

Château Pavie Macquin 2020

CSPC# 888354

6x750ml

14.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

80% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

St. Emilion

Classification

Premier Grand Cru Classé B in 2006

Website

<http://www.pavie-macquin.com/pavie-macquin/>

Sustainability

Organic Farming

General Info

Great figure of St. Emilion in the early twentieth century, Albert Macquin left an indelible mark on the estate that was named after him. He is responsible for the use of grafted plants, which has eradicated the ravages of phylloxera. Perfectly situated on the plateau of Saint-Emilion, at an altitude ranging from 75 to 100 meters, the vineyards of Pavie Macquin cover 15 hectares in one piece. Its neighbors are illustrious Pavie south and Troplong Mondot west. The grandchildren of Albert Macquin, now owners of the estate have appointed Nicolas Thienpont manager of Pavie Macquin in 1994. He is advised by Stéphane Derenoncourt, who already took action on the estate several years before. The duo works beautifully. A map of the vineyard has been established to distinguish about nine types of soil, for each of which specific methods of viticulture and winemaking have been edited. Inspired by the principles of biodynamics, they forbid the use of herbicides and are based on the use of biological processes such as compost. A few modern methods are used too, such as micro-oxygenation, which consists of an oxygen supply to certain key stages of winemaking. The aromas of the wine are enhanced. The wines are aged in barrels renewed for 80% during 16 to 20 months. During the ten-year review of the classification of St. Emilion in 2006 Pavie-Macquin was promoted the rank of 1st Grand Cru Classé B, a privilege it shares with only 12 other wines. While this ranking is currently suspended, fans are not wrong: Pavie-Macquin produces powerful and aromatic wine. Very harmonious, they offer velvety tannins and display explosive aromas of black fruits in the mouth. Voluptuous, perfectly balanced and tailored for a long cellaring, they reach their peak within 10 to 12 years after the vintage.

Winemaker

Stéphane Derenoncourt consults.

Vintage

2020 was a highly contrasted vintage that got off to a difficult start. The year began with an exceptionally rainy winter followed by a very mild spring. In this context, protecting the vines against mildew and managing the soil was a real struggle. The first miracle appeared in mid-May, with dry and warm conditions during one of the earliest flowerings we have seen, two weeks ahead of schedule. The second miracle was on 19 June when the rain stopped, and the weather turned dry and cool until the beginning of the grape colour-change in mid-July. It is at this point in time that summer settled in for good, with some spells of heat through to mid-August when thunderstorms provided some relief and allowed the Merlot grapes to swell. The later-ripening Cabernets remained the size of blueberries until harvest, and the Merlots will ripen slowly until mid-September. The result was a vintage harvested about ten days early, mostly in sunny conditions. Both the Merlot and Cabernet were tannic, colourful and perfectly balanced. The grapes quickly expressed an intense aromatic expression in the vats.

Vineyards

The 15-hectares of vines are located on the Côte Pavie, near the vineyards of Château Pavie, Château Pavie-Decesse and Château Troplong Mondot. There are nine different types of soil, with different variations of limestone and clay. Château Pavie Macquin has vineyards that are planted with 80% Merlot, 18% Cabernet Franc, and 2% Cabernet Sauvignon. The vines tend to ripen a bit later here, and the grapes are optically sorted before vinification at Château Pavie Macquin.

Harvest

Manual harvests. The harvest took place from

Vinification

Harvest reception by gravity entirely manual: 4 successive sorting tables, destemming but no crushing. Gravity vatting of whole berries and separate vinification in concrete tanks. Gentle extraction by punching of the cap, at the core of the fermentation. Malolactic fermentation in barrels.



Maturation	16-20 months in barrels. 50% new oak, 50% 1-yr-old oak.
Tasting Notes	Top nose, what a fragrance, stunning, spice, terroir, floral tones, plums, ripe fruity and yet cool, terrific. In the beginning strong, concentrated, a lot of finely woven tannins and a top acidity give structure, a wine with class, power and yet a lot of elegance. Here a stone and fruit meet.
Serve with	Chateau Pavie Macquin is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. Best paired with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes. Chateau Pavie Macquin is also good when matched with Asian dishes, rich fish courses like tuna, mushrooms, and pasta.
Production	4,800 cases made.
Cellaring	Drink 2030-2050.
Scores/Awards	<p>95 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2023</p> <p>95+ points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2023</p> <p>96-98 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - May 2021</p> <p>97 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent - March 2023</p> <p>98 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - January 2023</p> <p>95-96 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2021</p> <p>95 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - January 2023</p> <p>95-97 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 2021</p> <p>16.5+ points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2021</p> <p>97 points - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - January 2023</p> <p>95 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - May 2021</p> <p>96 points - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - January 2023</p> <p>98 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2023</p> <p>96-98 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2021</p> <p>93 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2021</p> <p>89-91 points - Farr Vintners - May 2021</p> <p>91-93 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - April 2021</p> <p>100 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2023</p> <p>96-98 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - June 2021</p> <p>96+ points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2023</p> <p>95-97 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - May 2021</p> <p>94 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - March 2023</p> <p>95-97 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2021</p> <p>98-99 points - Vert de Vin - May 2021</p> <p>92-94 points - Michael Schuster, The World of Fine Wine - May 2021</p> <p>18 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - September 2021</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Very expressive, with a lovely violet and cassis set of aromas and flavors that spill forth, though this keeps focus and form, as subtle minerality and a very fine-grained structure allows this to flow gracefully through the finish. Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Best from 2028 through 2040. 4,800 cases made."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The 2020 Pavie Macquin is performing well in bottle, unwinding in the glass with aromas of sweet raspberries and cherries mingled with notions of orange zest, violets, spices, bay leaf, and vine smoke. Medium to full-bodied, layered, and concentrated, it's deep and fleshy, its ample core of fruit framed by youthfully firm, chalky tannins. As usual, it's more structured than Larcis Ducasse, and it remains a bottling that will demand some patience, even if the Thienpont team have subtly eased off on extraction over the last few vintages, a welcome trend that I hope will be pushed further."</i></p> <p><i>This 15-hectare vineyard, perched on the edge of Saint-Émilion's limestone plateau above Château Pavie, is a labor of love for Nicolas Thienpont and Stéphane Derenoncourt. It was here, in the 1990s, that they pioneered biodynamic farming, then considered eccentric. And it's here that their viticultural ideas have been put into practice: cover crops, high canopies and higher planting densities are all the order of the day. The vineyards are gradually being restructured, with Cabernet Franc displacing Cabernet Sauvignon and some Merlot (it will augment to around 25% of the blend in the years to come), and Merlot being repositioned to more appropriate locations, generally higher up the slope. In the cellar, winemaking displays more refinement than a decade ago—when pushing the boundaries, one sometimes exceeds them. There's less saignée (tank bleeds) these days, though I wonder if, given the quality of the site and its farming, any are required at all? Extraction is already perceptibly gentler, and oak is better integrated."</i></p> <p>- WK, Wine Advocate</p>

Reviews

"The 2020 Pavier Macquin has an opaque purple-black color, exploding from the glass with an intoxicating perfume of violets, Ceylon tea, forest floor and eucalyptus over a core of blackberry preserves, Morello cherries and stewed plum, plus wafts of crushed rocks and unsmoked cigars. The medium to full-bodied palate shimmers with energetic red and black fruit layers and loads of floral and earthy sparks, framed by exquisitely ripe, finely grained tannins and amazing tension, finishing with a long-lingering perfume of black fruits. A real head-turner!"

- LPB, Wine Advocate

"Composed of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc, the 2020 Pavier Macquin is deep garnet-purple in color. It bursts with bold notions of baked plums, boysenberries, and fresh, juicy blackberries, plus hints of Indian spices, violets, and clove oil. The full-bodied palate explodes with vibrant black and blue fruits, supported by super-soft tannins and a lively backbone, leading to a long and perfumed finish on this beautiful wine."

- LPB, Wine Independent

"I have never had a Pavier Macquin like this. It's so fresh and vivid with black cherry, currant, and raspberry characters, as well as citrus. Some minerals and spice. Salt, too. The palate is full and linear with a verticality that takes you so deep and long. Endless. Transparent. Drink after 2028."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Sweet-berry and orange-peel aromas with hints of stone and oak on the nose. Medium-bodied with firm tannins and a fine-grained finish. Restrained plushness to this. Reserved."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This full wine's ripe black fruits are velvety in texture and density. Inherently powerful, the wine keeps a great sense of proportion and balance. It has good acidity, with the freshness and balance coming together. Drink from 2027."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"While the wine certainly has power and density what is really impressive is the glorious black fruits that shine through the texture. The wine's richness is considerable, but it is part of a complex series of layers of fruit and final freshness. Barrel Sample: 95-97."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Full bottle 1,340 g. Undated cask sample. 80% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc. Dark purple. A very supple nose. Round fruit and all but imperceptible tannins until the very end. A savoury yeast-extract note on the fumey finish. Sappy and appetising. Acidity is much more important than sweetness in this wine – which is no bad thing. Settled, comfortable finish. Long and reverberant. 14.5%. Drink 2028 – 2044."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Vivid and vibrant nose, full of rose petals, lilac floral edges, strawberries, and black cherries. Forward, expressive, perfumed, alive. Sensual on the palate, smooth, velvety soft, intense but well balanced with a gorgeous plush, mouthful of ripe tannins. Really very good with the right intensity, structure, and push. Powerful but controlled, poised yet plush, wild, and raw yet pretty too with tons of energy and St-Emilion glamour. Has a core of juicy, bright red fruits with a grainy, herbal edge to the strawberries, a lovely bitterness, and edges of liquorice, slate, and wet stone - nuanced and aromatic. I love this, they haven't pushed too far, and the acidity is brilliant. Clean and precise."

- GH, Decanter.com

"There is a richness here, a powerful spread of black fruits, that grabs you from the start. Perhaps less razor precision than the Larcis Ducasse (also part of the Nicolas Thienpont stable) but more width and depth of flavour. This has texture and brambled power, sappy saline on the finish, touches of austerity, graphite laced through with grilled cassis and aniseed. Some reduction at this point will clear over barrel ageing. Tasted several times, and each time the pumice stone and chalk of limestone grips on and will not let go."

- JA, Decanter.com

Reviews

“Both opulent and restrained, with layers of creamy blueberry and blackberry fruits, concentrated espresso and cocoa bean, tingles of mandarin peel, a brilliant wine that sings of the appellation and terroir. 15ha estate on superb limestone soils, Stephane Derenoncourt consultant, Nicolas Thienpont director, 31hl/ha yield.”

- JA, janeanson.com

“Deeply colored with a showy nose packed with smoke, espresso bean, flowers, licorice, black cherries, plums, and chocolate. The wine is rich, full-bodied, deep, and concentrated with layers of sensuous, flamboyant, silky fruits that express purity, depth, and complexity. The lingering finish builds in intensity finishing with intriguing touches of citrus peel, red pit fruit, and dark chocolate. In a few years, this could be even better. Drink from 2025-2055.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Inky in color, with dark purple accents, the wine explodes with flowers, incense, licorice, black fruit, and touches of blueberries. Rich, intense, flamboyant, sensuous, and silky, this hits all your pleasure buttons simultaneously. The wine paints your palate with layers of decadently ripe fruit that is simultaneously sweet, fresh, and dense. The seamless finish does not quit. Instead, it builds and expands, growing in intensity and complexity. This is going to be stunning with a decade or so of aging.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“The 2020 is 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc from a yield of 31hl/ha. Blueish ruby in the glass. A nose of cherry drop and bubblegum with a whiff of baked fruit on the nose. The palate is very sweet, with confectioned fruits and baking spices. The tannins are firm and dry, bringing a big structure that currently sits awkwardly against the fruit. Candied but long on the finish.”

- Farr Vintners

“The 2020 Pavie-Macquin has a boisterous, attention-grabbing bouquet of opulent blueberry and kirsch scents, a touch of orange pith developing with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied with a sweet entry, certainly one of the most exotic wines from the estate in recent years, and a luscious finish, where I would like to feel more of the Cabernet Franc. This needs a very prudent élevage.”

- NM, *Vinous*

“The 2020 Pavie Macquin is sensational. Rich, dark and explosive, the 2020 balances the natural richness that is such a signature of the estate with a level of energy and vibrancy I have not seen here in the recent past. The result is a towering, imposing Pavie Macquin that hugely delivers. In this vintage, regisseur Nicolas Thienpont did not use the Cabernet Sauvignon, so the blend is 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc, with the Franc lending aromatic presence, energy, and depth. What a total knock out!”

- AG, *Vinous*

“The 2020 Pavie Macquin is one of the most exotic Saint-Émilions of the year. Inky red fruit, lavender, rose petal, mint, plum and kirsch all open in the glass. Succulent and racy to the core, the 2020 possesses mind-blowing intensity yet remains fresh, vibrant, and full of energy. It is one of the most alluring and complete recent vintages I can remember tasting. In a word: dazzling.”

- AG, *Vinous*

“The dense purple-hued 2020 Château Pavie Macquin checks in as a blend of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc from yields of 31 hectoliters per hectare and a selection of 85% of the production. Incredibly pure cassis and blueberry fruits as well as complex spring flowers, liquid violets, white truffle, and a liqueur of limestone-like minerality define the aromatics, and it's medium to full-bodied on the palate, with ultra-fine tannins, the vintage's pure, focused, structured profile, and a great finish. As in most vintages, this beauty is not for instant gratification and needs 7-8 years, if not a decade of cellaring to show its potential. It's another true vin de garde from the team of Nicolas Thienpont (Stéphane Derenoncourt also consults) that readers will love to have in their cellar. Rating: 96+.”

- Jeb Dunnuck

Reviews *“This cooler, limestone terroir has created a gorgeous 2020 Château Pavie Macquin displaying the classic, pure, elegant style that’s common from this address. Inky colored, with incredible cassis fruits as well as notes of white flowers, candle wax, tobacco leaf, and charcoal, it hits the palate with medium to full-bodied richness, flawless balance, and a great finish. I love this wine, which has a monster of a mid-palate yet stays tight and focused on the palate, with riveting precision. Based on 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc, it’s going to need a good decade of bottle age but will be incredibly long-lived. 95-97+.”*
- Jeb Dunnuck

“Deep ruby, opaque core, purple reflections, brightening on the rim. Attractive bouquet of sea buckthorn, liquorice and vanilla, fine noble wood nuances underneath, a plenty of red fruit and candied orange zest. Complex, juicy, red cherry fruit, finesse, rich acidity, ripe, integrated tannins, long lasting, fruity finish, salty aftertaste.”
- PM, Falstaff Magazine

“On the nose, nicely conducted, aromatic, distinguished, elegant and offers power (in delicacy), fine texture, a certain density (all-in all-in accuracy) as well as a nice multi-layer side and depth. It reveals notes of bursting blackcurrant and boysenberry and more lightly pulpy strawberry combined with small touches of blueberry, strawberry, violet, fine hints of licorice stick, spice, and an imperceptible hint of sense of terroir (local biotope). On the palate, fruity, fresh, mineral, elegant, nicely defined and offers gourmandize, precision, power, a nice multi-layered side (in delicacy) and a fine texture. The wine expresses pulpy/juicy black currant, bright blackberry, and more lightly pulpy/creamy dark berry notes with hints of raspberry as well as hints of violet, lily, sweet spice, hazelnut, discreet graphite, orange, vanilla, and an imperceptible hint of toast/chocolate. Good length. The tannins are elegant, precise, massive, and mellow. A rich wine that offers density, power while being delicate and elegant.”
- Vert de Vin

“(31hl/ha). Dense and oaky on the nose, black-fruit dominated; very full, firmly tannic, and very marked by its acidity; this gives all the concentrated ripe black fruit a long and linear character, a great support to the wine, and a very nice definition to the finish; long and elegant and refined for the cru, and with great aromatic length. A lovely Pavie Macquin in its slightly sturdy style, indeed maybe the best to date? But its structural combination of tannin and acidity means it will be years in the mellowing. 2032–52+.”
- MS, The World of Fine Wine
