

Château Grand Puy Lacoste 2006

CSPC# 749555

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	78% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot
Appellation	Pauillac
Website	http://www.chateau-grand-puy-lacoste.com/en/#/en/
General Info	<p>5th classified growth in 1855. The name of Grand-Puy comes from the old expression "puy" which means "hill, little hill", and this land is mentioned in documents dating from the Middle Ages. Indeed, the vineyard extends on one of the ridges of land which were made the first wines of the Medoc. Since the sixteenth century, the thought has passed from generation to generation and, by way of alliances between families, he stayed within the same descent until 1920, before resuming a destiny with Borie family in 1978.</p> <p>Under the leadership of François-Xavier Borie (Chateau Ducru-Beaucaillou), Grand Puy Lacoste is the perfect example of a classic Pauillac, tannic and full bodied. A wine for keeping, which makes part of the top of the Medoc wines.</p>
Vineyards	<p>The vines of this Fifth Growth chateau stretch across 55 hectares of the Pauillac commune, lying across well-draining gravel soil. The result is a concentrated, polished wine, showing classic Pauillac notes of dark berries, plum, spices and earth. These bottlings are dominated by Cabernet Sauvignon, which benefits from the deep gravel topsoil with a limestone basis. The Cabernet provides structure which allows these wines to generally outperform their classification. There's good aging potential here too. The estate produces a second wine called Lacoste-Borie. 90 hectares around the castle. Grape varieties of vines 75% Cabernet Sauvignon - Merlot 20% - 5% Cabernet Franc; 10,000 vines / hectare; Average vine age 38 years</p>
Harvest	21st of September to 4th of October 2006
Maturation	Vinification Long fermentation (about 3 weeks). Maturing in French oak barrels (fine) with 70% new oak for 16 to 18 months depending on the vintage.
Tasting Notes	<p>This Grand-Puy-Lacoste 2006, with a deep, dark red colour, reveals some flavours of blackcurrant liqueur, and in mouth expresses an elegant and beautiful concentration. The unit, with a velvet and long finale, conceals very round tannins. This wine could be already enjoyed, but it preserves a beautiful ageing potential.</p>
Production	13,750 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2014-2027
Scores/Awards	<p>91 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2009 89-91 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2007 92 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #181 - February 2009 90-92 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #170 - April 2007 94 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - September 2010 94-96 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2008 94-96 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - April 2007 89-91 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2007 91 points - Stephen Tanzer, ST's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2009 90-91 points - Stephen Tanzer, ST's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2008 89 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) 18 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2007 16 points - Decanter.com - September 5, 2011 92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 19, 2013 93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - July 23, 2011 16+ points - Farr Vintner - March 2007 88-91 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2007 17 points - John Berry, Berry & Rudd Wine & Spirit Merchants - April 2009 17 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)</p>



Scores/Awards **16.5 points** - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)

1 star - Le Guide Hachette des Vins - 2010

91-93 points - Falstaff Magazine - April 2012 (score only)

Reviews *"Displays blueberry on the nose, with a hint of fresh tobacco and some licorice. Full-bodied, with chocolate, berry and toasty oak. Long and very silky. Very pretty and balanced. Best after 2013. 13,750 cases made."*
- JS, Wine Spectator

"A clean young wine, with fine, silky tannins, good focused fruit and a medium-to-long finish. Caressing and refined. Score range: 89-91"

- JS, Wine Spectator

"While not at the level of the phenomenal 2005, Grand-Puy-Lacoste has produced another classic wine with the creme de cassis fruit that I often find in both Mouton Rothschild and Pontet-Canet, yet both of those vineyards are closer to the Gironde River. This wine has a pure personality, with the aforementioned classic creme de cassis notes, medium to full body, beautiful density, purity, texture, and length. If anything, this recalls a hypothetical blend of their brilliant 1995 and 1996. Tannins are elevated, so patience will be required. This was Xavier Borie's first vintage in his new state-of-the-art winemaking facility. Anticipated maturity: 2014-2027."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"While not at the level of this estate's blockbuster 2005, the 2006 exhibits a deep purple color as well as classic aromas of cassis and blueberries, ripe tannin, medium body, a distinctive minerality, and a long finish. It recalls the brilliant 1995 and 1996 made here. Fashioned from yields of 47 hectoliters per hectare, the final blend is 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot, and 3% Cabernet Franc."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"Tasted blind at Southwold '06 Bordeaux tasting. One of those wines that sulks at being poured blind in this beauty pageant and yet with patience it begins to accept the situation. The bouquet is curmudgeonly at first, dense and introverted with traditional blackberry, wild hedgerow and pencil box aromas. Very fine definition and lift. The palate is medium bodied with firm, grippy tannins, superb concentration with a touch of black pepper sprinkled over the dense black fruits that take eons to unfurl. This is a brilliant wine from Xavier Borie but like all great GPL's: think 20-years not five. Tasted January 2010."

- NM, Wine Journal

"A very intense, slightly broody nose with dense, ripe black fruits, wild hedgerow, graphite and touches of plum and blueberry. The palate is full-bodied, tannic, masculine, great weight and concentration with dense blackberry, spice and pepper towards the finish. Great length, powerful and introverted - this is a long-term Grand-Puy-Lacoste like the -82. Superb. Tasted February 2008."

- NM, Wine Journal

"Tasted at the chateau. The nose is rather subdued at first with blackberry, graphite and a touch of tar. Very tight. Further swirling reveals a touch of black coffee. The palate has good intensity of fruit, a certain coolness and reserve about it. Wonderful balance and definition, very pure, again a "no frills" Cabernet which is not problem because there is no need for any "extras" on this wine. Elegant slightly peppery finish. Reminds me a little of the 1996, but with a little more purity and expression. Sublime. Tasted April 2007."

- NM, Wine Journal

"A clean young wine, with fine, silky tannins, good focused fruit and a medium-to-long finish. Caressing and refined."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Good dark red. Perfumed, ineffable aromas of currant, cherry skin, floral oils and incense. Then juicy and penetrating on the palate, with excellent concentration and thrust to the soil-inflected flavors of currant, minerals and iron. Very suave, pure wine with the structure to age."

- ST, International Wine Cellar

Reviews *“Good red-ruby. Ripe, complex aromas of plum, minerals, cedar and nutty oak. Sweet, supple and deep, with classic Pauillac flavors of currant, plum, cedar and tobacco. Wonderfully suave and juicy wine that's not at all hard; in fact, this is filling out nicely. Finishes with subtle building length. A lovely showing.”*
- ST, International Wine Cellar

“Picking began relatively early, on 21 September. The terroir is warm and tends to ripen early. Xavier Borie likens it to 2000 and 2001. This is the final assemblage. They chose to include more press wine (11%) rather than to work too much on extraction, retaining the wine's freshness. No darker than Haut-Batailley. Thick and opulent on the nose. Very sweet and engaging, with lots of fine tannins - something reminiscent of port about this! The tannins are not at all green - very mouth-cleaning, this wine rinses the mouth. Really complete. Very gentle extraction. Much rounder tannins than most other similar wines. Totally charming. Not big but great balance and vivacity, Bravo!”
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“Sweet, red fruit, smoke, cedar and elegant fragrance. Lovely sweet and savoury fruit palate, very fine tannin, good expression and great length. Good future. Alc: 13%. Drink 2013-20.”
- Decanter.com

“With some maturity creeping into the color, the wine opens with cigar box, earth and cassis scents. The wine is starting to mature, soften and display softer textures with a crisp, cherry tinged finish.”
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Tobacco, earth, mushroom, cedar, blackberry and cassis aromatics are found with only a little coaxing. This full bodied, tannic, Pauillac delivers a cassis, blackberry and spice filled finish. This needs several more years to fully integrate.”
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Xavier Borie consistently makes one of the finest of all Pauillacs here. Now that he has left Ducru Beaucaillou to the care of his brother, he has more time to devote to this fine property which, in top vintages such as 1982, 1990, 1996 and 2000, has regularly produced quite magnificent wines. Frequently a match for Lynch Bages and Pontet Canet and usually cheaper en primeur. An extremely reliable property that the canny buyer should consider every year. This lovely nose, offers clean, focused dark fruits with hints of cassis, textbook Pauillac minerality and sweet French oak; generous and full, yet refined. The palate is smooth and easy-going, with lovely purity to the ripe, dark, mineral fruit. Clean acidity and long, refined tannins seamlessly support the fruit with great balance. Not a blockbuster, this is a classic, serious Pauillac of lovely finesse. ONE TO FOLLOW.”
- Farr Vintners

“The fragrance of violets covers the blackcurrant and bilberry. The mix of black fruits feels ripe and the roundness of the tannins gives flesh to the mid palate. A much-needed backbone does come through towards the finish.”
- Derek Smedley MW

“As the beaming François-Xavier Borie reminisced about welcoming an unknown wine writer called Robert Parker to his estate in 1978 (yes, he was unknown once) we thoroughly enjoyed his extremely stylish 2006. Focused red fruit on the nose is followed by a concentrated and silky palate in perfect harmony and balance. With more Cabernet Franc than usual in the blend, there is a sweetness and minty edge to the red and black fruit and a suppleness to the tannins that is all too rare in 2006. This continues the return to form of the 2005 in fine fashion.”
- JB, Berry & Rudd Wine & Spirit Merchants