

Château Pichon-Longueville Baron 2017

CSPC# 834371

750mlx6

13.1% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

79% Cabernet Sauvignon, 21% Merlot

Appellation

Pauillac

Classification

Second Growth. Deuxième 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.

Winemaker

Jean-René Matignon - Technical Director

Vintage

2017 was characterized by a dry early winter followed by a rainy February, a very mild spring, a frosty period on 27th and 28th April and a warm, dry summer. Our estates were protected from the frost on the whole. Only a few plots were affected, representing 15% of the total surface area.

Bud break, which started between 25th to 30th March, was steady and consistent. The first flowers could be seen in mid-May on the earliest plots. Early ripening, observed at the end of July, was remarkably consistent.

The moderate summer temperatures limited the risk of water stress and preserved acidity. Finally, fairly dry weather in August helped the grapes to mature. Cool, damp conditions in the first two weeks of September changed the year's character. The skins started to develop faster, requiring vigilance in monitoring progress of maturity. Close observation of the plots was key to determining the 2017 harvest date.

The earliest plots of Merlot reached maturity, with good phenolic ripeness, in mid-September. The Cabernet-Sauvignon were close to the Merlot and could be harvested immediately afterwards without risk.

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 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.



Harvest	The old Merlot vines were harvested from 18th to 21st September and the Cabernet-Sauvignon vines from 27th September to 3rd October
Vinification/ Maturation	Vatting was controlled to keep temperatures below 10°C and ensure progressive extraction in the estate's signature style. Alcoholic fermentation soon started at a moderate rate, enabling progressive extraction during the fermenting phase to suit each variety and each terroir. Temperatures were kept at 25 to 27°C. Maceration lasted from 16 to 24 days. Aged 80% in new barrels, 20% from barrels of one vintage for 18 months.
Tasting Notes	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. Château Pichon Baron 2017 is very dark, deep and intense in colour. On the nose, the wide aromatic range reveals notes of vanilla and coconut, even a bouquet of black fruits, combined with subtle nuances of spice and cigar box. The attack is full, with smoothness and sweetness. The precise tannins are fine and enveloping. There is a nice, long, opulent finish. Particular attention was paid to maturation, giving this great 2017 wine an elegant structural balance. The typicity is clear; the style of this vintage - in which balance is the main feature - is marked by finesse and distinction.
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	13,916 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2024-2040
Scores/Awards	<p>95 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2020</p> <p>92-95 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2018</p> <p>97+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2020</p> <p>95-97 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate #236 - April 2018</p> <p>95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2020</p> <p>95-96 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2018</p> <p>96 points/Cellar Selection - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2020</p> <p>17+ points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - October 2019</p> <p>17.5 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2018</p> <p>95 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2018</p> <p>95 points - Decanter.com - April 2018</p> <p>97 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2018</p> <p>93-95 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2018</p> <p>17 points - Farr Vintner - April 2018</p> <p>90-94 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2018</p> <p>93 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2020</p> <p>93-95 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2018</p> <p>94+ points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - March 2020</p> <p>93-96 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - May 2018</p> <p>96 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2020</p> <p>94-97 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - April 2018</p> <p>18+ points - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2018</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Well-built, featuring the pure, fresh core of currant and blackberry fruit that is the vintage's hallmark, all backed by well-integrated tobacco, cast iron and roasted apple wood notes. Grippy, but with enough energy to keep bringing you back rather than tiring you out. Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. 13,916 cases made."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"This is nice, with dark plum and blackberry compote flavors that have a fleshy edge, while light bay, tobacco and savory notes add range, combining with the vintage's fresh acidity and bright mineral edge."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The deep garnet-purple colored 2017 Pichon-Longueville Baron slips sensuously out of the glass with provocative cherry preserves, baked raspberries and fresh blackcurrants scents, leading to nuances of red roses, charcoal, tilled soil and cardamom plus a waft of forest floor. Medium-bodied, the palate is elegant, refreshing and refined, with a compelling line of soft, grainy tannins and lots of perfumed accents, finishing</i></p>

Reviews *fragrant. Drink Date 2021 – 2042”*
- LPB, Wine Advocate

“The grand vin represents 50% of production this year. The 2017 Pichon-Longueville Baron is deep garnet-purple in color and simply sings of vibrant blackcurrants, black cherries and rose hip notes with nuances of potpourri, incense, licorice and pencil shavings plus touches of cigar box and fertile loam. Medium-bodied, super intense and possessing stunning poise, it has very firm, fine-grained tannins and a beautifully silken texture, with bags of freshness and a very long, perfumed finish.”
- LPB, Wine Advocate

“The currants, blackberries and spices are very pretty here on the nose. The palate is medium-to full-bodied with round, compact tannins and a fresh, linear finish. Cool and racy. Strong and focused.”
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“This is very centered and focused on the mid-palate with beautiful currant, coffee and walnut character. Full-bodied and superfine. Strong tannins and a long and bright finish. Lots of blackcurrants and blackberries in the end.”
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“This wine is both weighty and stylish. Its power comes from luscious black fruits that are juicy and powerful. Expect this wine to age well and drink from 2024.”
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“79% Cabernet Sauvignon, 21% Merlot. Deeper, more purple crimson than Pichon Lalande. Restrained nose promises lots underneath. Hint of mint. A brooding wine that’s pretty savoury and meaty – yeast extract? Not a charmer at the moment. Dry, very slightly austere, grainy tannins. Needs quite a bit of time. For the moment it’s a bit stringy.”
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“Very dark with black core and purple rim. Seductively dark fruit and graphite. Seductive without being flirtatious, rather serious in fact. Deep with black fruit, not sweet, dry and super-smooth with a dry elegance and restraint. Extremely fine and surprisingly juicy on the finish. Long and elegant. Firm, compact and delicious.”
- JH, JancisRobinson.com

“A wonderfully rich and beautiful wine, intense and concentrated but with real generosity of spirit and huge persistency. It’s in keeping with the more focused and intensely intellectual style of wine that Pichon Baron has produced over the past few vintages, meaning that the austerity of the year really suits it. The 30hl/ha yield was not because of frost, but because of their low-yielding 60-year-old Cabernet vines. 80% new oak. 50% of production went into the grand vin. Harvested 18 September to 3 October, followed by an early and rapid fermentation and blending, meaning that wines were transferred into barrel by the end of November. A wine to age, and then some. (JA)”
- JA, Decanter.com

“This is smokey, spiced and oak-finessed on the nose but with clear concentration and definition. There is a whole ton of cassis fruit overlaid with cloves and liquorice root, and it is reassuring to see that in 2017 there are still wines that achieve a sense of concentration and power. There is personality here and a sense of Pauillac tannic hold, and it is clearly capable of ageing. The 30hl/ha yield was not because of frost, but because of their low-yielding 60-year-old Cabernet vines. 80% new oak.”
- Decanter.com

“Very deep purple colour. Spicy meaty and savoury oak aromas, with deep black fruit. Rich and full in the mouth with rounded tannins, cool mint and chocolatey notes. Profound fruit. Good tannic structure and length. Very good. Barrel Sample: 93-95”
- TA, timatkin.com

Reviews *“Extremely dark and almost inky in color, you’ll find wet forest, cedar wood, tobacco, espresso and ripe blackberries from the beginning. Dense, concentrated and full bodied, the wine wraps around your palate with immaculate purity and plush velvety tannins. This is opulence, power, structure, austerity and balance, which lingers in the mouth for nearly 50 seconds.”*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Deep ruby colour, with an intense nose of cedar, cassis, and light savoury spices. The palate is deep and rich, with a dense core of pure blackcurrant accented with sweet vanilla and wood smoke. This wine has great purity and power, with waves of polished, chalky tannins providing ample structure. The finish is long and pristine, with crystalline fruit and flecks of well-integrated spice. Another superb Pichon Baron.”
- Farr Vintners

“The fruit is rich and ripe the nose has depth the palate mid generosity. The sweet fruit is backed by freshness firm at the back the tannins quite tight, but it does open up with sweet fruit on the finish.”
- Derek Smedley MW

“The 2017 Pichon-Baron has a crisp, precise and tightly wound bouquet, although the aromatics feel a little reticent. Likewise, the tannins are a little conspicuous at this precise moment. They will soften with time. There is commendable body and precision, slightly peppery towards the finish with a tang of cracked black pepper on the aftertaste. Very fine - what you might call a "solid" Pichon Baron. Drink 2023-2045.”

“It has a very sophisticated, pure and quite intense bouquet with black fruit, cedar and potent graphite aromas. This feels very focused and the 80% new oak is seamlessly integrated. The palate is medium bodied with a smooth entry, very sleek and silky with a gentle grip. There is a lovely sweetness here, perhaps less austere than I was anticipating with a very long, quite spicy finish. Tasted four times with consistent notes.”
- NM, Vinous

“The 2017 Pichon-Baron has developed into a potent wine, even by its own standards. Black cherry, plum, chocolate, grilled herbs, licorice, new leather and spice all flesh out in a succulent Pauillac that shows the racier personality of the year. In the glass, Pichon is dark, racy and sumptuous as it so often is, with terrific density and explosive energy.”
- AG, Vinous

“Pichon Baron is one of the sexiest Pauillac’s I tasted in 2017. Silky, nuanced and finessed to the core, the 2017 hits all the right notes. In the glass, the 2017 possesses striking aromatic presence, vivid flavors, silky tannins and exceptional balance. In 2017, Pichon Baron is a wine of incomparable elegance and total finesse. I loved it.”
- AG, Vinous

“The 2017 Chateau Pichon-Longueville Baron sports a vivid purple hue as well as gorgeous notes of creme de cassis and black raspberry fruits interwoven with classic Pauillac lead pencil, crushed rocks, chocolate, and violet notes. Full-bodied and concentrated, yet elegant and seamless, it has remarkable purity, flawless tannins, beautifully integrated acidity, and a great finish”
- Jeb Dunnuck

“Possessing full-bodied notes of ripe blackberry and cassis fruit intermixed with background graphite and oak, it hits the palate with beautiful purity of fruit, building tannin, and a great, great finish. Its oak is brilliantly integrated, it has a stacked mid-palate, and again, just incredible purity of fruit. It has the fruit/texture to drink nicely in its youth yet deserves 4-6 years and will keep for two decades or more.”
- Jeb Dunnuck

“This is a classic Pichon Baron with a very strict, no-nonsense Cabernet theme which doesn’t deviate from the path! It has stunning accuracy and it is also a beautiful example of the Cabernet grape and the texture is grainy, lithe and fit. The tannins are bright and feisty without being dry and there is masses of energy and harmony here, too. Not a modernist wine at all, but the very definition of a classicist.”
- MJ, matthewjukes.com
