

Château Pavie 2001

CSPC# 756599

750mlx12

14.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety
Appellation
General Info

70% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon
St. Emilion

The slopes of Chateau Pavie and Ausone were first planted by the ancient Romans in the fourth century. However, Chateau Pavie did not become famous as a Bordeaux wine producer until almost two thousand years later. Chateau Pavie was definitely famous by the mid 19th century. At the time, the Robert Parker of the day was the Bordeaux bible published by Cocks and Féret's "Bordeaux et ses vins" written in 1850, the first edition was already high on the wines from Pavie as they named it one of the First classed growths in St. Emilion.

A portion of Chateau Pavie was sold off in 1885 to the well known, Bordeaux wine negociant Ferdinand Bouffard. It was Bouffard's desire to increase the size of the vineyards. In time he managed to put together a 50-hectare vineyard with an annual production that ranged from 12,500 to 15,000 cases per year. That made Chateau Pavie one of the largest estates in the Right Bank!

By the late 1800's, Pavie and Pavie Decesse were fully separate estates. Close to the same time, the Macquin family was also busy purchasing parcels of Bordeaux vineyards too. Those purchases led to the creation of Chateau Pavie Macquin. Jumping ahead to the next century and the start of the First World War, Ferdinand Bouffard sold Chateau Pavie to Albert Porte who eventually sold to the Valette family. The Valette's were well known Bordeaux wine négociants from Paris. If the name sounds familiar, that's because Christine Valette is the owner of Chateau Troplong Mondot. Chateau Pavie was classified as Premier Grand Cru Classé "B" while under the Valette family's management in 1954. That changed in 2012 with the new Classification of St. Emilion as Chateau Pavie was elevated to Premier Grand Cru Classé A!

In 1998, Gerard Perse, who already owned Chateau Monbousquet purchased Chateau Pavie. Chateau Pavie experienced a rebirth thanks to the drive and the spare no expense attitude of Perse. In 2002 Gerard Perse expanded the vineyards of Chateau Pavie by 2.5 hectares when the vines of Chateau La Clusiere vines were incorporated into Chateau Pavie.

This was allowed to take place because of the similarity of terroirs which led the INAO. In 2002 to authorize the integration (or, perhaps the reintegration) of Chateau La Clusiere into the vineyard of Pavie. At the same time, a small part of the Pavie Decesse vineyards were also merged into Château Pavie. This reduced Pavie Decesse's area from 9.5 hectares to its current 3.5-hectare size, while increasing the vineyards of Chateau Pavie.

Vineyards

The 42-hectare St. Emilion vineyard of Chateau Pavie is truly three unique and different terroirs. Each also has its own microclimate and soils corresponding to the Saint Emilion limestone "plateau", located around 85 metres up from the Dordogne, and composed of clay-limestone soil on top of chalk with marine fossils. Soils corresponding to the "mid-hillside" land 55 metres up from the Dordogne, composed of a brown clay-limestone soil with a fine texture. Many parcels of land have been replanted and the vine-training system raised to increase the leaf surface. The terroir of Pavie does not promote early ripening. In fact, Chateau Pavie is often one of the last St. Emilion estates to finish harvesting. Pruning down to 6 buds for the old vines and to 2 buds for the young vines. Thinning, leaf-stripping, grapes picked and sorted by hand. Gerard Perse replanted much of the Chateau Pavie vineyards in 1998. Today, the vineyard is planted to 60% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Franc and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon.



Vinification/ Maturation	For the vinification of Chateau Pavie, after harvesting sorted in the vineyards and again using optical sorting, the whole berries are moved by conveyor belt to oak tanks for crushing by gravity. The wine is vinified in 20, temperature controlled, wood vats. Pre-fermentation cold maceration lasts for nine days at 8 degrees Celsius. This is followed by a 36-day maceration. Malolactic fermentation takes place in barrel. The wine of Chateau Pavie is aged in 80% new, French oak barrels for 18 to months. The amount of new oak and time in the barrel will vary, depending on the characteristics of each Bordeaux vintage. There is a new second wine, Esprit de Pavie, which is produced from a blend of Perse's other Right Bank properties from St. Emilion and Cotes de Castillon. On average, Chateau Pavie produces 8,000 cases of wine per year.
Tasting Notes	It is obvious that the overall level of 2001 is very good indeed. Château Pavie has a deep purple colour and a nose that is still rather closed-in, and in need of considerable aeration to come out. The bouquet is redolent of black fruit, blackcurrant, and a hint of well-integrated oak. The mouth feel is quite firm, and there is a great deal of substance there, underpinned by a tannic structure that bodes well for good ageing. The aftertaste is that of a very fine, but very young wine with tannin that obviously needs more time. However, 2001 Château Pavie is in no way dry, or unbalanced. It leaves a mouthwatering impression of freshness on the palate, a sure sign of very ripe grapes. This great wine will benefit greatly from gentle aeration (decanting and large glasses). It is still a bit too young to show most of what it has to offer, but for those of you who are impatient, it will nevertheless pair beautifully with jugged hare, roast glazed pork with spices, or an entrecôte à la bordelaise. This Château Pavie will age for at least 8-12 years.
Production	7,500 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2007-2024
Scores/Awards	<p>92 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2004</p> <p>92-94 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2002</p> <p>96 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #153 - June 2004</p> <p>94-96 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #146 - April 2003</p> <p>94-96 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #140 - April 2002</p> <p>95 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - September 2011</p> <p>97 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2008</p> <p>88-89 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - November 2003</p> <p>92 points - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - no review</p> <p>17.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - no review</p> <p>18 points - Decanter.com - January 15, 2005</p> <p>No score - Decanter.com - March 20, 2002</p> <p>93 points - Jean Marc Quarin - no review</p> <p>95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - September 20, 2012</p> <p>94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 14, 2012</p> <p>95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - July 7, 2010</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Powerful, with loads of smoke, vanilla, berry and chocolate character. Full-bodied, with velvety tannins and a long, caressing finish. Modern and rich. Well-done. Best after 2008. 7,500 cases made"</i> - JS, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Wonderful mineral and berry character, with green tobacco and cherry character. Full-bodied, with well-integrated tannins. Beautiful finesse and harmony. Very long finish. Exciting. Close in quality to the '00. Score range: 92-94"</i> - JS, Wine Spectator</p>
Reviews	<i>"One of the candidates for wine of the vintage ... again, the 2001 Pavie, from a magnificent south-facing vineyard planted primarily on limestone soil, is a blend of 70% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc, and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon. After a six-week maceration, it spent nearly 24 months in new oak prior to being bottled unfiltered and unfiltered. Some Bordeaux brokers think it might be even better than the 2000 Pavie, but I do not agree. The inky/ruby/purple-colored 2001 exhibits a tight but promising nose of crushed stones, a liqueur of blackberries, cherries, and black currants, and subtle smoke and licorice in the background. Powerful, with impressive elegance, fine harmony among its elements, a multi-layered texture, it has a finish that lasts for 50+ seconds. There is considerable tannin, but it is well-integrated. Give it 3-4 years and drink it over the next two decades. A</i>

profound effort for the vintage, it is an example of a perfectionist proprietor pushing the envelope of quality.”
- RP, Wine Advocate

“Pavie’s 2001 is a realistic candidate for the wine of the vintage. The black/purple-colored 2001 (70% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon) boasts sensational aromatics of sweet, pure, macerated black fruits intermixed with smoke, licorice, iron, and toasty oak. It is medium to full-bodied, and extraordinarily well-delineated, with aggressive tannin and acidity, yet huge extract as well as layers of concentration. The terroir’s nobility screams through all the extract in this amazing effort. It will require at least a decade of cellaring. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2040.”

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The wine of the vintage? Anyone who has not been paying attention to what proprietors Gerard and Chantal Perse have been accomplishing at this great vineyard planted on steep limestone slopes of what the French call la Cote de Pavie needs to take a serious look. Since 1998 this has been one of the most remarkable wines in Bordeaux. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2040.”

- RP, Wine Advocate

“Tasted at the Fine Wine Experience’s Pavie vertical. A garnet core with a ruby rim. The bouquet is showing very fine definition with more Saint Emilion character coming through than recent vintages. Blackberry, raspberry, pine, sage, allspice and a touch of liquorice. The palate is medium-bodied with fine delineation, lovely balance and focus, supple tannins with a dense black cherries, blueberry, cassis and espresso- and mocha-infused finish. There is something almost Pomerol like developing in the ’01. This is an intriguing Chateau Pavie, one of the most cerebral under Perse. Tasted June 2010.”

- NM, Wine Journal

“A very rich opulent nose with high extraction. Faint touch of oyster shell intermingled with ripe black cherries and roasted almonds. The palate is full-bodied, good acidity, silky smooth with lovely focus and precision. Beautifully interwoven tannins. Sensuous and utterly graceful. Petrus? Tasted October 2007.”

- NM, Wine Journal

“First tasted in Apr-03: a very New Worldy nose: this could come from the Coonawarra! The palate is very toasty, loads of black fruits and cassis with very high maceration and extraction. Moderate acidity, chewy tannins: I prefer Figeac myself which is an intellectual rather than ostentatious wine. Again, in Nov-03: the nose has closed down. The palate has concentrated black fruits: oodles of cassis and blackberry, rendering the wine a little monotonous. But it is balanced and very pure. Very good.”

- NM, Wine Journal

Reviews

"Saturated ruby-red color. Knockout nose combines perfumed red berries, licorice, tar and chalky minerality, along with some exotic roasted notes. Sweet, fat and thick, with slightly roasted flavors of black raspberry and game. A large-scaled, impressively lush wine that comes off as distinctly more vibrant than the 2001 Pavie-Decesse. From the outset this wine has shown a compelling balance of sugars, alcohol and acids. Very long, mounting finish features firm but ripe tannins and complex notes of raspberry, stone, tobacco and woodsmoke."
- ST, International Wine Cellar

"Big, dark hue. Ripe, elegant nose with a nuance of black cherry and blackcurrant. Beautiful layered texture, solid tannic structure but enrobed with fruit. More extracted style but within reason. A powerful wine. Ready 2008-2025. (tasted en primeur)"
- Decanter.com

"Elegant, soft, ripe. Very fine concentration, well-judged ripeness and use of wood, magnificent, ethereal plums and earth. Long. Drink 2008-20. "
- Decanter.com

"The nose explodes from the glass with charcoal, smoke, licorice, blackberry, plum, spice, truffle and earthy scents. Opulent, sensuous and sexy on the palate, the wine ends with rich, concentrated layers of chocolate covered dark berries, spice, black cherry and plum liqueur. There is room to improve, but this is drinking so well today, it's hard not to want to pop a bottle. Wine at this level is part of the reason Chateau Pavie was recently promoted to Premier Grand Cru Classe A."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Licorice, black cherry, truffle, coffee bean, coconut, barbecue, spice, mineral, hot bricks and fresh herbs make up the attention seeking perfume. Silky, round textures with ripe plums. spice, coffee, minerality and cocoa flavors are found in the rich, fruit, opulent filled finish. 2001 Pavie is drinking great today and this is only going to get better. This was popped and poured and just kept getting better. Maybe it deserves another point."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"The wine opens with fresh picked blackberries, dark cherries, 5 spice, fennel and hints of espresso bean. Full bodied and concentrated with juicy ripe plums, chocolate, fennel and minerality, the wine ends in a velvet textured, long, ripe, spicy, dark berry filled finish."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
