

Château Pichon-Longueville Baron 2000

CSPC# 764173

750mlx12

13.3% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc
Appellation	Pauillac
Classification	Second Growth. Deuxième Grand Cru Classé in 1855
Website	http://www.pichonlongueville.com/
General Info	<p>Château Pichon-Longueville Baron, a leading Pauillac 2ème Cru Classé estate, is one of Bordeaux's most illustrious "super seconds". In 1987 it was bought by the AXA Millésimes Group, who also own Cantenac-Brown, Petit-Village, Suduiraut. AXA built a state of the art cuverie and chai at Pichon-Longueville Baron, while, in 2000, Christian Seely took over from Jean-Michel Cazes as general manager. The Cabernet-dominated Pichon-Longueville Baron is a more muscular, tannic and full-bodied wine than that of its neighbour across the road, Pichon-Longueville Comtesse de Lalande. The <i>grand vin</i> is Chateau Longueville au Baron de Pichon-Longueville. The second wine is Les Tourelles de Longueville, introduced with the 1986 vintage.</p> <p>Jean-Rene Matignon started with the Left Bank Bordeaux property in 1985. In three short years, Pichon Baron once again began producing wines of world class quality. The first vintage that brought this historic estate back to prominence was the sublime 1989 followed by the even better 1990. When Jean-Michel Cazes retired from Pichon-Baron in 2000, Christian Seely was asked to take over the management of Pichon Baron as well as the other seven properties of the wine group including Château Suduiraut in Sauternes, Château Petit Village in Pomerol, Chateau Pibran in Pauillac and Quinta do Noval in Portugal. AXA also maintains and interest in Burgundy with Domaine de l'Arlet. Christian Seely has managed many of these estates since 1993. AXA also owns one of the larger Bordeaux wine négociant companies, Compagnie Medocaine.</p>
Winemaker	Jean-Rene Matignon
Vintage	<p>Leaf removal started in the middle of June in the Merlot plots and was completed with the Cabernet at the end of July. Thinning was continued until the colour change. Regular crop thinning enables us to maintain the distinctive breed of our terroir, as it was the case in 2000, when Mother Nature is too generous. The ripeness was marked by a particularly high content of polyphenols with heavy berries. Consequently, the emphasis during vinification was on concentration and drawing-off to adjust the marc/juice ratio. The early signs of a promising vintage were confirmed by the low malic acid content of the grapes.</p>
Vineyards	<p>The 73 hectare vineyards of Chateau Pichon Baron are planted to 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot. However, the Cabernet Franc and the Petit Verdot are reserved exclusively for the second wine. This marks a change in the makeup of the vineyard with the addition of Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. The vineyard is planted to a vine density is 9,000 vines per hectare using a double Guyot training. The average age of the vines is 30 years. However, the estate has old vines. The oldest vines date all the way back the 1930's. While the vineyard occupies 73 hectares of vines, the grapes used for Pichon Baron come from the 40 best hectares in the vineyard. The vineyards of Our Grand Vin Château Pichon Baron 2nd Grand Cru Classé in 1855 comes from the very oldest vines grown on the historic plots of the estate. This authentic Pauillac offers an amazing sensory experience with its black fruit flavours and spicy hints. Château Pichon Baron shows great elegance, intensity and exceptional length on the palate. It is a wine that improves year after year and can age for over 40 years in the cellar.</p>
Harvest	<p>The Merlot are picked on September 28th and 29th and the Cabernet from October 7th to 10th. The grapes were magnificently healthy.</p>



Vinification/ Maturation	Vinification was completed rapidly and without the slightest problem. Maceration for 15 to 25 days at 29-31°C with relatively long fermentation over 10 to 15 days. Malolactic fermentation takes place in tank. The wine of Chateau Pichon Baron is aged in an average of 80% new, French oak barrels for 15 months.
Tasting Notes	Château Pichon Baron 2000 has a deep, dark colour. The nose is still somewhat hesitant, with hints of toast, cedar and dark fruit. Full-bodied and elegant, powerful and refined on the palate. The tannins are harmonious and silky. The length is truly impressive, almost captivating. Here is a vintage which will remain a benchmark for its perfectly restrained powerfulness, a marvelous expression of the distinction of the terroir backed by the remarkable quality of the tannins. <i>Jean-René Matignon - Technical Director - March 2012</i>
Serve with	Chateau Pichon Baron is best paired with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised and grilled dishes.
Production	13,500 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2022-2057
Scores/Awards	<p>94 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2016</p> <p>93 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - March 2003</p> <p>92-94 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2001</p> <p>97 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #189 - June 2010</p> <p>96 points - Robert Parker, Bordeaux Book #4 - December 2003</p> <p>96 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #146 - April 2003</p> <p>93-96 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #139 - February 2002</p> <p>94-96 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #134 - April 2001</p> <p>97 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #225 - July 2016</p> <p>95 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal 312 - March 2012</p> <p>96 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal 910 - September 2010</p> <p>96 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal 909 - September 2009</p> <p>96 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal 908 - September 2008</p> <p>95-97 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - November 2004</p> <p>95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - October 2016</p> <p>92 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 2003</p> <p>18 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - March 2010</p> <p>18.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - January 2005</p> <p>95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - July 2018</p> <p>96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - December 2017</p> <p>96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - September 2015</p> <p>95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - January 2012</p> <p>96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2010</p> <p>96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - June 2009</p> <p>96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - October 2008</p> <p>17.5 points - Farr Vintner - April 2001 (score only)</p> <p>95 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - January 2019</p> <p>98 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2019</p> <p>94 points - Tom Cannavan, wine-pages.com - January 2014</p> <p>97 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - March 2015</p> <p>94 points - Falstaff Magazine - November 2014 (score only)</p> <p>18 points - La Revue du Vin France - June 2005 (score only)</p> <p>18 points - Vinum Wine Magazine - June 2001 (score only)</p> <p>18.5 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only)</p> <p>2 stars - Le Guide Hachette des Vins - 2004</p>
Reviews	<i>"Rock-solid, with a block of currant, fig and blackberry paste notes forming the core, while youthful brambly-edged grip still holds sway throughout. Lots of enticing licorice root and sweet tobacco flavors wait in reserve, and there's nice lift from a light savory hint at the very end. Still has a ways to go. (JM, Web-2016)"</i> - JM, Wine Spectator

Reviews *"Fantastic aromas of currants, berries and hints of minerals. Cool and sleek. Full-bodied, with a lovely underbelly of ripe fruit and medium, silky tannins. Best Pichon Baron I have tasted since 1990. Best after 2010."*

- JS, Wine Spectator

Wonderful aromas of crushed berries and toasted oak, with plum and currant undertones. Full-bodied and very velvety, with a long fruity aftertaste. Best Pichon-Baron in I have tasted since 1990. Score range: 92-94"

- JS, Wine Spectator

"This is one of the great wines of the vintage, and certainly a candidate for one of the finest wines made at this estate under the management of Christian Seeley and proprietor AXA. Showing incredibly well at two tastings of 2000s, the wine has a dense bluish/purple color and a beautiful nose of incense, melted asphalt, and creme de cassis as well as hints of new saddle leather and licorice. It is superbly concentrated and very pure, with excellent texture and opulence. The acidity seems low, the tannin high but well-integrated. This is a compelling 2000 that is just closing in on its window of maturity and should stay there for at least 20 or more years. Bravo! Drink 2010-2030"

- RP, Wine Advocate

"A spectacular effort, this is a profound Pichon Baron and clearly my favorite vintage of this wine since the 1989 and 1990. An inky purple color offers up notes of barbecue spices intermixed with new saddle leather, creme de cassis, melted licorice, creosote, and a hint of vanilla. The wine is full-bodied, tremendously concentrated, with sweet tannin and a seamless finish that goes on for close to one minute. This wine has great purity, tremendous texture, and fabulous upside potential. This is a prodigious 2000! Anticipated maturity: 2008-2028."

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"This inky purple-colored, rich, full-bodied offering boasts a gorgeous nose of wood smoke intermixed with melted licorice and creme de cassis. A classic Pauillac with an impressive texture, full body, sweet tannin, and a 40+ second finish, it is a fine effort. Anticipated maturity: 2007-2025"

- RP, Wine Advocate

"The 2000 Château Pichon Baron is just getting better and better and better. Perhaps the magnum format played its part, but nevertheless... just... wow. This is a millennial Left Bank with the keys to the top drawer. It has an incredibly precise, mineral-driven bouquet with intense black fruit infused with cedar and graphite scents. It just reeks of Pauillac in an almost uncompromising, yet compelling manner. The palate is structured, stylish and effortless, extraordinarily pure and unerringly youthful. This is a Pichon Baron saying, 'You ain't seen nothing yet.' You could broach this now if you wanted, but the clever people will wisely bunker this for another decade and gloat from 2025 onward."

- NM, Wine Advocate

"Tasted at Roberson's Pichon Lalonde/Pichon Baron vertical. Let's face it: the nose completely blows away the Pichon-Lalonde 2000, so much more fruit concentration and complexity with mulberry, boysenberry, lavender and a touch of leather. The palate is full-bodied with firm tannins, superb weight, very smooth and caressing, lovely weight towards the still quite oaky finish."

- NM, Wine Journal

Reviews

"Tasted blind at Bordeaux Index's 2000 tasting in London. This is slightly reticent on the nose: blackberry, smoke, cedar, a touch of wild mushroom and sandalwood. Good definition and gaining vigour all the time with aeration. The palate is full-bodied with ripe, supple tannins, a dash of black pepper sprinkled over the ripe black, tarry fruit, foursquare and regal towards the finely tuned finish. Very good length. Elegant yet powerful in Pichon Baron's trademark style. Superb. Drink 2015-2030+ Tasted March 2010."
- NM, Wine Journal

"Tasted at the London Pichon-Baron off-line. Similar notes to before, that seductive bouquet of blackberry, briary, cedar and graphite. "Audacious" is the word I scribble down. Tannic entry, fully-bodied, fine structure and wonderful focus this has a completeness that is utterly compelling. Grippy finish with a lot of unresolved new oak. Broody – the Marlon Brando of Pichon Baron. Drink 2015-2030+ Tasted May 2009."
- NM, Wine Journal

"Wow – just how good is this? A blend of 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Franc, it has a deep garnet core with a broody, complex nose of blackberry, espresso, briary and a touch of blackcurrant wine gums! Superb delineation. The palate is full-bodied and shut down, yet the fineness of the tannins are still tangible and the seamless nature of this wine is beguiling. It will remain introverted for a few years and then wake up (hopefully) in 5-6 years. Vice-like grip on the finish. Beg, steal or borrow a case. Drink 2012-2030+. Tasted February 2008."
- NM, Wine Journal

"A wonderful 2000. Closed with firm tannins at en primeur when it was superior to Pichon Lalande. Displaying a Margaux-like nose in Sept-03 at Farr's 2000 horizontal. Last encountered in Nov-04. A dense, meaty nose with blackberry, bacon fat and ripe cherry. The palate has massive tannins, very concentrated with a huge grip. Black toasty fruits, fine acidity with pure blackberry on the finish. Great poise and elegance. A fabulous wine that will rank alongside the greats. Drink from 2015. Tasted November 2004."
- NM, Wine Journal

"A rich and spicy wine with lots of walnuts, dried berry and plum. Full and very savory. So much tobacco and sous bois. Roasted fruit too. Classic 2000. Drink now."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This is a powerful statement of ripe Cabernet Sauvignon. It has rich concentrated fruit, with ripe but dry tannins and considerable wood flavors. It is stylish, with layers of acidity and wood complementing the fruit."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Good full red-ruby. Complex nose combines plum, mocha, minerals, tobacco and burnished oak. A bit tight on entry, then expands and explodes toward the back, showing dense, insinuating flavors of black fruits and licorice. Chewy, sharply delineated Pichon-Baron with excellent underlying backbone and broad, palate-coating tannins. An outstanding vintage for this estate. (ST)"

"Dark blackish ruby, more orange than the Pichon Lalande colour. Warm, integrated nose. Dense and beautifully balanced. Pure Pauillac without recourse to pastiche. Much riper than Pichon Lalande but not overripe. Already broachable but with potential too. Good stuff! 18/20 points (JR)"
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Blackish crimson. Scented nose. Thick, rich, nervy, and really tense! Well done. Lots going on there. Reverberates."
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"This is a top bottle of Pichon that remains stuck in adolescence. Still, it is easy to see that with that difficult cocktail and resolve that is best mixed in a cold cellar, the wine is going to shine, once more of the tannins soft, and melt away. There is weight concentration, balance, freshness and layers of cassis that do not quit. But much of this beauty is being held in reserve. Give it until 2022 and let's talk about it then."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

Reviews *"This just keeps getting better and better. As the tannins soften, the cedar, tobacco, blackberry, lead pencil and smoky notes continue to build. The wine offers concentration, power and elegance, with a refined, textural finish, that let all the tobacco and cassis shine on through. It's close, but if you have 2-5 years of patience in you, the wine should be even better."*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Popped and poured, I cannot believe how well it's showing. The wine is full bodied, rich and concentrated, with a wealth of ripe, elegant, yet powerful fruits. This is really worth popping a cork on, if you haven't had a bottle in a while. Decanting would have made this even better. But we were thirsty, what can I say?"
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Blackberry, cassis, spice, truffle and forest floor aromas led to a boatload of rich, ripe, juicy, spicy, fresh, Cabernet Sauvignon. The intensity of flavor in the powerful finish, ripe, refined tannins and balance were everything you'd want in a Pauillac. While there is no problem in opening a bottle today, patience will be rewarded. Give it another 5 years. This should give pleasure and evolve until at least 2040!"
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Cassis, cedar, ripe black fruit, tobacco and spice make up the intense perfume for this Bordeaux. This powerful, intense wine is filled with layers of plush, ripe black fruit. This wine has no hard edges and offers pleasure in every sip. As good as it is, it's only going to get better. I'm not sure where this wine is trading at today, but it might be the Left Bank wine to own that pairs high quality, great style, ability to age and improve with a reasonable selling price."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"The glass can barely contain the aromatic explosion of Cuban tobacco, spice, earth, truffle and soft jammy berries. This full bodied, powerful, elegant, styled Bordeaux wine floats over your palate in layer after layer. The fruit is very polished, silky and fine. This is the most elegant style of Pichon Baron I have yet tasted. Is it better than the dynamic duo of 89 & 90. Jean Rene says "Yes!" Me, I think it is possible as this seems to more elegant and complex. Plus, it shows a little better than 89 & 90 at the same stage."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Still dark, with purple tints, you can taste the ripeness and purity in every sip. The wine reminds me of the 90 with its wonderful character. The black fruit and spice filled nose offers toast and tobacco, adding to the wine's complexities. Very concentrated with perfectly ripe fruit. The finish seems to go on for close to a minute. Because of the perfect levels of ripeness, this wine can be tasted today, but it requires another decade or longer before offering secondary characteristics."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"The 2000 Pichon-Baron has long been a great wine, after what in retrospect was a middling period during the 1990s. It retains a wonderful bouquet of blackberry, raspberry, mineral and pencil lead that is both intense and focused. The palate is medium-bodied with firm tannin. A masculine and slightly backward Pauillac, yet the arching structure is very impressive and there is a sense of solidity toward the dried-blood-tinged finish. This puts a marker down between what comes before and what comes after at this Second Growth. Tasted at the Pichon-Baron vertical at the château. (NM)"
- NM, *Vinous*

"The best since the 1990, the 2000 Pichon-Longueville Baron is just now starting to shed some baby fat and develop additional complexity and layers. This still ruby/plum-colored beauty boasts a phenomenal nose of blackcurrants, tobacco leaf, lead pencil shavings, and new saddle leather. It's deep, full-bodied, and sexy, with incredible amounts of texture and opulence that keeps you coming back to the glass. It makes a mockery of so many Bordeaux today that are made in a so-called elegant style yet lack the fat, richness, and density to ever hit this high a level. With low acidity, beautiful purity of fruit, sweet tannins, and a great finish, it's in the early to middle range of its drink window (I love it today) and has another two decades of sensational drinking ahead. Readers wanting to know what truly great Bordeaux tastes like should open a bottle of this!"
- Jeb Dunnuck

Reviews *"A very good vintage in Bordeaux, but Christian took over on 2nd January 2001, so blended this, but had no control over vineyards. Probably higher yields than Christian would have wanted. Juicy and fresh, and has a kirsch-like, lifted fragrance, a sense of lightness - maybe not the gravitas, but a beautiful wine. Cedar and tobacco notes. Delicious liquorice-licked, graphite touched stuff. The flavours are just delightful, so juicy, so fresh, a cherry and blackcurrant skin tang of freshness, but long with a chocolate touched weight to the tannins and acidity. Drinks absolutely beautifully and has substance and subtlety."*
- TC, winepages.com
