

## Château Pontet Canet 2011

CSPC# 744974

750mlx12

15.0% alc./vol.

SOLD OUT

CSPC# 763531

750mlx6

15.0% alc./vol.

SOLD OUT

### Grape Variety

60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot

### Appellation

Pauillac

### Website

<http://www.pontet-canet.com/home.php>

### General Info

5th classified growth in 1855. Jean-François de Pontet, royal governor of the Médoc, combined several vineyard plots in Pauillac in the early 18th century. Years later, his descendants added neighbouring vines in a place named Canet. This was the beginning of one of the largest estates in the Médoc, which quite naturally added the name of its founder to that of the land registry reference. A century later, Pontet-Canet was included in the famous 1855 classification, thereby confirming its membership among the elite of the Médoc. This privileged position did not go unnoticed by one of the most important Bordeaux shippers of the time, Herman Cruse, who bought the estate in 1865. He built new cellars, modernised the winemaking facilities, and established the wine's reputation around the world. The Cruse family owned Pontet-Canet for 110 years, until another shipper (from Cognac this time), Guy Tesseron, acquired it in 1975. Currently owned by Guy Tesseron's sons, Alfred and Gérard, this means that Pontet-Canet has belonged to only three families in over two centuries.

### Vintage

Spring came early, spurring the vine to vigorous growth. Hot and dry conditions brought smiles to winemakers, keeping disease down and raising hopes for an early harvest—both classic signs of a good vintage. Flowering arrived especially early, around mid-May, under very dry conditions; this often results in fewer grape bunches and small berries. Then, nature changed plans and sent us a more nuanced summer, raising hopes for a true Bordeaux vintage—ripe, fresh and balanced.

A few showers in September brought worries that disease might develop in the grapes. Happily, an Indian summer stabilized the situation. Of course, sorting the grapes was necessary, but our cellars equipped with twin sorting lines are designed to handle this. In the end, the vats were filled with a harvest that was impeccably healthy and completely ripe. As in previous years, extraction was particularly easy.

A small detail: over half of the harvest was brought to the vat house by our horses, who the rest of the year are at work in an ever-growing part of the property

### Vineyards

Thirty years after their arrival in Pauillac, the Tesseron family can be proud of having gradually restructured the entire vineyard as well as renovating the cellars and service buildings. Château Pontet-Canet is located in the heart of the Pauillac appellation, just south of châteaux Mouton Rothschild and d'Armailhac. It has the poor gravelly soil typical of the greatest vineyards. In fact, the soil has so much gravel and sand that it is difficult to imagine that anything could grow there at all. The château's winegrowing philosophy is to intervene as little as possible and as naturally as possible in the vineyard. Only traditional viticultural and cultivation practices are used. Chemical weed killers are banned in keeping with environmental protection, and priority is given to the vine's long-term health. Fertilisers are uniquely organic, and only used on plots that genuinely require extra nutrition. This helps to maintain a good balance and self-regulated low yields, as well as to respect the vines, reflect the terroir, and produce pure, natural wine. In 2003, a purification station was built. 2005 was the first harvest using biodynamic practices throughout the whole property of 81 hectares. In 2005, the second vat room was restored and modified at the image of the first one which dates back to the 19th century, with concrete truncated cone-shaped vats allowing fermentation by natural gravity flow, without the use of pressure or pumping. A part of the vineyard is worked with horses since 2008.

Soil: quaternary gravel on a subsoil of clay and limestone; Area: 81 hectares.



<b>Vineyards</b>	Average age of the vines: 35 years; Density of the vines: 9000 feet per hectare: Yield: 45 hectolitres per hectare
<b>Harvest</b>	September 15-29
<b>Maturation</b>	66% in new barrels during 15 month/s
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	Very deep color. Fresh aromas possessing an incredible purity, with mineral, fruit, and flower notes which come together harmoniously. In the mouth the wine shows impressive finesse with silky tannins. This is an enchanted meeting of a great terroir with biodynamics.
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2020-2040
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>#20 - Wine Enthusiast's Top 100 Cellar Selections of 2014</b></p> <p><b>92 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2014</p> <p><b>90-93 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2012</p> <p><b>93+ points</b> - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #212 - April 2014</p> <p><b>93-95 points</b> - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #200 - April 2012</p> <p><b>94-96 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2012</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - January 2014</p> <p><b>92-93 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2012</p> <p><b>96 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 1, 2014</p> <p><b>96-98 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 11, 2012</p> <p><b>91-93 points</b> - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - April 2012</p> <p><b>17 points</b> - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2012</p> <p><b>18 points/4 stars</b> - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2012</p> <p><b>96-97 points</b> - Jane Anson, The New Bordeaux - April 2012</p> <p><b>93-95 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 10, 2012</p> <p><b>95-97 points</b> - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2012</p> <p><b>96 points</b> - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2012</p> <p><b>92-93 points</b> - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2012</p> <p><b>18.5 points</b> - Simon Staples, Berry &amp; Rudd Wine &amp; Spirit Merchants - April 2012</p> <p><b>91-94 points</b> - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2012</p> <p><b>17+ points</b> - Farr Vintners - March 2012</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Jean Marc Quarin (no review)</p> <p><b>19 points</b> - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Falstaff Magazine (score only)</p> <p><b>18.5 points</b> - Gault &amp; Millau (score only)</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>"This cuts a broad swath, with prominent notes of espresso and ganache leading to the core of crushed plum and blackberry confiture. Lush, with the ganache edge joining a loamy hint to underscore the finish. Consistent with the barrel tasting, this shows more breadth than cut in the end. Best from 2016 through 2026."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"A big, broad-shouldered style, with lots of bittersweet cocoa and coffee up front, followed by thick-textured blackberry and black currant fruit. Shows a bit more brute force than purity right now, though hard to deny the concentration and depth. Could move up if it stretches out and gains some finesse. Score range: 90-93."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Proprietor Alfred Tesseron-s 2011 Pontet-Canet is packaged in an engraved, heavy bottle, which only adds to the attractiveness of this beauty. A dense purple color is accompanied by notes of forest floor, acacia flowers and creme de cassis in this full, rich, and unequivocally classic Pauillac. With soft but noticeable tannins as well as a complete, full-bodied mouthfeel, this 2011 will benefit from 3-4 years of cellaring, and should age effortlessly for 15-20 years. Bravo!"</i></p> <p>- RP, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Once again proprietor Alfred Tesseron has produced a wine of first-growth potential. One of the superstars of the vintage, Pontet-Canet's 2011 exhibits an opaque purple color and a glorious bouquet of incense, subtle toast and copious quantities of creme de cassis. There is a floral underpinning, decent acidity and ripe tannin to this full-bodied effort. Big, rich, round and generously endowed, it should drink well for 20-25+ years."</i></p> <p>- RP, Wine Advocate</p>

## Reviews

*"... the 2011 Pontet Canet has a voluptuous bouquet with saturated dark cherry fruit, creme de cassis and a touch of blueberry with underlying minerality. It is exuberant, almost ostentatious at first, but it begins to calm down with time. The palate is medium bodied with firm structured cloaked by layers of ripe black fruit infused with minerals and graphite. It is a quite a strict Pontet Canet underneath what is a hell of a lot of fruit for a 2011. The finish is composed with a touch of citrus fruit towards the finish. Amazing that such a good wine comes from 90% of the crop. Tasted April 2012."*

- NM, Wine Journal

*"A wine with lots of ripe berries, verging on dried fruits. Full and chewy with ripe, round, chewy tannins. It needs lots of bottle age. A wine of steel. From biodynamically grown grapes, as always. Better than from barrel. Try in 2018."*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"A wine with very clear fruit definition and minerals with hints of flowers. Full body with fine tannins and a fresh finish. Mineral and dried flowers. Long and crisp. Lovely quality of tannins here. Racy. Love to see a little more fruit concentration in mid-palate."*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"So smooth, this is a rich, grandiose wine. Although it is full of black currant fruits and spice flavors, the texture is most impressive. Dusty tannins are integrated with juicy fruits seamlessly. The purest fruit flavors are allied to linear tannins in a precise yet generous way. The wine is evolving beautifully, but do not drink before 2020."*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"96-98. Barrel sample. The fruit is very pure with a great depth of flavor. This wine has weight, and intense flavors of dark plum and sweet fruit. Impressive."*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"(60% cabernet sauvignon, 35% merlot, 3% cabernet franc and 2% petit verdot; 32 hectoliters per hectare): Deep, opaque ruby. Rich aromas of blackberry, black cherry and minerals are lifted by a perfumed minty note. Multilayered and vibrant, with compelling sweetness of black fruit cocktail, spicy vanilla and mineral flavors. Finishes with very smooth tannins, a persistent violet note and an impression of weightlessness. I love this wine's purity, but I don't know if my sample had any press wine in it."*

- ST, International Wine Cellar

*"Soft inky crimson. Unusual woody sort of nose. Gentle, rounded, complex already – there's a savoury freshness without specific fruit flavours that you can pick out, though the wine is rounded out by its fruit. As it opens, there's a bramble fruit character. Smoky bacon, not unlike northern Rhône Syrah (!), quite ripe, really does have a sort of Rhône note. A lot of spice, black pepper, particularly on the palate, a tension and energy from the freshness but not juicy fruit. Refined tannins that are also spiced and deep but smoothed. Very long. Not clear cut, not precise but lots of pleasure. A sort of homely character."*

- JH, JancisRobinson.com

*"Wild violets and black fruit nose, both exuberant and classic. It is a wonderfully elegant Pauillac with superb vineyard expression."*

- SS, Decanter.com

*"A lighter wine than 2010's brilliant effort, but the team at this stellar fifth growth has interpreted the vintage with honesty and no little skill. Perfumed, serious and structured, with flavours of fruitcake and vanilla and fine tannins. Late picking and rigorous selection were the key to success here, confirming Pontet-Canet's status as a super second in all but name. 12+ years."*

- TA, timatkin.com

## Reviews

*"Yet another incredible success from this estate, which continues to go from strength to strength, even in tough years. The selection practised at most estates was infamous this year, with most technical directors talking about losing up to 10% of the crop through the laser optic sorters. Jean Louis Comme at Pontet Canet shrugs rather modestly when hearing this. Somehow, over 90% of the grapes made it into the first wine - with zero discernable dip as a result. Storming, rich, layered and supple wine. 96-97."*

- JA, *The New Bordeaux*

*"Produced from an assemblage of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot. Deep ruby in color with scents of coffee, licorice, truffle, smoke and blackberry. The wine is fresh, pure, clean and filled with spicy cassis. Compared to recent vintages, this is a round, approachable, refined style of Pontet Canet finishing with silky cassis and spice. 93-95 Pts"*

- JL, *thewinecellarinsider.com*

*"Deep and earthy; purple at edge; wonderfully vibrant, joyous aroma of blackcurrants and cassis; totally pure and ripe – easily the most precocious and vibrant aroma of any left bank wine tasted; very gentle entry; soft and harmonious palate; blackcurrant flavours; lovely and fresh. Beautifully balance vibrant wine without a trace of bitterness to the tannin. Easily as good as all the first growths and the only dead cert I have in my en primeur list. That makes it wine of the vintage in my book. A testament to the efforts, biodynamic and otherwise. A beauty"*

- JW, *winewordsandvideotape.com*

*"2011 Pontet Canet much less dense than previous vintages with subtle layers of flavours and gentle, delicate expression of fruit. Already approachable, very soft and supple on the palate. The beauty of this vintage for Pontet Canet is the velvety, refined texture of its tannins; very well handled in this challenging vintage. Gorgeous perfume with a welcomed delicacy in this wine. This is an earlier drinking vintage compared to 2009 and 2010 but no less pleasurable."*

- JCL, *asianpalate.com*

*"There are a handful of châteaux in 2011 that surpass the quality of certain of the First Growths and Pontet-Canet is certainly in that elite group. It has a sweet richness and exotic weight that totally defies the vintage. Creamy, yet plump and fruity with such purity and freshness it really does take your breath away. I wouldn't say it's better or worse than 2010 or 2009, just that it has exceptional quality and it's different. Cooler, possibly more elegant but just as rewarding. I described Lynch-Bages, its neighbour, as Led Zeppelin, in their pomp of the early 1970's. If that's the case, Pontet-Canet must be Pink Floyd a few years later, not quite as rock 'n roll, but slightly more mellow and considered. But, as no music collection would be devoid of either band, no collection of great wine cannot have either châteaux in. Both radiant, powerful and essential. Superb."*

- SS, *Berry & Rudd Wine & Spirit Merchants*

*"There is a good depth of fruit on the nose with powerful black fruits filling out the start of the palate. Layers of flavour give complexity cassis and black cherry underpinned by fresher bramble and bilberry. The tannins are well handled giving structure but not aggressive so that the mid palate has richness and suppleness."*

- Derek Smedley MW

*"Alfred Tesseron has been making classic Pauillac here every year since the excellent 1994 and recent vintages have been amongst the best ever, scoring impressively when shown in blind tastings. Pontet Canet is now pushing the Pichon's as Pauillac's top non-first growth. Grapes are manually sorted by a team of 30 people on specially made sorting tables. The vineyard is now 100% organic and bio-dynamic and worked by horses. 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot in 60% new oak. Pontet Canet is now consistently producing wine of "super-second" quality that are even starting to match the First Growths. This is Bordeaux's hottest name right now. The yield in 2011 was only 32hl/ha which will result in 25% less wine being produced. A deep purple colour and a powerful nose that wafts aromas of black cassis fruit and licorice. On the palate it is massive, thick and chewy with great intensity and purity. A bold, black powerhouse with oak and tannin to match the impressive weight of fruit. Another Pontet Canet at a super-second level and one of the wines of the vintage. Alfred believes it to be halfway between 2008 and 2009 in quality."*

- Farr Vintners

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