

Château Cos d'Estournel 2015

CSPC# 801706

750mlx6

13.4% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23.5% Merlot, 1.5% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

Saint- Estèphe

Classification

Second Growth. Deuxieme Grand Cru Classe in 1855.

Website

<http://estournel.com/cos/cos-destournel-red/?lang=en>

General Info

In the old Gascon language, the word Cos means the hill of pebbles. Between Pauillac and Saint-Estèphe, separated from Château Lafite by the stream known as La Jalle du Breuil, the hill of Cos dominates the Gironde from the height of almost 65 feet. Born in 1762 during the reign of Louis XV and died in 1853 under Napoleon III, Louis Gaspard d'Estournel, who inherited a few vines near the village of Cos, had one sole passion: Cos. Louis Gaspard d'Estournel became known as the Maharajah of Saint-Estèphe. To celebrate his distant conquests, he had exotic pagodas erected over his cellar. In 1852, overwhelmed by debts he had accumulated in order to extend and beautify the estate, he was obliged to sell Cos to a London banker called Martyns. In 1855, the work of Louis Gaspard d'Estournel was consecrated by the imperial classification of 1855 placing Cos d'Estournel at the head of Saint-Estèphe. In 1869, the chateau was sold to the Errazu, an aristocratic Basque family, then to the Hostein brothers in 1886 and to Fernand Ginestet, one leading Bordeaux wine merchant, in 1917. The chateau has been belonging to Michel Reybier since 2000. In 2002 was constructed a new winery with a liquid CO2 cooling tunnel, small 19 to 115 hectoliter isothermal stainless-steel cone-shaped tanks and four 100 litre used to replace the traditional pumping over process. Cos d'Estournel has become, in the eyes of lovers of fine wines, the archetype of a certain style of masculine elegance in which immense power is combined with grace and smoothness. Impressive when young for the intensity of its structure and explosive fruit, Cos d'Estournel evolves slowly to arrive, when completely mature (after ten to thirty years) at an admirable smoothness and aromatic complexity. Great vintages can be exceptionally long living, exceeding a century.

Vintage

A cool winter, a warm spring, and a mixed summer; mild weather conditions for the harvest.

- From January to March: Temperature and rainfall close to the average.
 - May and June: Mild.
 - July: Hot and dry.
 - August and September: Cooler than average with some stormy showers in August and a rainy spell from 11 to 15 September.
 - Bud burst: A little later than usual followed by very regular growth.
 - Flowering: First flowers on 25 May and Full flowering on 4 June
- Despite a slow start to flowering, it was then rapid and even.
- Véraison: Mid-véraison on 4 August. As with the flowering, it was rapid and even.
 - Leaf removal: Leaf removal between the end of June and beginning of July, adapted to the water stress of each plot, and even within plots.

Vineyards

The vineyard of Cos spreads around the château on 91 hectares. The Cabernet Sauvignon vines (60% of the vineyard) find the soil of their choice in the thin layers of gravely soil situated on the top and on the southern slopes of the hill. On the other hand, the Merlot vines (40% of the vineyard) excel on the eastern slopes and on the slopes where the Saint-Estephe limestone bed shows on the surface. The percentage of Cabernet and Merlot varies from one vintage to another according to the year weather conditions, benefiting successively to the one or the other. Plantation is extremely dense (8000 to 10000 vines per hectare) and the average age of the vineyard is high (35 years old on the average) in order to enable the roots to extend excessively and to obtain a very slender yield per vine that will create the "Grand



Vineyards	Goût" Only the wines coming from over 20 years old vines will have the name of Château Cos d'Estournel.
Harvest	picked between 17 September and 5 October at 44 hl/ha
Maturation	The grapes were small with thin yet robust skins. A rapid extraction of anthocyanins was noted during the pre-fermentation macerations. The use of the gravity proved to be even more useful this year for the merlots with a high tannic potential. It also enabled better control of components of the musts due to much gentler extractions, producing smoother tannins, while at the same time preserving the vintage's freshness and fruity character. Aged 70% in new barrels during 18 month/s
Tasting Notes	The rigor of the selection combined with the large proportion of Cabernet Sauvignon has revealed a wine with unique balance, very precise, very pure with a wide-ranging of aromatic complexity, both fruity and spicy. On the palate, the tannins are silky and intense, with a particularly long and brilliant finish.
Production	15,000 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2022-2042
Scores/Awards	<p>92 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2018</p> <p>95 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - February 2018</p> <p>92-94 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #224 - April 2016</p> <p>94 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - March 2018</p> <p>98 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2018</p> <p>97-98 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2016</p> <p>96 points / Cellar Selection - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 2018</p> <p>95-97 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2016</p> <p>18.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2016</p> <p>95 points - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2016</p> <p>96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2018</p> <p>95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - July 2017</p> <p>95-96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2016</p> <p>96-97+ points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - March 2016</p> <p>93 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2016</p> <p>16.5 points - Farr Vintner - March 2016</p> <p>92-95 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2016</p> <p>95 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - May 2016</p> <p>94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2018</p> <p>92-95 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2016</p> <p>93 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2018</p> <p>18.5+ points - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2016</p> <p>95-97 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - May 2016</p> <p>18.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - June 2016</p> <p>18 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - April 2016</p> <p>18 points - Gault & Millau (score only) - June 2016</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"This has a gently steeped core of currant, plum and black cherry fruit, infused with black tea, singed juniper and smoldering tobacco notes. The vintage's overt austerity is less evident here, with a gloss of alluring toast adding polish to the finish. A strong effort. Best from 2020 through 2032. 15,000 cases made."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The 2015 Cos d'Estournel is composed of 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23.5% Merlot and 1.5% Cabernet Franc. Deep garnet-purple in color, it offers up black currants, spice cake, warm cherries and plum preserves with touches of chargrill and forest floor. Medium-bodied and very firm with ripe, grainy tannins, it has a good core of earthy fruit, finishing with loads of layers and freshness."</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The 2015 Cos d'Estournel is a blend of 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23.5% Merlot and 1.5% Cabernet Franc that was picked between 17 September and 5 October at 44 hl/ha. It is being matured in 65% new oak, less than in recent years due to the tannin (IPT is 71). Deeper in color than the 2015 Pagodes, it has a very pure bouquet with tightly knitted blackberry, blueberry and violet scents, perhaps just a little Margaux-like in style. The palate is medium bodied with supple tannin, well-judged acidity and harmonious in the mouth. What it does not quite deliver is the complexity of a top-tier Cos d'Estournel or the peacock's tail of flavors on the finish, which feels</i></p>

Reviews *linear and conservative compared to its peers in more southerly appellations. You feel as if the vintage put a tight leash on this Saint Estèphe grandee. There is pedigree in this Grand Vin for sure and it is bound to give up to 20 years of pleasure.”- NM, - - NM, Wine Advocate*

“The 2015 Cos d’Estournel is backward and broody on the nose, just like the Pagodes de Cos, but it unfurls nicely in the glass to reveal intense blackberry, graphite and light tobacco aromas. The oak is nicely integrated here. The palate is medium-bodied with impressive depth, well-judged acidity and plenty of tobacco-infused black fruit. I appreciate that this embraces the character of Saint-Estèphe with that earthy, almost ferrous finish coming through on the grippy finish. Yes, there remains a slight sense of conservatism toward the finish and granted, it is predestined to be overshadowed by the exemplary 2016. Yet this is a fine Cos d’Estournel that should give 20 to 25 years of drinking pleasure.”

- NM, Wine Journal

“Super aromas of nutmeg, cloves and dried flowers with plums and blackberries. Subtle yet so complex. Full-bodied, tight and integrated with ultra-fine tannins and a beautiful finish. Lasts for minutes. Very, very Cos. Harmony. Texturally marvelous. Drink in 2024.”

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“This shows what great selection did in the northern Médoc. Big surprise. Really excellent. Full body, chewy and rich tannins and loads of ripe fruit. Black currants, blueberries. It has hot and ripe tannins yet cool fruit.”

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“While this wine is rich, it has a classical demeanor, with fine tannins that support but never dominate the ripe black fruits. Full of juicy acidity, it offers black currants and some fine, firm tannins at the end. This will take some time to mature, and the wine will not be ready to drink before 2027.”

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“95–97. Barrel Sample. Ripe, dusty tannins give a dry edge to the full, rich fruits. It has a structure that comes out of old Cabernet vines that form the core of this wine. Dark, full and with considerable concentration, the wine is dense and will need many years to develop.”

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23.5% Merlot, 1.5% Cabernet Franc. IPT 71. 65% new oak. Extremely dark crimson. Lovely spice and breadth. Hint of tobacco leaf with lots of ripe fruit. Very comfortable. A lovely pair of slippers. Real tension and ripeness - great combo. Nothing forced. Ethereal and builds towards the end. Certainly, has the graphite ingredient.”

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“Rich fruit that is full of that classic exotic Cos spice, yet more restrained than in the past with a slatey graphite base. Beautifully put together; an exciting wine that will grow in complexity and flavour. (SS)”

- SS, Decanter.com

“Full bodied, richly textured and with equal amounts of elegance and power, the wine is loaded with sweet, ripe, dark, red fruits, Asian spice, tobacco, thyme, wet earth, blackberry and cassis. With lush, refined textures and a sweetness to the fruit on the palate, this will be much better with at least one decade of aging.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Losing its baby fat and firming up, gaining in intensity and finesse, the wine is full bodied, fresh, deep and concentrated with ripe, spicy, cassis and black fruits.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

With fine intensity of color, this wine leans to the elegant, fresh side of the style range, a thrill for those tasters who think Cos has gone too far on the ripe side. (I’m not one of those people) Soft and lush with salty tannins and supple, round textures, blackberry, dark chocolate and espresso heighten the smooth, refined finish. The key

Reviews

"to this year's successful vintage was in the selection. Only the oldest vines, vines dating back at least 55 years, were used in the process and only 39% of the harvest was placed in the Grand Vin. Produced from a blend of 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23.5% Merlot and 1.5% Cabernet Franc, this wine reached 13.4% alcohol with a pH of 3.77 and is now aging in 80% new, French oak barrels."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Dark at centre; colour close to the edge; seriously deep with a voluptuous edge; black fruits; dark cherries, some spice – a lovely seam of pure fruit here; plushness on the palate; very clean and cool entry; lots of layers; pretty voluptuous effort this. Best Cos since 2010 I reckon. Drink 2024-2040. Tasted at Cos 4/4/16. 96-97+"

- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

"This is a very good rather than a great Cos. Deeply coloured and richly oaked, it has nice spice and smoky oak, with well-integrated tannins and good length, but I'd like a little more stuffing in the middle of the wine. Drink: 2022-28"

- TA, timatkin.com

"Cos is in Saint Estephe but borders Pauillac and, in particular, the vineyards of Chateau Lafite. Quality was good in the 1990's but, since the 2001 vintage, it has reached another level. In some vintages the quality level is not far from that of the first Growths. The stunning new winery is the most modern and sophisticated in all of Bordeaux, with the world's only 100% gravity cellar - no pumps used at all. Cos is now battling it out with Léoville Las Cases, Ducru Beaucaillou and Palmer as the Médoc's best non-First Growth. Following the departure of Jean-Guillaume Prats the new man at the helm is Aymeric de Gironde who has joined from Pichon Baron. The only problem at Cos is the en primeur pricing policy which has seen vintages not yet in bottle being offered at higher prices than those at which the consumer can buy recent mature vintages. The 2015 vintage is made from vines averaging 55 years of age - 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23.5% Merlot and 1.5% Cabernet Franc. Elevage is in 65% new oak and only 39% of the total production will go into the grand vin. Aymeric describes this wine as having "elegant refinement". Vivid purple colour. Blueberry and fresh blackcurrant on the nose. Creamy black cherry and a hint of sweet vanilla. The palate is fresh and pure with smooth, fresh, elegant cassis and cherry fruit. Harmonious and elegant rather than a blockbuster that works with the conditions of the vintage. Floral, lifted and vibrant on the finish with superb energy of juicy black fruit."

- Farr Vintners

"The mix of black fruits on the nose is sweet the start of the palate has depth rich black cherry. Lighter in the middle bright fresh fruit a hint of spice yet there is richness and sweetness at the back a feeling of balance."

- Derek Smedley MW

"An exuberance of spices and plummy ripe fruit. The wine is detailed and rich but without heaviness. A round, plush Cos without weight and excess and a gentle mouthfeel. There is nice density and depth and the tannins are well managed. Long length. 13.4% alcohol. No saignee. Harvest was from mid-September to early October. 75% Cabernet in this blend; 24% Merlot."

- JCL, asianpalate.com

"Easily one of the most successful wine in Saint Estèphe in 2015, Cos d'Estournel is just gorgeous. Elements of exoticism appear on the bouquet, followed by generous black cherry, smoke, leather, licorice, menthol and mocha. Naturally, it will be many years before the 2015 is ready to offer a truly complete drinking experience, but it is superb even in the early going. The 2015 was bottled in July 2017. (AG)"

- AG, Vinous

"A wine of cool sophistication and polish, the 2015 Cos d'Estournel is endowed with striking length and overall balance. Silky tannins support a core of graphite, smoke, licorice, incense, tar and dark spice. The 2015 is perhaps not as aromatically nuanced or expressive as in the very best years (although that may develop in time), but it offers terrific persistence through to the finish. Finesse and nuance are the key signatures in the 2015 Cos. Only 39% of the crop went into the Grand Vin, as opposed to the more typical 50% or so."

- AG, Vinous

Reviews *“Stunning nose, superb control and great poise, this is a serious and rather thoughtful Cos with terrific refinement. It seems to be sitting quietly and running over in its mind the complexities of the vintage and the success it has made of itself. Wonderfully calm initially and then smooth on the mid-palate, the tannins build and then storm the palate on the finish but rather than leaving your mouth dry, they then fade and leave your mouth watering but not wounded. It seems that any potential aggression in the tannins was ameliorated by the hot summer. This is a superb wine which starts quietly, builds then retreats to an incredibly calm and long finish. Interestingly, the yields were lower in 2014 but more wine was made, whereas the yields were slightly higher in 2015 because of the perfect flowering but more selection was made, and this meant that they made fractionally more wine this year.”*

- MJ, matthewjukes.com

“The 2015 Cos D'Estournel is a classic wine from this estate and a terrific effort from the northern Médoc. Compared to both 2007 and 2004 by the estate and representing only 39% of the total production, it offers a fresh, classy bouquet of crème de cassis, black raspberries, toasty oak, graphite and damp earth. Made from 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot and the rest Cabernet Franc, this medium to full-bodied 2015 has solid mid-palate depth, fine, polished tannin, and a great finish. It's going to improve with short-term cellaring and keep for two decades.”

- Jeb Dunnuck
