

Château La Pointe 2019

CSPC# 866170

750mlx12

14.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

76% Merlot, 24% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

Pomerol

Website

<http://www.chateaulapointe.com/en/>

Sustainability

The new cellars of Chateau La Pointe were designed to be green, energy-efficient facilities with solar panels and a water recycling system.

The renovations were completed just in time for the legendary, 2009 Bordeaux harvest. However, the work on Chateau La Pointe did not stop there, as they completed a new drainage system and ecologically friendly, vat room. The new vat house allowed for a parcel-by-parcel vinification.

General Info

The origin of the name “La Pointe” is based on the particular geometry of its vineyard, since just at the entrance to the estate it is possible to observe a large plot of triangular shape, shaped tip. Throughout history we find traces of Château La Pointe from 1868, then ranked among the “first” alongside the castles Beauregard, Clinet, Councilor, Gazin, etc ... At that time, the castle was the property of Monsieur Grandet who brought the most diligent care to his vineyard. Subsequently, Château La Pointe has always produced quality wines, even if it was “drowsy” a few years ... It is in 2007, when the property is bought, that it is revitalized by the arrival of its new General Manager: Eric Monneret!

Winemakers

Winemaker: Eric Monneret

Oenologist: Hubert de Bouïard de Laforest

Vintage

Another year when contrasting weather announces a great vintage:

2019 began with a drier winter and a cooler spring than recent years. More importantly, we had a real summer which was hot and particularly dry. There were a few days of extremely high temperatures at the end of July, reaching a peak of 41°C. Some welcome light showers quenched the thirst of our vine plants and reminded us that the Aquitaine vineyards benefit from a temperate climate thanks to the proximity of the ocean.

As harvest-time approached, we feared a drought that could have disturbed the balance in our wines. Luckily the September rainfall (especially the 11mm of 10th and 23mm of 22nd) prevented any hindering of the maturation process. This boosted the vines’ energy, maintaining a reasonable level of alcohol, ensuring elegance in the tannic structure and allowing us to achieve the balance and harmony offered by the best Bordeaux wines.

Some plots of younger vines, whose lesser developed root system meant they were less resistant to drought, were harvested from 16th September. We went on to harvest the main Merlot plots during the last week of September. The picking finished on 3rd and 4th October with the Cabernet Francs. The harvest took place in slightly damp weather conditions but there were no signs of botrytis. The grapes were healthy with thick skins and ripe pips.

The vinification of these quality grapes was to reveal an aromatic wine boasting an intense colour. The round, supple palate offered a promising cocktail of ripe fruit, excellent tension and a pleasant freshness that is the mark of the greater vintages.

Vineyards

The 23-hectare Pomerol vineyard of Chateau La Pointe is planted to 85% Merlot and 15% Cabernet Franc. The property is one of the larger vineyards in the tiny Pomerol appellation. Most of their vineyards are placed just north of Catusseau, near Libourne, with the exception of 1 parcel, situated close to Trotanoy. The terroir consists of gravel, sand, and clays soils. The vineyard can be divided into 3 separate sections, each with its own terroir. The vines are on average 35 years of age. The vineyard is planted to a vine density that ranges from 6,300 vines per hectare to 7,600 vines per hectare. The higher levels of vine density are found in the newer plantings.



Much of their work in the vineyard takes place with the goal of lowering yields. While previous and current vintages were close to 35 hectoliters per hectare, give or take, the goal is to further reduce yields to an average of 20 hectoliters per hectare, to improve the concentration in the wine.

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| Harvest | Some plots of younger vines, whose lesser developed root system meant they were less resistant to drought, were harvested from 16th September. We went on to harvest the main Merlot plots during the last week of September. The picking finished on 3rd and 4th October with the Cabernet Francs. The harvest took place in slightly damp weather conditions but there were no signs of botrytis. The grapes were healthy with thick skins and ripe pips. |
| Vinification/ Maturation | To produce the wine of Chateau La Pointe, vinification takes place in traditional, 80 hectoliter stainless tanks. Malolactic fermentation takes place in French oak barrels for 50% of the harvest. The remaining 50% of the wine undergoes malolactic fermentation in tanks. The wines are then aged in 100% new, French oak barrels for an average of 12 months. |
| Tasting Notes | The colour is dense, intense, and brilliant with crimson tints. Aromatically, this wine offers a wonderful bouquet of ripe fruit; blackberry, bigarreau cherry and toasty, spicy notes. The tannins are unctuous, spherical, elegant, and refined. There is an excellent tension on the finish, highlighting the lovely sappy character of this vintage |
| Serve with | Chateau La Pointe is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes. Chateau La Pointe is also good with Asian dishes, hearty fish courses like tuna, salmon, mushrooms, and pasta. |
| Production | 5,330 cases made. 64 000 bottles. |
| Cellaring | Drink now-2032. |
| Scores/Awards | 91 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2022 90 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022 92-94 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - June 2020 95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2022 92 points - Jane Anson, Insidebordeaux.com - January 2022 91 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2022 90-92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - June 2020 94 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2022 93-95 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - June 2020 90-92 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2020 87 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2020 93 points - Vert de Vin - April 2020 16 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - September 2020 |
| Reviews | <i>"Presents a tasty mix of juicy and gently mulled black cherry, blackberry, and boysenberry flavors, laced with red tea and a twinge of iron through the focused finish. Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Drink now through 2032. 5,330 cases made."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator <i>"The 2019 La Pointe wafts from the glass with aromas of plums, raspberries, sweet spices, tobacco, and licorice. Full-bodied, broad, and fleshy, with velvety tannins, lively acids and a nicely defined if somewhat fleeting finish, it's a succulent, giving Pomerol that will drink well with minimal bottle age."</i> - WK, Wine Advocate <i>"The 2019 La Pointe sports a deep garnet-purple color, offering scents of baked black cherries, boysenberries, and stewed plums plus suggestions of spice cake, sandalwood, dried mulberries, and unsmoked cigars. The medium to full-bodied palate is laden with juicy black and blue fruit layers, framed by ripe, rounded tannins and tons of freshness, finishing long and fragrant."</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate <i>"Forest-fruit aromas of blackberries and strawberries with some bark and pinecone. Black licorice, too. Full-bodied and chewy with lots of fine tannins and a juicy finish. Traditional and fascinating. Drink after 2026."</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com <i>"Flowers, and cherries with a touch of smoke, licorice and spice come through easily in the nose and on the palate. Medium-bodied, soft, and fresh, with an elegant, plum, and chocolate infused mid-palate and finish, this will drink well early, yet age for 15 years or so. Drink from 2023-2035."</i> - JL, thewinecellarinsider.com |

Reviews *“Smoke, wet earth, licorice and black cherry scents create the nose. On the palate, the wine is plummy, polished, and fresh with chocolate-covered plums in the finish.”*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“The 2019 La Pointe offers impressive clarity on the nose of perfumed red fruit, raspberry and cranberry intermingling with truffle and light crushed stone aromas. The palate is medium-bodied, taut, and fresh, and quite saline, with fine-grained tannins and a cohesive and more sophisticated finish than any recent vintage. Maybe it just needs a little more persistence; otherwise, this is a top-notch La Pointe.”

- NM, *Vinous*

“The 2019 La Pointe was tasted on three occasions including direct from the property, which is what I use for this tasting note. It has a very attractive nose, initially tightly coiled and demanding coaxing/aeration. It unfurls to reveal blackberry, briary and light shaved black truffle aromas - très Pomerol, perhaps due to increased contribution of Cabernet Franc (24%). The palate is medium-bodied with (and you can quote me on this) the finest tannins and silkiest texture that I have ever encountered from this property. Very fresh from start to finish, this feels cohesive and sophisticated, quite simply the best La Pointe ever. Bravo winemaker Eric Monneret.”

- NM, *Vinous*

“I loved the 2016 from this estate, and the 2019 Château La Pointe looks to be in the same mold (if not better), offering a pure, elegant, medium-bodied style as well as terrific spiced red and black fruits, chocolate, and Christmas fruitcake-like aromas and flavors. It's going to drink nicely in its youth yet also evolve gracefully.”
- Jeb Dunnuck

“The nose is fruity, elegant, aromatic and offers a small intensity/power as well as precision. It reveals notes of crushed blackberry, small ripe/fleshy black fruits, small notes of cornflower associated with small touches of crushed raspberry, crushed violet plum as well as hints of toasted, cardamom, vanilla, and a fine hint of grilled bread. The palate is fruity, well-balanced and offers a juicy/acidulous frame, a good definition, gourmandize as well as tension. On the palate this wine expresses notes of pulpy/juicy blackberry, raspberry, small notes of plum associated with touches of crushed strawberry, fine hints of juicy violet plum as well as hints of vanilla, almond, fine hints of grilled bread and an imperceptible hint of tonka bean. Good length.”

- Vert de Vin