

Château Pontet Canet 2016

CSPC# 763531

750mlx6

13.5% alc./vol.

CSPC# 813917

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

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

Appellation

Pauillac

Classification

Fifth Growth. Cinquieme Grand Cru Classé in 1855.

Website

<http://www.pontet-canet.com/en/pages/chateau-pontet-canet>

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.

Winemaker

Jean-Michel Comme. Michel Rolland consultant winemaker.

Vintage

In 2016, there were two main trends in the weather as we experienced it in Pauillac: – 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.

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. 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.

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 in 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



Vineyards	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. Average age of the vines: 35 years; Density of the vines: 9000 feet per hectare; Yield: 45 hectolitres per hectare
Harvest	Picked 28 September to 12 October.
Maturation	Aging in 55% new French oak barrels, 35% in amphora and the remainder of wine in one-year old casks.
Tasting Notes	Brilliant shining purple colour, this wine with its sweet flavours of blackcurrant fruits and extraordinarily driven intensity caught many tasters' eye during the primeurs. A big and concentrated wine, with a full bulky tannic mid-palate, and great length with complexity and personality on the finish.
Serve with	Chateau Pontet Canet is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. Chateau Pontet Canet is best paired with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes.
Production	unknown
Cellaring	Drink 2023-2059
Scores/Awards	<p>95 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2019</p> <p>98 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - November 2018</p> <p>95-97 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #230 - April 2017</p> <p>97 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2019</p> <p>98-99 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2017</p> <p>100 points/Editor's Choice - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 2019</p> <p>97-99 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2017</p> <p>17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - October 2018</p> <p>18 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2017</p> <p>98 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - October 2018</p> <p>97 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2017</p> <p>98 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2018</p> <p>98 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2017</p> <p>95 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2017</p> <p>17+ points - Farr Vintner - February 2017</p> <p>94-96 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2017</p> <p>96 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - January 2019</p> <p>99 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - January 2019</p> <p>96-99 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2017</p> <p>98+ points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2019</p> <p>95-97 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - November 2017</p> <p>19.5+ points - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2017</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"This is sappy and rich in feel, with waves of red and black currant preserves, raspberry and bitter plum coulis. The long finish drips with sweet tobacco and anise notes, while a brambly layer courses underneath. The vivacious finish kicks into second gear as the fruit and grip come together. Best from 2023 through 2038."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The blend of the 2016 Pontet-Canet is 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot. Around 55% of the wine was aged in new French oak barrels, 15% in two-year-old barrels and 35% in cement amphorae for 16 months. Deep garnet-purple colored, it opens with opulent scents of plum preserves, spice cake, hoisin and crème de cassis with fragrant wafts of potpourri, wood smoke and rose hip tea. Medium to full-bodied, rich and decadent, with loads of spicy layers, it has a firm, velvety texture with great freshness and incredible depth, finishing very long and on a compelling mineral note.</i> 2016 marks the 40th vintage at Pontet-Canet for Alfred Tesseron. Winemaker Jean-Michel Comme mentioned it was wet at the beginning of the year, but thankfully the weather changed in late June. Thus, 2016 was a more normal/typical mildew year, so the disease pressure wasn't too much of an issue. Then it was very dry until fall. He believes the vintage could be compared to 1961 or 2010. The result is an uninhibited, truly singular showing of Pontet-Canet this year—perhaps the richest, most sumptuous and hedonic expression of the vintage of all the great Left Bank wines." -LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The 2016 Pontet-Canet less Cabernet this year because of the size of the berries. I tasted the wine on two visits to the property around two weeks apart, plus additional tastings at négociants. It has an intense bouquet with layers of blackberry, sloes and fresh mint, just a hint of black truffle in the background. It is certainly a little</i></p>

Reviews *more opulent compared to its peers. The palate is medium-bodied with very fine tannin, a little spicier than I expected (in a positive sense) with gentle grip in the mouth. It fans out with confidence, a voluminous Pontet-Canet with an extremely persistent aftertaste, and a saline and balsamic finish. This is an extravagant Pauillac for the vintage that will age over many years.”*
-NM, Wine Advocate

“The aromas of ripe blackcurrants, iodine, sweet tobacco and fresh flowers are spellbinding. Full-bodied with mouth-expanding, massive and natural tannins. Impressive fruit with hints of prunes. The finish is long and powerful. Needs six to seven years to soften and come together. Try from 2025.”
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“Vivid and full of energy with blackberry, currant and salt. Full body, intense and long. Harmony. Purpose. Classicism. The mineral and currant character is all year. A seamless tannin texture. Great wine. You want to drink it now!”
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*“A voluptuous wine, this is rich and fruity yet properly balanced by a magnificent structure. Pure, crisp and packed with a black currant flavor, this will be a remarkable wine as it develops. Still young, it needs many years to develop. Don’t think about drinking before 2025. *Editors’ Choice* (RV)”*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“This wine is so dense and concentrated, with magnificent fruit. The tannins are velvety, but, at the same time, the wine has a dry side that will allow it to age so well. Juicy blackberries and great tannins work in harmony. The estate is in its seventh vintage certified biodynamic. (RV)”
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“Deep crimson – much deeper than 2017. Fully ripe aromas with some glamour and pizzazz. Good balance and spreads across the palate without being flashy or too sweet or alcoholic.”
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“Picked 28 September to 12 October. Director Jean-Michel Comme says maybe a bit earlier than some. I’m not sure. They’ve been biodynamic for 12 years but 2007 was so bad that they had to abandon status. 34 hl/ha – reduced to that from spring pruning. Very dark crimson. More savoury and sumptuous than many of its neighbours. Blackberry compote and very round and rich and satiny. Very round. Almost too sweet but that is to complain needlessly. Already rich and enjoyable but masses of tannins too. Long and throbbing. Excellent with freshness and cleanliness and round. Pretty sweet though so it’s a definite style.”
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“The 2016 is a vintage that shows off the best of Pontet and is similar in feel to their 2010. Gorgeously rich right from the first nose, it opens stunningly in the glass, showing waves of tight black fruits, touches of redcurrant, liquorice and aniseed, fine tannins and mouthwatering salinity. It manages to remain balanced without losing the punch and concentration of Pauillac, rising up through the palate. It’s hard not to fall in love with this wine, and it will clearly age with grace and ease. Bottled in July 2018. Drinking Window 2026 - 2042 (JA)”
- JA, Decanter.com

“This is richly layered with seductively ripe fruit. The quality and texture of the brambled blackberries, cassis and bilberries is striking. There is a sense of lightness and juiciness but also depth and flesh - you can feel the joy of that contrast at every step as the wine stretches out in front of you, hard to resist. 2016 is another vintage where they are up at 95%+ of grand vin, this year aged in 55% new casks, 10% in one-year old casks and 35% in amphorae. Drinking Window 2027-2050”
- JA, Decanter.com

Reviews

"Power, elegance, refinement, depth, and length are like everything else with this wine in perfect harmony. Floral in nature, the dark cassis, blackberry, tobacco, and wet earth notes in the perfume stand out. But its the purity of the fruit and the elegance in the character that leaves you wanting another sniff, swirl and sip. The silky textured tannins and sweetness in the fruit in the fruit seals the deal!"

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Cassis drenched flowers, lead pencil, clay, spice, blackberry and cigar box aromatics win you over immediately. Purity and freshness, balance and harmony with length and character, this wine sneaks up on you -- it tastes and feels wonderful. The finish keeps going, building in intensity and flavor, moving from red to black fruits, leaving you with red berries, spice and minerality. The tannins are silky, the fruit is sweet and there is more than ample lift here. The wine just does not quit. The harvest took place September 28 to October 12."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"You'd expect Pontet-Canet's biodynamic vineyards to have suffered in the rainy first half of the year, but not a bit of it. This is a rich, polished, concentrated wine with plenty of spicy oak, structured tannins, balancing acidity and the power to age. Textured, plush and ambitious. 2026-36"

- TA, timatkin.com

"Alfred Tesseron has been making constant improvements since the early 1990's. Grapes are manually sorted by a team of 30 people on specially made sorting tables. The vineyard has been organic and bio-dynamic for 10 years and is worked by horses. A part of the maturation is now done in egg-shaped concrete amphoras. 55% new oak, 10% one-year old barrels, 35% amphoras. in 2009 and 2010 two 100 point rated wines were produced here and subsequent vintages have continued to receive high prices from the critics. Cropped at 34hl/ha, the colour is deep purple in the glass. Spicy, rich blackberry fruit with hints of cocoa and vanilla. The palate is voluptuous with blackcurrant and damson, with elegant, fine grained, and highly polished tannins revealing a texture of pure silk to carry the fruit core. Sweet vanilla, roasted coffee and inky fruit linger on the very long finish."

- Farr Vintners

"Concentrated rich the nose has depth the palate brooding black fruited power the ripe black cherry and cassis backed by dark chocolate. Integrated tannins add to the suppleness, but the richness is balanced by herbal bramble a complex mix of flavours. 2025-48"

- Derek Smedley MW

"The 2016 Pontet-Canet was bottled in July 2018. Jean-Michel Comme says it is the best vintage in recent years, a reference point for the estate, with more definition and precision than the 2010 Pontet-Canet. I do like the bouquet here: very pure and precise, the oak nicely integrated, subtle floral scents emerging with time. In the background there is a touch of fresh fig, conveying the warmth of that summer but not impeding upon the terroir expression. The palate is very well balanced and extremely pure, with fine tannin and an almost satin-like texture; the acidity here is well judged. A subtle spiciness becomes more pronounced toward the finish, which exerts gentle grip. This is a very sophisticated Pontet-Canet, easily the finest from Alfred Tesseron and winemaker Jean-Michel Comme in recent years. Drink 2025-2060."

- NM, [Vinous](http://Vinous.com)

"The 2016 Pontet-Canet is absolutely breathtaking. Powerful, ample and racy in the glass, the 2016 is one of the most exquisitely well-balanced young Pontet-Canets I can remember tasting. Savory, high-toned aromatics and brisk mineral notes lend energy and delineation as this vivid wonderfully alive wine opens up in the glass. The flavors are dark and incisive, but it is the wine's total sense of harmony that is most compelling. All of the elements are simply in the right place. The 2016 is tremendous. It's as simple as that. As is often the case, Pontet-Canet is one of the most singular wines in Bordeaux. Alfred Tesseron could have chosen to play things safe when he took over the management of the estate in the mid-1990s. Instead, he chose a very different path. No proprietor in Bordeaux has taken more risks over the last two decades than Alfred Tesseron. A commitment to biodynamic farming, sustainability across the entire estate more broadly, and the adoption of new concepts for Bordeaux, such as aging a portion of the wine in terra cotta, set Pontet-Canet apart from other properties in Pauillac and the Left Bank. Not surprisingly, the wine is also starkly different from the wines of neighboring estates. (AG)"

- AG, [Vinous](http://Vinous.com)

Reviews

“The 2016 Pontet-Canet has been absolutely brilliant on the three occasions I’ve tasted it so far. Exotically ripe, powerful and voluptuous, it brings together the richness of the 2009 with the structure of the 2010. There aren’t too many other 2016s where that is the case, but it is undoubtedly true here. The 2016 is a spectacular wine by any measure, while Pontet-Canet confirms its rarefied place as a true original in Bordeaux. Technical director Jean-Michel Comme added that Cabernet Sauvignon plays a slightly lesser role in the blend because the berries had less juice than normal at harvest. Comme also bumped up the new oak slightly, to 55 percent. The rest of the wine was aged in neutral oak (10 percent) and amphora (35 percent). In a word: Superb. Tasted three times.”
- AG, Vinous

“Reminding me of the 2010 and, I suspect, a wine that will merit a triple-digit rating in a decade or so (I tasted this on multiple occasions and thought it was perfect on one of them), the 2016 Château Pontet-Canet comes from 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc, and the balance Petit Verdot that spent 16 months in 50% new French oak, 35% in concrete amphora, and the rest in second fill oak. Thrilling notes of pure crème de cassis, lead pencil shavings, crushed mint, graphite, and crushed rock notes all emerge from this deep, powerful, yet elegant Pauillac. The style of this wine has become more and more finesse-driven and pure, yet it hasn’t lost a beat on concentration or length. This singular, beautiful Pontet-Canet needs 7-8 years of cellaring (it has some accessibility today given its purity and balance) and will keep for 4-5 decades.”
- Jeb Dunnuck

“The 2016 Pontet Canet from Alfred Tesseron and estate manager Jean-Michel Comme saw a touch more new oak than normal (55%) and is a blend of 70% Cabernet Sauvignon and the rest Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. It also had 35% of the blend brought up in amphora. Showing the now hallmark purity and elegance of the estate in its crème de cassis, violet, and spring flower-laced bouquet, this beauty is full-bodied, has bright acidity, and sensational purity of fruit. It’s going to be for those with patience and cold cellars, however, and I wouldn’t touch bottle for at least 7-8 years. 2026 – 2056”
- Jeb Dunnuck

“This is an exceedingly rich and decadent Pontet-Canet on the nose, and there is masses of power and amplitude on the palate, too. The fruit is dense, bold, layered and sophisticated and the class and breeding is very plain to see. This is a staggering tour de force for this Château. The balance between modern fruit intensity and fascinating antique flavours is unique.”
- MJ, matthewjukes.com
