

Château Grand Puy Lacoste 2019

CSPC# 866096

750mlx6

14.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

83% Cabernet Sauvignon, 17% Merlot

Appellation

Pauillac

Classification

Fifth Growth. Grand Cru Classé in 1855

Website

<http://www.chateau-grand-puy-lacoste.com/en/wine/1/chateau-grand-puy-lacoste>

General Info

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. Under the leadership of François-Xavier Borie (Chateau Ducru-Beaucaillou), GP 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.

Winemaker

Oenologist - R&D Director Ms Christel Spinner

Cellar Master M. Benoît Estassy

Vineyard Manager M. Antonio Flores

Consultant oenologist M. Eric Boissenot

Vintage

The 2019 vintage may certainly have caused some anxiety for winemakers in early spring, but the magic of the particularly dry, sunny and hot weather which lasted all summer through to harvesttime made this vintage a great success!

It all started with a rather mild but dry winter, marked by a lack of rainfall!

Bud burst was relatively early, around March 20, but this slight advance in the Growing cycle quickly lost ground with April and May's unseasonably cool temperatures and heavy rainfall.

Flowering started on May 29 with the Merlots and continued until June 5. This flowering happened in two stages, spread over a week: firstly extremely favourable climatic conditions: good weather, sun, heat and a light breeze, then the weather conditions changed with the arrival of wetter, cooler weather which resulted in irregular flowering and some coulure and millerandage leading to poor fertilization of the grape flower.

This month of June was marked by very large variations in both weather and temperature: the first fortnight saw very cool and rainy weather and the second was very hot with not a drop of rain!

In fact, the vines hardly saw any rain from July to September!

This resulted in a lack of water which had the effect of stopping the vines growing but also ensured that all the plants' energies and focus went into the ripening of the grapes.

The first ripe grapes were seen at the end of July - beginning of August (July 28 for the Merlots from the earliest maturing soils). The onset of ripening was both quick and homogeneous. This happened throughout the very hot days and cool nights. The significant temperature differential between night and day meant that the grapes ripened slowly, retaining a delicious aromatic freshness yet reaching a significant tannic richness.

The end of summer transformed the winemaker into an attentive spectator calmly waiting for the right time and perfect maturity to begin the harvest. The first merlots were harvested on September 20. The harvest was very healthy, the grapes very concentrated, aromatic, with perfectly ripe tannins. The harvest continued slowly but surely and ended on 4th October with the last of the Cabernet Sauvignons showing superb maturity.



Vineyards	The vines of this Fifth Growth chateau stretch across 58 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.
Harvest	September 20th to October 4th 2019
Maturation	Two successive selections before and after the destemming process. A long period of maceration (about 3 weeks). Ageing In French oak barrels (75% new barrels each vintage) for between 16 to 18 months depending on the vintage.
Tasting Notes	Grand-Puy-Lacoste 2019 is once again remarkable by the high proportion of Cabernet Sauvignon in its blend: 83% which expresses all the character and typicity of the fine gravel soils of Pauillac. This wine has an intense purple colour; deep yet bright. The aromas of powerful black fruits, in particular the bigarreau cherry, explode on the nose, underlining the characteristics of very ripe grapes whilst retaining good freshness. The whole is enhanced with a hint of spice and menthol. On the palate, the attack is very dense, precise, and complex long; an extremely aromatic and balanced mid-palate and finish paired with a bright freshness. The whole is supported by tannins which combine power and elegance already in great harmony. Once again, we find in this splendid vintage the expression of the great terroir of Grand-Puy-Lacoste expressed in all its richness and complexity. It will undoubtedly be one of the great successes of the property adding to the collection of the great vintages produced here.
Serve with	Chateau Grand Puy Lacoste is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. Chateau Grand Puy Lacoste is best paired with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes.
Production	10,000 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2024-2040
Scores/Awards	<p>95 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2022</p> <p>96 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022</p> <p>94+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent - March 2022</p> <p>96 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2022</p> <p>94-95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2020</p> <p>17.5+ points - James Lawther, JancisRobinson.com - June 2020</p> <p>16.5+ points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - December 2021</p> <p>96 points - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - January 2022</p> <p>96 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - June 2020</p> <p>96 points - Jane Anson, Insidebordeaux.com - January 2022</p> <p>96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2022</p> <p>95-97 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - June 2020</p> <p>95-98 points - Farr Vintners - May 2020</p> <p>96 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2022</p> <p>95-97 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - June 2020</p> <p>94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2022</p> <p>94 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - April 2022</p> <p>97 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2020</p> <p>97 points - Thomas Parker MW - March 2022</p> <p>95 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - June 2020</p> <p>17.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2022</p> <p>19 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - September 2020</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Dark but vibrant and racy, with sleek black currant, blackberry, and black cherry puree flavors coursing through, pierced by a graphite spine and backed by tobacco, singed alder, and freshly plowed humus notes. The long finish has a smoldering hint without sacrificing the purity of the fruit. Rock-solid. *Highly Recommended*" - JM, Wine Spectator</i></p> <p><i>"The 2019 Grand-Puy-Lacoste exhibits notions of minty cassis, plums, loamy soil, burning embers and cigar wrapper, followed by a medium to full-bodied, rich and velvety palate that's deep and concentrated, its generous core of lively fruit concealing an elegantly muscular chassis of ripe, powdery tannin. Consisting of fully 83% Cabernet Sauvignon, this is another true classic from the Borie family." - WK, Wine Advocate</i></p>

Reviews

"The 2019 Grand-Puy-Lacoste is deep garnet-purple in color. It gives subtle, slowly emerging scents of juicy blackcurrants, redcurrant jelly, and ripe plums, plus suggestions of cinnamon stick, chocolate box, camphor, and fallen leaves. Medium-bodied, the palate is firm and grainy with lovely tension cutting through the intense black and red fruit flavors, finishing on a lingering fragrant earth note."

- LPB, Wine Independent

"This is a very polished young wine with lemon-rind, blackcurrant, cedar, and lavender character. It's full, yet so refined and sophisticated, with floral undertones to the pretty fruit. The tannins are intense and long. Give this at least five or six years to soften. Try after 2025."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"A firm, silky red with intense, chewy tannins, showing structure, beauty, and intensity. Full-bodied, tight, and chewy. Racy and focused GPL. Shows a more refined structure than the 2018, but serious."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"83% Cabernet Sauvignon, 17% Merlot. Barrel sample. Deep colour. A refined classic. Fragrant, lifted dark-fruit nose with blackcurrant notes to the fore. Super palate, the tannins plentiful and firm but offering a velvety texture at the same time. Lots of freshness, even a saline edge. Builds to a long, dry, mouth-cleansing finish."

- JL, JancisRobinson.com

"Black core, dark cherry rim. Attractively smoky and dusty on the nose. Extremely firm and dense tannins, really chewy. The black fruit is there at the heart, but a lot of patience needed here. Big, chewy, honest. (JH) 14.5%."

- JH, JancisRobinson.com

"Generous nose, I love the smell here, richly fruited. The palate is on the linear, darker side with liquorice and coffee tones, lean and muscular - without any extra fat. A little austere at this point but good freshness and some bright cherry flavours on the finish. Overall, a dark, heady, deep style with plenty of power, just waiting to open and expand. Give it some time."

- GH, Decanter.com

"Lovely depth of colour, a big difference between the 1st and 2nd wines in this vintage, this just screams Pauillac with its pencil lead, charcoal, and cassis notes. Glass-staining colour, extremely silky, with liquorice and chocolate adding layers without taking away from the purity of expression. Fine tannic hold, tons of character and clear longevity - this is a brilliant wine, easily equal to the 2018 and approaching the 2016."

- JA, Decanter.com

"Inky and glass-staining damson colour, with enjoyable aromatics, slow building power that is tempered and softened by waves of violet and peony. Knitted down, muscular tannins build a wall around the black fruits. This is concentrated, signature Pauillac just as it was En Primeur, majoring on pencil lead, cloves, liquorice, and cocoa bean. 41hl/h yield, 75% new oak."

- JA, Inside Bordeaux

"Dark ruby in color, the nose pops with flowers, creme de cassis, blackberry, and cigar box notes. The wine is full-bodied, chewy, rich, concentrated and packed from stem to stern with more of that juicy, sweet cassis and red currants. There is a depth of flavor here with soft tannins and a creamy finish. This will drink well younger than many vintages of Grand Puy Lacoste, yet it will age for 3 more decades with ease. Drink from 2030-2055."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Black currants, flowers, cedar, cigar wrapper and cassis meld together on the nose. On the palate, the wine is full-bodied, round, concentrated, lush, deep, and packed with sweet, juicy cassis and blackberries, ripe tannins, and a finish marked by the purity in the fruit with the structure of Pauillac. This will age gracefully for at least 3 decades or longer."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

Reviews

“The excellent 2018 was Xavier's 40th vintage here. We expect the 2019 to be another success. The 2019 is a blend of 83% Cabernet Sauvignon and 17% Merlot, which is higher in Cabernet than normal but is the same as the superb 2010 vintage. The yield is slightly lower than last year at 41hl/ha. The wine will be aged in 75% new French oak for 18 months. Vibrant purple in the glass. Very aromatic at this early stage, with wildflowers, fresh blackcurrant and even blood orange on the nose. The spice of oak is subtle and savoury, complementing this complex fruit. The palate is glossy and layered, with fine but grippy tannins amply framing a dense and powerful core of black fruit. Despite this power and ripeness, the sensation is still one of freshness with the peppery, floral accents and fresh acidity at the core. Superb depth and drive through to a long and refined finish. An excellent Grand Puy Lacoste.”

- Farr Vintners

“The 2019 Grand Puy Lacoste, as usual, requires plenty of aeration in the glass. Then boom! You get that gorgeous, classic Pauillac raspberry and blackberry fruit infused with cedar and pencil box scents. The harmonious, poised palate has wonderful focus, very fine tannins, and a silky-smooth texture. As I remarked in my previous note, it's very pliant and persistent, with a graphite-tinged finish. A glorious Grand Puy Lacoste that will need time to assimilate the oak – but hey, GPL lovers know the rules.”

- NM, Vinous

“The 2019 Grand Puy Lacoste is deep purple in colour. Initially the bouquet is tight and so I left my sample for 15-20 minutes to open. It rewards patience with a beguiling mélange of pure blackberry, raspberry, crushed violet, and pencil shavings, very focused and mineral-driven. The palate is medium-bodied with finely chiseled tannins. Compared to the robust, tannic GPL's of old, this is much more lithe and approachable, yet it still bears the DNA of this Pauillac estate. It might not possess the flair of other 2019 Left Banks, but that it is not what I seek from this estate. Classy and full of breeding - quintessential Pauillac.”

- NM, Vinous

“The 2019 Grand-Puy-Lacoste is sublime. Silky, perfumed and light on its feet, the 2019 is a wine of grace and finesse. Crushed red berry fruit, sweet red berries, mint, spice, blood orange and mint give the 2019 a brilliant aromatic register that adds to the wine's total sense of allure. The 2019 is such a classy wine.”

- AG, Vinous

“A beautiful effort that does everything right, the 2019 Château Grand-Puy Ducasse offers a rich, medium to full-bodied, concentrated style that shows the inherent elegance, as well as richness, of the vintage. Darker currants, toasted spice, cedar pencil, and tobacco notes all define the bouquet, and it's quintessentially Pauillac with its aromatics as well as structure. It already offers pleasure, particularly with a decant (I followed this bottle for multiple days), but it will certainly benefit from 5-7 years in the cellar and is going to shine for at least two decades. Best after 2027.”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“Dark ruby garnet, violet reflections, subtle lightening of the edges. Fine cherry fruit, a hint of liquorice and cassis, fresh orange zest, delicate hints of precious wood. Juicy, elegant, and freshly structured, ripe tannins, mineral and persistent, fine nougat on the finish, very good length, sure aging potential, classic traits.”

- Falstaff Magazine

“The 2019 is a blend of 83% Cabernet Sauvignon and 17% Merlot, which is higher in Cabernet than normal but is exactly the same as the superb 2010 vintage. Bright purple colour. Highly refined and aromatic on the nose, with layers of dark cherry blossom and violet together with blackcurrant, savoury spice, cedar, and a light smokiness. The palate is wonderfully in sync, harmonious and vibrant black fruits together with subtle and perfectly judged spices from oak. The tannins are plentiful but fine, etched into the fruit to add savour and structure. Such is the balance that it is easy to underestimate the intensity here. Weightless yet expansive, this highly refined wine is unerring on the finish. A superb Grand Puy Lacoste, true to both the house style and the vintage. Worthy of a place in any cellar.”

- Tom Parker MW
