
Château La Conseillante 2015

CSPC# 801695

750mlx6

14.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

81% Merlot, 19% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

Pomerol

Classification

unclassified

Website

<http://www.la-conseillante.com/en>

General Info

The name "La Conseillante" first appeared in the middle of the 18th century. It was given to the property by a certain Catherine Conseillan, an influential figure who ran the estate at that time -almost 300 years ago.

It was in 1871 that the Nicolas family bought the estate, whose surface area and vineyard plots have remained unchanged since then.

Today, it is the turn of the fifth generation of the Nicolas to manage the estate, a demonstration once again of continuity and the attachment of the family to this great growth. Bertrand Nicolas and Jean-Valmy Nicolas are the joint managing directors of La Conseillante. Marielle Cazaux is the estate manager.

The Nicolas heirs are clearly identified on each bottle by the initials "LN" on the label at the centre of a shield within a silver-edged border whose four corners are sloped. The violet-coloured bottle capsule evokes the characteristic aroma of the wine. These packaging features, first chosen back in 1871 by the Nicolas brothers, remain elegant and yet modern even today.

Château La Conseillante is a member of the Union des Grands Crus and L'Académie des Vins de Bordeaux.

Vintage

2015 Pomerol wines are the stars of the vintage. 2015 Pomerol at its best can easily be described bottled decadence, hedonistic thrill rides of almost unequaled sensual pleasure. They are often close in quality to the best 2009 Pomerol wines. There are also several chateaux that have really kicked their game up to an entirely new level with this vintage. Those producers made better wine in 2015 than they did 6 years ago, in the 2009 vintage. 2009 has been my personal benchmark vintage for Pomerol, so that is saying something.

2015 Pomerol is the product of a near perfect growing season. A mild winter led to a warm, spring. Budbreak took place slightly later than usual in mid-April. The spring was sunny and warm. The flowering, in early June was quick and even, two very important factors that need to take place in a great vintage. Perhaps the hot, dry, almost drought conditions from June 15 to July 22, with absolutely no rain had the biggest impact on the 2015 Pomerol wines. Had those dry conditions continued, the vintage could have turned out completely different. But the August rains provided the necessary moisture for the growth cycle to continue. With one exception, the best 2015 Pomerol wines were all produced from estates with deep clay soils. With 2015 Pomerol, most of the growers started picking Merlot by September 15. With very few exceptions, the Cabernet Franc was brought in by the start of October.

Vineyards

La Conseillante is one of just a handful of great Pomerol estates whose terroir has long been recognised as one of the best in the appellation. The 12 hectares of vineyards are in the heart of the Pomerol plateau next to Petrus and Cheval Blanc. One third of the vines – the ones to the left of Cheval Blanc's driveway – are located in Saint-Emilion on gravel and sand, but the remaining two thirds of the vineyard is planted on blue clay. It is apparently the combination of these two elements which provides the finesse and aroma for which the property is famous, and the power and depth which make it long lived.

80% of the vines that grow in this unique place, where the soils are predominantly made up of clay, are of the Merlot variety, which makes our wines round, deep and smooth. The remaining 20% that grow in gravel soils are Cabernet Franc, which contribute structure and freshness to the blend. Its vineyard located in the heart of



Vineyards	the finest Pomerol terroir, has remained unchanged since its creation. While this in itself is a guarantee of excellence, the consistency of quality in La Conseillante wines comes above all from the care and attention given over 145 vintages by successive generations of the Nicolas family, who have skillfully preserved and passed on this unique heritage.
Harvest	Picked 21 September - 7 October
Maturation	Pre-fermentation cold soak for 2 to 4 days. Vatting period: 2 to 4 weeks Ageing: 50% to 80% in new French oak barrels for 18 months Racking: Every 3 months, using a traditional bellow pump Finishing: In barrel, 2 to 3 fresh egg whites per barrel
Tasting Notes	Very floral, a little smoky, violet, delicate black fruits. Juicy mouth, velvety, racy, full of charm, precision with density in the velvety
Production	3,333 cases made
Serve with	Chateau La Conseillante is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. Young vintages can be decanted for 2-3 hours. This allows the wine to soften and open its perfume. Older vintages might need very little decanting, just enough to remove the sediment. Chateau La Conseillante is best paired with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised and grilled dishes.
Cellaring	Drink 2023-2040
Scores/Awards	<p>95 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2018</p> <p>93-96 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2016</p> <p>96 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - February 2018</p> <p>95-97 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #224 - April 2016</p> <p>98 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2018</p> <p>96-97 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2016</p> <p>95 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2018</p> <p>17.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - November 2017</p> <p>17.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2016</p> <p>91 points - James Lawther, Decanter.com - April 2016</p> <p>98 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2018</p> <p>98 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - January 2018</p> <p>96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - August 2017</p> <p>96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2017</p> <p>95-97 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2016</p> <p>94-95+ points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2016</p> <p>93 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - 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>95-97 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2016</p> <p>96 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - November 2017</p> <p>94-96 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - May 2016</p> <p>18 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - April 2016</p> <p>18 points - Gault & Millau (score only) - June 2016</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"This is reserved, with subtle Earl Grey tea, singed apple wood and warm fruitcake aromas opening slowly ahead of a core of dark boysenberry, raspberry and blackberry compote flavors. A lovely swath of velvety tannins carries the finish, with the fruit and spice aromas pulling together nicely. Some patience is needed here, but this is one of the elites of the AOC in this vintage. Best from 2023 through 2040. 3,333 cases made."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Lush notes of dark fig, boysenberry and blackberry pâte de fruit glide over ample but velvety tannins, with suave black tea and ganache accents. This is long and should be gorgeous when finished. Score range: 93-9"</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p>

Reviews *“Talk about silk qualities in a wine should start and end right here. The palate offers this polished, elegance that gets you to take a step back, and think about it how great this feels, before taking the next sip. The fruit is pure, fresh and vibrant, the wine offers length, complexity and character. This stunner should compete with, if not surpass the sublime duo of 1989 and 1990!”*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“That's what I'm talking about. This is so sexy, opulent and silky, it is impossible not to be seduced by its essence. The fruit has the beautiful purity and tannins express a velvety texture, there is freshness, volume, concentration and length. This is better than 1989 & 1990, which says a lot about the wine.”
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Bottled just 4 weeks ago, this is a beauty, in the mold of the 1989, with perhaps a bit more concentration. Lush, sexy and pure, with a distinctive floral bouquet, elegant character and silky textures, this is a beauty.”
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“With a real depth of flavor that kicks off with a walk in a truffle store, the wine is sexy, elegant, fresh, and polished. The sensuous, black plum, spice, dark cherry notes really show great purity, length and freshness. There is more than ample volume, length and intensity to age quite well, and offer sublime, hedonistic pleasures.”
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Lithe and limber florals with sweet, lusciously ripe berries that seduce your tongue with a sensuous, velvety feel. Blending 88% Merlot and 12% Cabernet Franc produced a wine that reached 14.5% alcohol with a pH of 3.7. The harvest took place from September 21 to October 7. The key to this vintage was the parcel selection. The first vintage with Marielle Cazeaux at the helm has turned out to be a winner! 95 - 97 Pts”
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Mid depth; not as dark as some; lovely aromatics – spices, black cherry and sweet plum tones; very attractive; silky palate; freshness too alongside the black fruit and red fruit tones; lovely and attractive Pomerol. Burgundian style. Good density and length but remains nicely appetising. [81% Merlot, 19% Cabernet Franc]. Tasted Pomerol Seduction 6/4/16. Drink 2020-2035. 94-95+”
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

“Fabulously situated alongside Cheval Blanc and L'Evangile, this property has a long track record of making outstanding wine that is never forced or over-extracted. Always consistent and reliable. Quality has been further improved in recent years by the the production of a second wine - Duo de la Conseillante. The Grand Vin is made from 78% Merlot and 22% Cabernet Franc in 75% new oak with a yield of 35hl/ha. Medium-deep ruby. A pure and aromatic cherry nose with smoky tobacco and fresh graphite notes. There is a lovely intensity to the ripe palate which has a sweet, juicy entry. Ripe blue and red fruits are complemented by classy French oak giving a creamy textured mouthfeel. Silky smooth tannins and layered complexity, with classic Conseillante style. Lovely length and perfect balance. Very impressive.”
- Farr Vintners

“The nose has a mix of black fruits some fresh bramble backed by richer black cherry the palate is sweet and ripe, fleshy and supple in the middle, the fruit supported by fine tannins. Rich and sweet fruited at the back depth of flavour the finish stylish long with lingering flavours. 2022-35”
- Derek Smedley MW

“Generous, lush and full bodied with 14.5% alcohol (though it does not taste like such a high alcohol level). The wine has lovely creamy, supple texture with lovely aromatics of violets, cedar and cassis. There is 81% Merlot and the rest Cabernet Franc. Seamless, pure with gentle, balanced flavors that are long on the finish”
- JCL, asianpalate.com

Reviews

“Composed of 81% Merlot and 19% Cabernet Franc and aged for 18 months in 70% new and 30% one-year-old French oak, the medium garnet-purple colored 2015 La Conseillante opens with reticent, earthy notes of dusty soil, garrigue, forest floor and iron ore with a core of warm plums, cassis, cigar boxes, star anise and dark chocolate plus a hint of violets. Medium to full-bodied with decadent fruit and a gorgeous plushness to the texture, the palate features impeccable poise and compelling depth, finishing on a lingering mineral note.”
- NM, Wine Advocate

“The 2015 La Conseillante, a blend of 81% Merlot and 19% Cabernet Franc, is extraordinarily pure and elegant on the nose. Here, I find a little more red fruit than black fruit, extremely elegant and articulating the terroir with great clarity. At first, wild strawberry and cranberry, then crushed stone, a touch of black truffle and tobacco. The palate is medium-bodied, fresh and elegant with fine tannin on the entry. This is one of the most approachable La Conseillante wines that I have tasted in barrel, the acidity very well judged, “classic” in style, good backbone here with a structured finish. It does not quite possess the bravura of the 2010 La Conseillante and I would agree with winemaker Marielle Cazaux that it bears more semblances to the 2005 La Conseillante at this stage, and even bore common traits with its neighbour, Vieux Château Certan. This is an intellectual and to put it prosaically, “delicious” La Conseillante.”
- NM, Wine Advocate

“Aromas of tar, black olive skin and blackberries follow through to a full body. Ultra-fine tannins and a long, linear finish with super intensity. Well-crafted in every sense. A fabulous Pomerol for the future. Try in 2022.”
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“This is the most powerful La Conseillante I have tasted with lots of muscle and intensity. Full and savory. Chewy. Agile and formed. Beautiful ripe fruit in the center palate. This is a little pushed to the limit like the great Conseillants of the 1960s and 1970s.”
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“This is a perfumed wine, rich in tannins and with a good balance between the Merlot and Cabernet Franc in the blend. Ripe black fruits and velvet tannins give the wine elegance and charm. It is juicy and ripe, with a background of firm structure set against a crisp final texture. The wine will develop well; drink from 2025. (RV)”
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“Mid crimson with ruby rim. Seductive aroma of dark-red fruits, a hint of violets, and the scent carries through onto the palate, where the tannins are super-smooth but compact. A long, complete wine. (JH)”
- JH, JancisRobinson.com

“81% Merlot, 19% Cabernet Franc. Picked 21 September - 7 October. 70% new oak. Direct, savoury nose. New winemaker wants to keep the aromas of Conseillante, but they want to add a little more grip. Sweet and fresh with some tea leaf aromas. The oak tannins are just perceptible, but it should all calm down. Definitely quite grippy now!”
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“A new winemaker and the style tweaked a little in 2015. Fragrant nose but richer and denser with the tannic structure more assertive. Good attack and mid-palate but fit finishes on a slightly dry, grainy note. May improve in barrel.”
- JL, Decanter.com

“There’s less of a gap in quality between the Grand Vin and the second wine (Duo) in 2015, partly because the latter is so good, but also because this is just a little OTT. Serious, tannic and quite extracted with a hint of jamminess on the finish. Needs a polish in barrel. Drink: 2022-30 “
- TA, timatkin.com

Reviews *"Newly-arrived Technical Director Marielle Cazaux turned out a jewel of a wine at La Conseillante in 2015, her debut vintage. A polished and super-sophisticated Pomerol, La Conseillante is all class. Precise, lifted aromatics make a strong first impression, but it is the wine's overall feel and sense of harmony that truly dazzle. Over the last two years, the 2015 seems to have gained in freshness, precision and nuance. What a wine! The blend is 81% Merlot, 19% Cabernet Franc. Don't miss it. (AG)"*
- AG, Vinous

"A total knockout, the 2015 La Conseillante possesses stunning depth, nuance and complexity. Soaring aromatics meld into a core of dark-fleshed stone fruits, with hints of mocha, crème de cassis, menthol, violets and dark spices that develop in the glass. The 2015 is not an obvious wine, but it is exceptionally beautiful. The blend is 81% Merlot, 19% Cabernet Franc. Don't miss it."
- AG, Vinous

"Reminding me of the 2009, the 2015 La Conseillante is more overt and sexy compared to the 2016, offering a huge nose of mulled black fruits, spring flowers, chocolate and gravely/clay-like earthiness. This is a full-bodied, complex, elegant and layered 2015 that has a singular character and the class to drink well for 20-25 years."
- Jeb Dunnuck
