

Château Pontet Canet 2019

CSPC# 866178

750mlx6

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot
Appellation	Pauillac
Classification	Fifth Growth. Cinquieme Grand Cru Classé in 1855.
Website	http://www.pontet-canet.com/en/pages/chateau-pontet-canet
Sustainability	Biodynamic
General Info	<p>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.</p>
Winemaker	Jean-Michel Comme. Michel Rolland consultant winemaker.
Vintage	<p>After quite a mild winter, the first leaves appeared on the vines at the beginning of April. Despite a very unusual cold snap in May, which slowed cane growth for some days, flowering ensued very quickly and uniformly. Then summer settled in, and the first grapes began changing colour on July 23rd. A few much-awaited showers quickened the pace of this initial colour change and by the end of July, in just a few days, ripening was well underway. Harvest time approached in very promising conditions with the fruit presenting lovely crispness.</p> <p>On September 23rd in brilliant sunshine, the Merlot grapes were picked followed by the Cabernet Franc. In the very last days of September the "real" Medoc harvest began with the first crates of the princely Cabernet Sauvignon being picked.</p> <p>On October 10th at midday, when the last Petit Verdot had been brought in, the secateurs were put away and tranquility returned to the vines.</p>
Vineyards	<p>Thirty years after their arrival in Pauillac, the Tesseron 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. Average age of the vines: 35 years; Density of the vines: 9000 feet per hectare: Yield: 45 hectolitres per hectare</p>
Harvest	From September 23rd to October 10th
Maturation	Aging in 55% new French oak barrels, 35% in amphora and the remainder of wine in one-year old casks.



Tasting Notes	The wine displays a very attractive, intensely dark colour with purple glints. The nose adds to the appeal, offering a magical array of aromatics ranging from graphite and cedar-wood notes to aromas of wild fruit. The depth of flavour on the palate is underpinned by soft tannins and lovely acidity. The finish, which reveals subtle smoky notes, is amazingly long. In this vintage, Pontet-Canet shows once again that natural refinement is its finest jewel. 2019, without doubt, is a promise of voluptuousness for all wine lovers
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	Approx. 25,000 cases made.
Cellaring	Drink 2023-2043
Scores/Awards	<p>94 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2022</p> <p>93 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022</p> <p>98-100 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - June 2020</p> <p>99 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent - March 2022</p> <p>99 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2022</p> <p>98-99 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2020</p> <p>97-99 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 2020</p> <p>18 points - James Lawther, JancisRobinson.com - January 2022</p> <p>17.5 points - James Lawther, JancisRobinson.com - June 2020</p> <p>98 points - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - January 2022</p> <p>96 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - June 2020</p> <p>98 points - Jane Anson, Insidebordeaux.com - January 2022</p> <p>97 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2022</p> <p>93-96 points - Farr Vintners - May 2020</p> <p>96 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2022</p> <p>95-97 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - June 2020</p> <p>92 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - April 2022</p> <p>96 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2020</p> <p>100 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - February 2022</p> <p>97 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - February 2021</p> <p>19 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2022</p> <p>20 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - September 2020</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Very lush out of the gate, with waves of gently mulled plum, blackberry and black currant fruit that roll through slowly, lined with alder, sweet tobacco, worn cedar and singed savory notes. Delivers a late tug of iron that's well-buried on a finish marked by lingering perfume, resulting in an end impression of a rich wine that's very light on its feet. Best from 2023 through 2036."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The 2019 Pontet-Canet offers up an expressive bouquet of plummy fruit, kirsch, dried herbs, and peonies. On the palate, it's full-bodied, ample and seamless, with melting tannins, succulent acids, and a long, liqueur finish. Tasted twice, it's a wine I find somewhat perplexing: in a blind tasting, I might be more inclined to place it in Gigondas than Pauillac. I'm far from dogmatic when it comes to what the French call "typicité," and stylistic diversity surely enriches every appellation; but by the same token, I'm not convinced that this is the most compelling aesthetic that a Cabernet-based blend from this part of Bordeaux can realize. Checking in at 13.7% alcohol, some 35% of the production was matured in amphorae, which no doubt contributes to the wine's idiosyncratic identity. - Drink 2021-2045."</i></p> <p>- WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The blend this year is 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot. Very deep purple-black colored, the 2019 Pontet-Canet has the most gorgeous, lifted perfume of lilacs, dark chocolate, Morello cherries and rosehip tea over a core of crème de cassis, plum preserves, licorice and woodsmoke with a waft of fragrant soil. Full-bodied, rich, and fantastically opulent, the palate offers layer upon layer of ripe, finely grained tannins and seamless freshness, finishing very long and mineral laced. A real head-turner, this beauty is absolutely going to steal your heart!"</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Advocate</p>

Reviews

"The 2019 Pontet-Canet is made from 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc, and 2% Petit Verdot. Deep garnet-purple colored, it is a little shy to begin, slowly drifting out of the glass with an evocative perfume of violets, black tea, rose petals, and cinnamon stick over a core of cassis, juicy blackberries, and black cherries, plus touches of star anise and cardamom. Medium to full-bodied, concentrated, and delivering layer upon layer of black fruits and savory accents, it has a firm, ripe, grainy texture and just enough freshness, finishing very long and fragrant. So stunningly vibrant that it shimmers, give it a good four years further in the cellar to open out and enjoy its transformation over the next 40 years+. Tasted three times with consistent notes."

- LPB, Wine Independent

"The aromas to this are really amazing, with a potpourri of spices and dried flowers, as well as redcurrants, sweet plums and even some peaches. Full-bodied with layers of ripe fruit and ultra-fine tannins that spread across the palate in an encompassing yet always elegant and pure way. It's succulent and unadulterated. Like crushed, perfectly ripened grapes. The length is rather endless. The tannins build. Fabulous young red. 35% in amphora and the rest in 50% new oak and 15% one-year oak. 65% Cabernet Sauvignon and 30% Merlot, the rest Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. From biodynamically grown grapes. Try after 2028, but an absolute joy to taste now."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"A very tight, compact red that shows wonderful precision and definition with lots of blackberries, blueberries, stones, and black tea. The sorting and destemming were all done by hand. Love the sensibility to this. Superb length and finesse. Subtle and sophisticated. No pumping over and gentle pushing down. Handmade. Very exciting and thought-provoking. Very long. 35% in amphora and the rest in 50% new oak and 15% one-year oak. 65% cabernet sauvignon and 30% merlot, the rest cabernet franc and petit verdot. Biodynamic grapes."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This is a luscious, sumptuous wine, with layers of black fruits and wonderfully cushioned tannins. The structure of the wine is initially masked by the great fruits, but then finds balance from a dry edge of spice, smokiness, and lifted acidity. It's another great vintage from this biodynamic estate."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Deep purple hue. Pure, elegant, and precise, the fruit at perfect pitch, the aromatics complex and refined. Tannins finely edged but firm and present. Altogether great harmony and poise. Upright but seductive at the same time. A very complete wine."

- JL, JancisRobinson.com

"65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot. Hand-destemmed grapes. Barrel sample. Deep purple-black hue. Pure, ripe, and creamy on the nose, the fruit very much to the fore. Cassis and blueberry notes with a hint of chocolate behind. Ripe and silky on attack then a depth of generous fruit and plentiful tannins. Firm, dry finish. Pauillac but in a more luxurious, modern vein. Drink 2027-2045."

- JL, JancisRobinson.com

"Such gorgeous aromatics of freshly picked violets, cherries, and bramble fruits - pretty and quite delicate. The texture is smooth and succulent, mouth coating but full of soft tannins which have the most delicious black cherry, blackcurrant flesh and liquorice tinge to them - so satisfying. Extremely well balanced and well-integrated, this has restrained power, it's not rich or particularly round but straight, direct and layered rather than wide. Really long finish with great freshness and touches of cool blueberries. This is just such a great wine, everything you want, and you know there's power there promising a long life. Great winemaking on show. 35% aged in concrete, 50% new oak, 15% in barrels of one year, for 16-18 months. This year there's a new label, the drawing of the house has remained, but the font is more elegant and modern."

- GH, Decanter.com

"Clear Pauillac character in terms of its tannic structure, overlaid with the Pontet signature of recent vintages that translates into spirals of peony and iris alongside brambled hedgerow. As it settles, coffee bean and tobacco add a charred character alongside blackberry and cassis puree. It opens extremely slowly, with so many

Reviews *subtle nuances that gather in confidence. The tannins have unmistakable Pauillac strength, but the structure and the subtlety of this wine is Pontet-Canet, with the amphoras having an influence in terms of the tannins feeling less silky than they do in many of the appellation's biggest wines, but still with swagger. Back to a normal yield after the difficulties in 2018 with mildew that saw production drop to 12hl/ha. This is the last vintage under Jean-Michel Comme, technical director, and estate manager for past 32 years. He has been replaced by Mathieu Bessonnet who has spent the last 15 years with Michel Chapoutier on his (also biodynamically farmed) estates in Australia and Alsace and who was, they tell me, selected by Comme who chose him and worked with him. 100% 1st wine, as it has been for the past four years. 55% will be aged in new oak barrel, 45% in amphoras. This is a two-point score under the 2016, because it doesn't have the concentration of that exceptional vintage, but it's an excellent Pontet, full of vigour. Manual punching down across the entire production. Drinking Window 2028 – 2044.”*
- JA, Decanter.com

“Particularly successful during En Primeur, and even better now, just bursting out of the glass. Plump and fruit forward, plenty of character, with spiced cedar and smoked earth, violet and iris notes play around the edges, but the focus is on creamy cassis, bilberry, cocoa bean, and aniseed. Last vintage with Jean-Michel Comme as technical director, and you really now see the skilled use of amphoras, which added notes of austerity in the early years (they introduced them in 2012) but now showcase the precision of the fruit. 100% 1st wine, with the ageing taking place in a mix of 45% new oak barrels, 15% one-year barrels and 40% amphoras.”
- JA, Inside Bordeaux

“It is the purity of the fruit, along with the soft, silky, polished layers of freshness that matter here. The wine kicks off with an array of flowers, plums, currants, and blackberries along with spice, savory herbs, tobacco leaf and a touch of cherry. The wine exudes its red fruit quality with ease, leaving you with an elegant, refined, soft, polished, mid-palate and a long, vibrant, fresh finish that provides you with a gorgeous display of purity in the fruits. Please allow the wine some time for aging before pulling a cork. Drink from 2030-2060.”
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“The 2019 is a blend of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot. The wine will be aged in 50% new oak, 35% in Pontet Canet's bespoke concrete eggs, and 15% in second fill barrels. The entire production was de-stemmed berry-by-berry by hand, an incredibly laborious, painstaking process that should retain the integrity of each grape and can enhance aromatics and purity. Deep purple in colour with an expansive nose of black pepper, baked plums, and violets. The palate bursts forth with red cherries, kirsch, and forest fruits. The tannins are fine and integrated, allowing the fruit and peppery spice to shing through. Sweet fruits and violets linger on the finish. Tasted in Bordeaux.”
- Farr Vintners

“The 2019 Pontet-Canet was so effusive and generous en primeur. Today, though, it is quite reticent. That won't be an issue for those who can be patient, but patience indeed will be the key here. Dark red fleshed fruit, tobacco, cedar, spice, kirsch, mint, and blood orange gradually open with a bit of coaxing. Imposing tannins wrap it all together. The 2019 is a drop-dead gorgeous beauty, but it needs time.”
- AG, Vinous

“A positively gorgeous, sumptuous wine, the 2019 Pontet-Canet is explosive right out of the glass. Layers of richness and pure textural intensity give the wine its statuesque build and a good deal of gravitas to match. Floral and savory accents appear later, adding layers of dimension that play off the natural radiance of the year. As always, Pontet-Canet offers a very personal, idiosyncratic expression of Pauillac. The 2019 is 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot, harvested between September 23 and October 10, which is a typical time frame for the estate. Yields came in at 33 hectoliters per hectare, more or less the historical average these days. For the first time, all sorting and destemming were done by hand and the wine was vinified only with manual punch downs (i.e. no pump overs), without any motorized equipment. Cuvaison was around 21 days, after which the wine was taken off the skins for the malolactic fermentation (which was done in the fermentation vats), and then racked into barrels and concrete for aging – 50% new oak, 35% amphora and 15% once-used barrels. Sadly, 2019 is the last vintage at Pontet-Canet for long-time Technical Director Jean-Michel Comme, who left after 31 years to focus on his own projects. He is succeeded by Mathieu Bessonnet, formerly of Chapoutier.”
- AG, Vinous

Reviews

“The 2019 Château Pontet Canet checks in as a blend of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc, and 2% Petit Verdot that was brought up in a mix of barrels and concrete tanks. It shows the new style of the estate with a more savory, exotic, medium to full-bodied style that's a dramatically different beast than the benchmark 2009 and 2010 vintages, which to my mind, are the greatest vintages from this estate to date. The 2019 has a ruby/plum color as well as a perfumed nose of redcurrant and mulberry fruits as well as notes of brambly herbs, woodsmoke, peony, leather, and cedar pencil. It's aromatic and complex, although certainly not classic Pauillac, and on the palate, it's medium to full-bodied, with firm, savory, yet quality tannins, good balance, and outstanding length. It warrants 7-8 years of bottle age and will evolve for 30+ years. While the style of the estate has been gradually shifting with the winemaking moving to hand destemming and aging in concrete and amphora, this is the first time where the winemaking seems to dominate the wine, and the quality is unquestionably not at the same level.”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“Deep dark ruby, opaque core, purple reflections, subtle brightening on rim. For the first time since 2011, the proportion of Merlot is somewhat higher, the bouquet accordingly more characterised by heart cherries than by the usual cassis de Pauillac, delicate nougat and caramel, fine herbal spice. Powerful, tightly meshed, shows good expression, chocolatey touch, ripe tannins, great complexity, great length and spiciness, a very independent personality, a huge promise for the future, already evident: this wine has everything a world-class wine needs.”

- Falstaff Magazine
