

Château La Conseillante 2016

CSPC# 801695

750mlx6

13.8% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

89% Merlot, 20% 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.

Winemakers

Marielle Cazaux. Michel Rolland - consultant winemaker

Vintage

2016 is undoubtedly one of the best vintages of the last years, in line with 2009 and 2010. The summer brought to the vines their quotas of sun and rain, especially 20mm of rain, on September 13, which allowed to perfect the maturity of the grapes.

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 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.

Vineyards

Harvest

Picked 28 September to 17 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
Fining: In barrel, 2 to 3 fresh egg whites per barrel

Tasting Notes

Made from 30-year-old vines, this has attractive aromas of spice, blackcurrant and blue fruit. There is a wonderful freshness on the palate, with vitality and succulence. It finishes like a tight-fitting velvet glove, taut and yet smooth.



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.

Production 3,333 cases made.

Cellaring Drink 2022-2057

Scores/Awards **96 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2019
93-96 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2017
98+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - November 2018
96-98 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #230 - April 2017
99 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2019
99-100 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2017
95 points/Cellar Selection - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 2019
95-97 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2017
17+ points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - October 2018
17+ points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2017
96 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2017
99 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2018
99 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - August 2017
99 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2017
95 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2017
18.5 points - Farr Vintner - February 2017
95-97 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2017
97 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - January 2019
97 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - January 2019
95-98 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2017
100 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2019
96-100 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - November 2017

Reviews *"Features a terrific core of dense and winy cassis, blackberry and plum reduction notes that will need time to unfurl, during which time the flickers of alder, tobacco and black tea lurking throughout should emerge further. Shows a solid graphite element through the finish. Best from 2022 through 2038. 3,333 cases made."*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"Bright raspberry and blackberry confiture flavors fill out nicely as they move along, followed by a well-buried graphite edge and a flash of cocoa at the very end. Has a vivid display of fruit and the buried spine to back it up. Score range: 93-96"
- JM, Wine Spectator

"Deep garnet-purple colored, it slips provocatively out of the glass with a lifted perfume of roses, candied violets and lavender over a core of warm red and black plums, chocolate box, unsmoked cigars and baked cherries with wafts of wild thyme and tilled soil. Medium-bodied, the palate exudes polish and sophistication with bags of fragrance, freshness and energy, sporting exquisitely fine-grained tannins and finishing very long and minerally. Around 3,808 cases produced."
- LPB, Wine Advocate

"The 2016 La Conseillante is a blend of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc picked from 22 September to 13 October and 12-17 October at 39.5 hectoliters per hectare. Winemaker Marielle Cazaux told me that there is 13.8% alcohol, nearly one degree less than in 2015, with a pH of 3.65 and it is matured in 70% new oak. This has a succinct bouquet that is stylistically not that far removed from its neighbor Vieux Château Certan: detailed and understated at first with scents of blackberry, wild hedgerow and a touch of pressed flowers. The palate is very well balanced with a fine backbone, but what really marks out this La Conseillante is the salinity that comes through on the second half. It exerts a gentle grip in the mouth, reveals a little spiciness towards the finish whereupon it gently fans out, leaving a touch of black pepper on the saline aftertaste. This is a classic La Conseillante and the best since the majestic 2010. Similar to that vintage, it will require several years in bottle, but it will be well worth the wait."
- NM, Wine Advocate

Reviews

"The aromas of violets and dark berries with licorice and sweet black tea are so attractive. What really impresses is the sweet fruit in the dense middle palate. So attractive. At the same time, there's plenty of plush and ripe tannins that give the wine form and brightness. And it still remains bright on the finish, as the tannins roll on. A great Conseillante. Try after 2024."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This is the greatest Conseillante in modern times. Full body and incredible tannins that are polished and velvety. The texture lasts for minutes. I am speechless. What a young and awe-inspiring wine!"

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Beautifully perfumed and rich, this wine comes from the eastern edge of the great plateau of Pomerol. It shows the density and concentration of impressive Merlot. Offering powerful fruits as much as tannins, the wine also has a mineral edge plus fresh acidity to give it a lift. Drink from 2024."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"This rich, structured wine has ripe tannins and sumptuous black fruit. There is a touch of bitterness from extraction, resulting in dark chocolate flavors. It's powerful, at 14% alcohol by volume, without being excessive."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Mid crimson. Nicely unforced. Rich and spreads agreeably right across the palate even if it is less concentrated than some. Neat and convincing that there will be a fine future. Real drive and a line throughout."

- JH, JancisRobinson.com

"Picked 28 September to 17 October. Not as aromatic as some of the very top Pomerols. Lovely texture but not as expressive as some. A hint of soapiness. Lots of texture buried under the substance here but needs time for the flavour to develop. Lots to chew on."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"This is a big wine, from the colour to the stunning level of fruit and tannin extraction that is not overdone but is certainly evident. Gorgeous violets and blackberries run through the palate and slightly chewy tannins are extremely well-integrated with the oak. At first you think this carries on the slightly more swaggering style of La Conseillante seen in recent years, with black fleshed fruits and high drama, but as it unfurls in the glass you reclaim also the more floral, vibrant and elegant touches that suggest the heart of this property is unchanged. A touch austere, but that's what you want for long ageing. There is around one degree less alcohol than in 2015, even though they finished picking later. For me, this is a more classic La Conseillante than 2015. The aromatics are just so striking. This is the second year of using biodynamic preparations across the whole vineyard. Michel Rolland consults. 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc aged in 70% new oak. (JA)"

- JA, Decanter.com

"Back on form after a slight dip in quality in 2015, this feels like a more assured, confident wine, with classic La Conseillante perfume, grassy, leafy freshness, fine-grained tannins and lovely elegance and balance. Deceptively forward, it will age very well. 2026-36"

- TA, timatkin.com

"Each time I taste this stunner, it gets just a bit better. This is the best vintage of La Conseillante ever produced! And that says a lot. The fruit has this great intensity. There is purity, freshness, depth and unbelievable sensuous textures. The wine just does not quit on your palate. If you're thinking about it, pull the trigger, this is that good."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"As hard as it is to believe, this is even better than when tasted in March, earlier this year. The purity of fruit, silky tannins and velvet drenched textures are just a bit more concentrated and focused. This is a legend in the making."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

Reviews

“Dark in color, the wine pops with scents of blackberry liqueur, violets, spice box, truffle, licorice, smoke and plums. On the palate, the wine has a richness and density seldom found here, but don't let that scare you because, as you would expect, the wine is fresh, elegant and refined. Nothing is different; there is simply more raw material. The fruit is perfect, the tannins are ripe, and the liqueur and licorice remain with you for close to 50 seconds. The wine was made from a blend of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc. Starting with the young vines, the Merlot was harvested from September 21 to October 13, representing the longest harvest in the history of the estate. The Cabernet Franc was picked on two dates, October 12 and October 17. The wine reached 14% alcohol with a pH of 3.65 and will be aged in 70% new French oak barrels.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.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 production of a second wine - Duo de la Conseillante. This is made from the less well-situated vines near to Beauregard and represents up to 25% of the crop in 2015. New wine-maker Marielle Cazaux made a very impressive 2015, and the opinion here is that the 2016 vintage may be their best ever. Picked from 22nd September to 17th October at 39.5hl/ha, the blend in 2016 is 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc with 70% new oak. Deep violet colour, the nose is exuberant with spring flowers, cherry blossom, sweet vanilla and succulent black cherry. The palate is smooth, succulent and supple with ultra-refined, ripe, silky tannins providing ample structure for violet, incense, chocolate and black cherry at the core. Layers of pepper, cream and coffee build through to a long, hedonistic and round finish. A very moreish, impressive, velveteen wine that is a real highlight on the right bank this year.”

- Farr Vintners

“The nose is fragrant violets and bramble the palate rich with concentrated black fruit supple and fleshy in the middle ripe damsons. The tannins are wrapped round with fruit discreet the rich ripe fruit is underpinned by freshness the back palate lighter, stylish, elegant. 2026-41”

- Derek Smedley MW

“The 2016 La Conseillante has been on a roll since winemaker Marielle Cazaux took over the running of the estate. It has a very well defined, almost crystalline bouquet of discreet but sophisticated blackberry, briar, mineral and light floral notes. Over the course of 20 minutes, it reveals more plum-like scents and a hint of a cold northern sea. The medium-bodied palate offers crisp tannin, good balance, a silky-smooth texture and a poised and quite linear, classically inspired finish. There are subtle flecks of dark chocolate on the aftertaste. This is a surprisingly understated La Conseillante that will repay long-term cellaring”

- NM, Vinous

“The 2016 La Conseillante is a brilliant wine from the team led by Technical Director Marielle Cazaux. Polished and sophisticated, the 2016 possesses stunning vertical lift, with soaring aromatics that make a strong first impression. Silky and seductive on the palate, the 2016 is all about precision and energy in the early going. It is also one of the most quiet, soft-spoken Pomerols of the vintage. Hints of blackberry, lavender, licorice and spice add nuance, but in 2016 La Conseillante stands out for its sublime balance and total sense of harmony. The 2016 spent 17 months in oak, 70% new. As gorgeous as the 2016 is, my impression is that the best is yet to come. Since arriving at La Conseillante, Cazaux has changed much in the farming of the property, including introducing cover crops and limiting yields. She also now works with no sulfites in winemaking and opts for lower temperatures in fermentation. In other words, the full results of all of that work is yet to be seen. For now, though, the 2016 Conseillante is a pretty special wine. Don't miss it. (AG)”

- AG, Vinous

“The 2016 La Conseillante is one of the undisputed stars of the vintage. Dark, rich and voluptuous, with no hard edges and exceptional balance, the 2016 has been simply extraordinary on the two occasions I have tasted it so far. Black cherry, plum, chocolate, lavender and spice notes flesh out in the glass, but it is the wine's textural feel and overall balance that stand out most. The 2016 is plush, deep and textured, yet retains the super-classic midweight feel that is such a Conseillante signature.”

- AG, Vinous

Reviews *“Bottled in June of 2018, the 2016 Château La Conseillante is a beautifully seamless yet powerful version of this cuvée that has the hallmark fragrance and elegance of the estate front and center. Complex blackberries, cassis, flowers, incense, forest floor, and floral notes all soar from this full-bodied, pure, and polished Pomerol that has an undeniable class as well as wonderful purity of fruit, perfect integration of its tannins and acidity, and a blockbuster finish. It's an incredibly complete wine that flirts with perfection and will keep for 30-40 years. The blend is 80% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc, aged in 70% new French oak, with the balance in once-used barrels. There are less than 4,000 cases made, but this is a wine you want in your cellar.”*
- Jeb Dunnuck

“I suspect the finest vintage ever for this estate, the otherworldly 2016 La Conseillante is the normal 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc that was brought up in 70% new French oak. It offers a smorgasbord of aromas and flavors with notions of cassis, smoked herbs, forest floor, and subtle background oak all soaring from the glass. Full-bodied, opulent, and sexy, with the hallmark elegance of the estate, it has beautiful mid-palate density and a blockbuster finish. Don't miss it.”
- Jeb Dunnuck
