and farms his vineyards biodynamically – a rarity in Bordeaux. Black as a moonless night, the 2009 Pontet Canet offers up notes of incense, graphite, smoke, licorice, creme de cassis and blackberries. A wine of irrefutable purity, laser-like precision, colossal weight and richness, and sensational freshness, this is a tour de force in winemaking that is capable of lasting 50 or more years. The tannins are elevated, but they are sweet and beautifully integrated as are the acidity, wood and alcohol (which must be in excess of 14%). This vineyard, which is situated on the high plateau of Pauillac adjacent to Mouton Rothschild, appears to have done everything perfectly in 2009. This cuvee should shut down in the cellar and re-open in a decade or more. Anticipated maturity: 2025-2075."</i></p> <p>- RP, Wine Advocate</p>

## Reviews

*"It's no surprise that proprietor Alfred Tesseron has produced a possibly perfect 2009. He's been on a roll since 1994, and no other producer has done more work in the vineyard than Tesseron, who has moved to 100% bio-dynamic farming, reduced yields drastically, and instituted a draconian selection process. This vineyard, which sits on the high plateau of Pauillac adjacent to Mouton Rothschild, has produced a 2009 of extraordinary intensity and purity. It is outrageously concentrated, with silky tannin (the sweetest I have ever tasted in a Pontet-Canet as well as the highest measured), an opaque purple color, and copious notes of graphite, cassis, licorice, and subtle smoke and forest floor. Full-bodied and unctuously textured with striking purity and definition, it is a wine of colossal weight as well as elegance (in itself a poster boy for this paradox in 2009). This brilliant Pauillac requires a decade of cellaring despite its voluptuous texture. It should evolve for 50-75 years. (Tasted four times.)"*  
- RP, Wine Advocate

*"Tasted on four separate occasions, including twice at the chateau, though actually showing best at a negociant. Representing 80% of the crop, 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot. The nose is very pure, blackberry, small black cherries, a touch of griottes, a hint of cedar and mint. Quite feminine. Not too powerful. Very fine definition. The palate is full-bodied with firm tannins, insistent grip and good acidity, perhaps one of the most structured, masculine Pauillac 2009s but that does not detract from the finesse and poise. But certainly, there is backbone here that segues into a tertiary note towards the finish. Very focused, more mineral elements towards the finish, hints of black truffle and smoke towards the finish. Very good persistency, somehow, an assured Pontet Canet. Superb. Tasted March 2010."*  
- NM, Wine Journal

*"It may or may not have something to do with bio-dynamic practices in the vineyard, but this fifth growth continues to outperform its place in the 1855 classification. Violet-scented and pure, the 2009 has a lovely freshness and elegance to it, with cedar wood, damson and black fruits on the palate. A wine that has now achieved Super Second status. 20+ years."*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"98-100 Barrel sample. A superb wine, with the purest fruit, great freshness and ripeness. It is certainly structured with dry tannins, but the blackcurrant freshness is all there. The wine has a great limpid, flowing feel, but also power."*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"Bright ruby. Lovely perfumed aromas of fresh red cherry, blackcurrant and violet. Enters full, rich and very suave, showing highly flattering flavors of chocolatey red cherry and red plum along with very good energy, and yet I found myself wanting a bit more precision and lift. There is a wonderfully sumptuous, sensual side to this 2009's fruit. I've been a long-time fan of the wines of this estate (the '66 and '75 are must-buys for any serious Bordeaux lover), but at the moment I marginally prefer the more austere, classic 2008 to this charming '09."*  
- ID, International Wine Cellar

*"Very dark crimson. Firm and broad and very lively with real vibrant elderberry nose - there IS a bit of extra vitality in this wine! Very very nice and satisfying indeed. There is life to this and great breadth and depth. Intense richness that seems to come from the fruit rather than from winemaking. Something of Lafite's complexity and integrity. Plus, Mouton's richness. Dry finish. Very well done. But it is not a wine you want to undertake young - still lots to sort out. Much less open than most. Dense - really quite dry on the end but appetising though very long term. Muscular. Yields a bit more than in 2008, with more grand vin too. 81 ha total vineyards. This year they are trying for 24 ha by horse..."*  
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*"It may or may not have something to do with bio-dynamic practices in the vineyard, but this fifth growth continues to outperform its place in the 1855 classification. Violet-scented and pure, the 2009 has a lovely freshness and elegance to it, with cedar wood, damson and black fruits on the palate. A wine that has now achieved Super Second status. 20+ years."*  
- TA, timatkin.com

**Reviews**

*“An appealing, fresh glossy hue in the glass. Still not bottled, surprisingly. A remarkably oaky character on the nose, the fruit subdued in comparison. This isn't the case on the palate though which shows more harmony, at the start at least, although the oaky grip and structure of the wine does come through here before long as well. A supple, spicy and interesting mid palate; there is a good substance of fruit through it, but it certainly doesn't have the plush texture and velvety substance of some other 2009s. They do seem to be tightening up though, so that's not surprising, and the time in wood may have some effect as well. An appealing presence, balance and grip to it though, and in the finish a sense of energy. An attractive wine, high quality, but not quite living up to the promises of the primeur tastings. From a Grand Cru Classé Tasting. 17.5-18.5/20 (May 2012)”*

- CK, The Wine Doctor

*“Cabernet Sauvignon 65%, Merlot 30%, 4% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot. 60% new oak. Vibrant hue, bright, red-purple hue. Very dark concentrated fruit on the nose, dense forest fruit character. Plum and cherry, especially the latter. Lovely texture in entry, very creamy but also tightly defined, rather than soft or overly broad. Underneath this, a rich layer of tannin, all very composed, although rich and substantial. The fruit has a dense, black cherry edge with a crunchy spark to it. The tannins are rich and mouth coating, like heavy velvet curtains, but are in keeping with the rest of the wine. It has a union of massive structure, cleanly defined fruit and also freshness and acidity - quite a remarkable feat. Peppery acidity with it. Lovely fresh fruit. This is very impressive wine. Long and rich too. From my 2009 Bordeaux primeur assessment. 18-19+/20 (March 2010)”*

- CK, The Wine Doctor

*“Dense colour and pure Cabernet blackcurrant fruit beautifully extracted with great length and perfect harmony, great purity of expression, exuberant yet restrained, great future.”*

- SS, Decanter.com

*: Showing a beautiful dark and intense color, the 2009 Pontet Canet offers a very fruity, slightly discreet yet fine, fresh and sweet nose of black fruits. Full and sweet on entry, it then develops fat and very aromatic in a more floral style than usual in this vintage. Pontet Canet delivers tasty and powerful tannins that are rich in flavors. This wine lingers on and is very good indeed. A blend of 65 % cabernet sauvignon, 30 % merlot, 4 % cabernet franc and 1 % petit verdot.”*

- J-MQ

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