

Château Pavie 2011

CSPC# 756599

750mlx12

14.3% alc./vol.

Grape Variety
Appellation
Website
General Info

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

<http://www.vignoblesperse.com/fr/>

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 Valettes 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.

Harvest September 20th-30th. Hand-picked.



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.
Tasting Notes	Purple red in colour. Brilliant rich textured wafts of explosive brilliance. Abundant notes of roasted coffee, blackberries, cassis, full-bodied power and sensational density, texture and length
Production	3,970 cases made.
Cellaring	Drink 2016-2028
Scores/Awards	<p>93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2014</p> <p>92-95 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2012</p> <p>95+ points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #212- April 2014</p> <p>93-95 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #200 - April 2012</p> <p>92-94+ points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2012</p> <p>94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - January 2014</p> <p>94-95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2012</p> <p>90-92 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 11, 2012</p> <p>91-93 points - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - April 2012</p> <p>17 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - no review</p> <p>17.5 points - James Lawther, Decanter.com - April 2012</p> <p>93 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2012</p> <p>93-94 points - Jane Anson, The New Bordeaux - April 2012</p> <p>94 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)</p> <p>93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 24, 2012</p> <p>89-91 points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2012</p> <p>86-89 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2012</p> <p>15.5+ points - Farr Vintner - April 2012</p> <p>93-94 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2012</p> <p>15.5 points - Vinum Wine Magazine - (score only)</p> <p>17 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)</p> <p>92-94 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only)</p> <p>18 points - Gault & Millau (score only)</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"This has intense crushed plum, blackberry and black currant fruit flavors rolled together, along with hefty, briary grip and lots of smoldering charcoal notes. Dense and long, delivering power on a refined structure and showing terrific anise and spice accents through the finish. One for the cellar. This estate is on a roll right now. Best from 2016 through 2028. 3,970 cases made"</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Quite expressive, offering bright blueberry and raspberry aromas and flavors, with lots of lightly toasted spice flittering through the long, silky finish. Showing lovely purity, this is a really beautiful, tender expression for the vintage. Score range: 92-95."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The 2011 Pavie is composed of 70% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon (14.3% alcohol). It possesses a certain approachability, which is somewhat disarming for the big, robust, super-concentrated and age worthy style Pavie has favored since 1998. The opaque purple-hued, full-bodied 2011 offers a sweet kiss of kirsch, blackberry, cassis and licorice, but no evidence of toasty oak despite the fact it is bottled about six months after most other premier grand cru classes in St.-Emilion. One of the most complete wines of the vintage, this superstar possesses gorgeous texture and opulence, and can be drunk in 3-4 years, or cellared for two decades."</i></p> <p>- RP, Wine Advocate</p>

Reviews

"Another terrific success for the flagship estate (a 92-acre vineyard situated on the famed limestone and clay-rich slopes of Cote Pavie) of Chantal and Gerard Perse, the 2011 Pavie is composed of 70% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon. The harvest took place between September 20-30, with final yields of a mere 28 hectoliters per hectare. The natural alcohol is 14.3%, and the 2011 may be the biggest, richest, most massive wine of the vintage. With thrilling levels of concentration, tremendous purity, high but sweet tannin, a skyscraper-like mouthfeel, and terrific intensity, depth and palate presence, this larger-than-life effort will require 5-8 years of cellaring, and should age effortlessly over the following 25-30 years."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"The Pavie was picked from 20th until 30th September. Usually there is an explosion of fruit from the glass...but not this time. It is more succinct in 2011, drawing you in to the seductive, pure, cassis and dark berry fruits laced with blueberry and a touch of soy. The palate is full-bodied and very well balanced with ripe tannins, good acidity and great harmony. There is less of a vice-like grip than the 2010 and of course, great persistency and purity on the mouth, though those tannins are drying on the finish (as usual.) will require a decade in bottle. Note the plus sign. Tasted April 2012"

- NM, Wine Journal

"Pavie made a balanced, pretty wine in 2011 that shows subtle character but firm tannins. Its smoky, coffee and berry character is impressive, but the tannins are silky and polished. Try in 2017."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Fabulous aromas of blackberries and cassis. A purity of fruit here. Full body, with silky tannins. Powerful finish. Muscular for the vintage. Gorgeous. I like the brightness and clarity to it."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"90-92. Barrel sample. Here is a ripe and juicy wine that pushes forward with delicious blackberry fruits. There is a tense edge of acidity that then brings out denser tannins, but juiciness characterizes this wine."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Deep ruby. Brooding aromas of blackcurrant, violet and vanilla. Fine-grained and smooth, with lively red berry and dark plum flavors enlivened and extended by a mineral overlay. Not the most generous Pavie of recent years, but still a wine of remarkable richness in the context of the vintage. This will need plenty of time in bottle. Still, in 2011 I think Pavie-Decesse is its equal."

- ST, International Wine Cellar

"Slightly lower yields than 2010. Gentle aroma of sweet dark, dusty fruit pure with evident oak char and chocolate. Very firm and chewy grip but there's a softness in the mouth that is striking for Pavie. Dense and dark but with a fluid flourish at the end and good length. Enough freshness to balance. Lots of matière then the oak char comes back on the finish. A bit too dense for pleasure at the moment."

- JH, JancisRobinson.com

"Dark, saturated colour. Very ripe with blackcurrant and raisined fruit notes. Concentrated fruit on the palate, a touch Port-like but handles the powerful tannic structure of the wine. A bold, long-term statement."

- JL, Decanter.com

"The colour is all over the glass here, staining happily away, not something we have seen a lot of this year. Like this, all coiled restraint, the acidity cuts a real line through the fruit, can feel it stretching away in front of you. 14.3%ABV. You have to admire Perse's consistency - he has managed to squeeze all he can out of this vintage. This will not be to everyone's taste - but then when has Perse ever made wines for everyone? 70% merlot, 20% cabernet franc, 10% cabernet sauvignon. 93-94"

- JA, The New Bordeaux

Reviews

"Well, well, well. After two monstrous (to me at least) wines in 2009 and 2010, this is a Pavie that I could actually drink, if not necessarily buy. Yes, it's ripe and voluptuous, with masses of tannin and concentration, but there's a seam of freshness running through the wine, too. Thick and dense, but balanced. 10+ years."

- TA, timatkin.com

"Inky and opaque in color with truffle, stone, black cherry, plum, espresso bean, licorice and floral scents. This rich, deep and intense wine is fleshy, round, concentrated and supple with silky tannins and liqueruous dark fruit. Blackberry, plum, mineral and espresso bean can be found in the opulent, tannic finish. 93-95 Pts"

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Deep, saturated colour; ripe marzipan notes; thick and big Merlot; quite unctuous; lots of extract and tannin on the palate – wow! Lots of fruit admittedly but very chewy tannic finish. Must be Pavie? Amazing fruit but extreme tannin too. How will this settle? 70% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc & 10% Cabernet Sauvignon 70% new oak. Tasted blind at Groupement de Premiers Grands Crus Classes de Saint-Emilion at Chateau Canon 6/4/12. 89-91?"

- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

"The nose is a bit tight with more of a red than black fruit influence. The mid palate feels quite sweet and although the tannins are firm they feel ripe not aggressive. There seems to be a much better balance and a lighter less extracted feeling."

- Derek Smedley MW

"Bordeaux's most controversial wine. Over-priced, over-oaked, over-concentrated "jam juice" according to some and one of the world's greatest wines say others. Some British critics have criticized the Port-like aspects of some recent vintages, but Robert Parker, James Suckling and Michel Bettane are big fans. Gérard Perse has created a modern winery in one of Saint Emilion's greatest terroirs and, with very low yields, is creating wines of enormous concentration and power. Completely different from the Pavie's of old (but so is the price). Recent vintages (since 1998) have delivered wines that those looking for traditional Saint Emilion should avoid but those who are impressed by extraordinary levels of intensity are sure to be impressed by it. This has an amazing black colour that clings to the side of the glass. A huge, powerful nose of super-extracted fruit. This wine is very, very strong with flavours of figs, dates and raisins. However, the finish is incredibly dry and harsh."

- Farr Vintners

"Pavie has really moved away from over-ripeness and over the past several years produced gorgeous wines. This wine has aroma of spices, dark berries and layers of flavours. It is fresh and lively with good acidity and firm, dense, ripe tannins. Well made and opulent with freshness."

- JCL, asianpalate.com
