

## Château Pichon-Longueville Baron 2015

CSPC# 764173

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

CSPC# 848999

750mlx6

13.0% alc./vol.

### Grape Variety

71% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot

### Appellation

Pauillac

### Classification

Second Growth. Deuxieme Grand Cru Classe in 1855

### Website

<http://www.pichonlongueville.com/>

### General Info

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 *grand vin* is Chateau Longueville au Baron de Pichon-Longueville. The second wine is Les Tourelles de Longueville, introduced with the 1986 vintage.

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.

### Vintage

In terms of the weather, although 2015 was slightly warmer than average, it was above all very dry (706 mm of rain, compared with an annual average of 862 mm), especially between February and July, from budbreak to veraison. As a result, the berries remained small, which explains why the yield was rather low even though we had hopes of a normal crop after flowering.

Rainfall in August and September was higher than average, which helped to prevent the ripening process from coming to a halt in a vineyard already stressed by the lack of water. As a result, the grapes matured at rather different rates from one plot to another, according to the variety, the age of the vines and the terroir. In order to ensure that each grape variety and each plot was picked at optimum maturity, the harvest period was the longest in living memory. It lasted 23 days between our three estates, from the first Merlot clusters on 14 September to the last Cabernet Sauvignon grapes on 6 October.

The grapes were magnificent, and fermentation took place quickly. The wines immediately showed plenty of colour and a complete array of very intense aromas ranging from red and black fruit to spice and incense.

The tannins are generally very well-rounded, dense, and seamlessly smooth. After blending, the wines still have the same aromatic intensity and complex, full-bodied structures which barrel-maturing should further enhance.

Our 2015 vintage in Pauillac is very similar in its heft and opulence to the 2005 vintage.



**Vineyards** 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

**Vineyards** 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 Pichon Baron are situated at the southern end of Pauillac, across the street from Pichon Lalande, not far from Chateau Latour and close to the St. Julien border. The soils are mostly deep gravel.

**Harvest** Hand harvested, picked between 18 September until 9 October.  
**Vinification/** Malolactic fermentation takes place in tank. The wine of Chateau Pichon Baron is  
**Maturation** aged in an average of 80% new, French oak barrels for 18 months. Of course, the percentage of new oak and the time in barrel varies, depending on the character of the vintage. Production of Pichon Baron averages 18,000 cases per year. The estate also produces a second wine, Les Tourelles de Longueville, which made its debut in 1986. They also own and produce Chateau Pibran, a value priced, Pauillac wine.

**Cellaring** Drink 2025-2035  
**Scores/Awards** **94 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2018  
**93-96 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2016  
**97 points** - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - February 2018  
**96-98 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #224 - April 2016  
**97 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - March 2018  
**95 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2018  
**96-97 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2016  
**98 points / Cellar Selection** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 2018  
**95-97 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2016  
**18+ points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - October 2017  
**17.5+ points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2016  
**93 points** - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2016  
**94 points** - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - November 2017  
**97 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2018  
**97 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2018  
**96 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - July 2017  
**94-96 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2016  
**95-97 points** - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - March 2016  
**96 points** - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2016  
**17.5 points** - Farr Vintner - March 2016  
**94-96 points** - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2016  
**95 points** - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - May 2016  
**97 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2018  
**93-96 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2016  
**98 points** - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2018  
**18.5+ points** - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2016  
**95-97 points** - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - May 2016  
**18.5 points** - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - June 2016  
**19 points** - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - April 2016  
**18 points** - Gault & Millau (score only) - June 2016

**Reviews** *"A juicy, well-knit style, with energetic plum and black currant compote notes that are studded with anise and black tea accents. Has a muscular edge through the finish, with brambly grip holding sway for now. There's more than enough fruit to put this away for a bit. Best from 2022 through 2035. (JM)"*  
- JM, Wine Spectator

**Reviews** *“Really packed, with very energetic blackberry, black currant and plum fruit, pushed by anise and sweet spice and rumbling through the broad, iron-edged finish. Shows lots of heft, but the impression is fresh, and this is built for the long haul. Impressive. Score range: 93-96”*  
- JM, Wine Spectator

*“Medium to deep garnet-purple in color, the 2015 Pichon-Longueville Baron is enticingly scented of chocolate-covered cherries, crushed red currants and mulberries with touches of baking spices, potpourri and bay leaves plus a hint of fallen leaves. Sumptuously elegant, refreshing, and medium-bodied with gorgeous, expressive, perfumed red fruits and very fine, very firm tannins, it has a persistent, perfumed finish. Its remarkable intensity, freshness and very firm frame suggest a long-lived Pichon Baron, which should cellar gracefully for 30+ years.”*  
- LPB, Wine Advocate

*“The 2015 Pichon Baron is a blend of 77% Cabernet Sauvignon and 23% Merlot picked between 18 September until 9 October. Apparently Christian Seely made use of four additional 80-hectolitre wooden vats that augmented his stainless-steel vessels. It has a very pure bouquet with lifted blackcurrant, blueberry, and graphite aromas, beautifully delineated, the oak seamlessly embroidered with the fruit. The palate is medium-bodied with very fine tannin. This is disarmingly and utterly harmonious with a startling mineral core. Possibly the most sensual Pichon Baron that I have tasted at this nascent juncture, it gently unfolds in the mouth and leaves with an enormously persistent finish that leaves the senses tingling. If you want to know whether this 2015 is up there with the 2009 or 2010, the answer is unquestionably yes.”*  
- NM, Wine Advocate

*“The 2015 Pichon-Longueville Baron was a superlative wine from barrel, and I have no reason to change that view now that it is in bottle. It possesses an extraordinarily pure but intense bouquet with blackberry, bilberry, crushed stone and graphite that seem to gain intensity with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied with svelte tannin, great depth and cohesion, gently gripping the mouth although not as tannic or as masculine as I was anticipating, exhibiting great finesse on the finish. This is certainly within first growth quality.”*  
- NM, Wine Journal

*“This is a muscular edition with attractive, deeply ripe blackberries and plums set amid firm and assertively linear tannins that hold the finish long and on point. Cool-fruited finish. There’s great potential here. Try this from 2023.”*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*“Very solid and muscular Pichon Baron with ripe and velvety tannins. Full and very rich with balance of ripe fruit that deliver blackberry, walnut, and spice. Warm and ripe yet finishes cool and sassy.”*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*“This is one of the great successes of this vintage. It is generous and rich while also solid and structured. The combination of the essence of black currant and the elegant tannic structure are superb. This is a wine for serious aging and the wine should not be broached before 2026”*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*“The increasing quantity of Cabernet in this top wine from Pichon-Longueville shows in the purity of fruit and in the firm, dark tannins. It is dark, dense and concentrated with very fine acidity and a pure line of black currant fruits. Despite its fruitiness, it will certainly age well and long. (RV)”*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*“Notably darker than most other 2015s shown at this London Union des Grands Crus tasting. First-growth intensity on the nose. Very sweet – maybe not quite the freshness of some vintages – but definitely first growth in terms of build. Great stuff! Pure pleasure. The first wine I was tempted to drink. 18+/20 points.”*  
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

**Reviews** *"Dark crimson. Much less immediately attractive on the nose than Pichon Lalande. But with real tension and follow through on the palate. Very Pauillac indeed! Muscular. Drink 2025-2045"*  
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*"This is big, with well-worked tannins and real impact. It showcases an impressive architectural feel replete with backbone and power. A little burly at this early stage as you would expect, but it is certainly a wine to get carried away by, and it is beautiful to sit back and admire the way it takes on complexity and depth in the glass. 80% new oak. (JA)"*  
- JA, Decanter.com

*"Rich, full and very ripe with the Baron vigour and fine tannins bringing lift and depth. A bit massive at the moment it but will firm up and show complexity with age."*  
- Decanter.com

*"One of the best young Pichon-Barons I've ever tasted; this is a superb wine that will be worth cellaring as one of the Left Bank reds of the vintage. Serious, compact, and concentrated, with sinewy tannins, dense, focused damson, blackcurrant and blueberry fruit, a whiff of tobacco leaf and liquorice and tangy acidity. Drink: 2025-35"*  
- TA, timatkin.com

*"Supple textured fruits are the first thing you notice. The dark berries have flesh, fabulous, softness texturally and you find the structure to age. There is length and complexity, which already shows signs of truffle, cigar wrapper, smoke, iron and wet earth. This will age and evolve for at least 3 decades or longer. In fact, you are going to need at least a decade or longer for this to soften, expand and develop additional nuances."*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"Deep and dark in color, the wine combines power, concentration, a wall of ripe, tannins and a wealth of ripe, juicy, ripe, fresh, dark fruits to create its character. On the palate, the wine coats your palate with its wave of dark berries and tannins that stick with you through the long finish. One of the few 2015 wines that require at least a decade of age, if you have the patience, and can wait, this is one for the cellar."*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"Dark in color, this is a strong wine. Concentrated, polished refined and with a wealth of flavor, tobacco, cedar chest and smoke, the fruit really comes on strong. Give it at least a decade before popping a bottle."*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"Cigar ash, cedar, black and red fruits and tobacco are hard to ignore in this rich, plush, concentrated wine. Dark in color, soft, ripe with its polished tannins and acidity in perfect harmony. Blended from 77% Cabernet Sauvignon and 23% Merlot, this wine reached 13.55% alcohol with a pH of 3.65. The Grand Vin represents only 45% of the harvest, which took place between September 18 and October 9."*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"Deep and saturated look; fresh; intense, inky aromatics; very pent up and concentrated on the nose which suggests wonderful ripeness; opens up gradually revealing more blackcurrant cassis fruit tones; lovely purity here; very flattering on the palate currently; almost pretty; this will work wonderfully. Very harmonious on the finish too. Great stuff. [77% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot]. Drink 2024-2035. Tasted 5/4/16 UGCB."*  
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

*"This great 73-hectare vineyard has been producing classic Pauillac since the late 1980's when Jean-Michel Cazes of Lynch Bages took control. In recent years Englishman Christian Seely has been in charge and quality continues to rise. The vineyard is planted with 62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot. The grand vin is now made only from fruit produced in the original vineyard that is opposite Latour and next to Lascases. Latour-like in style, Pichon Baron has been a star performer in all our recent blind vintage tastings. Two second labels are now produced - Les Griffons (from the younger vines) and Les Tourelles de Longueville (from a specific parcel of mostly Merlot vines). The 2015 Pichon Baron is a strongly Cabernet Sauvignon wine - 77% of the blend - and represents around 43% of the vineyard's total production."*

**Reviews** *Deep purple colour with a brooding nose of intense black fruit and sweet crème de cassis, offset with high tones of cedar and pencil shavings. The palate is rich and dense, a deep core of black fruit offset by firm tannins and savoury tobacco and leather notes. This is precise and pure with classic Pichon Baron muscle and power. An impressive, age worthy wine."*

- Farr Vintners

*"Brooding richness the nose has depth the start of the palate a mix of powerful black fruits. Behind the firmness at the start ripe fruit gives richness the mid palate has flesh suppleness velvet smoothness. Bilberry adds brightness a balance of flavours with the rich fruit giving depth on the finish."*

- Derek Smedley MW

*"A glorious wine with great structure and amazing depth. One of the best vintages since 2010 with layers of blackberries, spices, and cedar. A serious red with wonderful intensity and very long length. This wine will no doubt improve with time - a wine to lay down for decades."*

- JCL, asianpalate.com

*"A dramatic, sweeping wine, the Pichon-Longueville Baron is even better from bottle than it was from barrel. The 2015 is dense, plush, and totally voluptuous as it sweeps across the palate to make its presence known. Nuanced and poised, with seemingly endless layers of nuance, the 2015 is super-impressive. A mélange of dark red/purplish fruit, lavender, mint, spice and rose petal builds as this towering, dramatic Pauillac shows off its allure. In 2015, Pichon Baron is endowed with spectacular balance and class. This is quite simply a brilliant showing from the 2015. (AG)"*

- AG, Vinous

*"A wine of total seduction, the 2015 Pichon-Longueville Baron possesses exceptional richness, power and intensity, all in the suave, inviting style of the year. Silky, voluptuous, and creamy, the 2015 is totally spherical on the palate. This is an undeniably charming Pichon-Baron that should drink beautifully for several decades. Hints of lavender, mint, violet and crème de cassis add the closing shades of nuance in this seamless, racy Pauillac."*

- AG, Vinous

*"There is rare sexiness on the nose here with open, rich, slightly exotic fruit leading the way and this pulls you into the glass. The palate backs this up with stunning cadence and drive and the length is staggering. The density of flavour comes with beautiful freshness and the tannins swoop in and smother the palate at the end with glorious drama and precision. Stunning."*

- MJ, matthewjukes.com

*"Reminding me of the 1990, the 2015 Château Pichon Baron is a sensational bottle of wine made from 80% Cabernet Sauvignon and 20% Merlot that spent 18 months in 80% new French oak. Boasting a deep purple color as well as awesome notes of black raspberries, toasted spices, cassis, lead pencil shavings, tobacco leaf and building minerality, this full-bodied, concentrated 2015 has sweet tannin, a great texture, and a big, big finish. Pauillac all the way, with both opulence and finesse, forget bottles of 4-5 years and enjoy anytime over the following two to three decades. This is a match for the 2009, 2000, and 1990."*

- Jeb Dunnuck