

Château Pichon-Longueville – Comtesse de Lalande 2020

CSPC# 888355

750mlx6

13.6% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	77% Cabernet Sauvignon, 17% Merlot, 6% Cabernet Franc
Appellation	Pauillac
Classification	Second Growth. Deuxième Grand Cru Classé in 1855
Website	http://www.pichon-comtesse.com/
Sustainability	Sustainable viticulture with biodynamic practices on 28 ha
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	Nicolas Glumineau & Stéphanie Danglade
Vintage	<p>2020 was an extraordinary year, the winter and spring were particularly wet and therefore the pressure exerted by the parasites devastating the vine unprecedented. The work in the vineyard never stopped, and our attention was constant. As for the summer, it was both hot and dry, giving pride of place to quality, to the detriment of quantity. Our harvests take place from September 9 to 30, under ideal conditions; each parcel being picked at its optimum phenolic maturity. The Merlot harvest mobilizes all our attention, because in this hot climatic context, we want them to retain their freshness, their flesh, and their smoothness. Cabernet Francs and Petits Verdot's do not suffer from drought; they retain their elegance and impertinence. The former is racy, the latter more impetuous. As for the Cabernets-Sauvignon, we don't just want them to be good, but great! it is at this price that we make great Pauillac's! Patience and length of time are necessary to allow the tannins to refine and stretch to the extreme, leading to the rare and subtle pleasure of a chiseled and silky, almost syrupy structure. Rarely has a blend expressed so much minerality and sappy depth, like an eminence from the bowels of our terroir. 2018, 2019, 2020: three great years! A trilogy that will mark the history of Pichon Comtesse.</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. 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	<p>Picking took place September 9 - September 30. Yields were low, 30 hectoliters per hectare, 60% of the harvest was placed into the Grand Vin.</p>
Winemaking	<p>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 tanks. Aged 60% new oak for 18 months.</p>



Tasting Notes A pure fresh nose of blackberry, blackcurrant, peony, and that cedar association of Pauillac, On the palate, subtle and full-bodied with great powerful length and a sweetness that is both seductive and savory with a touch of elegance. The flavors confirm these blackcurrant and blackberry notes, with structured smooth tannins.

Serve with Chateau Pichon 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 2030-2050

Scores/Awards **97 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2023
95 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2023
95-97 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - May 2021
98+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent (score only) - March 2023
99 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent (score only) – November 2022
98 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - January 2023
97-98 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2021
97 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 2023
18 points - James Lawther, JancisRobinson.com - April 2021
96 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - May 2021
97 points - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - January 2023
99 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2023
97-99 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2021
95 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2021
96-99 points - Farr Vintners - May 2021
98 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2023
96-98 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - April 2021
97+ points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2023
95-97 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - June 2021
98 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2023
98-100 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - May 2021
97 points - Wilfred Wong, Wine.com - January 2023
95 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - March 2023
96-98 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2021
97-98 points - Vert de Vin - May 2021
94-96 points - Michael Schuster, The World of Fine Wine - May 2021
98-100 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - July 2021
96 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - July 2021
17.5 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - September 2021

Reviews *"A wow wine, packed with cassis, loganberry, and mulberry flavors that hint at the vintage's warmth, but this stays poised and fresh, with a sleek structure built on graphite and iron. There's violet and lilac lift in the background and a groundswell of sweet tobacco, savory and singed cedar details that emerge through the finish, all with a fine-grained and rather luxurious feel. Best from 2030 through 2045."*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"The 2020 Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande is very demonstrative out of the gates, bursting from the glass without any coaxing to exhibit aromas of sweet cassis and blueberries mingled with notions of clove, violets, and lilac. Medium to full-bodied, velvety, and polished, with a seamless, charming profile that exhibits no hard edges, it concludes with a nicely defined, spice-inflected finish. It's a superb exercise in haut couture winemaking, even if, to my palate, the 2019 offers a deeper dive into the estate's D.N.A. Since joining Pichon Lalande just after the 2012 harvest, Nicolas Glumineau has made a number of changes. In the vineyards, Cabernet Sauvignon is increasingly displacing Merlot, and the soils are worked less frequently. Cover crops are employed, canopy management has evolved, with both fruiting canes now trained in the same direction—Glumineau would like to trial pruning "Guyot simple" if Pauillac's cahier de charges (appellation rules) permitted it, and 27 hectares of the estate's 102 are being farmed organically. A new, highly functional winery and cellar equips him with stainless steel tronconic tanks adapted to parcel-by-parcel vinification. Cooperage choices, too, have been refined (some 65% new oak is the order of the day), and the duration of élevage has been extended to 18-19 months in barrel before racking to tank before bottling. The result? Even as Cabernet Sauvignon occupies a more and more important place in the blend, Pichon Lalande has never been

Reviews *more seamless and sensual, exhibiting a degree of structural refinement combined with remarkable complexity and depth of flavor."*

- WK, Wine Advocate

"Deep purple-black in color, the 2020 Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande begins on a single, well-defined, wonderfully pure note of ripe blackcurrants, opening out to a melody of redcurrant jelly, kirsch, ripe blackberries, and tar, with emerging suggestions of dark chocolate, cardamom, ground cloves and violets, with a waft of black truffles. Medium-bodied, tightly wound and with loads of fantastically nuanced black fruit layers, it has a rock-solid frame of finely grained tannins and bags of freshness, finishing long and mineral laced. The blend this year is 77% Cabernet Sauvignon, 17% Merlot and 6% Cabernet Franc."

- LPB, Wine Advocate

"The 2020 Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande is made from 77% Cabernet Sauvignon, 17% Merlot, and 6% Cabernet Franc. Deep garnet-purple in color, it needs considerable swirling to bring out fragrant scents of lilacs, tilled soil, rosehip tea, and Sichuan pepper, giving way to a core of cassis, black raspberries, and cedar chest with emerging iron ore and charcoal scents. The medium-bodied palate is so tightly knit, with firm, grainy tannins, and lovely tension, finishing long and minerally."

- LPB, Wine Independent

"The 2020 Pichon Lalande is blended from 77% Cabernet Sauvignon, 17% Merlot, and 6% Cabernet Franc but without any Petit Verdot and it has a deep garnet-purple color. It is a touch closed to start off, before soaring out of the glass with notes of juicy blueberries, black raspberries, and fresh blackcurrant, plus hints of pencil shavings, cinnamon stick, red roses, and Ceylon tea, with a waft of dark chocolate. Medium to full-bodied, the palate has a rock-solid structure of grainy tannins and seamless freshness supporting the taut, muscular black and blue fruits, finishing long and fragrant."

LPB, Wine Independent

"Aromas of blueberries and blackcurrants with some stone and sandalwood undertones. Medium-bodied with a solid core of fruit and a fresh and delicious finish. Classy tannins that are fine and textured. Such sophistication."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This is extremely structured, but with a level of polish and refinement that highlights the excellence of the terroir. Very long and expansive on the palate, showing class and beauty. Powerful."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Tannins and fruits march in step with each other to give this wine style and elegance. The structure is supple and the tannins smooth, while still keeping great aging potential. Drink the wine from 2027."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"77% Cabernet Sauvignon, 17% Merlot, 6% Cabernet Franc. Cask sample. Bright crimson hue. Generous, vineyard-nuanced fruit on the nose with complex cassis and graphite notes. Fruit is equally generous on the palate, backed by an abundance of fine tannin. Lots of drive and persistence. Punchier and more masculine in style than 2019. Definitely one for the cellar. (JL) Drink 2028 – 2045."

- JL, JancisRobinson.com

"Softer and silkier than many Pauillac's in the vintage, this is a clear success. Hugely silky and seductive, with grip, power, and finesse. One of the best of the appellations, with finessed tobacco, heather and plump blueberry and cassis fruit, expertly managing the low 30hl/ha yield. 60% new oak"

- JA, Decanter.com

"Espresso, cocoa beans, powerfully ripe black damson, blueberry, and cassis fruits. A ton of personality and a delicious wine with tension, a real sense of seductive charming tannins, full of promise. One of the best of the appellation, with finessed tobacco, heather, and campfire smoke as it opens, expertly managing the low 30hl/ha yield."

- JA, janeanson.com

Reviews

"A riveting wine in every sense of the word, the perfume grabs you with its array of flowers, spices, tobacco, currants, smoke, cedar, and roasted plums. There is intensity, purity, precision, and length, which is perfect for allowing you to experience all the layers of silky, sensuous fruits and freshness. The finish crosses the 50 second mark with ease and never looks back. With time in the bottle, this gem could hit triple digits, it is that good! Drink from 2027-2065."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Deep, dark, and almost opaque in hue, the perfume is intoxicating with its spice box, dark Cuban cigars, violets, lilacs, oak, savory herbs, roasted plums, currants, and cigar box aromas. On the palate the wine is pure silk and velvet with layer after layer of supple textured fruits. Silky, sexy, and sensuous, there is richness, depth of flavor, length, and purity here that is a treat to feel and taste. The wine blends 77% Cabernet Sauvignon, 17% Merlot and 6% Cabernet Franc, 13.6% ABV 3.82 pH. Picking took place September 9 - September 30. Yields were low, 30 hectoliters per hectare, 60% of the harvest was placed into the Grand Vin."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"The 2020 is a blend of 77% Cabernet Sauvignon, 17% Merlot and 6% Cabernet Franc, which will be matured for 18 months in 60% new French oak. The yield is 30hl/ha. Harvest started on 9th September, one of the earliest in the estate's history. Deep ruby-purple hue in the glass. The nose is intense and expansive, with pure cassis and oily black fruit layered with brighter floral tones. The oak is well measured, complementing the fruit with accents of cedar and vanilla. The palate has real drive and precision. Silky, ripe blackcurrant fruit and chalky, mouthcoating tannins offer real depth. This is a vertical wine for now, with superb intensity but finely etched structure. A wine of real finesse and length, this is another great success at Pichon Lalande and a stand-out wine of 2020."

- Farr Vintners

"The 2020 Pichon-Longueville Comtesse de Lalande has a very intense bouquet with layers of black fruit, hints of seaweed/brine, crushed stone, and perhaps less mint than it displayed from barrel. This possesses stunning delineation, like a perfect C major chord echoing around an empty cathedral. The palate is very well balanced, much more classic in style than its barrel showing, saline to its core, with hints of brine. A Pauillac where you can really sense the Gironde estuary flowing through its veins. Nicolas Glumineau has one of his finest creations on his hands, and when it grows up, it will be challenging First Growths."

- NM, Vinous

"The 2020 Pichon-Lalande has a backward nose similar to that of its neighbor Pichon-Baron, and so I decanted the bottle for 45 minutes. It then revealed gorgeous scents of blackberry, wild hedgerow, seaweed (Japanese nori) and wild mint. The palate is medium-bodied with sappy black fruit and gentle but insistent grip. Very intense but not ripe; there is a coolness about this Pauillac that I like, while the finish is very classically styled and leaves behind a persistent, slightly briny aftertaste. This is a magnificent, cerebral Pichon-Lalande that will deserve serious aging and the patience of anyone still waiting for The Cure's new album. Tasted three times, including directly from the château. Drink: 2027 – 2055"

- NM, Vinous

"The 2020 Pichon-Longueville Comtesse de Lalande is an opulent, massively tannic wine that is going to need many years to come together. Waves of dark fruit, leather, dried flowers, and chocolate emerge with great reluctance, framed by huge, insistent tannins that never let up. The 2020 is a wine for readers who can be very, very patient. I am not sure when the 2020 is going to be ready to drink, but it is not likely to be anytime soon."

- AG, Vinous

"The 2020 Pichon-Longueville Comtesse de Lalande is holding so much in reserve. Tightly wound and not fully expressive, the 2020 is going to need at least a few years to come out of its shell. Bright acids and persistent tannins give the 2020 a super classic, mid-weight feel. I very much like the wine's persistence. Readers will have to be patient with the 2020. The exuberance of some recent vintages is not present today. The blend is 77% Cabernet Sauvignon, 17% Merlot and 6% Cabernet Franc, which means a touch more Cabernet Sauvignon than in recent years, and quite a bit more than in the past. Harvest ran from September 7 to October 1, which is about ten days earlier than normal. In the cellar, Estate Manager Nicolas Glumineau opted for light extractions, with minimal pump overs of just one volume of wine per day, at no more than 25 degrees Celsius. Time on the skins was 21 days, pretty much the norm these days. Tasted two times."

- AG, Vinous

Reviews

"The Grand Vin 2020 Château Pichon-Longueville Comtesse De Lalande checks in as 77% Cabernet Sauvignon, 17% Merlot, and 6% Cabernet Franc that was raised in 60% new French oak. It has classic Pauillac character in its red, blue, and black fruits as well as graphite, cedar pencil, violet, and flower nuances. Seemingly from a cooler vintage with its purity, vibrancy, and focus, it nevertheless is concentrated and has ripe, gorgeous tannins, a great mid-palate, and a finish that keeps you coming back to the glass. A deep, concentrated, flawlessly balanced 2020 that's built for the long haul, it needs a solid decade of cellaring and will be a 50+-year wine. Of the recent trilogy of 2018, 2019, and 2020, director Nicolas Glumineau has been consistent in preferring the 2020, although I think at this point the nudge goes to the 2019. Regardless, these are all truly singular, magical wines that every reader will be thrilled to have in the cellar. It's a good time to be a Bordeaux lover!"

- Jeb Dunnuck

"An estate that has been on fire of late, the 2020 Château Pichon-Longueville Comtesse De Lalande is another brilliant wine in a succession of brilliant wines. Revealing a dense purple hue as well as full-bodied aromas and flavors of blackcurrants, scorched earth, tobacco leaf, and violets, it hits the palate with an expansive, rich, yet pure, precise texture that carries fabulous tannins, perfect balance, and a stacked mid-palate. Based on 77% Cabernet Sauvignon, 17% Merlot, and 6% Cabernet Franc, it's an incredible wine that's going to flirt with perfection and is unquestionably one of the finest, if not the finest, Left Banks in the vintage. Bravo."

- Jeb Dunnuck

"Deep dark ruby, opaque core, purple reflections, brightening at the rim. Delicate floral scents underpin ripe cherry fruit with fine nuances of blackberry and cassis, attractive spices - cardamom, cloves and candied orange zest, an inviting bouquet. Juicy, intense pronounced ripe plum fruit, a whisper of nougat, ripe tannins, good length, tender roasting flavours on the finish. Masses of ageing potential."

- PM, Falstaff Magazine

"The 2020 Château Pichon Lalande delivers excellent richness from start to finish. This wine shines with aromas and flavors of blackcurrants, blackberries, and oaky notes. Pair it with coffee-rubbed grilled short ribs. (Tasted: January 27, 2023, San Francisco, CA)"

- WW, Wine.com

"On the nose, elegant, opulent, and earthy, with delicacy, power and subtlety airy quality, a nice fine texture, a very discreet hint of iodine and a bit of stretch. It reveals notes of juicy/fresh cassis, bright blackberry and hints of strawberry combined with touches of blueberry, graphite, black tea, hints of cherry, cherry blossom, iris, grey pepper as well as very discreet hints of nutmeg, sweet spices, a subtle hint of cinnamon, tonka bean, an imperceptible hint of iris and peel. On the palate, fruity, balanced, distinguished and offers juiciness, nice freshness, good definition, delicate gourmandize, roundness, a very nice, refined suavity, and a lot of subtlety in its potency and its definition. A "three dimensional" side in its definition. The wine expresses notes of pulpy/juicy blackberry, bright cassis and hints of bright cherry combined with touches of wild raspberry, berries, cherry blossom, violet, nutmeg, fresh blond tobacco with hints of cardamom, roasted hazelnut and discreet, almost sappy notes (in the background. The tannins are elegant, precise, delicate, and harmoniously brought. Good length and persistence. Presence of very discreet bitter orange tips on the palate/persistence. The end of the palate is justly tense."

- Vert de Vin

"(77% CS, 17% M, 6% CF; 60% harvest; 13.6% ABV; 60% new). Inky black-red; a dense, core of raw blackcurrant at the heart of the dense "gravelly" aromas; full of subtle, complex promise; immediately rich and generous and taut and contained, a concentrated, effortless blend of superfine dry tannins, close-knit flesh, and freshly carrying acidity; deep and very "Pauillac," mouthcoating without any sense of excess, great tenacity, and complexity of flavor and with splendid, aromatic, gravelly length. An imposing baritone performance (appropriately enough, as a baritone was Nicolas Glumineau's initial career). Magnificent wine. First-growth quality. 2032-50+."

- MS, The World of Fine Wine