

Château Pontet Canet 2015

CSPC# 790551

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

CSPC# 813917

750mlx6

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot

Appellation

Pauillac

Classification

Fifth Growth. Cinquieme Grand Cru Classe in 1855.

Website

<http://www.pontet-canet.com/en/pages/chateau-pontet-canet>

Sustainability

Biodynamic & Organic.

General Info

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.

Vintage

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.

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.

In order to ensure that each grape variety and each plot was picked at optimum maturity, the harvest period was the longest in living memory. It lasted 23 days between our three estates, from the first Merlot clusters on 14 September to the last Cabernet Sauvignon grapes on 6 October.

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.

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.

Our 2015 vintage in Pauillac is very similar in its heft and opulence to the 2005 vintage.

Vineyards

Thirty years after their arrival in Pauillac, the Tesseron family 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



Vineyards	<p>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>
Vineyards Harvest	Average age of the vines: 35 years; Density of the vines: 9000 feet per hectare: Yield: 45 hectolitres per hectare picked from 18 September apropos the Merlot and from 28 September for the Cabernet, finishing on 3 October.
Maturation	matured in 50% new oak, 35% concrete and 15% one-year-old barrels
Tasting Notes	Vibrant and deep in color. The nose is a fusion of red and black berries, graphite, and spices. The palate's structure is particularly dense and long with chiseled tannins of incredible precision.
Cellaring	Drink 2022-2045
Scores/Awards	<p>94 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2018</p> <p>96+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - February 2018</p> <p>94-96 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #224 - April 2016</p> <p>94 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - March 2018</p> <p>98 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2018</p> <p>97-98 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2016</p> <p>97 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 2018</p> <p>96-98 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2016</p> <p>17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - May 2018</p> <p>17- points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2016</p> <p>96 points - Decanter.com - April 2016</p> <p>94 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - November 2017</p> <p>96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - July 2017</p> <p>95-97 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - July 2016</p> <p>95-97 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2016</p> <p>94-96+ points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - March 2016</p> <p>94 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2016</p> <p>17 points - Farr Vintner - March 2016</p> <p>90-94 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2016</p> <p>95 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - May 2016</p> <p>97 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2018</p> <p>95-98 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2016</p> <p>95 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2018</p> <p>19+ points - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2016</p> <p>95-97 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - May 2016</p> <p>19 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - June 2016</p> <p>18.5 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - April 2016</p> <p>17.5 points - Gault & Millau (score only) - June 2016</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"This sports a lovely core of gently steeped plum, blackberry and black currant fruit, carried by velvety structure, while smoldering tobacco and charcoal notes fill in through the finish. Fleshes out steadily in the glass, revealing more juniper, bay leaf and loam accents. Best from 2022 through 2035."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"A blend of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot, 50% of the 2015 Pontet-Canet was aged in new French oak, while 15% was matured in second fill barrels and 35% in cement amphorae. Deep garnet-purple in color, the nose opens with exuberant black currants, red currants and black raspberries scents plus an evocative undercurrent of cedar chest, dusty earth, cloves, chocolate box and Provence herbs with a fragrant waft of lavender. Medium to full-bodied and built like a brick house with very firm, wonderfully grainy tannins and black and red fruits charged with the most singular energy, it finishes with incredible persistence and depth."</i></p> <p>-NM, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The 2015 Pontet Canet was tasted on two occasions around two weeks apart and I noticed a superior showing the second time around. This year is a blend of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot that was picked from 18 September apropos the Merlot and from 28 September for the Cabernet,</i></p>

Reviews *finishing on 3 October. It is matured in 50% new oak, 35% concrete and 15% one-year-old barrels. It has a pure and perfumed bouquet with small dark cherries, red plum and subtle violet scents, perhaps a little Margaux-like in style, the second showing demonstrating a little more red fruit character. The palate is medium-bodied with a slightly grainy texture on the entry. There is nicely judged acidity here, moderate depth, very supple tannin that lend this a silky texture. There is modest weight towards the second half, perhaps spicier than some of its Pauillac peers with an edgy, lightly peppered finish. It is an intriguing and complex, almost mercurial Pontet-Canet, a wine that I suspect will gain more weight during its élevage. Afford this 5-8 years in bottle and you should have a delicious, intellectual Pontet-Canet on your hands."*
-NM, Wine Advocate

"The 2015 Pontet-Canet has an intense, crushed violet-scented bouquet that as I remarked upon out of barrel, imparts a Margaux-like personality. It is quite high-toned and exuberant at this early juncture and will clearly require several years to calm down. The palate is medium-bodied with succulent black fruit on the entry, quite spicy with notes of black pepper and sage, perhaps just a little fiery in personality. However, counterbalancing this is a sense of harmony and focus. It is just a bit boisterous at this early stage, then the finish is tightly wound albeit well defined, leaving that spiciness as its calling card on the aftertaste."
- NM, Wine Journal

"So much floral and dark-fruit character with almonds and walnut shell. Full body and ultra-fine tannins. Powerful. Classic style with a harmony and energy. Goes on for minutes. A superb wine with great fruit. Real Bordeaux. Try in 2025."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This is very fine and silky with a beautiful vivid blackberry and blueberry character. Super polished tannins. Refined and very, very long. Fabulous harmony to this young wine. Very classic Bordeaux. Superb depth and length. Real Bordeaux."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Succulent fruits, rich tannins and juicy acidity are in perfect harmony in this wine produced from biodynamic grapes. It has a rich, velvet texture and dense structure, sumptuous and already balanced and delicious. However, do not be fooled, this is a serious wine for aging. Drink no earlier than 2026."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"96–98. Barrel Sample. This is an opulent wine, very generous with forward blackberry fruits. Behind an accessible exterior, there is a dark core of tannins, as well as a wonderful, rounded structure. There could be more acidity, though the wine is finely balanced. It shows immediate fruit but will age well and long"
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"30% Merlot, 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 4% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit-Verdot. Refined, fresh-but-ripe nose. Lots there. Drier than the 2016 with masses of fine tannins to chew on. Very healthy wine. But with a lot of tannins. Wait! Healthy, revitalizing finish."
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"50% new oak. 35% amphora. 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot. Picked relatively early, 18 September to 3 October, because they ripen earlier. Dark purplish crimson. Very ripe start and then rather drying tannins on the end. Wild and lively but a little bit heavy. I'm looking for a little more freshness. There's austerity and astringency (because of the amphorae influence?) but I'm not sure it compensates for the lack of acidity. Savoury, salty finish. Distinctive."
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

Reviews

“Deep, velvety texture on the palate and wild flowers on the nose; unctuous yet firm with pristine clarity. A great wine by any standards – and the standards of Alfred Tesseron for his biodynamic vineyards and amphora-matured wine are magnificently evident.”

- Decanter.com

“Straight off the nose this hits you with rich, dark fruits, spice, and the promise of longevity. There is a real focus and purity to the fruit, but the depth of flavour and firm wall of tannins leave you in no doubt that it's a Pauillac. This has so much depth, with an inky, pencil-lead aspect on the attack, but what becomes clearer through the palate is in fact the freshness and the opening up of the fruit. As ever at Pontet, winemaker Jean-Michel Comme is searching for less and less intervention in the winemaking process, with the cellar moving away from any electricity at all. The 2015 wine has been aged in amphoras as well as in oak barrels. (JA)”

- JA, Decanter.com

“The thick skins of the 2015 grapes made it easier to be organic and biodynamic when the rains came in late August, according to winemaker, Jean-Michel Comme. This is certainly a very serious, concentrated Pontet-Canet with compact, almost Italianate tannins, plenty of oak and layers of dark, plummy fruit. The finish is just a tad dry perhaps.”

- TA, timatkin.com

“A fabulous wine that has really developed well since it was first placed in barrel. Rich, dense and intense, the wine is deeply colored powerful and refined. The wine will hit the middle and probably the top of my initial score range with ease”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Developing nicely, this is going to be a strong vintage for the chateau. The wine exchanges elegance with ripe, sensual, polished textured, freshness and purity of fruit. This should drink well relatively early for Pontet Canet. If the wine continues developing well, and it should, the wine should go up a Pt or so.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“With the color of ruby so intense it's nigh on purple, this rich, luxurious, full-bodied wine is brimming with blackberries, cassis, licorice, and dark cherries with a hint of cocoa in the end note. This wine is all about the elegant, well-developed purity of fruit poised with the velvety tannins to produce a fresh, prolonged, fruit-filled, polished finish. The wine will be aged in a unique combination of 50% new, French oak barrels, 35% amphora and 15% in tank. Another wine in a great string of vintages for Pontet Canet, Alfred Tesseron and Melanie Tesseron are clearly on a roll here! 95-97 Pts”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Beautiful colour; deep core; purple edge; ripe and very plush; deep and seductive; some mineral notes; little spice at the back; nice entry; plenty of fruit; blackcurrant; very pure; supple on the mouth; nice extract; very digestible; nice fruit and texture on the finish; very fine tannins; good length. Very well balanced and harmonious. Excellent length. [65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 39% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc 2% Petit Verdot, 33hl yield, 95% of the crop in the grand vin, 50% new oak, 35% eggs, 15% one-year barrels]. Drink 2024-2040. Tasted April '16. 94-96+”

- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

“Alfred Tesseron has been making constant improvements since the early 1990's. Grapes are manually sorted by a team of 30 people on specially made sorting tables. The vineyard has been organic and bio-dynamic for 10 years and is worked by horses. A part of the maturation is now done in egg-shaped concrete amphoras. 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot. 50% new oak, 15% one-year old barrels, 35% amphoras. A modest 13.5 degrees in 2015. Deep purple colour with a brooding black fruit nose, laced with a perfume of milk chocolate and sweet vanilla. The palate is fat and juicy with cassis fruit. Lots of glycerol and a thick texture give way to layers of ripe but chewy tannins. The fruit core is intense, sweet and warm, providing real intensity and length on the finish. This is sweet, plush, and powerful, but retains its balance.”

- Farr Vintners

Reviews *“Concentrated black fruits the nose has depth the palate brooding richness. Firm in the middle black cherry backed by cassis the mid tannins are quite tight. There is more power at the back a density of fruit the richness giving way to fresh bilberry the finish is lighter and fragrant.”*

- Derek Smedley MW

“Delicate, lifted aromatics of violets and savory spices combine with an equally delicate and fine palate. The tannins are fine-grained and gentle with layers of fine, precise flavors that linger on the palate. Lifted, fresh and persistent. A fabulous Pontet Canet. This is the 11th year of biodynamics. The wine has wonderful freshness in this vintage.”

- JCL, asianpalate.com

“Proprietor Alfred Tesseron and winemaker Jean-Michel Comme produced an absolutely stellar Pontet-Canet in 2015. Sumptuous, racy and totally inviting, the 2015 is all class. Super-ripe dark cherry, plum, spice and exotic floral notes build as the 2015 shows off its alluring personality. Even with all of its raciness, the 2015 speaks with authority and power. Fine tannins extend the persistent, highly nuanced finish. The 2015 is 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot aged 50% new oak, 4% in terra cotta and 15% in neutral oak. Tasted three times. 97+ points. (AG)”

- AG, Vinous

“One of the wines of the vintage, the 2015 Pontet-Canet oozes class, finesse and pure pedigree. A hypothetical combination of the 2010 (for its dark fruit and tannic structure) and the 2009 (for its voluptuous fruit), the 2015 offers remarkable intensity, power and grace. A host of exotic floral and spice notes wrap around the dark, racy finish. In a word: magnificent!”

- AG, Vinous

“The 2015 Pontet Canet is 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and the rest Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot brought up in 50% new oak, and 35% in amphora. With textbook Pauillac notes of lead pencil shavings, tobacco leaf, smoke, and licorice, as well as a core of pure crème de cassis fruit, this beautiful, full-bodied, impeccably balanced is one of the few 2015s that’s going to demand cellaring. The tannin are high, yet sweet, and like its bright acidity, nicely integrated into the wine. Forget bottles for 5-7 years and enjoy over the following three decades. I don’t put this as the level of the 2009 and 2010, but it’s still a beautiful wine. Tasted three times. 95+”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“This is a dark and intense Pontet-Canet with brooding power on the nose and exceptional intensity. There was very little second label made and so the cépage reflects basically the balance of vines planted on the property. 95% of the wine made here with Pontet-Canet on the label is Grand Vin and this is remarkable. The energy and vitality is sensational in this imposing wine and there is already immediate harmony in this blend. The power and innate resonance here is to be admired. The silkiness and texture here is unlike other wines with superb harmony which makes it all the more fascinating because of the counterpoint between the darker hue in the centre and its bright red rim. It opened up beautifully in the glass and showed spectacular grainy tannins marked by spicy oak. The spice must come from the hot period in the summer and I noticed this in increasing numbers to top wines as my tour progressed. This is also a very long wine on the finish.”

- MJ, matthewjukes.com