

# Château La Conseillante 2021

CSPC# 801695

750mlx6

13.3% alc./vol.

## Grape Variety

85% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc

## Appellation

Pomerol

## Classification

unclassified

## Website

<https://www.la-conseillante.com/en/le-repertoire-des-millesimes/>

## Sustainability

Since 2016, La Conseillante has implemented a series of undertakings to reduce its environmental impact.

The estate has gained ISO 14001 and HVE 3 certification within the SME programme (Environmental Management System) for Bordeaux wines.

ISO 14001 certification implies the limitation of environmental impacts within a company. HVE 3 certification (High Environmental Value) is centred round 4 separate environmental themes: biodiversity, phyto-sanitary strategy, management of fertilisation and water resources.

La Conseillante also cultivates different species of plants, such as clover (used in different parts of the vineyard where vines lack vigour) and oats (used to break up the soil with their roots). Radish is also planted, particularly in clay parts of the vineyard, where it enables de-compacting and aeration of the soil.

These elements all enhance biodiversity within the La Conseillante vineyard.

## Analysis

Total Acidity: 3.2 pH: 3.67

## 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.

## Winemakers

Marielle Cazaux. Michel Rolland - consultant winemaker

## Vintage

The 2021 growing season began in mild weather but with a certain amount of rain. Winter had been warmer than average, and rainfall was very much higher. The great turning point in the season was the early part of spring when a cold snap produced a winter-like frost during the night of April 7th.

Low temperatures, which continued from March until May, slowed down the vine cycle making it later than the previous three vintages. Between May and June, rainfall reached 250 mm. These wet conditions, together with increasingly mild temperatures, meant that constant close monitoring of vine health was essential. This situation continued throughout the summer period. While during July and August, rainfall decreased, temperatures were markedly cooler than the ten-year average. The veraison of the Merlot proved slow (lasting from July to mid-August), while that of the Cabernet was completed more quickly, taking place around 18th August. The colour change in the Cabernet had been quickened by the summer's rain. As is often the case in Bordeaux, the end of summer and the beginning of autumn proved beneficial: the month of September was less humid and warmer than usually, while the month of October turned out to be a little cooler but clearly drier than normal.

## 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



<b>Vineyards</b>	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 soil is 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 Cab Franc, which contribute structure and freshness to the blend.
<b>Harvest</b>	Merlot, from 28/09 to 01/10 – Cabernet Franc, on 06/10 and 12/10 (by hand in small crates). Yield: 39 hl/ha.
<b>Winemaking</b>	A 5-day cold soak, a 27-day vatting period, and 7% of the crop by integral vinification. Vat room: 22 fully temperature-controlled epoxy-lined concrete vats. Ageing: 70% in new French oak barrels - 27% in second-fill barrels - 3% in amphorae. Ageing time: 16 months
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	Marielle Cazaux believes that the best 2021s came from estates with top <i>terroir</i> , a good team and the willingness to work hard; this held true all week. This is the estate's 150th vintage; it's outstanding. Marielle added this wasn't an easy vintage, so the success comes with a sense of achievement. The wine is superbly floral with a hint of mint and cocoa. The tannins are seamless, the finish tight with a lick of minerality.
<b>Winemaker's Notes</b>	The 2021 is a fruity, creamy, and quite concentrated wine. The vintage has texture and bright fruit and a delicate, tannic mouth-feel. The freshness, juicy flavour and digestible character of the wine reminds us somewhat of the La Conseillante 2012, or even the 2016 in some ways. The balance between the alcoholic degree, around 13°, and the good levels of acidity, gives this vintage very good ageing capacity. This 2021 will delight and surprise many a consumer.
<b>Serve with</b>	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.
<b>Production</b>	40,000 bottles annually
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2027-2055
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>95 points</b> - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - February 2024</p> <p><b>95-96 points</b> - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022</p> <p><b>92-94 points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent - May 2022</p> <p><b>96 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - January 2024</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - March 2022</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - May 2022</p> <p><b>96 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2024</p> <p><b>94-96 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2022</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2022</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2024</p> <p><b>95-97 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2022</p> <p><b>96 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2024</p> <p><b>95-97 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - May 2022</p> <p><b>93-95 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2022</p> <p><b>19.5+ points</b> - Matthew Jukes - August 2022</p> <p><b>96 points</b> - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - April 2022</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2022</p> <p><b>97 points</b> - Vert de Vin - July 2022</p> <p><b>96 points</b> - Bettane &amp; Desseauve (score only) - May 2022</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>"The 2021 La Conseillante unwinds in the glass with aromas of black raspberries and mulberries mingled with vine smoke, rose petals and spices, framed by a discreet touch of new oak. This is medium to full-bodied, suave, and enveloping, with a velvety attack that segues into a layered, multidimensional palate that's framed by ultra-refined tannins and animated by ripe acids. Long and perfumed, this has turned out beautifully. It was bottled in June, seeing three rackings and a very light egg-white fining during élevage."</i></p> <p>- WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"A superb effort that transcends the challenges of the vintage, the 2021 La Conseillante offers up a beautifully perfumed nose of wild berries, raspberry coulis, violets, exotic spices, and vine smoke. Medium to full-bodied, supple, and enveloping, it's a sensual, seamless wine that's deep and layered, structured around supple tannins and lively acids. Perfumed and penetrating, the 2021 isn't the most powerful wine this estate has produced, but it brilliantly exemplifies the rare structural elegance and almost Burgundian aromatic range that so often set this great estate apart from the rest of the Pomerol appellation. It's a blend of 85% Merlot and 15% Cabernet Franc."</i></p> <p>- WK, Wine Advocate</p>

## Reviews

*"The 2021 La Conseillante is a blend of 85% Merlot, harvested from 28 September to 1 October, and 15% Cabernet Franc, harvested from 6 to 12 October, with a yield of 39 hl/ha. It is aged 70% in new oak and 3% in amphora. Deep garnet-purple color, it strides confidently out of the glass with notes of fresh blackberries, ripe raspberries, cracked black pepper, and lavender, plus vibrant accents of roses, cinnamon stick, and pencil shavings. Medium-bodied, the palate is soft and quivering with tension, delivering a vibrant core of bright red fruit and subtle spicy sparks, leading to a long mineral finish. pH 3.6."*  
- LPB, Wine Independent

*"Blackberry, lavender, dried violet, and sandalwood follow through to a medium body, with very fine and velvety tannins that give a polished and caressing texture. Fresh and vivid. Drink after 2028."*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"Iris and raspberry notes on the nose, delicately floral but fresh and lively - just shy of mouthwatering acidity - but enough to create such a lift on the first taste which has a juicy effect. The acidity is nicely balanced, but this has such a gentle charm, a suaveness and sensuality to it, tannins are sleek and agile with some bitter dark chocolate and slate edges while the fruit is full of black cherry, plum and blueberry touches. But it's the texture and the aromatic display that are so captivating - having density and weight but no heaviness. You get the ripeness in the flavour, but the overall feeling remains cool and refreshing with tension and terroir on show in the wet stone nuance underpinning the fruit. Just pure grace and precision. An exceptional effort for the estate's 150th vintage. 'The worst thing on the label is the vintage' says general director Marielle Cazeaux "because people think it's bad, but this is really the DNA of La Conseillante". 3.6pH. Merlot picked from 28th September to 1st October, Cabernet Franc on the 6th and 12th October."*  
- GH, Decanter.com

*"Flavoursome, sculpted, successful, this is rippling with violet and rosebud aromatics, followed by raspberry and black cherry fruits. It maintains momentum through the mid palate with a creamy texture and gourmet touches of liquorice root, cocoa bean and precisely-expressed slate minerality. Harvest began the latest ever, on September 28 through to October 12, 39hl/h yield, almost exactly average for the property (the average in Pomerol this year was closer to 29hl/h), from 9.77ha of vines in production, 3.6pH, 70% new oak with 3% amphora and 3.5% press wine. A successful showing for the 150th vintage of the estate from director Marielle Cazeaux. Michel Rolland consultant."*  
- JA, janeanson.com

*"One of the few wines showing better in the bottle than it did from the barrel kicks off with a gorgeous display of flowers, plums, cherries, incense, black raspberries, mint, and truffles in the perfume. The medium-bodied palate is focused on its elegant, vibrant, sensuous, silky character, which is the perfect backdrop for its display of sweet cherries, kirsch, plums, chocolate, mint, and espresso. The harvest finished October 10, making this the latest vintage in the history of the estate. The wine blends 85% Merlot with 15% Cabernet Franc. Drink from 2025-2055."*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"Violets, incense, black raspberry, dark kirsch, plums, espresso, and earthy overtones crowd into the finish. Deeply colored, on the palate the wine is exactly as it should be, elegant, refined, lifted, vivacious, and energetic, with a savory edge to the earthy red fruits and a hint of oak that should become completely integrated with a few years time. Perhaps this is a modern-day version of the 1985, which if you have not tasted it lately, has aged extremely well."*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"The 2021 La Conseillante, which was bottled at the beginning of June 2023, has a very clean and precise bouquet—predominantly red fruit, iris flower, hints of oyster shell and a distant scent of black truffle, all very focused. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannins, fresh and demonstrating notable depth. There remains a patina of oak to be subsumed (75% new with 3% in amphora) with flecks of dark chocolate emerging toward the composed finish. This is one Pomerol that will benefit from some bottle-aging, and I notice more pixelation emerging with time in bottle—a classically styled La Conseillante. 13.3% alcohol."*  
- NM, Vinous

## Reviews

*“The 2021 La Conseillante was picked the latest in memory, from September 28 until October 8, at 39hL/ha, and matured in 70% new oak. It comes in at 13.3% alcohol and a pH of 3.6. The beautifully defined bouquet offers blackberry, bilberry, and light iris petal scents, just a suggestion of black truffle coming though with time. The harmonious palate is medium-bodied with fine tannins and lightly spiced red fruit. There is a very subtle ferrous note, lovely depth and grip on the finish, and a persistent aftertaste. A beautiful La Conseillante courtesy of winemaker Marielle Cazaux and her team.”*

- NM, Vinous

*“The 2021 La Conseillante is bright, fresh, and fruity, with lovely red fruit character and fine balance. Crushed berries, rose petal, lavender, chalk, mint, and spice are beautifully delineated. In 2021, La Conseillante is a Pomerol of tension, nerve, and delicacy more than volume. Time in the glass brings out bright floral notes that extend the finish. The blend is 85% Merlot and 15% Cabernet Franc that spent 18 months in French oak—70% new, 27% once-filled barrels and 3% amphora. The 2021 is such a classy wine. I can't wait to see how it ages. The 2021 possesses a Burgundian sense of structure, for lack of a better term. Harvest started on September 28 for the Merlots, very late by recent standards, through October 1. The Cabernets were picked on October 6 and 12. The alcohol (13%) and pH (3.6) readings are those from another era.”*

- AG, Vinous

*“The 2021 is a super-classic La Conseillante the likes of which has not been made here in a very long time. A Pomerol of vibrancy and tension, the 2021 bristles with energy from start to finish. All the elements are so well-balanced. Aromatic and delineated, with terrific drive, the 2021 is so impressive in the early going. Dried herbs, licorice, mocha, cassis and blackberry open beautifully. The 70% new oak is already nicely integrated. To be sure, the 2021 is nervy and taut, as most wines are in this vintage. But it's all there.”*

- AG, Vinous

*“The 2021 Château La Conseillante showed beautifully, and while it's not going to match the all-time greats here, it's a quintessential, elegant, seamless Pomerol in the making. Revealing a deep purple hue as well as a spectacular nose of pure cassis, ripe tobacco, damp earth, and ample floral nuances, it hits the palate with medium to full-bodied richness, ultra-fine tannins, beautiful overall balance, and a great finish. It's a remarkable effort in this challenging vintage. The blend is 85% Merlot and 15% Cabernet Franc, still aging in 70% new barrels, that hit 13.3% alcohol and a pH of 3.6.”*

- Jeb Dunnuck

*“It was clear within about two hours of tasting in the heartland of Pomerol that four pivotal producers that I visited had made stunning wines. So, in order to keep destroying the lies told before the campaign started, this is not a Cabernet vintage, nor is it a Merlot one. It is not a Left Bank vintage, nor is it a Right Bank one. It is nothing other than one thing – a forensic analysis, nay vinous audit, of every single estate's fitness to deploy a finely drilled, immensely willing and able squads of teammates, whether they are in the field, in the chai, or both, to chaperone the finest grapes on their path to making the most complete and balanced wines possible. This has been achieved by all of those properties in this Report. Whether you gain bronze, silver or gold scores is a moot point. But if you are here, on these pages, you have done a good job. But we all know why I am moved to taste this number of extremely young wines in a short space of time to determine those with the most potential to astound and amaze peoples' senses. So, to La Conseillante – the 150th anniversary of this Château. Countless selfless employees and friends, under the guidance of a management team of prodigiously talented and excellence-focused people, have made, yet again, a life-affirming wine. I know, having spent a few hours (only) over a goodly number of years, that winemaker Marielle Cazaux loves smooth, silky, and pure wines. This is the starting point of her ambitions – a point at which few finish. But, in 2021, with the elements against her and her team, they simply knuckled down, shared equipment and bodies with her neighbour (Juliette at L'Évangile q.v.) and made the finest wine possible in this vintage. La Conseillante's terroir is special. It has the innate ability to make astounding wines in hot years and cold years. Of course, La Conseillante is not alone in this skill, but the camaraderie, openness, and honesty here mean that tasters like me can understand how on earth this is possible. They 'fought' the frost. They had 'great luck'. They kept 'cool heads'. They were 'amazed' at the purity of the fruit. This is emotion triumphing, not just the vines triumphing over Mother Nature. Marielle and I talked about the 'crumpled dune flower' notes that I found over and over again in the greatest wines. It was here, too, at La Conseillante. But it was not everywhere. Why do the finest wines on both sides of the Gironde have this character, given that I felt it was a Cabernet Sauvignon trait (see my Margaux notes)? I found it again at Cheval Blanc in celestial Cabernet Franc and Merlot. Perhaps this is Bordeaux's most elusive and essential pheromonal element – a magical spell I cannot resist. Either way, there are, I think, 12 wines that have*

**Reviews** *this character in 2021, and they will remain in my taste memory forever as I seek out more and more and more. So, I wonder if it is relevant to record a traditional tasting note for this wine. It has a spellbinding perfume, an exquisite texture and the singular purity and persistence of the most outstanding red wines imaginable. So, on balance, I don't think it is necessary. 19.5+."*

- Matthew Jukes

*"Dark vivid ruby with purple reflections at the narrow rim. Initially closed, then dark berries, green tea, attractive herbal savoury notes, fir sapling. Mellow, palate with ripe tannins of high quality, good homogeneity, everything is well integrated, fresh, neat fruit compliments the structure. Soft textural extract, a wine in the style of the chateau, medium length, and aromatic depth."*

- PM, Falstaff Magazine

*"The nose is fruity, fresh, elegant and reveals a fine intensity, delicacy, and subtlety. The nose is fruity, fresh, elegant and offers a fine intensity in finesse, delicate finesse, and subtlety. There are notes of fresh raspberry/blackberry, full-bodied blackcurrant/strawberry and slightly nutmeg combined with hints of lily, violet, blackberry pulp/freshness, delicate hints of toast, light tobacco, and a subtle hint of iris, caramelisation and a hint of Madagascar pepper. The palate is fruity, fresh and offers elegance, juiciness, a nice definition, a fresh/acidic structure, crispness, delicacy, a nice airiness, thoroughness, floral character, sweetness, crispness, a very nice acidity, a very nice salinity, a nice juiciness as well as a nice classic elegance. On the palate, this wine expresses notes of juicy/fresh blackcurrant, fresh/crisp raspberry and more lightly iris/lys combined with hints of nutmeg, delicate touches of crunchy berries as well as delicate hints of nutmeg, fresh blond tobacco, a subtle hint of salinity and a very discreet hint of toasted almond. There is a subtle hint of fresh liquorice and an imperceptible hint of fresh sap in the background. A nice touch of positive bitterness on the finish/persistence."*

- Vert de Vin

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