

## Château La Conseillante 2018

CSPC# 801695

750mlx6

14.0% alc./vol.

### Grape Variety

83% Merlot, 17% Cabernet Franc

### Appellation

Pomerol

### Classification

unclassified

### Website

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

### Sustainability

Organic

### 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

2018 Pomerol continues the appellations streak of recent great vintages, 2009, 2010, 2015, 2016 and now 2018. While each of those years offer incredible wines with characteristics you can only find in Pomerol, at their best, perhaps 2018 outclasses all those previous years.

2018 Pomerol might not be as consistent as other great vintages, meaning that all wines did not perform at an equal high-level. With 2018, you need to look at the rich clay soils on the plateau for the best of the best. But make no mistake, the top wines from the plateau are future Bordeaux legends!

It is the style and character found in 2018 Pomerol that makes the vintage so good. At their best, they have incredible levels of depth. They are concentrated, rich and alcoholic. But the pH is low enough, making the acidity high enough to provide lift and energy on the palate.

2018 Pomerol did not start out promising. The early part of the growing season found a region drenched from almost non-stop rains. To give you an idea of how much water fell in Pomerol, from January to July, close to 24", (600 mm) drenched the region over 6 months!

The biggest issues came with the rains that fell in April and May. All that rain brought attacks of mildew, which had the potential to wreak havoc. Growers with the resources to act quickly were able to fight off most of the mildew. Crop losses were mild with 2018 Pomerol.

While the soils were saturated by July, the clay terroirs soaked up as much water as possible before expelling the rest. This proved to be part of the magic recipe needed to create 2018 Pomerol. Because the second half of the growing season turned out to be one of the hottest and driest vintages of the past 50 years!

For many soils, especially sandy terroirs, there was not enough water to allow the grapes to reach full desired levels of ripeness. But the plateau with its clay soils retained ample water to promote maturity in the vines. The harvest took place in picture-perfect conditions over an extended picking window. Conditions were so good; vigneron were able to pick at their chosen level of maturity.



<b>Vineyards</b>	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.
<b>Harvest</b>	Merlot was harvested September 19 to October 1, and Cabernet Franc was harvested on October 4.
<b>Maturation</b>	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.
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	<p>It has a deep colour with a very dark purple hue, almost black, and reveals a lively and complex bouquet of red and black fruits coated with chocolate notes, forest floor with a touch of flowers and earth.</p> <p>On the palate, Château La Conseillante 2018 offers a powerful and full-bodied attack, quickly lining the tongue and inside the cheeks. The mid-palate reveals an aromatic avalanche of ripe and juicy fruit supported by a soft and silky tannic line and a subtly measured freshness. The fruit aromas then evolve, revealing a long finish and releasing a hint of minerality.</p>
<b>Serve with</b>	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. 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.
<b>Production</b>	3,299 cases made
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2026-2056
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>93 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - January 2021</p> <p><b>98 points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2021</p> <p><b>96-98 points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - April 2019</p> <p><b>97 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2021</p> <p><b>97-98 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2019</p> <p><b>94 points/Cellar Selection</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2021</p> <p><b>94-96 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2019</p> <p><b>96 points</b> - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - March 2021</p> <p><b>97 points</b> - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2019</p> <p><b>98 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2021</p> <p><b>98-100 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2019</p> <p><b>17.5+ points</b> - Farr Vintner - April 2019</p> <p><b>97 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - March 2021</p> <p><b>95-97 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - November 2019</p> <p><b>98 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - March 2021</p> <p><b>95-98 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - May 2019</p> <p><b>97+ points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2021</p> <p><b>97 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - May 2019</p> <p><b>19.5+ points</b> - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2019</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - May 2021</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com (score only) - March 2019</p> <p><b>97 points</b> - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - March 2019</p> <p><b>18 points</b> - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2019</p>

**Reviews** *“Nicely packed, with a mix of dark plum and black currant preserve flavors wrapped with licorice root and warm earth notes. Tobacco and bay fill in on the finish, adding energy and cut. Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Drink now through 2034. 3,299 cases made.”*

*- JM, Wine Spectator*

*“The 2018 La Conseillante is composed of 83% Merlot and 17% Cabernet Franc, with a 3.65 pH and 14% alcohol. Deep garnet-purple colored, it needs a lot of swirling and coaxing to lure out the youthfully shy, incredible perfume of black raspberries, boysenberries, ripe plums and cinnamon toast, leading to notions of lilacs, clove oil and forest floor, plus a waft of iron ore. The medium to full-bodied palate is a jaw-dropping exercise in finesse, slowly unfurling in the mouth to reveal layer upon layer of bright, crunchy red and black fruits, supported by a rock-solid frame of firm, fine-grained tannins and tons of freshness, finishing long and with an impressive mineral and exotic spice firework display. It's an incredible expression of Pomerol that cannot fail to inspire a resounding 'WOW' from whoever is fortunate to drink it. Tempting to broach now (albeit with a lot of air), try to keep your hands off it for a good 5 years and then drink it over the next 30 years or more.”*

*- LPB, Wine Advocate*

*“The 2018 La Conseillante is a blend of 83% Merlot and 17% Cabernet Franc, with a 3.65 pH and 14% alcohol. Yields were 32 hectoliters per hectare; Merlot was harvested September 19 to October 1, and Cabernet Franc was harvested on October 4. Very deep purple-black colored, it comes charging out of the gate with energetic notes of wild blueberries, chocolate-covered cherries and warm black plums plus hints of lilacs, damp soil, cardamom and cloves with gentle wafts of cast iron pan and fragrant earth. Medium to full-bodied, it fills the mouth with elegant black fruit and earthy layers, framed by soft, velvety tannins and just enough freshness, finishing long and mineral laced.”*

*- LPB, Wine Advocate*

*“A dense, layered Pomerol with lots of chocolate, walnut, and plum character. Some coffee undertones. It's full-bodied with chewy, polished tannins and a structured, muscular finish. Solid. Elegance with power. 2018. Try after 2025.”*

*- JS, JamesSuckling.com*

*“This is a forceful red, showing blueberry and blackberry character with violets and light wet earth. Clarity and beauty with so much transparency and focus. Full-bodied, firm and silky with lots of white-pepper and salt undertones.”*

*- JS, JamesSuckling.com*

*“The elegant structure that backs up this wine is impressive in its restraint. While the wine has plenty of black fruits and dark tannins, it conveys a calm character that sees long-term aging as its goal. The wine will take its time. Drink from 2026. \*Cellar Selection\*.”*

*- RV, Wine Enthusiast*

*“Partial aging in amphorae and a mix of barrels gives this rich wine structure, but with a light touch. Its acidity and freshness come from attractive berry flavors that offer lift and a crisp, crunchy finish.”*

*- RV, Wine Enthusiast*

*“This is beautiful and powers through the palate showing depth and concentration to the brambled fruit. It has an excellent mid palate, the truffle of Pomerol comes through at this young stage in a way that was not evident in the 2015 even, but here has a lovely seductive kick. Spicy vanilla bean and black pepper alongside touches of cinnamon, this is very good quality. A yield of 32hl/ha. 70% new oak, 3% in amphora for the first time.”*

*- JA, Decanter.com*

## Reviews

*“This is extremely good quality with a lovely persistency, luscious and luxurious with richly textured tannins that place you perfectly in the heart of Pomerol. It’s inky and concentrated with clear liquorice from the start and an abundance of flowers and fruit; violets and iris followed by black chocolate alongside subtleties of woodsmoke and coffee that curl out of the glass after a few minutes. It has bouncy tannins with a 95IPT but they’re so hugely silky that you can be pretty sure this is going to age every bit as well as the 2016. They continued with all biodynamic and organic farming here except for one treatment during flowering against mildew which meant they had to stop the certification process. 3% will be aged in amphoras, the rest in barrel. Michel Rolland consults. A yield of 32hl/ha. 3.65pH. Drinking Window 2028 – 2044”*

- JA, Decanter.com

*“With a heart stopping bouquet of violets, lilacs, cocoa, dark cherries, plums, wet earth and espresso, you are already hooked. But it is on the palate that the show comes to fruition. With depth of flavor, silky, elegant tannins, concentration and countless layers of perfectly ripe, dark red pit fruits, the wine provides a sublime, sensuous experience that no other wine offers. Give this at least 7-8 years before popping a cork. The wine blends 83% Merlot with 17% Cabernet Franc.”*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“Sexy, fresh, rich, opulent and refined, this is Pomerol at its most seductive. The fruits are drenched in chocolate and you’ll quickly find truffle, smoke, licorice, flowers and dark, black cherries. With velvety tannins, concentration and depth of flavor, this wine delivers a long attention-grabbing finish. And this is a good thing as this is a wine you don’t want to lose sight of. Made from blending 83% Merlot and 17% Cabernet Franc and reaching 14% alcohol, the harvest took place September 19 to October 4. Yields were lower than usual at 32 hectoliters per hectare. You need to know that on my initial taste I loved the wine and thought it was the equal of the brilliant 2016 but I went back three times, and each subsequent tasting was better than the last. This could top the 2016! 98-100 Pts.”*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“Deep purple in colour, with a heady perfume of violets, truffles, dark chocolate and pure, ripe blueberries. The palate is incredibly silky on entry, allowing the fruit to shine with a glycerol polish that promotes the purity of dark fruit. Through the mid-palate the tannins build a muscular frame that adds a savoury, spicy note to the fruit. This structure is still very precise and focused, adds complexity of texture, and makes this a Vin de Garde, that will need a decade in bottle before reaching approachability. An impressive, powerful Pomerol.”*

- Farr Vintners

*“The 2018 La Conseillante was given a two-hour decant and then monitored over the following 12 hours. What a stupendous Pomerol! It has a bravura nose that immediately seduces the olfactory senses, delivering a cornucopia of black cherries, cassis, crushed violets, and iris. Such intensity here, and then it blossoms, accentuating its floral component while retaining the DNA of Pomerol. The palate is exquisitely balanced with fine tannins that frame the pure black cherry and strawberry fruit. But it is the texture and the harmony of this La Conseillante that knocks you sideways, that tertiary finish that I noticed out of barrel gone, replaced by satin-textured, almost citrus-fresh fruit. Marielle Cazaux and her team have overseen a brilliant La Conseillante.”*

- NM, Vinous

*“The 2018 La Conseillante was picked from 19 September to 1 October for the Merlot, the Cabernet Franc on 4 October, at 32hl/ha. It has the highest IPT recorded at the property. Tasting the final blend that Marielle Cazaux assembled in June, it is adorned with a gorgeous bouquet of copious black cherries, cassis, crushed violets and mineral aromas. It is supremely well focused and delineated. The palate is powerful for sure with almost burly tannins that lacquer the mouth. There is great depth here, with very expressive Cabernet Franc towards the slightly tertiary finish. This is a long-term prospect so don’t be afraid to cellar it for several years. Drink 2024-2050.”*

- NM, Vinous

*“The 2018 La Conseillante is a regal and utterly exquisite Pomerol from the very first taste. Technical Director Marielle Cazaux and her team turned out a jewel of a wine. Silky tannins and lifted, precise aromatics make a strong first impression. Inky dark fruit, pain grillé, lavender, spice, menthol, and a kiss of new French oak all flesh out over time. More than anything else, what comes through is the new emphasis at La Conseillante on freshness and verve. The 2018 is a Pomerol of tremendous precision. It is, in a word: dynamite! (AG)”*

- AG, Vinous

**Reviews**

*"The 2018 La Conseillante is magnificent. A wine of real vertical lift and explosiveness, the 2018 is distinguished by its spine of energy, freshness, and purity of fruit. Inky blue/purplish berry fruit, mocha, lavender spice and mint develop in the glass, but it is the wine's overall sense of harmony that truly stands out. The 2018 showed tremendous vibrancy and vitality, with superb mid-palate richness and phenomenal balance all three times I tasted it. It is without question one of the wines of the vintage. The blend is 83% Merlot and 17% Cabernet Franc. This is the first vintage that includes a touch of wine aged in amphora, just 3%. Don't miss it!"*  
- AG, Vinous

*"A beautiful expression of this terroir, which always seems to yield a more elegant, complex style of wine, the 2018 Château La Conseillante is based on 83% Merlot and 17% Cabernet Franc that saw 70% new French oak. A brilliant perfume of blueberries, currants, spring flowers, violets, and graphite gives way to a medium to full-bodied Pomerol with flawless balance, ultra-fine tannins, and a great finish. It closes down rather quickly with time in the glass (I followed the bottle for multiple days), and it isn't for the instant gratification crowd, but it's unquestionably a gorgeous Pomerol. Give bottles a solid 8-10 years of bottle age, and it's going to evolve for 25-30 years in cold cellars. 97+."*  
- Jeb Dunnuck

*"The 2018 Château La Conseillante checks in as a blend of 83% Merlot and 17% Cabernet Franc brought up in 70% new French oak, with a small amount in amphora. Yields here were a light 32 hectoliters per hectare, and the 2018 is a respectable 13.5% natural alcohol. Winemaker Marielle Cazaux commented that the secret to the vintage was to be a lazy winemaker (i.e. hands off). Her 2018 boasts a saturated purple color as well as incredible purity in its blue and black fruits, spice, liquid flower, and violet-like characteristics. Full-bodied, pure, and seamless on the palate as well, it's flawlessly balanced, with building yet sweet tannins, no hard edges, and a great, great finish. It's going to flirt with perfection. Hats off to Marielle for another magical wine from this estate, which has quickly risen into the top echelon of estates in Bordeaux."*  
- Jeb Dunnuck

*"(83 Merlot, 17 Cabernet Franc) | 70% new oak, 3% amphorae | 14% alc | 32 hl/ha | 3.65 pH | Total production this year is 38000 bottles of which 10% will be the second wine Duo | Organically certified. The nose is exceptional and incredibly deep and perfumed. There is no trace of oak, astringency or tannin. Winemaker Marielle Cazaux said that she was 'lazy' this year. No pigeage, no déléstage (rack and return), and only a smooth pump over and all because she was in search of really pure fruit. She tried hard to make the wine detailed and long and so blending was vitally important. It would have been easy to make a big round wine, but Cabernet Franc has played a super-important role in this wine. The perfume is exquisite, and it is not made up of oak, just floral fruit and aromatic impact. There is some great tension, and it has a feel of the stellar 2016 just with more flesh and swagger. There is more density and length, too, at this stage of its life and this makes 2018 La Conseillante totally seductive and yet completely different to any preceding vintage. I happen to think that it is one of the finest wines of the year."*  
- MJ, matthewjukes.com

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