

Château La Pointe 2021

CSPC# 866170

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

82% Merlot, 18% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

Pomerol

Website

<http://www.chateaulapointe.com/en/>

Sustainability

The new cellars of Chateau La Pointe were designed to be green, energy-efficient facilities with solar panels and a water recycling system.

The renovations were completed just in time for the legendary 2009 Bordeaux harvest. However, the work on Chateau La Pointe did not stop there, as they completed a new drainage system and ecologically friendly, vat room. The new vat house allowed for a parcel-by-parcel vinification.

General Info

The origin of the name “La Pointe” is based on the particular geometry of its vineyard, since just at the entrance to the estate it is possible to observe a large plot of triangular shape, shaped tip. Throughout history we find traces of Château La Pointe from 1868, then ranked among the “first” alongside the castles Beauregard, Clinet, Councilor, Gazin, etc ... At that time, the castle was the property of Monsieur Grandet who brought the most diligent care to his vineyard. Subsequently, Château La Pointe has always produced quality wines, even if it was “drowsy” a few years ... It is in 2007, when the property is bought, that it is revitalized by the arrival of its new General Manager: Eric Monneret!

Winemakers

Winemaker: Eric Monneret

Oenologist: Hubert de Bouard de Laforest

Vintage

A year that demanded our full attention.

In 2021 it was more the technical teams than the vines that suffered from stress! The weather conditions were unpredictable, and a lot of determination was needed to maintain our vine-care programme without abandoning our environmental commitments.

It all began with the April frost. Luckily, despite our worries, there was not much harm done and only a few leaves were damaged. This cold spell did slow down the vine's development, however, resulting in quite a lot of flower shatter on the Merlots during blossoming, and consequently the forecast of a low yield.

Next came the mildew attacks, which were unbelievably strong due to the abundant rainfall in the spring and early summer. The struggle seemed endless, particularly as we aim to protect the vineyard with 'organic' or 'biocontrol' products. Our vine workers showed immense dedication, including at the weekends.

The preservation of active foliage was determinant in the success of this rather late vintage. We were thus able to wait until the 27th September to pick our first Merlots and as late as the 13th October to harvest the last Cabernet-Francis in the best conditions. A rigorous sorting allowed us to eliminate any imperfect grapes and bring a good homogeneous crop into the cellar.

This was a vintage requiring meticulousness in the winemaking to find the right balance, choosing gentle extraction to ensure finesse in the tannins. 2021 is a precise, elegant vintage, pleasantly fresh: faithful to the profile of Château La Pointe wines

Vineyards

The 23-hectare Pomerol vineyard of Chateau La Pointe is planted to 85% Merlot and 15% Cabernet Franc.

The property is one of the larger vineyards in the tiny Pomerol appellation. Most of their vineyards are placed just north of Catusseau, near Libourne, with the exception of 1 parcel, situated close to Trotanoy.

The terroir consists of gravel, sand, and clays soils. The vineyard can be divided into 3 separate sections, each with its own terroir. The vines are on average 35 years of age. The vineyard is planted to a vine density that ranges from 6,300 vines per hectare to 7,600 vines per hectare. The higher levels of vine density are found in the newer plantings.

Much of their work in the vineyard takes place with the goal of lowering yields. While previous and current vintages were close to 35 hectoliters per hectare, give or take, the goal is to further reduce yields to an average of 20 hectoliters per hectare, to improve the concentration in the wine.



Harvest	Without ever losing sight of tradition, the work continues to be done by hand, with special care and attention to detail. In this sense, there is no doubt that the grapes must be harvested by hand, without disturbing them, so that the clusters reach the winery in perfect condition. To do this, the harvested grapes will be transported in small boxes (to avoid crushing). We were thus able to wait until the 27th September to pick our first Merlots and as late as the 13 th October to harvest the last Cabernet-Francis in the best conditions.
Vinification/ Maturation	To produce the wine of Chateau La Pointe, vinification takes place in traditional, 80 hectoliter stainless tanks. Malolactic fermentation takes place in French oak barrels for 50% of the harvest. The remaining 50% of the wine undergoes malolactic fermentation in tanks. The wines are then aged in 100% new, French oak barrels for an average of 12 months.
Tasting Notes	The robe is a beautifully bright, intense crimson colour. After swirling, there are pure aromas of red fruit, quickly enveloped in notes of violet. The palate is juicy, energetic and precise. Smooth tannins bring a pleasant velvety sensation. The oak, discreet and well-integrated, completes the already rich aromatic palette. There is a feeling of freshness and elegance throughout. A real revelation in this vintage where both the vine grower's hard work and careful extraction during vinification were essential.
Serve with	Chateau La Pointe is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes. Chateau La Pointe is also good with Asian dishes, hearty fish courses like tuna, salmon, mushrooms, and pasta.
Production	58 000 bottles
Cellaring	The 2021 vintage is an exceptional one. The aromatic freshness, balance and suppleness of this Merlot-dominant Pomerol will suit lovers of young wine. In its early years it will offer floral notes, a tasty, juicy touch of red and black berries and slightly spicy toasty flavours. The ageing potential of this vintage will also suit connoisseurs who have the patience to wait for the Grands Crus de Bordeaux to develop aromas of truffle, forest floor, game, Russian leather or light tobacco. To be enjoyed 4 years from now and up to 15 years old or more.
Scores/Awards	<p>90-92 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022</p> <p>88-90 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent (score only) - May 2022</p> <p>92-93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2022</p> <p>92 points - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - May 2022</p> <p>92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2024</p> <p>90-92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2022</p> <p>89 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2022</p> <p>90-92 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2022</p> <p>85 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - April 2022</p> <p>90 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2022</p> <p>90-91 points - Vert de Vin - July 2022</p> <p>92-93 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - May 2022</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"A blend of 82% Merlot and 18% Cabernet Franc, the 2021 La Pointe exhibits aromas of sweet berries, plums, licorice and raw cocoa, followed by a medium-bodied, supple and elegant palate built around tangy acids and fine, powdery tannins. An elegant, fine-boned interpretation of Pomerol, this historic 23-hectare vineyard is benefiting from improved viticulture and later picking."</i> - WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Plum and berry with pretty fruit in the center palate. Medium body. Round and juicy."</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"The wine opens with espresso cocoa, spice, and plummy notes in the perfume. The palate is vibrant, medium-bodied, and vibrant, leaving you with a blend of red cherries, plums, chocolate, licorice, and oranges. Drink from 2024-2039."</i> - JL, thewinecellarinsider.com</p> <p><i>"Medium-bodied, fresh, bright, and focused on its floral and red fruit character, the wine is soft, vibrant, and fresh, leaving you with loads of sweet, fresh, ripe red berries with a touch of cocoa and earth in the finish. The wine is a blend of 82% Merlot and 18% Cabernet Franc. Drink from 2023-2037."</i> - JL, thewinecellarinsider.com</p>

Reviews *“The 2021 La Pointe underwent short pump overs to enact a gentle extraction and matured in 50% new oak. It has a light but well-defined bouquet with graphite infused red fruit (that trait is accentuated in a bottle tasted at the château). Quite elegant in style. The palate is medium-bodied with light tannins, pretty red fruit and just a touch of piquancy on the finish. It is a Pomerol that keeps within its means and does not try to overdo itself, making it a better wine that should gain substance in barrel. Drink 2028 – 2040.”*
- NM, Vinous

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