

## Reserve De La Comtesse 2010

CSPC# 811813

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

**Grape Variety**  
**Appellation**

51% Cabernet Sauvignon, 46% Merlot, 3% Petit Verdot  
Pauillac  
2<sup>nd</sup> Growth

**Website**

<http://www.pichon-comtesse.com/>

**General Info**

The estate was founded in 1689 by Pierre de Mazure de Rauzan and the vineyard acquired its name a few years later when his daughter Thérèse received it as part of her dowry on her marriage to Jacques de Pichon Longueville, the first President of the Parliament of Bordeaux. It was divided upon the death of Baron Joseph in 1850 between his five children. However, only two of his children finally inherited the vineyards; Raoul and Virginie. Virginie married Count Henri de Lalande, giving her the title, and took over control of the domain. Her passion and the quality of her management made her a strong personality in the Médoc and she very much left her mark on the domain. In the 1855 classification, Château Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande acquired the status of 2<sup>eme</sup> Cru Classé. The 2<sup>nd</sup> wine.

**Vintage**

A cold and dry winter led to a later than usual bud break but under excellent climatic conditions. Flowering, however, was not as ideal with instances of coulure and millerandage in Pauillac. Summer saw sunny days and cool nights but very little rain. This caused an earlier ripening than normal, although thanks to the age of the vines on the estate, these conditions can in fact cause a higher quality wine. The picking period was under ideal conditions with a good crop of small and consequently very concentrated grapes.

**Vineyards**

The 75 hectares (185 acres) of this vineyard border the property of Château Latour and stretch south of Pauillac towards the Commune of Saint Julien, from whence it gets its extraordinary charm. The average age of the vines is 35 years, the sub-soils are made up of deep layers of gravel, and the top soils are ploughed. All these factors work in favour of the terroir and the production of high-quality wines. In these conditions, the water constraints created by drought can generate higher wine quality, as long as the vine doesn't overly suffer stress.

**Maturation**

The temperatures were carefully regulated during the fermentation and the maceration to obtain an aromatic and silky expression of the vintage. Overall, the alcohol-tannin-acid balance was excellent. Malolactic fermentation was minimal due to low temperatures. Maceration: 18 to 24 days.

**Tasting Notes**

Terrific texture and opulence, forward fruit, sweet tannin, and a lush personality are dense along with copious quantities of sweet berries, roasted coffee, underbrush, black currant, and black cherry fruit. Sensationally pure, textured, and full-bodied, this will be a flamboyant, showy offering in its youth. Capable of lasting 20-30 years.

**Serve with**

Lamb, red meats, cheese, truffle and chocolate.

**Production**

13,333 cases made.

**Cellaring**

Drink from 2022

**Scores/Awards**

- 90 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2013
- 89-92 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2011
- 89 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #205 - February 2013
- 89-91 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #194 - May 2011
- 90 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - March 2014
- 90 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - March 2013
- 90-92 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2011
- 17 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - July 2015
- 15.5 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - January 2014
- 16.5 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2011
- 88 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 8, 2013



**Scores/Awards** **93 points** - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2011  
**91 points** - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2011  
**92 points** - Falstaff Magazine (score only)  
**16.5 points** - Gault & Millau (score only)  
**17.5 points** - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)  
**18.5 points** - La Revue du Vin France (score only)  
**17 points** - Bettane & Desseauve (score only)

**Reviews** *"Vibrant and silky, this slides down almost too easily, with delicious red and black currant fruit laced with hints of anise, violet and black tea. A flicker of singed balsa wood keeps the finish going along. Best from 2022 through. 13,333 cases made. "*  
- JM, Wine Spectator

*"This mouth filling red displays a core of plum, black cherry and red currant fruit, with well-integrated toast. There's a light tarry edge on the finish. Tasted non-blind. Score range: 89-92"*  
- JM, Wine Spectator

*"If you're looking for something much more drinkable, then check out the blend of 51% Cabernet Sauvignon, 46% Merlot and the rest Petit Verdot, the 2010 Comtesse de Lalande, the second wine of this estate. Sweet mulberry, black cherry, licorice, and forest floor notes dominate this medium-bodied, fleshy, soft wine, which should be drunk over the next decade."*  
- RP, Wine Advocate

*"A blend of 51% Cabernet Sauvignon, 46% Merlot, and the rest Petit Verdot, this wine, which hit 13.5% alcohol (the 2009 was 13%) displays loads of chocolatey, herbal, black currant fruit and mocha-infused notes in a dark plum/purple-tinged, fleshy style. Drink it over the next decade."*  
- RP, Wine Advocate

*"Tasted blind at the Southwold Bordeaux 2010 tasting. The Reserve de Comtesse has a pleasant but austere bouquet with dusky black tobacco-infused fruit all with fine definition and vigour. The palate is medium bodied with a satisfying Merlot component neatly offsetting the ripe Cabernet Sauvignon. Good body here, pleasing length with a dash of spice on the finish. Tasted January 2014."*  
- NM, Wine Journal

*"The Reserve de la Comtesse 2010, a blend of 51% Cabernet Sauvignon, 46% Merlot and 3% Petit Verdot, has a refined bouquet of dark cherries, plum and blackcurrant fruit that you might describe as "neat and tidy". The palate is medium bodied with quite a plush, generous entry thanks to that ripe Merlot. It is a forward wine for a 2010, very approachable with a fresh finish. It should drink well over the next 10 years. Tasted November 2012."*  
- NM, Wine Journal

*"A blend of 51% Cabernet Sauvignon and 46% Merlot, delivering 13.4% alcohol with a pH of 3.76 the Reserve has a relatively luscious, generous, Margaux-like bouquet thanks to its floral nature. Good definition and vigour. The palate is medium bodied with a very tannic, cedar and graphite infused entry thanks to the Cabernet, quite strict and linear, very good weight (the most I have ever seen of a Reserve) with a slightly foursquare finish. Drink 2014-2025. Tasted March 2011."*  
- NM, Wine Journal

*"Very dark crimson with a bright rim. Exciting and intriguing with a balsam note on the nose. Round and charming already – and such gloss! Some light saltiness. Very savoury after all the ripeness. Insistently gorgeous."*  
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*"Mild wine without strong distinguishing marks and a little softer than its peers. Marked acidity on the finish."*  
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

**Reviews** *“Very dark but not that purple. Intense and flattering – on the nose anyway. Creamy texture. This would be a lovely introduction to the vintage. Just a little dry and drying on the end but it’s gorgeous on the front palate. Odd that they are serving a sample drawn 4 Apr on 7 Apr at the chateau - even though it is in decent nick. I think the frontal charm would flatter enormously. Sweetness and flattery.”*  
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*“Easy to drink, this plummy, soft, round, forward wine is already drinking well.”*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“Fresh blackberries, hint of violets, cedar. The 2010 Reserve de la Comtesse has a fairly deep ruby hue, and aromas of fresh blackberries, cedar and a hint of violets. Made in a gentle, delicate style, this second wine from Pichon Lalande successfully captures the aromatic, perfumed flavours characteristic of this vintage. Tasted in: Bordeaux, France. Maturity: Young.”*  
- JCL, asianpalate.com

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