

Château Grand Puy Lacoste 2020

CSPC# 866096

750mlx6

14.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

76% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% 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 vintage was so early in all its stages that we prepared all year to harvest early, that is, from the end of August. The harvest was the last stage of a year of constant concern, in which we went from monitoring temperatures at the weather station to watching the vines closely to detect any development of powdery mildew. The last test we had to face was the storm of August 15 and its 100 mm of rainfall, which caused us great concern. Little did we know then that it would become a blessing. By the end of August, both growth and ripeness seemed normal, but when we tasted the grapes, their extremely expressive aromas were a great surprise. The rain in mid-August boosted the ripening process! The harvest was excellent, and fermentation progressed very well. The musts reveal a young monster in the making, restrained, incredibly elegant, but disciplined.

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 a 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

Exclusively hand-picked. September 14th to 26th, 2020. Yield of 31hl/ha.

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 2020 is an example once again of a vintage marked by a significant proportion of Cabernet Sauvignon in the blend - 76%, which demonstrates the tremendous potential of its terroir and completed by 24% Merlot. It's a very beautiful vintage, more classic in terms of structure than the 2018 and 2019. The bouquet releases aromas of ripe red fruit, violets, and spices. This is complemented by an attractive fresh minerality. The attack is precise, clean, and long, with its ripe and melted tannins. Overall, this is a wine of great balance, allying charm, elegance, and freshness; it is aromatic, with an aftertaste of considerable purity.

Winemaker's Notes

The assemblage, blend, of Grand-Puy-Lacoste 2020 is again largely Cabernet Sauvignon, 76%, and demonstrates the ability of our terroir to express the character and charm of great Cabernet. Our wine is a deep reddish purple, intense and bright. The bouquet is of ripe black fruit, violets, and spices. Complemented by an attractive mineral freshness. On the palate the first impression is of clean, balanced, and persistent fruit, carried by its ripe and rounded tannins. The wine is finely knit, combining charm, elegance, and freshness, with a long pure finish



Winemaker's Notes	and pronounced aromatics. Yet again, this fine vintage with its richness and complexity displays the impressive terroir of Grand Puy Lacoste. This can certainly be numbered among the great successes of the property.
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 2028-2042
Scores/Awards	<p>96 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2023</p> <p>94+ points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2023</p> <p>91-93 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - May 2021</p> <p>93 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent - March 2023</p> <p>96 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - January 2023</p> <p>96-97 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2021</p> <p>17.5 points - James Lawther, JancisRobinson.com - April 2021</p> <p>17.5++ points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - December 2021</p> <p>96 points - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - January 2023</p> <p>95 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - May 2021</p> <p>97 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2023</p> <p>94-96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2021</p> <p>93 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2021</p> <p>93-96 points - Farr Vintners - May 2021</p> <p>96 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2023</p> <p>95-97 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - April 2021</p> <p>96 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2023</p> <p>93-96 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - June 2021</p> <p>92-95 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - May 2021</p> <p>95 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - March 2023</p> <p>93-95 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2021</p> <p>92-94 points - Michael Schuster, The World of Fine Wine - May 2021</p> <p>95-96 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2022</p> <p>93-94 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - July 2021</p> <p>19 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - September 2021</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"A tightly coiled Pauillac, with a blitz of iron and savory notes wrapped around a core of cassis, damson plum and black cherry. Sleek and tightly focused, with the iron note leaving a mouthwatering echo. Plenty tight through the finish, so patience is required. Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. 10,000 cases made."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The 2020 Grand-Puy-Lacoste is excellent, offering up aromas of cassis and plums mingled with pencil shavings, violets and loamy soil framed by a touch of creamy new oak. Medium to full-bodied, pure, and fleshy, with lively acids, powdery tannins and good depth at the core, its supple, charming style belies considerable aging potential. It's a blend of 76% Cabernet Sauvignon and 24% Merlot. This 90-hectare estate (some 60 hectares of which are in production), situated in a single block on a gravel dome around the château, has long been a favorite among Bordeaux insiders. Under Emeline Borie's direction, subtle refinements have been made more than 100 soil pits were dug to better understand the château's geology; herbicides have never been used here, but now 20 hectares are devoted to a trial of organic farming; since 2013, a vertical press is used; and since 2012, the new vintage goes to barrel immediately after malolactic fermentation, before being blended early in the new year. Today's wines are a touch more immediately charming and structurally polished than the Grand-Puy-Lacoste of fifteen years ago, yet they have lost none of their classic Cabernet-driven Pauillac character."</i></p> <p>- WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Medium to deep garnet-purple colored, the 2020 Grand-Puy-Lacoste offers notes of freshly crushed black and red currants, fresh blackberries, and mulberries, plus hints of pencil lead, damp soil, and black olives. The medium-bodied palate is delicately styled and refreshing, delivering soft, skillfully managed tannins and just enough freshness to frame the juicy black fruits, finishing savory."</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Advocate</p>

Reviews

"The 2020 Grand-Puy-Lacoste has a deep garnet-purple color. It bounds from the glass with eager-to-please notes of crushed black plums, wild blueberries, and warm cassis, plus touches of violets, licorice, and wild sage. The medium-bodied palate is vibrant with crunchy black fruits and a grainy texture, finishing on a mineral note."

- LPB, Wine Independent

"A transparent and clear young Pauillac with blackcurrant, mushroom, chocolate, and wet earth. Full-bodied, layered, and flavorful with fine, velvety tannins. Plenty of graphite and blue fruit at the end."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This full-bodied red builds on the palate in a fantastic way with tight, compact tannins that grow and grow on the finish. Plenty of blackcurrant and graphite character and a flavorful finish. Same level as the excellent 2016."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"76% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot. Cask sample. Bright crimson hue. Classic in form and constitution. Firm and stately on the nose with graphite and dark-fruit notes. Juicy and fresh on the palate, the tannins smooth and refined but driving behind. Long, linear, and persistent. Should age gracefully. (JL) Drink 2028 – 2045."

- JL, JancisRobinson.com

"75% new oak. Dark crimson with black core. Leafily fragrant and lightly floral, essence of infant Cabernet, a touch of peppery spice. The oak is more obvious on the palate, but it adds a rocky finesse rather than overt toasty sweetness. Dry, compact tannins enhance the freshness. Darkly refined. 17.5+/20 points."

- JH, JancisRobinson.com

"Milk chocolate, blackcurrants, some cinnamon, floral spice notes, cedar, touch of liquorice. Smooth and supple, lovely energy and vibrancy here, really quite high-toned and in focus, lovely precision to the details here - the tannins are firm, slightly coarse and grainy but do so well to give the structure in the mouth - really give the frame while the flavour and the acidity does the talking. I like the combination of fruit and texture and acidity, feels serious while maintaining energy, focus and drive. Lovely lightness of touch, flows along the palate, I also love the red fruit aspects - strawberry, red cherry, bright, searing, really so joyful here with acidity that lasts and lasts. But a lovely crunch and bite to the tannins overall and lovely fresh ending. Long, wide, open, generous, and friendly. Finessed and refined. True signature here where they don't push too hard, not too heavy on the extraction."

- GH, Decanter.com

"Enjoyable, powerful, concentrated, not the most generous of GPLs but they have captured the essence of Pauillac, and it's hard to resist. A sappy juicy finish, full of cassis, mint leaf, and pencil lead along the way with a clear tightness to the tannic frame. A yield of 31hl/ha. 75% new oak for barrel ageing. Drinking Window 2027 – 2046."

- JA, Decanter.com

"Cassis, cigar box, dried flowers, spice, herbs, and blackberries crowd into the perfume. On the palate, the wine is full-bodied, concentrated, and rich. There is a lushness to the fruits, along with a softness and polish to tannins that is perfect for the wine and the vintage. Length, purity, complexity and a seemingly, endless, creamy finish caps everything off. This is the finest vintage ever produced at Grand Puy Lacoste. Fans of the estate, and Pauillac should be all over this wine. Drink from 2026-2060."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Dark garnet in hue, the wine comes alive with its aromatic display of peppery, savory cassis, cigar box, forest floor and herbs. Concentrated, ripe, round and with richness and flesh, the big, juicy gulp of chewy cassis in the endnote is exactly what I was looking for. Wait 8-9 years and enjoy it over the next 2-3 decades after that."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

Reviews

"The 2020 is a blend of 76% Cabernet Sauvignon and 24% Merlot, with a yield of 31hl/ha that will be aged in 75% new French oak. Yields are down 25% on last year due to few bunches of small berries in the vineyard. Deep ruby in colour. The nose is smoky, fleshy with plummy fruit and vibrant with cherry blossom. The palate is finely etched, with pure cherry fruit and a savoury, cool edge. The tannins add real crunch, coating the mouth but keeping the compact proportions of the wine harmonious. Superb poise through to a long finish."
- Farr Vintners

"The 2020 Grand-Puy-Lacoste fulfils its promise from barrel. It has a very sophisticated and complex bouquet with black fruit, pencil shavings and light estuarine scents, beautifully defined and focused. The palate has real intensity and concentration, the precision belying a very intense GPL not unlike the 2016 with a persistent graphite-infused finish that is just pure finesse. Magnificent."
- NM, Vinous

"The 2020 Grand-Puy-Lacoste has a very refined, almost understated bouquet at first, but it opens in glorious fashion to offer precise blackberry and wild strawberry fruit, crushed stone, and wild mint, gaining intensity at its own pace. The palate is beautifully balanced with fine-grained tannins, a keen thread of acidity, layers of intense black fruit and quite a spicy, vibrant, and certainly persistent finish. This is a brilliant GPL from the Borie family. Drink 2027-2055."
- NM, Vinous

"The 2020 Grand-Puy-Lacoste is every bit as captivating from bottle as it was from barrel. Rich and explosive to the core, the 2020 possesses tremendous energy and nuance right out of the gate. Bright acids run through a core of ripe red plum fruit, blood orange, cedar, and pipe tobacco. The 2020 is an absolute stunner."
- AG, Vinous

"The 2020 Grand-Puy-Lacoste is an explosive, vibrant Pauillac. The bouquet alone is captivating. Lavender, grilled herbs, menthol, chocolate, and crème de cassis all race out of the glass. A wine of vertical structure and precision, the 2020 is a total stunner. It simply dazzles from start to finish."
- AG, Vinous

"The 2020 Château Grand-Puy-Lacoste is a more fleshy, textured Pauillac that still plays in the concentrated, focused, structured style of the vintage. Ripe black cherries, currants, toasty oak, chocolate, and tobacco leaf notes give way to a medium to full-bodied, richly textured 2020 that has velvety tannins, good mid-palate depth, and a great finish."
- Jeb Dunnuck

"Deep dark ruby, opaque core, purple reflections, delicate brightening at the rim. Inviting black fruits - cassis and blackberries, fine noble wood nuances underneath with a touch of herbal savouriness; an attractive bouquet. Juicy, red cherries, fresh, well-structured, intense ripe-fruit core, silky tannins, mineral-salty finish with notes of black tea, good length. Certain ageing potential."
- PM, Falstaff Magazine

"(56% CS, 24% M; 31hl/ha; 75% new). Black-red; a particularly refined and subtle "cassis-Cabernet" nose; medium-full, fresh to crisp in acidity, very fine in gently firm tannin; long, fresh, elegant, even, ripe red fruit in flavor, backed by subtle mineral impressions, long across the palate, refreshing, restrained, and with very fine tannin textures, of modest intensity and with excellent, subtly gravelly, red-fruited length. Beautifully understated by comparison with many in this often somewhat "strong" vintage. A complete, restrained, classy Pauillac. 2026-40+."
- MS, The World of Fine Wine
