

Château La Conseillante 2019

CSPC# 801695

750mlx6

14.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety
Appellation
Classification
Website
Sustainability
General Info

84% Merlot, 16% Cabernet Franc
Pomerol
unclassified
<http://www.la-conseillante.com/en>
Organic

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.

Winemakers
Vintage

Marielle Cazaux. Michel Rolland - consultant winemaker
Overall, 2019 was a hot vintage with all the potential successes and pitfalls that this style of year brings with it; rich fruits, concentration, high alcohols, plenty of tannins. In 2019, early budding was followed by a sporadically wet and cool April, May and June. This meant uneven flowering in early June, but from mid-June onwards the weather turned dry and hot, leading to successful fruit set. July was mainly dry but with some storms. This meant the gravel terraces of the Médoc and limestone soils in general had no problems getting the right kind of hydric stress, but more water-logged soils found it tougher. August and September were hot and dry, so ripening and harvest were successful, except for certain cases of extreme water stress on the driest soils, which saw some bunches shrivel in early September. June right through to October saw higher temperatures than average. Rain from 20 September onwards allowed the Merlots to ripen, often with high alcohol, and Cabernet did particularly well because the rains meant their ripening could go on for longer, lowering alcohols and allowing for more ‘normal’ development after the hot weather.

Vineyards

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. 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.

Harvest

Marielle Cazaux of La Conseillante started by saying, “What was important for us in terms of vineyard management was realizing that it was a year when, finally, doing nothing was the best solution. We left the



Harvest	leaves on the canopy. Except for the young vines and Cabernet Franc, the vines did well, positioned on the clay. For the young vines, we plowed a little ditch to collect the water when it rained. We have a saying: ‘one good holing is worth two waterings.’” Cazeaux explained, “It was so warm during harvest, so we picked only in the morning, to keep the fruit cool. It was a very easy vinification. We worked from 7 a.m. to noon in the winery, while it was cool. We did all the pump-overs by hand, aiming for very smooth, gentle extraction. We harvested the last parcel of Cabernet Franc on the 7th of October.
Maturation	Under the direction of Marielle Cazeaux, La Conseillante continues to go from strength to strength, as exemplified by the estate's brilliant 2019 vintage. The estate's parcels are harvested into 15-kilogram crates, spend the night in a cold room and are sorted the next day, before being vinified, parcel by parcel, with pump-overs by hand. Percentages of new oak have diminished: from 80% between 2011-2014, to only 70% from 2015 onward; but, more importantly, the selection of barrels has changed, too, favoring lighter toasts—and cooler temperatures in the chai help, too. Contemporary La Conseillante is an immensely sensual, seamless wine, exhibiting striking perfume and purity of fruit; and it's a strong candidate for the title of Pomerol's most elegant—and dare I say it, Burgundian—wine.
Tasting Notes	Never has the blending of a vintage been so straightforward. The association of the different lots of the 2019 La Conseillante has produced a wine with stunning freshness allied to gentle power. Very Pomerol in its seductiveness, this vintage reveals black fruit aromas supported by floral and spicy notes. La Conseillante 2019 is a vibrant wine with huge promise for the decades to come.
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. 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.
Cellaring	Drink 2029-2065
Scores/Awards	<p>99 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022</p> <p>96-98 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - June 2020</p> <p>99 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2022</p> <p>97-98 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2020</p> <p>95-97 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 2020</p> <p>17.5 points - James Lawther, JancisRobinson.com - June 2020</p> <p>97 points - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - January 2022</p> <p>97 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - June 2020</p> <p>97 points - Jane Anson, Insidebordeaux.com - January 2022</p> <p>99 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2022</p> <p>98-100 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - June 2020</p> <p>95-98 points - Farr Vintners - May 2020</p> <p>98 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2022</p> <p>97-99 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - June 2020</p> <p>98 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2022</p> <p>96-98 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - June 2020</p> <p>100 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - April 2022</p> <p>98-100 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2020</p> <p>97 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2020</p> <p>95 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - June 2020</p> <p>100 points - Vert de Vin - June 2020</p>
Reviews	<p><i>“The 2019 La Conseillante is performing brilliantly and rivals the 2016 as Marielle Cazeaux's finest vintage at this leading Pomerol estate to date. Wafting from the glass with striking aromas of raspberries, plums, violets, raw cocoa, sweet soil tones and licorice, framed by a deftly integrated touch of classy new oak, it's full-bodied, ample and enveloping, its broad attack segueing into a seamless, layered mid-palate that's vibrant and concentrated, framed by powdery tannins and lively acids, before concluding with a long, saline finish.”</i></p> <p>- WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>“The 2019 La Conseillante is a blend of 84% Merlot and 16% Cabernet Franc, harvested from the 17th of September to the 7th of October at yields of 34 hectoliters per hectare. It is being aged in 70% new French oak barrels, 27% second fill barrels and 3% amphora. The alcohol this year is 14.5% with a pH of 3.67. Very deep purple-black colored, it comes bounding out of the glass with all the energy of a new puppy, featuring notes of warm plums, wild blueberries, and freshly crushed black cherries with hints of licorice, molten chocolate, violets, woodsmoke and tar plus a waft of lavender. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is laden with layer upon layer of black and blue fruits with loads of floral sparks and a very fine-grained, silt-like texture, finishing with incredible</i></p>

Reviews *freshness and a provocative mineral edge. La Conseillante's signature perfume, purity, and restrained power shine through with amazing clarity and style this vintage."*

"The transparency and vibrancy here is impressive. From the very start it's so aromatic, showing crushed-berry, dark-chocolate, coffee, and cedar character. Full-bodied, yet tight and wonderfully tailored, with tannins that are fine-textured, but intense and so long, giving this wine great length. A joy to taste but needs many years to soften and come together. Wonderful development here. Try after 2028."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"A very fine, ethereal wine, offering blueberries, white truffles, and violets. Full body and a wonderful texture with tannins that spread across the palate, caressing the mouth. Really polished to the finest grain. Extremely long. Shows strength with finesse."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"While the wine is dense, there is a gentle richness here. It shows ripe tannins and soft black plum flavors. At the same time, the wine's potential is obvious and powerful. It has balance, ripeness, structure, and a fine future."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"70% new oak, 3% amphora. Yield 34 hl/ha. Barrel sample. Deep purple-crimson hue. Plenty of depth and intensity on the nose with morello cherry and floral (violet) notes. Palate hits a perfect pitch of ripeness, the fruit ripe but juicy and refreshing. Solid but refined tannins provide a firmness and persistence on the finish. Offers gravity and charm combined. (JL) 14.5%. Drink 2027 – 2042."

- JL, JancisRobinson.com

"This is opulent, round, packed full of blueberry and blackberry fruits and definitely living up to the promise of en primeur. High floral aromatics also, with peony and iris set against smoky-edged charcoal and flint flavours as it opens in the glass. Unfiltered and unfined at this point. 70% new oak, 3% in amphora. Drinking Window 2027 – 2043."

- GH, Decanter.com

"Deeply coloured, high aromatics with iris and violets, extremely focused with savoury fruits - a character that I have found in the Cabernet Francs in this vintage. It has an excellent grip that takes hold from the first moment and carries you through building tannins. A lovely tactile wine and an austere finish, signs that this will age for decades. The chocolate of Pomerol comes in on the end, but you have to wait for it, the beginning is savoury blueberry and raspberry fruit."

- JA, Decanter.com

"Majoring on Cabernet Franc character at this point, clear spice notes with rosebud, fragrant raspberry leaf, the most gorgeously powerful aromatics. On the palate you get cassis, bilberry, liquorice, dark chocolate shavings, balanced yet concentrated. Love this wine, and it is a brilliant example of the vintage. Harvest September 17 to October 9 (picking just a day at a time as needed, spread out over three weeks). 70% new oak, 30% amphoras. 34hl/h yield."

- JA, Inside Bordeaux

"Almost at the same level as the incredible 2016, this is one of the great vintages of La Conseillante. The nose, with its haunting bouquet of violets, lilacs and roses come along with additional nuances of chocolate, truffle, black cherries, black raspberries, and black plums. I remember during the barrel tastings with Marielle Cazaux over Zoom blurting out, "Holy F..K!" Yes, it is that good! On the palate, the wine is elegant, seductive, long, vibrant, sweet, fresh, and most importantly, incredibly pure displaying the essence of its gorgeous fruits. This is one of the great vintages of La Conseillante. Fans of the estate need some of this in their cellar. Drink from 2032-2055."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

Reviews

"Lilacs and violets permeate the air before finding bitter chocolate, forest leaf, truffle, black raspberry, plum liqueur, and black cherry juice. This wine is drenched in enough velvet to be classified as heart stopping! In fact, when tasting this with Marielle Cazaux, the director, over Zoom, I accidentally blurted out, "Holy F..K!" Yes, this is that good. This is pure bottled decadence that hits all your pleasure buttons. If you are seeking a deal closer, this Dionysian wine is the right choice! This is in serious contention for one of the wines of the vintage. The wine is a blend of 84% Merlot and 16% Cabernet Franc, reaching 14.5% alcohol with 3.67 pH and is aging in 70% new French oak barrels, although 3% of the harvest is aging in amphora. The harvest took place September 17-20 for Merlot and September 30-October 10 for the Cabernet Franc."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"The 2019 is talented winemaker Marielle Cazaux's 5th vintage at La Conseillante. The blend is 84% Merlot and 16% Cabernet Franc, which will be aged in 70% new French oak, 27% one year old oak, and 3% in amphora with an abv of 14.5%. The canopy was not thinned of leaves this year in order to protect the fruit from the sun. The yield is 34.5hl/ha, which is close to average. Marielle believes the wine has the vibrant fruit of 2016 with the texture of their 2018. Deep purple in colour, with an evocative nose of cassis, violets, and perfumed plums - there are hints of vanilla and cedar too. A very enticing aroma. The palate bursts forward with violets, blueberry, and ripe cherry. This is succulent, with perfectly judged oak adding a hint of vanilla as well as more savoury cedar. The tannins build through the mid-palate, coating the mouth and adding real depth and structure. This is a dark, brooding monster of a La Conseillante but beautifully smooth and polished tannins. This wine is destined for long-term ageing, but the fruit and structure are perfectly interlaced suggesting a long and open drinking window. Long, driven, and fine on the finish. This reminds us of the power of 2010 with the refinement of the 2016. A sensationally good Pomerol. Tasted at the Chateau and in London."

- Farr Vintners

"The 2019 La Conseillante was stellar from the sample sent to "Martin Towers" in spring 2020, and the news is that there is no change in bottle. Allowed to open while gossiping away with winemaker Marielle Cazaux (you have to catch up when you are unable to see people regularly), the 2019 unveils an awesome, extraordinarily pure bouquet that seduces the senses, featuring dark cherries, blueberry, pressed violet and a touch of blood orange, all displaying wonderful delineation. The palate is medium-bodied and cohesive, with fine-grained tannins and a judicious touch of black pepper toward the finish, which fans out gloriously while maintaining a sense of class. The best La Conseillante since the 2010? No - better."

- NM, Vinous

"The 2019 La Conseillante was picked 17-20 September for the Merlot and 30 September and 7 October for the Cabernet Franc. Yields were low at just 34hl/ha. The Grand Vin is aged in 70% new French oak, 27% one-year old barrels and 3% in clay amphora. Limpid purple in colour, this has an exquisite bouquet with pixelated blackberry and raspberry scents, laced with pressed iris and a touch of graphite. It reminds me of a less powerful version of the 2010 when I tasted that from barrel. The palate is very smooth with ebullient red and black fruit on the entry, then it tapers in a little, towards a very cohesive, satin-textured middle. This is definitely one of the purest La Conseillante wines that I have encountered from barrel. It delivers a subtle spiciness towards the finish with hints of tobacco and clove on the persistent aftertaste. Winemaker Marielle Cazaux and her team have conjured a magnificent Pomerol here. 2026 – 2060."

- NM, Vinous

"The 2019 La Conseillante is elegant and nuanced, just as it was from barrel. All of the freshness and energy that was present en primeur comes through in the bottle. There is an element of sophistication, of reserve, that needs time to be fully expressive. The 2019 is a wine of linear precision more than volume or density. It should age exquisitely for many years to come. 2029 – 2049."

- AG, Vinous

"General Manager and Winemaker Marielle Cazaux turned out one of the jewels of the vintage with the 2019 La Conseillante. Fresh, nuanced and beautifully perfumed, the 2019 is a total stunner from the very first taste. What impresses me most about the 2019 is its freshness and vivacity, both so rare in 2019 in Pomerol. Inky dark fruit, lavender, mint, and spice all build effortlessly. At 16%, the Cabernet Franc is particularly expressive, especially in the wine's aromatics. The 2019 is a wine of pure and total sensuality. Don't miss it."

- AG, Vinous

Reviews

“An utterly brilliant Pomerol and the finest wine from this estate to date, surpassing even the 2016, the 2019 Chateau La Conseillante checks in as 84% Merlot and 16% Cabernet Franc and was raised in 70% new French oak. A wine of incredible finesse, purity, and precision, its deep purple hue is following by an incredible array of blueberries, crème de cassis, spring flowers, damp earth, and violets. Flawlessly balanced, full-bodied, and concentrated on the palate, it has a beautiful mid-palate, ultra-fine, utterly seamless tannins, and a heavenly finish. It doesn't have the sheer density or outright power of some of the other top Pomerols, but as I wrote in the barrel sample review, no one marries elegance with opulence as well as Conseillante. This magical Pomerol will take a decade to hit full maturity and will evolve for 30 years or more. This is haute couture at its absolute pinnacle, and as I wrote in the barrel review, hats off to Marielle Cazaux for producing one of the top wines of the vintage.”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“One of the wines of the vintage, as well as one of the greatest young Pomerols I've ever tasted, the 2019 Conseillante checks in as a blend of 84% Merlot and 16% Cabernet Franc from tiny yields and is still resting in 70% new French oak. This vivid purple-hued beauty has a classic Conseillante bouquet of black and blue fruits, crushed violets, chocolate, tobacco, and a hint of white truffle. This carries to a full-bodied, powerful yet exceedingly elegant Pomerol with terrific purity, flawless balance, silky tannins, and a monster of finish. It doesn't have the sheer structure of Petrus or Vieux Chateau Certan, yet no one in Pomerol marries elegance with sexy fruit and opulence as well as Conseillante. Hats off to Marielle Cazaux for producing one of the top 2-3 wines of the vintage.”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“Dark ruby garnet, opaque core, violet reflections, subtle lightening of the edges. Dark cherry fruit underlaid with a hint of precious wood, delicate chocolate touch, fine liquorice touch, candied orange zest in the background. Complex, juicy, ripe cherries, silky, supporting tannins, delicate chocolate nuances on the finish, mineral, and persistent, sure potential for development.”

- Falstaff Magazine

“The nose is elegant, racy and offers a beautiful definition, precision, purity of the fruit as well as a very beautiful finesse of the grain, deepness, intensity as well as power (but full of delicacy). It reveals notes of pulpy wild cassis, small fresh/pulpy black fruits and small notes of crushed blueberry associated with small touches of crushed raspberry, liquorice/zan, toasted as well as fine hints of bright small violet plum, chocolate, a subtle hint of Cuban pepper/sweet spices and a racy minerality. The palate is fruity, aery, elegant, beautifully racy (sense of the place), gourmand, delicate and offers a beautiful definition, precision, tension, delicacy, a very beautiful finesse of the grain, freshness, deepness, a fine acidulous/mineral frame as well as a beautiful precision of the fruit and purity. On the palate this wine expresses notes of juicy/pulpy cassis, fresh boysenberry and small notes of bright/fresh black plum associated with touches of small wild fruits, raspberry, cornflower, violet, fine hints of liquorice, chocolate, toasted, toasted hazelnut, cardamom as well as discreet hints of Cuban pepper, fresh mild tobacco, sweet spices, and vanilla pods (in the background). Tannins are well-built, elegant racy, beautifully fine, and precise. A beautiful persistence with and imperceptible hint of coffee and crushed almond on the persistence. What a finesse, purity, and precision! Congratulations!”

- Vert de Vin