

Château Pavie 2021

CSPC# 834373

750mlx6

14.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

52% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Franc, 18% Cabernet Sauvignon

Appellation

St. Emilion

Classification

1st Grand Cru Classé A

Website

<http://www.vignoblesperse.com/fr/>

Analysis

pH 3.67

Sustainability

The vineyard is farmed using sustainable vineyard management techniques, with a focus on low yields. Some 70% of the vineyard is currently farmed using organic methods, although it's the estate's ultimate goal to become 100% organic.

General Info

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 is their consultant

Vintage

If 2021 was drier than previous years, two intense climatic episodes impacted the vintage. The first one is the April frost which mobilized our teams for 9 nights. The second is linked to the strong episodes of rain in June, with nearly 180 mm of precipitation. The trio August / September / October was accompanied by low rainfall, allowing to harvest in optimal conditions and preserving the qualitative potential of the vintage.



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
Vineyards	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	Yield 32.98 hl/ha. Harvest September 28 to October 12.
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 barrels. The wine of Chateau Pavie is aged in 50% new, 50% 1-yr old, 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	Pavie shows the softness I've always been waiting for in the vintage of 2021. For a super masculine wine, it actually showed its tenderness in the cool vintage. I have to say, this might be my most favorite en primeur of Pavie. A layer of mellow, powdery tannins coats the grand body; and rich scents of begonia, hawthorn cake, plum sugar, and a rare delicate violet fragrance flows from inside out. Pavie 2021 possesses the elegance I have not seen in previous vintages.
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. 4,800 cases made.
Cellaring	Drink 2028-2060
Scores/Awards	<p>93-94+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, <i>The Wine Independent</i> - May 2022</p> <p>95-96 points - James Suckling, <i>JamesSuckling.com</i> - May 2022</p> <p>17++ points - James Lawther, <i>JancisRobinson.com</i> - May 2022</p> <p>94 points - Georgina Hindle, <i>Decanter.com</i> - March 2022</p> <p>94 points - Jane Anson, <i>janeanson.com</i> - March 2024</p> <p>94 points - Jane Anson, <i>janeanson.com</i> - May 2022</p> <p>96 points - Jeff Leve, <i>thewinecellarinsider.com</i> - March 2024</p> <p>94-96 points - Jeff Leve, <i>thewinecellarinsider.com</i> - May 2022</p> <p>94 points - Tim Atkin, MW - <i>timatkin.com</i> (score only) - April 2022</p> <p>93-95 points - Neal Martin, <i>Vinous</i> - May 2022</p> <p>95-97 points - Antonio Galloni, <i>Vinous</i> - May 2022</p> <p>95-97+ points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2022</p> <p>18 points - Matthew Jukes - August 2022</p> <p>93 points - Peter Moser, <i>Falstaff Magazine</i> - May 2022</p> <p>96 points - Vert de Vin - July 2022</p> <p>97 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - May 2022</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"The 2021 Pavie is a blend of 52% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Franc, and 18% Cabernet Sauvignon, aging in 75% new oak. Deep garnet-purple in color, it charges out of the gate with powerful notes of baked black plums, wild blueberries, and boysenberry preserves, plus wafts of cedar, graphite, fallen leaves, and star anise. Medium-bodied, the palate is tightly wound with tons of black fruit layers, framed by firm, grainy tannins and amazing tension, finishing very long and mineral-laced. 93-94+."</i></p> <p>- LPB, <i>Wine Independent</i></p> <p><i>"Deep black and blue fruit with cocoa and tar character. Compact and full-bodied with firm, ripe tannins that are very textured and interwoven into the wine. This has a lot of structure to go a long way. Yet it remains in balance with finesse."</i></p> <p>- JS, <i>JamesSuckling.com</i></p>

Reviews *"52% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Franc, 18% Cabernet Sauvignon. 32.98 hl/ha. Cask sample. Deep purple hue. Poised and fresh with dark-fruit and floral notes. Fresh and minerally on attack but sweet and ripe in the middle, the tannins finely honed. Chalky and long on the finish. Powerful, structured, the terroir evident but everything in balance. Good potential. 17+ /20 points."*
- JL, JancisRobinson.com

"Lovely aromas, ripe blackcurrants, damsons and plums, milk chocolate, cinnamon, and vanilla. Round and mouth filling, this has energy and vibrancy with good acidity lifting the fruit up, tannins providing chew and texture, and the minerality/austerity showing the terroir in the glass. A spiced liquorice and clove element gives the backbone of the wine, adding structure and nuance, while the fruit gives the seduction but it's a little tight still, linear, and straight - staying just the right side of full extraction. Doesn't feel so immediately approachable but this has an excellent youthful character, still with depth and layers, that will round out over ageing. A more classic, immensely enjoyable, and paired-back Pavié. All the wines in the range really do show a sense of place, which at the end of the day is what you want if you're a terroir purist! (GH)"
- GH, Decanter.com

"Beautiful depth of colour, and the aromatics take their time to open, giving a closed slightly austere feel at first. Shows a verticality through the palate, with pumice stone scrape to the tannins, opening up to show black chocolate and creamy blueberry through the mid palate, and softer black cherry, damson, mandarin peel and tea. Harvest September 28 to October 12. No chaptalisation, the powerful south-facing slopes coming in extremely handy in 2021. 75% new oak, 3.67ph."
- JA, janeanson.com

"Successful, with concentration and power managing a full extraction without bitter edges. Enjoyable cassis, blackberry, with fresher acidities coming through in mandarin peel and white peach. 75% new oak, full on Pavié signature, with plenty of oak caressing, but overall excellent quality. Harvest September 28 to October 12. No chaptalization, the powerful south-facing slopes coming in extremely handy in 2021."
- JA, janeanson.com

"The blend of dark, red cherries, salty crushed stones, flowers, licorice, chocolate, and espresso works to create the attention seeking perfume. Moderately less concentrated than recent vintages, but with more vibrancy, energy, and finesse, the wine delivers its salty, essence of red fruits, spice, and chocolate-mint with ease. There is tension and ample dark, red fruits that carry through to the endnote. The wine blends 52% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Franc, and 18% Cabernet Sauvignon. Drink from 2028-2060."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"One of the darkest colored wines of the vintage, the wine kicks off with black, blue, and dark red fruit. Spicy, long, and fresh, with strong oceanic influences, espresso, chocolate, flowers, herbs, and salty, wild cherries in the perfume. The wine has equal amounts of richness, freshness, length, and energy, with a finish that showcases its deep, limestone soils. There is tension and ample dark, red fruits that carry through to the endnote. The wine blends 52% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Franc and 18% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14.14% ABV pH 3.67. Harvesting took place September 28 - October 12. The lateness of vintage is due to waiting for the Cabernets to ripen, which was a key to wines success. Drink from 2028-2060."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"The 2021 is 52% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Franc and 18% Cabernet Sauvignon cropped at 33hl/ha with a high abv for 2021 of over 14%. The wine will be matured in 75% new oak with malolactic fermentation carried out in barrel. Saturated purple colour. Iron and deep black fruit on the nose, with a lift and a fresher note that lends itself to the fresher tones of the vintage. The palate is rich and chalky, a full, mouthcoating structure of ripe tannins carries a ripe core of blue and black fruit. There is clear pedigree here, but the smoky, dense nature of this wine will need significant time to unfurl in the bottle. Very long on the finish, which remains grippy and chewy with structure."
- TP, Farr Vintners

Reviews

"The 2021 Pavie was picked at 33hL/ha from 28 September until 12 October and matured in 75% new oak, the rest one-year. Team Pavie decided to wait to pick the Cabernet until after the rains just prior to harvest. This is clean and precise on the nose, the Cabernet components (48% of the blend) imparting graphite and light cedar aromas. The palate is medium-bodied with fine grain tannins that frame layered limestone-infused black fruit, quite vibrant and conveying a sense of energy towards the finish."

- NM, Vinous

"The 2021 Pavie is a potent, brooding wine that is going to need time to be at its best. Floral and spice notes confer freshness on the bouquet. In this tasting, the 2021 feels a bit tight. I doubt that will be an issue in another few years' time. Structurally, the 2021 is a touch lighter than most recent vintages, but the identity is there. The move towards more Cabernet in the blend since 2019 has markedly changed the character of Pavie. The 2021 is on the linear side today. I can't wait to see how it ages."

- AG, Vinous

"The 2021 Pavie is a wine of tremendous potential. Naturally, it shows the more mid-weight style of the year and yet there is plenty of depth as well as energy that starts to emerge with a bit of time in the glass. Bright saline notes shape the wine while extending the finish and adding so much drive. The 2021 is shaping up to be a very special wine. All it needs is time. (AG)."

- AG, Vinous

"The 2021 Château Pavie was one of the few wines in the vintage that got a big "wow" in my notes. Based on 52% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Franc, and the rest Cabernet Sauvignon, it's a full-bodied, dense, powerful, beautiful 2021 with classic Pavie darker, richer fruits, notes of spicy oak, chocolate, and violets, ripe velvety tannins, and a great finish. It's not at the 2019 or 2020 level, but don't hold that against it. This is pure brilliance in 2021 and one of the wines of the vintage. 95-97+"

- Jeb Dunnuck

"I find it baffling that the entire portfolio of Perse wines contains lovely fruit and, sadly, dominant, and sometimes overpowering levels of oak. But when you climb to the top of the ladder, this wine is more than civilized, with fruit, oak, tannin, and acidity all working together. This is a firm wine, of that, there is no doubt, and the greater theme this year is of wines with subtlety and composure, but there are always those extreme wines, and Pavie is usually one of them. But when this wine is truly balanced, and it has been in a rich vein of form recently, I have to commend its quality and potential. Extremely aromatic, focused, and opinionated, this is a structured and concentrated wine, but it retains a degree of class and freshness, too. 18+."

- Matthew Jukes

"Deep ruby, dark intense core, purple edge to the narrow rim. Fresh cherries, a hint of orange zest, a touch of noble wood, delicate nougat. Medium-bodied, red berry nuances, vivid tannins, still a little demanding, fresh, salty, and mineral on the finish; will benefit from time in bottle."

- PM, Falstaff Magazine

"The nose is beautifully managed, elegant, fine, complex and reveals lovely finesse of grain, power, and depth. There are notes of wild raspberry, fleshy strawberry and more slightly blackberry combined with touches of blueberry, star anise, liquorice, a fine touch of caramelisation, crushed blueberries, tonka bean and a subtle hint of Bourbon vanilla. The palate is mineral, fruity, balanced and reveals a nice fresh/acidic structure, elegance, acidity, a fine creaminess in freshness, fullness, roundness, harmony, a nice freshness, and a fine concentration. On the palate this wine expresses notes of fresh raspberry, pulpy/juicy redcurrant and more lightly blueberry combined with hints of bright blackcurrant, juicy boysenberry, fine nuances of black pepper, tonka bean/chocolate, caramelisation and a subtle hint of sense of place (Mediterranean barrier) and vanilla. Good length. The tannins are precise, elegant, fresh, and racy."

- Vert de Vin
