

# Château Bernadotte Cru Bourgeois 2009

CSPC# 749537

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

SOLD OUT

**Grape Variety**  
**Appellation**  
**General Info**

60% Merlot, 40% Cabernet Sauvignon  
Haut-Medoc

This Haut Medoc property is situated just outside the boundary of the Pauillac appellation. In 1997 Château Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande acquired Château Bernadotte in the Commune of Saint Sauveur which borders the Pauillac appellation to the west close to a number of classified growths and only a few kilometers away from Pichon. This property particularly interested Madame de Lencquesaing, owner of Pichon, first of all because her family have always enjoyed managing Bourgeois growths with great enthusiasm. She was also attracted by the quality of the soil made up of a very fine plateau of gravel on clay, by its position close to Pauillac and by its proximity to prestigious classified growths. Finally, this has enabled her to offer a more extensive selection of wines with a wider price range, but always with reference to and under the signature of Pichon.

The name Bernadotte was given to this growth in honour of Marshal Bernadotte, appointed Sovereign Prince by Napoleon I and in a plebiscite in 1818 by the Swedish people to succeed their King Charles XIII, who died without an heir.

The château is a stunning residence in the style of the Restoration built in 1860 and renovated in 1989 by the previous owner, Curt Eklund a Swedish industrialist.

In 1998, May-Eliane de Lencquesaing and her team made important investments not only in the château, vat room and cellars but also in the vineyard (a study was made of the soil, vine-stock was replaced, and parcels replanted). New buildings for storage have been built and the property today is fully equipped with all the facilities necessary for the elaboration of a great wine.

In 2007, Château Bernadotte as well as Château Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande became the property of the Louis Roederer Champagne house, under the management of Frédéric Rouzaud.

**Vineyards**

At the time of purchase, the vineyard was parceled out and in a bad state. It has been consolidated so as to group the parcels together on the best soils of the commune. Then after an accurate study of the soils and sub-soils of the various parcels, a campaign of replacing vine-plants was undertaken, accompanied by progressive replanting of several parcels. The vineyard today is spread over 35 hectares grouped together around the Château. The soils in the main are gravelly/sandy and naturally well drained with an important degree of clay in depth, permitting resistance to draught and moderate water stress during the maturation period of the grapes. The progressive restructuring of the vineyard has slightly changed the grape varieties planted at the time of the purchase. The proportion of Merlot (44%) has been increased in order to give the wines a more supple and fruity structure. The Cabernet Sauvignon which ensures the body and ability to age represents 50% of the vineyard. Finally, 4% of Cabernet Franc and 2% of Petit Verdot give the wines of Bernadotte their freshness and complexity.

**Harvest**

The grapes are picked by hand by a team of 75 pickers. The sorting of the harvest is carried out directly in the parcels so that only grapes that are ripe and sound enter the vat-room. In 1997 the vat-room was enlarged and today holds 23 thermo-regulated vats.

**Vinification/  
Maturation**

The old cellars have been completely rebuilt. A new cellar was created in 1999. The aging period lasts between 12 and 16 months. The oak barrels, coming from the center of France are made by the finest coopers. The proportion of new wood varies depending on the vintage. In general, it is 30% for the first year.



<b>Tasting Notes</b>	Sweet, creamy and very approachable for a primeur sample. A touch of toast from the 30% new oak barrels. The fruit is ripe fleshing out the nose and giving sweetness on the palate. Backing the mix of blackcurrant and bramble is red cherry its freshness balancing the sweetness and giving brightness on the finish. This will be lovely at an early age, sure to be a bargain. Probably the best ever from this property.
<b>Production</b>	14,580 cases made
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2012-2027
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>87 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2012</p> <p><b>87-90 points</b> - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2010</p> <p><b>89 points</b> - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #199 - February 2012</p> <p><b>90-92* points</b> - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #188- April 2010</p> <p><b>90 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - January 2012</p> <p><b>89-91 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2010</p> <p><b>90 points</b> - Stephen Tanzer, ST's International Wine Cellar - July 2012</p> <p><b>88-91 points</b> - Ian D'Agata, ST's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2010</p> <p><b>16 points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 20, 2010</p> <p><b>16+ points/4 stars</b> - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2010</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>"Fresh, with a floral edge leading the way for gentle red currant, plum and tobacco notes. A twinge of iron marks the finish, but this stays rounded and gentle. Almost too easy in the end. Drink now through 2016. 14,580 cases made"</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"A solid core of fruit in this young claret, with blackberry and chocolate character, medium body and medium finish. Dense and straightforward. Score range: 87-90"</i></p> <p>- JS, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"This blend of 60% Merlot and 40% Cabernet Sauvignon is one of the best wines to yet come from this estate, owned by the proprietors of Pichon Lalande in Pauillac. Juicy, succulent, cedary black currant fruit intermixed with licorice, herbs and spice box are very pure, authoritative and substantial. Dark ruby/purple, medium to full-bodied and delicious, this wine should be drunk over the next 10-15 years. A sleeper."</i></p> <p>- RP, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The finest La Bernadotte made to date, this 2009 is an undeniable sleeper of the vintage. Composed of 47% Cabernet Sauvignon, 47% Merlot, and the rest Petit Verdot, it reveals a dense purple color along with a big, sweet kiss of black cherries, black currants, charcoal, and spice. With layers of fruit, decent acidity, freshness, and precision, and an opulent, fleshy, succulent style, it should drink easily for a decade or more. (Tasted once.)"</i></p> <p>- RP, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Tasted at Chateau Pichon-Lalande. The Bernadotte 2009 has a slightly subdued bouquet at first, but opens ajar, offering blackberry, cedar and crushed stone. Very fine delineation although it does not exude vigour at this stage, partly due to bottling. The palate is medium bodied with a subtle, peppery entry and shows good weight on the mid-palate. Very tensile and taut, strict and linear towards the finish but showing very fine purity with a vibrant finish. That bouquet should awake with another 12-18 months, but which time this will be a very fine Bernadotte. Tasted September 2011."</i></p> <p>- NM, Wine Journal</p> <p><i>"This has a slightly disjointed nose at first, blackberry, a touch of smoke, something a little estuarine perhaps. Coalescing nicely with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied: firm tannins, good definition, a slight powdery texture, very fine clarity and sense of joie de vivre towards the symmetrical finish. Conservative but very well focused. Tasted March 2010."</i></p> <p>- NM, Wine Journal</p> <p><i>"Good full red. Redcurrant, mocha and cedary, smoky oak on the ripe nose, with a hint of peppery lift. Lush, ripe and concentrated, offering a dense, thick texture for this wine and a hint of salty herbs. Nicely subtle and perfumed in the mouth. Finishes with suave tannins and sneaky length. A sleeper of the vintage, for drinking over the next 15 years."</i></p> <p>- ST, International Wine Cellar</p>

**Reviews** *“(a blend of 56% merlot, 40% cabernet sauvignon, 2% cabernet franc and 2% petit verdot) Ruby purple. Spicy, floral-accented aromas of ripe, fresh raspberry and minerals. More fresh raspberry and red cherry on the palate, with silky texture contributing to an overall impression of sweetness. Finishes with a hint of warmth and a lingering note of violet. A classically styled Bordeaux, and by far the best young Bernadotte to date.”*  
- ID, International Wine Cellar

*“From the Pichon Lalande stable. Extremely dark crimson. Just a hint of farmyard on the nose. Very sweet start and really quite round and fleshy. An early maturer but one that should bring a lot of pleasure. Pretty alcoholic on the finish though. Not for purists but could be very useful for restaurants and airlines. Date tasted 31st March 2010. Drink 2014-2019.”*  
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*“Dense red, good spicy, supple rich fruit, good fleshy length, quite seductive and good tannins to keep it going. Drink 2013-18.”*  
- SS, Decanter.com

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