

Château Pavie 2018

CSPC# 847785

750mlx6

14.48% alc./vol.

Grape Variety
Appellation
Classification
Website
General Info

60% Merlot, 22% Cabernet Franc, 18% Cabernet Sauvignon
St. Emilion
1st Grand Cru Classé
<http://www.vignoblesperse.com/fr/>

The slopes of Chateau Pavie and Ausone were first planted by the ancient Romans in the fourth century. However, Chateau Pavie did not become famous as a Bordeaux wine producer until almost two thousand years later. Chateau Pavie was famous by the mid-19th century. At the time, the Robert Parker of the day was the Bordeaux bible published by Cocks and Féret's "Bordeaux et ses vins" written in 1850, the first edition was already high on the wines from Pavie as they named it one of the First classed growths in St. Emilion.

A portion of Chateau Pavie was sold off in 1885 to the well known, Bordeaux wine negociant Ferdinand Bouffard. It was Bouffard's desire to increase the size of the vineyards. In time, he managed to put together a 50-hectare vineyard with an annual production that ranged from 12,500 to 15,000 cases per year. That made Chateau Pavie one of the largest estates in the Right Bank!

By the late 1800's, Pavie and Pavie Decesse were fully separate estates. Close to the same time, the Macquin family was also busy purchasing parcels of Bordeaux vineyards too. Those purchases led to the creation of Chateau Pavie Macquin. Jumping ahead to the next century and the start of the First World War, Ferdinand Bouffard sold Chateau Pavie to Albert Porte who eventually sold to the Valette family. The Valette's were well known Bordeaux wine négociants from Paris. If the name sounds familiar, that's because Christine Valette is the owner of Chateau Troplong Mondot. Chateau Pavie was classified as Premier Grand Cru Classé "B" while under the Valette family's management in 1954. That changed in 2012 with the new Classification of St. Emilion as Chateau Pavie was elevated to Premier Grand Cru Classé A!

In 1998, Gerard Perse, who already owned Chateau Monbousquet purchased Chateau Pavie. Chateau Pavie experienced a rebirth thanks to the drive and the spare no expense attitude of Perse. In 2002 Gerard Perse expanded the vineyards of Chateau Pavie by 2.5 hectares when the vines of Chateau La Clusiere vines were incorporated into Chateau Pavie.

This was allowed to take place because of the similarity of terroirs which led the INAO. In 2002 to authorize the integration (or, perhaps the reintegration) of Chateau La Clusiere into the vineyard of Pavie. At the same time, a small part of the Pavie Decesse vineyards were also merged into Château Pavie. This reduced Pavie Decesse's area from 9.5 hectares to its current 3.5-hectare size, while increasing the vineyards of Chateau Pavie.

Winemaker Michel Rolland as their consultant

Vintage 2018 Saint Emilion was not an easy vintage for producers. The winter months were easy, but the spring is one of the wettest in history. Depending on where you located in St. Emilion, during the initial 6 months of the year, between 550 mm to 600 mm (21"-24") of rain soaked your soils. This is more than the normal amount of rain the region experiences in a year!

From there growers fended off violent attacks of mildew, which struck fast and furious. 2018 Saint Emilion was saved by the hottest, driest, sunniest vintage conditions since 2003. Barely any rain fell from July to harvest.

Picking took place under warm, sunny, and dry conditions. On average, production was down 10-20% for many vineyards. Conditions were so good between late September and mid-October; vigneronns were able to pick at their chosen level of maturity. Harvesting took place from mid-September to mid-October.



Vineyards The 42-hectare St. Emilion vineyard of Chateau Pavie is truly three unique and different terroirs. Each also has its own microclimate and soils corresponding to the Saint Emilion limestone "plateau", located around 85 metres up from the Dordogne, and composed of clay-limestone soil on top of chalk with marine fossils. Soils corresponding to the "mid-hillside" land 55 metres up from the Dordogne, composed of a brown clay-limestone soil with a fine texture. Many parcels of land have been replanted and the vine-training system raised to increase the leaf surface. The terroir of Pavie does not promote early-ripening. In fact, Chateau Pavie is often one of the last St. Emilion estates to finish harvesting. Pruning down to 6 buds for the old vines and to 2 buds for the young vines. Thinning, leaf-stripping, grapes picked and sorted by hand. Gerard Perse replanted much of the Chateau Pavie vineyards in 1998. Today, the vineyard is planted to 60% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Franc and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Harvest The harvest took place September 28 to October 10, 2018 with yields of 38 hectoliters per hectare

**Vinification/
Maturation** For the vinification of Chateau Pavie, after harvesting sorted in the vineyards and again using optical sorting, the whole berries are moved by conveyor belt to oak tanks for crushing by gravity. The wine is vinified in 20, temperature controlled, wood vats. Pre-fermentation cold maceration lasts for nine days at 8 degrees Celsius. This is followed by a 36-day maceration. Malolactic fermentation takes place in barrel. The wine of Chateau Pavie is aged in 80% new, French oak barrels for 18 to months. The amount of new oak and time in the barrel will vary, depending on the characteristics of each Bordeaux vintage.

Tasting Notes This vintage shows all the characteristics of maturity, freshness, and elegance typical of the Pavie plateau. The brilliant purple color is deep and dense, full of promise with the precise blueberry highlights indicative of the vintage. Concentrated fruit aromas of wonderfully bright black currant and blueberry are supported with a good dose of oak.

Initial aromas are juicy and generous, in harmony with spices like licorice; there is toasted oak, too, as well as youthful floral notes typical of the Pavie plateau. The first impression in the mouth is fresh. The mid-palate's tannic presence is accompanied by a certain lively freshness from the well-balanced mouth-watering acidity; the result is a texture and density that is simply remarkable. The oak is well integrated and still dominant, but experience has shown that the wine's fruit will emerge. The finish is smooth, rich, and opulent with great length. This is an excellent vintage, inspiring and fresh, which shows a well-managed alliance of ripeness and balance, all supported by careful and attentive aging.

A vintage that will stand the test of time. A great and grand wine! Leave it alone, forget it for another 3 to 5 years before pulling a cork on these bottles. The decades will be good to this wine. Patience!

Serve with Chateau Pavie is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift.

Chateau Pavie is best paired with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes.

Production Approx. 70,000 made annually.

Cellaring Drink 2025-2040

Scores/Awards **98 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - January 2021
96-99 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - June 2019
99 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2021
97-100 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - April 2019
100 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2021
98-99 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2019
17 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2019
96 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - November 2020
99 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2021
96-100 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2019
17 points - Farr Vintner - April 2019
96 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - March 2021

Scores/Awards **96-98 points** - Neal Martin, Vinous - November 2019
97 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - March 2021
94-97 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2019
100 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2021
98-100 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - May 2019
96 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - February 2021
96 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com (score only) - March 2019
18 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - April 2019 or January 2021
17.5 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2019

Reviews *"This is packed with raspberry, plum and boysenberry compote flavors that sail through thanks to the unencumbered feel provided by the polished structure. Fine chalky threads curl throughout as this opens in the glass, with flamboyant flashes of apple wood, anise and violet emerging through the finish. Youthfully dense, but everything is in proportion. Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon. Best from 2025 through 2040."*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"Gorgeous from start to finish, offering lush layers of raspberry, cassis and plum sauce flavors entwined with licorice, apple wood and rooibos tea notes. There's a serious grip through the finish but this is focused and pure in feel. The encore of fruit detail at the very end is impressive. Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon."
- JM, Wine Spectator

"The 2018 Pavié is a blend of 60% Merlot, 22% Cabernet Franc and 18% Cabernet Sauvignon. The wine has a 3.58 pH and 14.48% alcohol. Very deep garnet-purple in color, it bursts from the glass with a fabulously expressive nose of crème de cassis, baked plums, and blueberry preserves, leading to an impressive array of nuances, featuring notions of dark chocolate, camphor, licorice, rose petals and fertile loam, plus hints of crushed rocks and iron ore. The rich, full-bodied palate offers layer upon layer of opulent black and blue fruits with loads of exotic spice sparks and pretty floral and mineral accents, supported by firm, super plush tannins and remarkable tension, finishing with epic length and depth. This could only be Pavié. It makes for a seductively stylish glass now, but patience will be rewarded if it is afforded 5-7 years in bottle, at least, then drink it over the next 30+ years."
- LPB, Wine Advocate

"The 2018 Pavié is composed of 60% Merlot, 22% Cabernet Franc and 18% Cabernet Sauvignon, harvested October 1-10 with yields of 38 hectoliters per hectare. The wine has a 3.58 pH and 14.48% alcohol. Very deep purple-black in color, the nose starts off quiet and stern, swiftly growing exponentially in the glass to reveal powerful plum preserves, fruitcake, coffee beans, smoked meats, and black olives scents with emerging nuances of roses, hoisin, molten chocolate, and licorice plus a waft of candied violets. WOW—the palate explodes with waves of black fruit preserves, exotic spices, and savory chocolate, framed by very firm, super ripe, velvety tannins and an electric backbone of freshness, finishing with epic length and energy. Amazing, singular wine—it could only be Pavié."
- LPB, Wine Advocate

"Impressive aromas of pure, crushed blackberries and brambleberries with red and black licorice and black olives, as well as incense, following through to a full body with round, creamy tannins and lots of fruit. Yet, it's tight and reserved at the finish. Needs three or four years to open and start showing its true character. Powerful and linear. Cellar-bound."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This is a very pretty and structured Pavié with a beautiful elegance and depth. Full body and a great core of elegant fruit, surrounded by very fine tannins. Very polished. Extremely long. Finesse with power."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

Reviews

"Black almost to the rim. Very ripe black fruit with a note of wild elderberry. So much tannin, your mouth closes in but the whole has balance even with these massive tannins because the fruit is extremely concentrated. The freshness of a limestone site, and the tannins are fine even if incredibly dense. Gums your mouth at the moment. You have to be patient and like this style of wine to enjoy this."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"60% Merlot, 22% Cabernet Franc, 18% Cabernet Sauvignon. Yields 38 hl/ha and 80% new oak. Barrel sample. Black almost to the rim. Very ripe black fruit with a note of wild elderberry. So much tannin, your mouth closes in but the whole has balance even with these massive tannins because the fruit is extremely concentrated. The freshness of a limestone site, and the tannins are fine even if incredibly dense. Gums your mouth at the moment. You have to be patient and like this style of wine to enjoy this. (JH)"

- JH, JancisRobinson.com

"Not so long ago, Pavie would have rejoiced in the massive tannic and alcohol potential of this vintage, but they really have done a great job practicing restraint. It doesn't sacrifice Pavie's power but of all the wines in this particular lineup it's the one that carries the weight of the vintage the best, building power by stealth rather than grabbing it from you. This is great quality, with inky depths to the black fruits, accompanied by licorice and chocolate, and the beautiful salty lick on the finish really completes the picture - your tongue just licks the wall and it's highly enjoyable! Harvest began on 26 September, later than some in the appellation, with a 38hl/ha yield. Although extraction was kept gentle, with the grapes given a week-long cold soak before fermentation at no more than 28°C, then a five-week maceration (longer than some, but these guys used to do eight weeks or more!), they have achieved a high tannin count of 97IPT and 3.58Ph."

- JA, Decanter.com

"Black ink in color, this could be the most intense wine of the vintage. The intensity is in the color, the palate and in the nose with its licorice, smoke, espresso, crushed rocks, stones, black, red, and blue fruit profile. With the weight of dry Port, the wine manages to remain in balance. The fruits are perfectly ripe, expressing purity, length, and an incredible depth of flavor and minerality that never wants to quit. There is so much going on here, the wine demands over a decade in the cellar before it begins to unfurl. The wine blends 60% Merlot, 22% Cabernet Franc and 18% Cabernet Sauvignon."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Pitch black in color with a deep purple sheen, the wine brings intensity to a new level. Massive, the wine coats your palate, teeth and gums with incredible levels of fruit, rocks, smoke and espresso. In fact, the first sip had so much going on you take a step back. But as the fruit fills your mouth, painting it deep purple, you are simultaneously aware of the balance, purity, minerality and flamboyance. The finish holds its place for over 60 seconds. Made from a blend of 60% Merlot, 22% Cabernet Franc and 18% Cabernet Sauvignon, the wine reached 14.48% with a pH of 3.51. The harvest took place September 28 to October 10. There is an addendum here, the wine is so packed, it's as if a double magnum of wine was placed into a standard bottle. Is it too much for its own good? It is going to take up to 20 years to know if this wine morphs into a 100 Pt legend or not, (Which is possible) hence the wide score range."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Opaque purple in the glass. This is thick and rich on the nose, with clove, cinnamon and redolent blackberry and damson. The palate is incredibly powerful, with heady black fruits and sweet cassis and kirsch. Despite this opulence, there is some harmony from acidity. The tannins build through the mid-palate, with increasingly extracted, chewy structure building to the finish. This is long and very sweet, smoky and crunchy in equal measure. Not for the faint-hearted, but the quality of the vineyard does still bring balance to the wine."

- Farr Vintners

"The 2018 Pavie is so superior to the Arômes de Pavie that you wonder if they are from the same region! It has a gorgeous bouquet of enticing scents of black cherries, blueberry, and blood orange, evolving more cassis notes with aeration and becoming a little more exotic. The palate is medium-bodied with a candied, sweet entry. Rounded in texture, this is velvety-smooth, although there is palpable grip on the back palate. Quite saline and lightly peppered thanks to the contribution of the Cabernets, this Pavie will require several years of cellaring, but I admire how the limestone terroir defines the lingering minerally aftertaste. Patience required."

- NM, Vinous

Reviews *“The 2018 Pavie was picked from 1 to 10 October. The nose is immediately attractive with incredibly pure black fruit with veins of blueberry and peony. It is intense but not overpowering. On the palate, the vineyard’s limestone soils manage to impart the requisite acidity, therefore there is plenty of tension here. Satin-like in texture, this already feels opulent and luxurious, but unlike vintages of ten years ago, the alcohol and ripeness levels are kept on a leash so that the terroir shines through, hints of blood orange and white pepper on the aftertaste. This has great potential, though as usual, it will require at least a decade in bottle. 2028 – 2055”*
- NM, Vinous

“Pavie is positively striking in 2018. Rich and sumptuous to the core, the 2017 possesses stunning depth and impeccable overall balance. Dark cherry, mocha, plum, spice, new leather and licorice all build as the 2018 shows its allure. Silky, polished tannins round out the finish. This is a stellar showing from the Perse family. The 2018 is absolutely gorgeous.”
- AG, Vinous

“The 2018 Pavie is a powerful, racy wine. Deep, unctuous, and impeccably polished, the 2018 Pavie has so much to offer. A rush of red/purplish berry fruit, floral notes, leather, lavender and mocha all race across the palate. Even with all of its obvious tannin and structure, the 2018 Pavie is incredibly appealing and sensual from the very first taste. I can't wait to see it in bottle.”
- AG, Vinous

“One of the wines of the vintage is the 2018 Château Pavie, and Gérard Perse continues to produce one of the greatest wines in the world, in just about every vintage. Based on 60% Merlot, 22% Cabernet Franc and 18% Cabernet Sauvignon, the 2018 shows the slightly more restrained style of the estate today yet still brings classic Pavie richness, depth, and grandeur. Revealing a deep purple color as well as a sensational bouquet of crème de cassis, damp earth, tobacco, chalk, and lead pencil shavings, it hits the palate with full-bodied richness, incredible purity, a dense, concentrated mid-palate, and a liqueur of rocks-like sense of minerality on the blockbuster finish. There's a backward, inward style here that actually reminds me of the 2000. This is another magical, probably immortal wine from this terroir that marries power with elegance perfectly. Don't miss it!”
- Jeb Dunnuck

“Possibly the wine of the vintage, the 2018 Château Pavie is comprised of 60% Merlot, 22% Cabernet Franc, and 18% Cabernet Sauvignon that comes from this magical hillside terroir just outside of Saint-Émilion. Thrilling notes of crème de cassis, crushed rocks, graphite, smoked herbs, and an almost Hermitage-like minerality all emerge from this young, primordial, viscerally thrilling wine that's got perfection written all over it. Massively textured, full-bodied, ultra-fine and flawlessly balanced, it shows how to pair elegance with richness and power. Bravo! It's going to need 7-8 years of bottle age and keep for 3-4 decades.”
- Jeb Dunnuck
