

Château Pichon-Longueville Comtesse de Lalonde 2016

CSPC# 814278

750mlx6

13.32% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 21% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc
Appellation	Pauillac
Classification	Second Growth. Deuxième Grand Cru Classé in 1855
Website	http://www.pichon-comtesse.com/
General Info	<p>Pichon Longueville and Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande were originally one huge property. When Baron Joseph de Pichon Longueville died in 1850, his estate was split between his two surviving children, Raoul and Virginie. Raoul's part became Château Pichon Longueville, while Virginie's became Château Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande.</p> <p>Edouard and Louis Mialhe, descendants of an old Bordeaux family of vineyard owners and wine brokers, bought Château Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande in 1925. May Eliane de Lencquesaing, Edouard's daughter, inherited it in 1978 and ran it with great devotion and rigour for 30 years, during which time it gained international renown. Finally, in 2007, eager to ensure the continuing success of the estate in the future, she decided to sell it to another family firm, the Louis Roederer Champagne house</p>
Winemaker	Frédéric Rouzaud & Nicolas Glumineau
Vintage	<p>In 2016, there were two main trends in the weather as we experienced it in Pauillac:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– a very wet winter and spring: more than half of the annual rainfall came in the first four months of the year, including a record 240 mm in January;– an extremely dry summer and autumn without any significant rainfall, resulting in a water deficit at the end of the year. <p>As a consequence of the summer drought, the grapes were numerous but remained rather small, making for density and concentration. High temperatures in August and September allowed for slow ripening and excellent maturity, so that the harvest started with the Merlot on 26 September and continued in perfect conditions until 14 October.</p> <p>In the vat house, each grape variety and each plot were, as usual, vinified separately in order to let their intrinsic character shine through. The wines, which have now been blended, offer remarkable colour, intense fruit and spice aromas and a dense texture of very rich and well-rounded tannins. Its density and substance make the 2016 vintage comparable with the finest so far this century.</p>
Vineyards	<p>The terrace of Château Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande offers a magnificent view of the vineyards of Pauillac and Saint-Julien and the Gironde Estuary. The vines lie mainly in Pauillac, yet 11 of its 86 hectares are actually in Saint-Julien. Pichon Comtesse is Château Latour's neighbour and, like the illustrious Premier Cru, has poor soil of gravel mixed with clay, which benefits from excellent drainage. Poor, yet ideal, since the vine needs hardship if it is to produce good wine, and its roots must plunge several metres down in the quest for nutrition.</p> <p>An unusually high percentage of the vineyard is planted with Petit Verdot, which brings freshness and great aromatic complexity to the wine. In very sunny years such as 1982, 1986, 1989 and 1990, in which the grapes reach excellent maturity, it has a remarkable influence. Since Roederer took over the estate, major work on restructuring the 78-hectare vineyard has been undertaken. Thorough studies of the soils and sub-soils have produced very detailed mapping of the many different plots and better knowledge of the terroir. A replanting programme has been launched to ensure varieties and their root stocks are best suited to the type of soil.</p>
Harvest	The harvest took place September 20 to October 20



Vinification/ Maturation	To produce the wine of Chateau Pichon Lalande, the vinification takes place in 70, temperature controlled, stainless steel vats that vary in size that range from as small as 50 hectoliters and increase in size to 50, 70, 80, 120 and even 150 hectoliter vats. This allows for very precise fermentation work. Malolactic fermentation takes place in tank. Aged 60% new oak for 18 months.
Tasting Notes	Nicolas Glumineau took the decision not to include any Petit Verdot in the final blend of his superb 2016 because, he said, despite its superb quality it was too dominant a component and would distract from the extraordinary femininity and refinement of this fine wine. This is reminiscent of the Comtesse de Lalandes of old. Exquisite in its harmony and balance, with rounded mellow, summer berry fruits. The tannins are subtle yet poised and the flavours persist long after tasting. Stunning. Drink 2028-2040.
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	Average of 15,000 cases made annually
Cellaring	Drink 2023-2058
Scores/Awards	<p>97 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2019</p> <p>95-98 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2017</p> <p>98+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - November 2018</p> <p>96-98 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #230 - April 2017</p> <p>98 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2019</p> <p>96-97 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2017</p> <p>95 points/Cellar Selection - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 2019</p> <p>96-98 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2017</p> <p>17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - October 2018</p> <p>17- points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2017</p> <p>98 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2017</p> <p>100 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 2019</p> <p>99 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2018</p> <p>98-100 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2017</p> <p>98 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2017</p> <p>17.5 points - Farr Vintner - February 2017</p> <p>95-97 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2017</p> <p>97 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - January 2019</p> <p>100 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - January 2019</p> <p>97-100 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2017</p> <p>100 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - November 2017</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Saturated with dark currant, fig and blackberry compote flavors, this has a fleshy, nearly glycerin feel at first before stretching out to reveal singed cedar, tobacco leaf, dark earth and cassis bush flavors. A terrific tug of cast iron emerges at the very end. Deliciously juicy dark fruit keeps rolling throughout. Best from 2025 through 2040."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Light savory and tobacco notes peek out from the core, but a ball of cassis and blackberry fruit is still coiled up with the strong iron spine. This is to be expected. Very pure, with a long finish. Risk-free cellaring. Score range: 95-98"</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The 2016 Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande is blended of 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 21% Merlot and 4% Cabernet Franc aged for 18 months in 60% new oak. Deep purple black in color, it is a little mute, slowly unfurling to reveal a core of crushed blackcurrants, blueberry compote and black raspberries with nuances of cinnamon stick, violets, star anise, menthol and pencil shavings plus a waft of fallen leaves. Medium-bodied and super intense in the mouth, the palate bursts with black fruits and savory layers, complemented by red fruit sparks and framed by fantastically ripe, fine-grained tannins, finishing very long with a lingering suggestion of minerality."</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Advocate</p>

Reviews

"The 2016 Pichon-Longueville Comtesse de Lalande is a blend of 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 21% Merlot and 4% Cabernet Franc (compare that to the 2010 that had 66% Cabernet Sauvignon, for example--that should give you some pointers). The alcohol level is 13.32% and a pH of 3.76. I tasted from a new oak barrel and the final blend will include around 60% new wood and 40% one year old, which is something I took into account. It has a very succinct bouquet, one that is almost understated at first, gradually unfolding with blackberry, cedar and graphite scents, in the vein of say the 1986 or 1996 Pichon Lalande of the past. The palate is very well balanced and what I appreciate here is that it is still as much identifiable as Pichon Lalande as it is a Pauillac and a 2016. There is that touch of roundness imparted by the Merlot, even though the Cabernet dominates the blend, surely the terroir sculpting the wine. It gently builds in intensity, maintaining freshness, a gentle but insistent grip towards the finish and a very long aftertaste. This is probably just a notch up on the outstanding 2015 Pichon-Lalande, a Rolls Royce with a purring engine.

- NM, Wine Advocate

"Glorious aromas of blackcurrants, blackberries and flowers, from violets to roses. Iron and rust undertones. Full-bodied, dense and very layered with loads of richness. It goes on for minutes. Reminds me of the 1986. Best in decades? Take a first look at it in 2025."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Linear and racy with ultra-fine tannins and a gorgeous center palate. Full-bodied, tight and so polished. The classicism and beauty are exceptional. Love the texture. Better than 2015?"

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This wine is full of freshness and life as well as serious tannins and structure. The two sides complement each other to give a wine that has power as well as delicious black fruits and acidity. With the tannins it will age well. Drink this balanced wine from 2025."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Dense tannins and dark fruits are just a part of this wine's complex character. It is ripe, full of blackberries, yet solid, with a structure that balances the fruit. It should age extremely well; be ready be prepared to hold this for 15 years or more. (RV)"

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Bright, deep crimson. Sweet, almost soft. Beguiling but without the energy and core of the Ch Pichon Baron 2016. Good balance and promise. Lots of ripe fruit and lots of ripe tannin. Good wine by any measure."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Blackish crimson. Sweet start and much less obvious density than some, very Merlot and just a little soft. Super-supple certainly... But where's the beef?"

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Beautiful mix of power and restraint that you can almost reach out and touch. The extraction is so silky that the effect is a wine that seems endless, suspended above your palate, caressing it and teasing you to find the tannins that are very much hidden. There are some rich coffee seams that fill out on the mid-palate with cassis and ripe blackberry notes, whipped together with violets and peonies. The juicy, mouthwatering quality just keeps on coming. From yields around 40hl/ha and with an IPT of 82, 10% higher than in 2010 but you simply can't tell. This is clearly going to age and age. One of the wines of the vintage, and I am ready to be seduced. Drinking Window 2027-2050"

- JA, Decanter.com

Reviews

"Considering how many great wines have been produced at Pichon Lalande over the years, saying this is the finest wine ever made here says a lot. But this wine is off the charts! Perfect in every way, from start to finish, the wine is mind-blowing! Full bodied, sensuous, silky, sweet, and fresh with an incredible purity to the fruit that must be tasted to be believed. The more than 60 second, opulent, in fact, decadent finish keeps you going back for another sip. And all this is taking place in its youth. When this reaches maturity, hello \ "Wine Nirvana! " Bravo to Nicolas Glumineau and his team for making such an incredible wine!"
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Incredibly sensuous, sexy silky and polished, the fruits just feel great as they fill and coat your palate. The dark red fruits offer a sense of purity, freshness and perfume that is surreal for a wine this young. If you are a fan of Pichon Lalande at its decadent best, this is a wine for you!"
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Rich in color, you find that the espresso, cigar box, tobacco, spice, forest floor, blackberry, cassis, lead pencil and dark red fruits make an incredible perfume. Pure silk and velvet, this is so sexy, it's off the charts. Opulent, in fact, decadent, this wine tastes and feels so majestic I drank it all! This is the best vintage since the stunning 1982 and that is really saying something. Made from a blend of 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 21% Merlot and 4% Cabernet Franc, it reached 13.32% alcohol with a pH of 3.76. The harvest took place September 20 to October 20."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Will this prove to be as great as the legendary 12, albeit in a very different style? It's certainly in with a chance, because this is a superb wine: rich, dense, scented and refined, with caressing tannins, pithy dark berry fruit and a chalky, mineral-edged freshness. One of the Pauillac's of the vintage. 2024-35"
- TA, timatkin.com

"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 percentage of Merlot in the vineyard is high for Pauillac. The "Comtesse" is now owned by Champagne house Louis Roederer and managed by Nicolas Glumineau, formerly of Montrose. A new winery has just been built. 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 21% Merlot and 4% Cabernet Franc. Spicy and rich on the nose with pure black cherry and blackcurrant, and cedar. Firm and powerful, this is deep and brooding in black and blue fruits, with plenty of ripe and chewy tannins. The fruit fleshes out through the mid palate, with added creaminess and sweetness of vanilla from the plush new oak toast. Long and fine on the finish, this finds great equilibrium between sweetness and freshness."
- Farr Vintners

"Fragrant and fresh the nose has spring violets the palate a mix of bramble and bilberry. Sweet ripe fruit in the middle rich and ripe velvet smooth and although there is depth at the back the finish has an elegant freshness. 2026-44"
- Derek Smedley MW

"The 2016 Pichon-Longueville Comtesse de Lalande has an enthralling bouquet of tobacco-infused black fruit, shaved truffle and pencil shavings; crushed stone emerges with continued aeration. The Cabernet Sauvignon is clearly in the driving seat here, just like the 1996. The palate is medium-bodied with grippy tannin, more saline and marine-influenced than Pichon Baron, and a tad spicier toward the finish, which is one of the most impressively persistent I have ever encountered in a Pichon-Lalande, fanning out with gusto and leaving the mouth still tingling 60 seconds after it has departed. This is a benchmark for the estate, the best Nicolas Glumineau has overseen in his tenure... thus far. Drink 2023-2050."
- NM, Vinous

Reviews *"The 2016 Pichon-Longueville Comtesse de Lalande is every bit as regal as it has always been. Towering and spectacularly rich in the glass, the 2016 captures every ounce of potential is showed from barrel. The 2016 is a vivid, dramatically sweeping wine that will leave readers weak at the knees. Beams of tannin give the 2016 soaring intensity that is matched by a host of aromas and flavors that open up in the glass. Blackberry jam, graphite, spice, menthol, licorice, pencil shavings and spice are all finely sketched in a bold, savory Pauillac that hits all the right notes. The 2016 Pichon Comtesse has been riveting on each of the four occasions I have tasted it from barrel thus far, making it easily one of the wines of the vintage. Nicolas Glumineu and his team turned out an epic Pichon Comtesse in 2016. Don't miss it!"*
- AG, Vinous

"The 2016 Pichon Lalande is one of the must-have wines of the year. I felt that way every time I saw it during the spring en primeur tastings. A few more months in bottle has only made that potential even more obvious. At once powerful and yet also delicate, the 2016 is a regal, aristocratic wine endowed with class and pedigree to burn. The crème de cassis, violet, graphite and menthol flavors are finely sketched, sure, but what stands out most is the wine's extraordinary balance. While the 2015 is a soloist, the 2016 is an orchestra."
- AG, Vinous

"Coming from the genius winemaking talent of Nicolas Glumineau, the 2016 Château Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande matches the 1982 and is a perfect, legendary wine in the making. A blend of 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 21% Merlot, and 4% Cabernet Franc brought up in 60% new oak, it's not the most powerful Left Bank but offers perfect balance and thrilling intensity as well as heavenly aromatics of crème de cassis, leafy herbs, jammy blackberries, tobacco leaf, and freshly sharpened lead pencils as well as more violets and minerality with time in the glass. Possessing a deep, full-bodied, singular character, the purity of fruit that's the hallmark of the vintage, building tannins, and a sense of class and elegance that's hard to describe, it's a 50-year-wine. While this cuvée has included a fair chunk of Merlot in the past that gave it more upfront appeal, it's important for readers to know it's much more Cabernet Sauvignon-dominated today, and while it is slightly more approachable than some of its neighbors, it shuts down rather quickly with time in the glass. (I followed this wine for multiple days.) I suspect a solid decade of cellaring is warranted. Drink 2027-2077."
- Jeb Dunnuck
