

Château Pichon Longueville – Comtesse de Lalonde 2010

CSPC# 765466

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

CSPC# 869816

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

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| Grape Variety | 66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc, 3% Petit Verdot |
| Appellation | Pauillac 2 nd Growth |
| Website | http://www.pichon-comtesse.com/ |
| General Info | “A First Class Second Cru” was how the Wine Spectator magazine very aptly described Château Pichon Lalonde! The latter was created as a result of the splitting of the original Château Pichon Longueville in 1850 when the owner established his children’s inheritance: his son took charge of the current Pichon Longueville Baron, while his daughter, Virginie, who was married to the Comte de Lalonde, received the other part of the property, hence the addition of “Comtesse de Lalonde”. A determined figure with a passion for wine, Virginie oversaw the property's rise and its establishment in its own right. It remained within her family until 1925, when it was purchased by Edouard and Louis Mialhe. From 1978 to 2007 the domaine was managed by another grande dame: Edouard Mialhe's daughter, May-Eliane de Lencquesaing. Grand Chancellor of Bordeaux's Wine Academy, she was known as La Générale, thanks to her husband's military career. The feminine influence of the Comtesse a century earlier could not have found a finer echo, and Pichon Lalonde’s impassioned history is reflected in the special affection that connoisseurs have always had for the château's wines. The property was purchased by the Rouzaud family in 2007, the owners, among other interests, of Roederer champagne. |
| Winemaker | Philippe Moreau |
| Vintage | The vineyard cycle began with a cold, relatively wet winter, resulting in a slightly later bud-break than in 2009, in mid-April. Growth was then boosted by dry, sunny weather in April. May and June were characterized by alternating periods of rain and sunshine. June began with a cold spell that complicated the flowering of the Merlot, resulting in flower abortion and uneven grape size. Fortunately, July was very dry (less than 20 mm of rain) with relatively high temperatures, which helped the vines to catch up from the delays caused during flowering. August and September were very dry, with beautiful daytime temperatures and cool nights creating ideal conditions for the grapes to slowly reach optimum ripeness. |
| Vineyards | Of the property's 75 hectares, 11 are in the commune of Saint Julien, giving the wines a certain elegance, uncommon for Pauillac. In addition to the predominant Cabernet Sauvignon, which gives the wines a great capacity to age, there is also a high proportion of Merlot, giving them a remarkable suppleness especially when young. The grand vin of Pichon Comtesse thus exquisitely marries the concentration of a Pauillac with very distinct tannins. Its exceptional terroir overlooking the Gironde means it can effectively resist harsh winters and overly warm summers. In the closed circle of the finest Bordeaux. To be sampled after 10 to 30 years |
| Harvest | The harvest took place from September 22, to October 13 |
| Maturation | The wine is fermented in stainless steel cuvées and then matured in oak barriques (50% new) for 18 months. |
| Tasting Notes | It is great to see Pichon-Lalonde back on superb form in 2006 with a wine whose purity and linear cassis fruit is reminiscent of their cracking 1996. General Manager Gildas d'Ollone and his team have produced a cerebral yet beguiling Pichon-Lalonde full of sensual, exotic aromatics and pure supple flavours. This is a massive Pichon softened by a silky texture and velvety finish. New owners Louis Roederer must be delighted with their first vintage here, and rightly so. Drink: 2015-2030. |
| Serve with | Light Poultry and Meat |
| Production | 13,333 cases made. |
| Cellaring | Drink from 2022-2048 |



Scores/Awards

- 95+ points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #205 - February 2013
- 92-95+ points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #194 - May 2011
- 95 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - March 2014
- 95 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - March 2013
- 95-97 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2011
- 94 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2013
- 96 points / Cellar Selection** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 2013
- 18.5 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - July 2015
- 17 points** - Richard Hemming, JancisRobinson.com - November 2014
- 17.5 points** - Richard Hemming, JancisRobinson.com - October 2014
- 16.5 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - January 2014
- 17 points** - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - November 2012
- 17.5 points** - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - March 2012
- 17 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2011
- 18.5 points** - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2011
- 96 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - November 12, 2018
- 95 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - July 12, 2017
- 95 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 28, 2015
- 94 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 8, 2013
- 93 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - December 7, 2012
- 94 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 7, 2012
- 93-95 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - July 24, 2011
- 94-96 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 20, 2011
- 95+ points** - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - November 2014
- 95 points** - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - November 2012
- 92-94 points** - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2011
- 92-94 points** - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2011
- 97 points** - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2011
- 17 points** - Farr Vintner - April 2011
- 94-96 points** - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2011
- 94 points** - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2011
- 98+ points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - October 2017
- 91 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - July 2013 (score only)
- 95 points** - Falstaff Magazine (score only)
- 18.5 points** - Gault & Millau (score only)
- 17.5 points** - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)
- 18.5 points** - La Revue du Vin France (score only)
- 17 points** - Bettane & Desseauve (score only)

Reviews

"The 2010 Pichon Lalande is performing extremely well and at the top of the range I predicted several years ago. A final blend dominated much more by Cabernet Sauvignon than usual (66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc and the rest Petit Verdot), the wine is a tighter, more tannic and structured version of this famed Pauillac, which often tends to have more of a St-Julien-like personality than most Pauillacs. Structured, backward and tannic, yet showing a fat mid-palate that is more savory, broader and more expansive than I remember from barrel, this wine is somewhat reminiscent of the 1986, given the Cabernet Sauvignon domination of the blend. Full-bodied, impressively endowed, and less sexy and velvety than normal, this is a somewhat different style of Pichon Lalande than most readers have been used to. Whether you like it more or less will depend on your point of view, but this wine, unlike most Pichon Lalande's, needs a good 5-7 years of cellaring and should keep for 30+ years."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"I tasted the 2010 Pichon Lalande on three separate occasions, two consistent and one that underperformed, hence the question mark. A blend of 66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc and 3% Petit Verdot, it reveals an opaque purple color as well as a thick, unctuous style with fresh blackberry and cassis fruit intermixed with hints of graphite, herbs and coffee. The vintage's tell-tale minerality is present in this structured, tannic, backward effort. It will require 5-6 years of cellaring and should age for 25-30 years."

- RP, Wine Advocate

Reviews

"Tasted blind at the Southwold Bordeaux 2010 tasting. Like the Grand Puy Lacoste 2010, the Pichon Lalande has a very attractive sea-influenced bouquet with brine and estuary scents infusing the crisp black fruit that gain intensity in the glass yet remain very focused. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannins, perfectly judged acidity, silky smooth texture and a complete, harmonious finish that is very seductive. Beautiful. Tasted January 2014."

- NM, Wine Journal

"A blend of 66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Sauvignon and 3% Petit Verdot, the Pichon Lalande has a generous blackberry and cassis-driven bouquet that is pure and harmonious. It is floral compared to its peers. The palate is medium-bodied with a caressing, creamy textured opening that is very seductive. The oak is nicely integrated here – a flattering 2010 in the context of the vintage with a sensual, silky smooth finish. It is a little more open than I was expecting, but it will still benefit from three to five years cellaring. Perhaps this is one of the few Pauillacs where I err towards the 2009, yet this still represents a superb wine from the estate. Tasted November 2012."

- NM, Wine Journal

"A blend of 66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc and 3% Petit Verdot. The Cabernet Sauvignon dominates the nose with blackberry, rose petal, pencil box and a touch of cedar all with very fine definition. The palate is silky smooth on the entry, very harmonious and focused, fine mineralite coming through, sensual and velvety towards the ripe finish. Extremely pure but powerful, this is a precise, brilliantly executed Pichon-Lalande. I bet Sylvie Cazes is hoping that all vintages will be like this. Drink 2016-2040. Tasted March 2011."

- NM, Wine Journal

"This is a pretty and refined Pichon Lalande. Aromas of blueberries and blackberries with hints of earth and mushrooms. Full body, with velvety tannins and a juicy finish. I slightly prefer the 2009. Better in 2017."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"With signs of new wood on the palate, this is a wine that maintains the polished feel of the wines from Pichon Lalande. It has a stronger presence of Cabernet Sauvignon in the blend than in the past, making it more structured than its predecessors, with a dominance of black currant flavor. It shows the soft side of the vintage but is also meant for aging. Cellar Selection"

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"More intense on the nose than the Réserve de la Comtesse. Very supple and sweet on the top with masses and masses of well-managed tannins underneath. The limit of ripeness, I'd say, but it's not overripe. Needs real patience but it should be rewarded."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Rich cooked plum fruit. Some bitter juniper character and mint. Compact and leathery. Licorice and fennel on the finish. Staunchly savoury, with quite warm alcohol too. More cerebral than sensual in style. (RH)"

- RH, JancisRobinson.com

"Subtle but luxurious spice from adroitly handled oak. Black cherry fruit, smoke, dried herbs and fine-grained tannins. Excellent and classic. (RH)"

- RH, JancisRobinson.com

"Blackish crimson. Rather muddy 'mineral' nose. Lots of stewed blackberry flavour. Softer than most. But alluring – just a bit spiky."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Initial impression is sweet oaky spice and chocolate. Same chocolate effect on the palate but has the fruit and freshness to come through beyond the oak. Pure fresh fruit emerges on the fresh aftertaste. (JH)"

- JH, JancisRobinson.com

Reviews *“Elegant restraint at first. Light fresh cassis. Very smooth, even silky on the finish, though there's a nice dryness of tannin too. Fragrant in the middle and long and bright. (JH)”*

- JH, JancisRobinson.com

“Tasted open 7 Apr: Very, very deep crimson. Savoury yet rich – a most attractive mix! Just a little raw; is there much Petit Verdot in this? (No, just 3%, and 7% Cabernet Franc.) Very drying tannins. Not sure it's quite a dense as it needs to be for the tannin content. Inky. The gap between grand vin and second wine seems unexpectedly narrow here this year. Perhaps this was just not a good day for the grand vin? I will taste it blind tomorrow...”

Tasted blind 8 Apr: Dark, intense crimson. Very rich and supple. Round and flattering. Mid weight and nicely balanced. Very easy, representative, succulent example of 2010. Lots of integrity. (Score: 17+ 20-35)”

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“Lovely expression of supple, rich fruit, beautiful middle palate, lacks perhaps the power of some wines in this vintage, but makes up for it in polish and elegance. Drink 2020-40.”

- SS, Decanter.com

“This is not holding on tight, as it nears the end of its first decade of life. The fruit is vibrant, with added touches of tobacco, flowers, spice, smoke, thyme and red berries, the silky, sexy textures and long, fruit-filled finish clearly announce that as this wine ages, it is only going to get better and better.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Smoke, ash, tobacco, mint, thyme, flowers and red fruits come alive in the nose. On the palate, the wine is fresh, juicy, young and needs time to develop even more softness and additional nuances. Complex and interesting, as well as sensual, this is quite nice. The wine was made from blending 66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc and 3% Petit Verdot. The harvest took place from September 22, to October 13.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“What a great style of wine, with its soft, silky, polished, sensuous fruits, expressive aromatics and long, character driven finish. Give it a decade in the cellar before popping a bottle.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Deep in color, the nose opens with blackberry, licorice, earth, coffee, black cherry and herbs. With soft tannins, silky textures and a chocolate, cherry, fennel, soft round, finish, this should really start showing well with 5-8 years of bottle age.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“From a blend of 66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc and 3% Petit Verdot, the wine opens to a bouquet of oak, coconut, cassis, tobacco, earth and coca. With freshness, the medium/full body wine finishes with cassis, black raspberry jam, vanilla and spice.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“2010 Chateau Pichon Lalande sports a deep ruby color. With scents of fresh black pepper, cassis, olives and truffle, this is a tannic vintage for the chateau. The wine is fresh, but the tannins while round, do not feel perfectly ripe. The wine finishes with a cassis, black cherry and green peppercorn sensation with hints of cranberry. Released at 138 Euros, the wine shows a marked increase in price from their 2009 vintage.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Pichon Comtesse de Lalande - Produced from 41 hectoliters per hectare, which is low for the estate, the wine is an assemblage of 66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc and 3% Petit Verdot. Flowers, 5 spice, cassis, truffle, coca and tobacco scents open the aromatics. This rich, tannic vintage of Pichon Lalande offers a full bodied, fresh, concentrated wine brimming with ripe, juicy cassis, black raspberry jam, vanilla and spice. The wine ends with a long, clean, supple finish.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

Reviews *"Deep colour; blackcurrants and spicy notes; earth, autumn leaves and pencil shavings; ripe and full; quite open currently; wonderful blackcurrant purity on the palate; cool and pure and very well defined; very nicely done in a beautifully elegant style. Drink 2017-2035. 95+ MW Institute Nov '14"*
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

"[Earlier note] Depth; glossy look; pure blackcurrants; creamy tones; some black cherry and plums; very enticing; lots of blackcurrant and cassis notes on the palate and lots of depth and chew. Pichon Lalande has really succeeded in this vintage. It can seem a bit sullen early on, but this wine is singing nicely. Structure and grip beneath the wonderful fruit tones. Reflects the vintage but also the more rounded Lalande style, versus Pichon Longueville's power. 95 UGCB Nov '12"
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

"[Earlier note] Deepish; saturated but less so than some; some cream and blackcurrants; some rose petal; intense palate, blackcurrant notes; concentration; tannin and grip. Nice balance on the palate. Not overdone – good length. 92-94/100 Tasted 5 April 2011 at UGC"
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

"[Second tasting] Dense; maybe less so than some [cf Pichon Baron], some floral notes, little dumb, cream and blackcurrants; opens up in the glass; actually, quite voluptuous and satiny; quite dense on the palate, feels a little awkward; is density here and good finish. Tannic but ripe and fine. More 92-94/100 Tasted 7 April 2011 UGC"
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

"Sweet black fruits give richness on the nose but on the palate bilberry freshness ensures a lighter more elegant feel to the mid palate. The black fruits have a floral charm the freshness rather overtaken by the powerhouse of black cherry and cassis that shows at the back."
- Derek Smedley MW

"One of THE great names of the Médoc and a true "super-second". Pichon Lalande is one of the most demanded wines of Bordeaux. It is especially popular in the Far East thanks to its slightly exotic, spicy character and plump ripe fruit and polished texture. The Chateau is now owned by Champagne house Louis Roederer. The 2010 is made from 66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc and 3 % Petit Verdot. This is so different from the other second growths. It's certainly not a blockbuster, but a wine of great class and sophistication. This is VERY Pichon Lalande with red cherries, exotic Asian spices and a creamy texture. Fleshy, supple and beautifully polished. Some critics will probably accuse this wine of being light-weight, but this is not a wine that is trying to win a strong-man competition. Lovely Pichon."
- Farr Vintners

"Fresh blackberries, hint of violets, cedar. Fairly deep ruby, with aromas of fresh blackberries, hint of violets and cedar, this full-bodied and impressive Pichon Lalande has very fresh, vibrant characters and wonderful density, depth and concentration. This is the most concentrated young wine they have made in a decade, yet the style is still elegant and lacking any heaviness. This is another hugely successful Pichon Lalande vintage, with the potential to age for many decades, but I prefer the 2009 by a small margin because of that wine's more seductive aromatics and lighter style. Tasted in: Bordeaux, France. Maturity: Young."
- JCL, asianpalate.com

"An eternal wine, the 2010 Pichon Lalande is a total showstopper. The first impression is one of explosive power, but time in the glass brings out the wine's more delicate, floral side. Violet, graphite, crème de cassis, licorice and menthol overtones recall the 1996, but the tannins here are much softer, sweeter and more polished. In two recent tastings, the 2010 has been positively stellar. The alternation of hot days and cool nights led to a late harvest. The Cabernet Sauvignon harvest did not start until October 7; by that date in 2009 all the fruit was in. Readers who can still find the 2010 should not hesitate, as it is a modern-day classic. That's all there is to it."
- AG, Vinous