

Château La Conseillante 2014

CSPC# 790378

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

78% Merlot, 22% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

Pomerol

Classification

unclassified

Website

<http://www.la-conseillante.com/en>

General Info

The name "La Conseillante" first appeared in the middle of the 18th century. It was given to the property by a certain Catherine Conseillan, an influential figure who ran the estate at that time -almost 300 years ago.

It was in 1871 that the Nicolas family bought the estate, whose surface area and vineyard plots have remained unchanged since then.

Today, it is the turn of the fifth generation of the Nicolas to manage the estate, a demonstration once again of continuity and the attachment of the family to this great growth. Bertrand Nicolas and Jean-Valmy Nicolas are the joint managing directors of La Conseillante. Marielle Cazaux is the estate manager.

The Nicolas heirs are clearly identified on each bottle by the initials "LN" on the label at the centre of a shield within a silver-edged border whose four corners are sloped. The violet-coloured bottle capsule evokes the characteristic aroma of the wine. These packaging features, first chosen back in 1871 by the Nicolas brothers, remain elegant and yet modern even today.

Château La Conseillante is a member of the Union des Grands Crus and L'Académie des Vins de Bordeaux.

Vintage

2014 Pomerol wines do not hit the level of greatness achieved in 2012, 2010, 2009, 2008 and 2005. Now, that is not necessarily a bad thing. While not as ostentatious as those previous vintages, 2014 Pomerol wines display a fresh, pure, sweet and silky character with compelling aromatic, that are hard not to like.

Perhaps there was too much water retained in some soils following the summer-less summer which was exacerbated with the rains that fell September 17 and September 18. Pomerol experienced about 775 Millimeters, (30.5") of rain in total. However, close to 10% of that rain fell in August and with the rain from September, that certainly had some effect on the grapes and harvest. Even though Pomerol is a small appellation, with only 800 hectares of vines, there is a wide diversity of soils and terroirs. The clay and some of the gravel terroirs handled the levels of moisture, much better than the vineyards with more sand in their soils, as you would expect, which made a difference with 2014 Pomerol.

The 2014 Pomerol harvest, the grapes being picked in early October were harvested under picture perfect, hot, dry, sunny conditions. The Cabernet Franc were especially beautiful, making the wines with the higher levels of Cabernet Franc in their blends, generally speaking, the most interesting 2014 Pomerol wines.

To give you an idea on picking dates for 2014 Pomerol, La Conseillante worked on their young vine Merlot on September 23 for one day. They began picking again September 29, finishing with their Merlot, October 2. They finished harvesting their Cabernet Franc October 6.

Vineyards

La Conseillante is one of just a handful of great Pomerol estates whose terroir has long been recognised as one of the best in the appellation. The 12 hectares of vineyards are in the heart of the Pomerol plateau next to Petrus and Cheval Blanc. One third of the vines – the ones to the left of Cheval Blanc's driveway – are located in Saint-Emilion on gravel and sand, but the remaining two thirds of the vineyard is planted on blue clay. It is apparently the combination of these two elements which provides the finesse and aroma for which the property is famous, and the power and depth which make it long lived.



Vineyards	80% of the vines that grow in this unique place, where the soils are predominantly made up of clay, are of the Merlot variety, which makes our wines round, deep and smooth. The remaining 20% that grow in gravel soils are Cabernet Franc, which contribute structure and freshness to the blend. Its vineyard, located in the heart of the finest Pomerol terroir, has remained unchanged since its creation. While this in itself is a guarantee of excellence, the consistency of quality in La Conseillante wines comes above all from the care and attention given over 145 vintages by successive generations of the Nicolas family, who have skillfully preserved and passed on this unique heritage.
Harvest	Harvesting: By hand, in small crates. Merlot 23 from September to 2 October and Cabernet Franc from 29 September until 6 October Sorting: By hand and machine on 4 tables
Maturation	Pre-fermentation cold soak for 2 to 4 days. Vatting period: 2 to 4 weeks Ageing: 50% to 80% in new French oak barrels Duration: 18 months Racking: Every 3 months, using a traditional bellow pump Fining: In barrel, 2 to 3 fresh egg whites per barrel
Tasting Notes	La Conseillante has a style like no other. Each vintage shows its characteristic bright, deep ruby hue. The nose reveals complex aromas of violets, liquorice and truffles mingling with red berry fruit. The wines display outstanding harmony, finesse and complexity.
Production	3,235 cases made
Serve with	Chateau La Conseillante is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. Young vintages can be decanted for 2-3 hours. This allows the wine to soften and open its perfume. Older vintages might need very little decanting, just enough to remove the sediment. Chateau La Conseillante is best paired with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised and grilled dishes. Chateau La Conseillante is also good with Asian dishes, hearty fish courses like tuna, salmon, mushrooms and pasta.
Cellaring	Drink 2019-2040
Scores/Awards	<p>93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2017</p> <p>93 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate - March 31, 2017</p> <p>92-94 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #218 - April 29, 2015</p> <p>96 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - February 2017</p> <p>94-95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2015</p> <p>17- points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2015</p> <p>17.25 (90+) points - James Lawther, Decanter.com - April 2015</p> <p>92-94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2015</p> <p>93-94+ points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2015</p> <p>95 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2015</p> <p>18+ points - Farr Vintner - March 2015</p> <p>91-96 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2015</p> <p>94 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - March 2015</p> <p>93 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2017</p> <p>90-93 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2015</p> <p>94-96 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only)</p> <p>17 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)</p> <p>18 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)</p> <p>17.5 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only)</p> <p>16.5 points - Gault & Millau (score only)</p> <p>Commended - Decanter World Wine Awards 2015</p>

Reviews

“Charming and silky, this could stand in for a Chambolle-Musigny, with blood orange and damson plum coulis notes hitting a slightly higher pitch before turning to darker plum and black cherry flavors. Gorgeous floral and rooibos tea details fill in on the long, suave finish. A graceful version that will be hard to lay off, though capable of handling cellaring. Best from 2020 through 2035. 3,235 cases made.”

- JM, Wine Spectator

“The 2014 La Conseillante has a well-defined bouquet with brambly red berry fruit, minerals, touches of seaweed and light incense aromas that develop fine intensity in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with fine-grained tannin. This Pomerol is very well poised with perfectly judged acidity. Whilst not a match for Titans like the 1989 or 2010, this La Conseillante possesses nuance and sophistication, a precision that does justice to the name. It should be earlier-drinking than other vintages that I have tasted, though given the terroir and track record, it would not surprise me if it gives 25 years of drinking pleasure. Tasted twice with consistent notes.”

- NM, Wine Advocate

“The Château La Conseillante 2014 is a blend of 78% Merlot and 22% Cabernet Franc, picked from 23 September to 2 October and 29 September until 6 October respectively at 35 hectoliters per hectare. There was just 2.5% vin de presse and the Grand Vin represents 88% of the total production this year. As you would expect, there is far more fruit intensity on the nose compared to the Duo, with dry tobacco-infused red and black fruit, hints of Provençal herb and black truffle - very Pomerol in style. The palate delivers the class. Supple in the mouth, very well judged acidity, poised and long, the Cabernet Franc drives this along and elevates the finish in terms of complexity. There are light spices entering the fray towards the finish that is feminine and nuanced with lovely salinity on the aftertaste that will urge you to take another sip. I was admittedly a little underwhelmed by the deuxième vin this year, but the grand vin makes up for it. It is another great Pomerol from ever-congenial winemaker Jean-Michel Laporte and his team.”

- NM, Wine Advocate

“Classical elegance in an uncompromising form, whereby the richness is beautifully interwoven with the dry tannins. The finish very long, savory and complex. A lot of delicate spicy and olive notes make this really complex.”

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“T Wow. This really kick in here with lots of subtle yet fresh fruit and a chewy and long finish. Muscular and long with a wonderful elegance. The winemaker says the cabernet franc gives the style and structure here. And he's right.”

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“Dark, healthy crimson. Intense, robust fruit with a sort of Pontet-Canet kind of chunkiness. Tannins are not the smoothest. Full marks for drama but not for subtlety.

Drink 2024-2036”

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“Winemaker Jean-Michel Laporte puts this somewhere between the style of 2006 and 2012. Undemonstrative at present but with freshness and elegance. Long and linear. Maturation will hopefully add a little more volume.”

- Decanter.com

“Jean-Michel Laporte's last vintage at this impressive Pomerol property is one of the best he's ever made. It's all about perfume and finesse, with deftly used (75% new) oak, granular tannins, and acidity adding freshness and definition. Sappy and refined, this has more tannin than you thin”

- TA, timatkin.com

Reviews

"A picnic of figs with black and red fruits immersed in earthy scents, silky textures, freshness and a plum and sweet cherry character. Blending 78% Merlot and 22% Cabernet Franc produced a wine that reached 13.5 alcohol with a pH of 3.63. This is the last vintage for Jean-Michel Laporte at La Conseillante, who has been with the chateau since 2004. 92-94 Pts"

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Good depth of colour; vibrant edge; lovely pretty fruit; caressing and satiny; beautiful fruit in fact; quite measured on the palate; lovely elegance; glossy, balanced and textured on the palate; tension too [some freshness]; proportional wine; acidity fresh and good length. Attractive La Conseillante. [78% Merlot, 22% Cabernet Franc, 13.5% alc, 3.6 TA, 15-18 months in oak]. Tasted at La Conseillante, 3rd April '15. Drink 2019-2030. 93-94+"

- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

"Fabulously situated alongside Cheval Blanc and L'Evangile, this property has a long track record of making outstanding wine that is never forced or over-extracted. Always consistent and reliable. Quality has been further improved in recent years by the production of a second wine - Duo de la Conseillante. The Grand Vin is made from 78% Merlot and 22% Cabernet Franc in 75% new oak with a yield of 35hl/ha. Medium-deep ruby. A pure and aromatic cherry nose with smoky tobacco and fresh graphite notes. There is a lovely intensity to the ripe palate which has a sweet, juicy entry. Ripe blue and red fruits are complemented by classy French oak giving a creamy textured mouthfeel. Silky smooth tannins and layered complexity, with classic Conseillante style. Lovely length and perfect balance. Very impressive."

- Farr Vintners

"The nose has a mix of black fruits some fresh bramble backed by richer black cherry the palate is sweet and ripe, fleshy and supple in the middle, the fruit supported by fine tannins. Rich and sweet fruited at the back depth of flavour the finish stylish long with lingering flavours. 2022-35"

- Derek Smedley MW

"Elegant and focused with attractive perfume of violets, cassis and plum. Beautiful texture with supple, ripe tannins and freshness on the palate. This is not a dense or powerful red but there is lovely harmony in the wine. Not about power or ripeness but one of balance and texture. Long finish. Good potential to age - at least a few decades."

- JCL, asianpalate.com

"The 2014 La Conseillante is a pretty wine, but it is also a bit light in the context of the vintage. Sweet floral notes, exotic spice and bright red-toned fruit are nicely pushed forward. As always, La Conseillante is one of the most delicate and elegant of Pomerols. Still, tasting the 2014 and 2013 side by side reveals a relatively small difference between the vintages, and certainly a smaller difference than most of the neighboring properties. Whether that is a function of the land or the result of winemaking decisions is the kind of question that will provide fascination for many years. Even so, this should age nicely."

- AG, Vinous

"The 2014 La Conseillante is nicely supple and layered in the glass, with distinct cherry pit, plum, rose petal, wild flowers and subtle hints of spice are woven together in an open-knit, expressive Conseillante that is likely to start drinking well relatively early. The finish is decidedly silky and open-knit. The 2014 is quite pretty, but at this stage it is also lacking a bit in body. The blend is 78% Merlot and 22% Cabernet Franc, with the Franc a bit higher than the 15-18% that is more typical. (AG)."

- AG, Vinous
