

Château Pavie 2016

CSPC# 813894

750mlx6

14.3% alc./vol.

Grape Variety
Appellation
Classification
Website
General Info

60% Merlot, 22% Cabernet Franc, 18% Cabernet Sauvignon
St. Emilion
1st Grand Cru Classé
<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 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.

Winemaker
Vintage

Michel Rolland as their consultant

2016 St. Emilion did not get off to a good start. Frankly, the initial part of the growing season started off wet, and cloudy. The massive amount of water in the vineyards and cooler temperatures set things back. Vignerons already knew 2016 Saint Emilion would be a late vintage. Bacchus must love Bordeaux because at the beginning of June, the rain stopped, the sun came out and the flowering took place during one of the few breaks in the rain. At least now, growers had a glimmer of hope. The quantity was going to be there, but would the quality come as well?

The official start of summer changed everything. The rains were gone and sunny, warm summer days with the all-important shift to cold, nighttime temperatures arrived. Now, growers needed to decide how much, or even if they should deleaf. The vignerons that were careful not to remove too many leaves, for fear of too much sun



Vintage	made the right choice. Indian summer conditions continued. But as the summer wore on, the extreme dryness of the 2016 Saint Emilion vintage began to have an effect on the vineyards. Young vines shut down or died. The older vines were in danger of shutting down their growth cycle as well, to avoid starvation. But September 13 and September 14 brought about 44mm of rain, the perfect amount of moisture was delivered to the thirsty vines, and at the exact, opportune moment! The continued cold nighttime temperatures kept everything in check and growers were able to wait as long as they wished, for the grapes to achieve full maturity. Another shot of rainfall took place the night of September 30, or the morning of October 1, (depending on your point of view) and it was off to the races! The 2016 St. Emilion harvest conditions could not have been better. Some growers reported 125 days of hang time. Other produces reported spending 4 weeks picking their fruit. And why not as conditions were perfect with warm sunny weather and an extended growing season.
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	between 10 and 20 October
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	On the nose, the 2016 vintage of Château Pavie offers an intense and well-defined bouquet of black fruits, interspersed with floral and mineral (graphite) notes. Medium-bodied on the palate, Château Pavie 2016 exhibits ripe and silky tannins that delicately line the palate. It is a velvety and charming wine.
Serve with	Chateau Pavie is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. Chateau Pavie is best paired with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes.
Production	6,667 cases made.
Cellaring	Drink 2026-2060
Scores/Awards	<p>97 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2019</p> <p>97-100 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2017</p> <p>100 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2019</p> <p>98-100 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - November 2018</p> <p>98-100 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #230 - April 2017</p> <p>100 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2019</p> <p>99-100 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2017</p> <p>96 points/Cellar Selection - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 2019</p> <p>96-98 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2017</p> <p>17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2017</p> <p>97 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2017</p> <p>99 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2017</p> <p>93 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2017</p>

Scores/Awards **17.5 points** - Farr Vintner - February 2017
98 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - January 2019
98 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - January 2019
97-100 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2017
99 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - November 2017

Reviews

"This is a rather showy--and captivating--display of fruit, with waves of lush cassis, raspberry and plum reduction flavors flowing through with authority and grace while a swath of chalky minerality stays deeply buried throughout. Toasty, glistening with vanilla and apple wood notes, but the fruit has the oak bridle easily in hand. One of the Right Bank showstoppers of the vintage. Best from 2024 through 2040. 6,667 cases made."

- JM, Wine Spectator

"This is a head-turner, with intense raspberry, cassis and boysenberry reduction notes pumping along, inlaid with a graphite edge and backed by waves of roasted apple wood, anise and fruitcake. Yet as large-scale as this is, it's still harnessed by a fine, chalky minerality through the finish. "Wow" wine. Score range: 97-100"

- JM, Wine Spectator

"Very deep purple-black in color, it needs a little coaxing to begin, slowly unfurling to reveal a fragrant perfume of violets, chocolate-covered cherries, crushed blueberries, and eucalyptus over a core of preserved plums, kirsch, black raspberries and crème de cassis plus hints of licorice and chargrilled meat. Full-bodied and built like a brick house, it has a solid foundation of firm, super ripe, grainy tannins and seamless freshness interknit with the black fruit preserves and mineral layers, finishing very long and very decadent. Superb!"

- LPB, Wine Advocate

"A barrel sample, the deep purple-black colored 2016 Pavié comes rolling out of the glass with the most wonderfully sensuous nose of violets, red roses, black tea, and wild blueberries over a core of baked plums, blackberry compote, star anise and cloves plus touches of cinnamon stick and underbrush. Full-bodied and super concentrated in the mouth, the palate is built like a skyscraper with a solid structure of grainy tannins and wonderful freshness, finishing very long with long-lingering mineral accents."

- LPB, Wine Advocate

"The alcohol this year is 14.55%, and it is matured in 80% new oak and 20% one-year-old wood. As Gérard Perse explained, this is a Pavié that has taken stock and shifted in direction in recent years, reflecting more of its exceptional terroir instead of winemaking. It has a very intense bouquet that is extremely well-defined and shrugs off that higher alcohol level. You can find the graphite vein courtesy of the Cabernet Sauvignon and the underlying tension, while a second bottle had a soupçon more florality. The palate is medium-bodied with succulent, ripe, supple tannins that gently caress the mouth. It feels beguiling and charming, totally different in style compared to say Cheval Blanc, offering a more sensual take on the 2016 growing season. It is a very impressive follow-up to the 2015 Pavié and may surpass it once in bottle."

- NM, Wine Advocate

"Spectacular aromas of crushed berries, such as blueberries and raspberries. Fresh flowers with hints of sandalwood. Exotic. Saturated palate of so much fruit yet remains agile and energetic. Great length and texture. Fills your mouth. This needs time, but a classic. Twin brother of the perfect 2015."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This is more compressed and tighter than the 2015. It's full-bodied, but very tight and focused. So linear and long. Love the gorgeous finesse. Goes on for minutes. All about finesse...new profile."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This release underlines this estate's change in style towards more elegant wines. While concentrated, the wine has stylish layers of black-plum fruit, beautiful acidity, and freshness. Black-chocolate flavors are fully integrated into the rich tannins. This will develop into a great wine. Drink from 2025."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

Reviews *“This is a restrained Pavie, elegant and with great fruit. The tannins are there but certainly not harsh or too dense. It has great blackberry fruit and beautiful tannins. It is perfumed and stylish, with a great future. (RV)”*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“Dark crimson. Rich, sweet nose. In the vineyard there's just 50% Merlot! Very sweet start and really hard work. But much less exaggerated than it used to be. Sinewy. Some appetising quality. Very juicy start but then it dries on the finish. These wines are very different from the others in the appellation, and I have to conclude that the owner and team taste differently from me and don't mind the drying finishes. For drama this deserves my score, and it may well settle down to something lovely eventually.”

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“One of the most thrilling surprises of the vintage, here a new approach to a more finely-wrought Pavie has collided with a vintage that has natural freshness and acidity. The result shows the potential of this terroir. Without a doubt the best Pavie that I have ever tasted, and one where I have not had to say, 'yes, but...'. Let's not pretend that it's night and day from the old regime, but nor should it be - Pavie needs to keep its signature black fruited glamour and intensity, as that is part of what delivered its new status, but to my mind this is a far better balance than in the past. The blend is 60% Merlot, 22% Cabernet Franc and 18% Cabernet Sauvignon, the lowest amount of Merlot since Perse arrived. This still has reams of intense fruit, but the tannins are not immovable as they have been in some years, and pulses of minerality leap up on the finish to make your mouth water. Gorgeous. It is also fascinating to learn the technical details that have helped bring out the vintage character - besides the lower Merlot content, there were 10 days less maceration than last year and only 70% new oak. Drinking Window 2027 – 2050”

- JA, Decanter.com

“Inky in color, the wine is pure silk and velvet. The reduction of new oak and the increase of the Cabernets really make a difference. Rich, dense, plush, and pure, there is a sweetness to the fruit and complexity that moves the wine from red to black again and again. Made from a blend of 60% Merlot, 22% Cabernet Franc and 18% Cabernet Sauvignon, the wine reached 14.5% with a pH of 3.49 and the harvest took place October 10 to October 20.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“We're not quite in “fist pump” territory yet, but this is the freshest and best-balanced Pavie I've had for a while. It's still a very dense, rich, deeply coloured wine, with slightly too much extraction, but the fruit has some leafy notes and welcome acidity. Even earlier picking would transform the wine. 2022-30”

- TA, timatkin.com

“Gérard Perse has created a magnificent modern winery of marble, stainless steel and new oak barrels and, with very low yields, has been making wines of enormous concentration and power. Since 1998 Pavie has been rewarded with a string of high scores from Robert Parker and has now attained Premier Cru Classe 'A' status. The 37-hectare vineyard contains vines of an average age of 47 years. The 2016 is a blend of 60% Merlot, 22% Cabernet Franc, 18% Cabernet Sauvignon from 48-year-old vines. The yield was 38 hl/ha, and it has 14.5% alcohol. The pedigree of Pavie has never been in question – the chateau's vines are situated on one of Saint Emilion's greatest terroirs. The criticism historically is that this great terroir has been masked by over-extraction and oak. The 2016 is not such a wine. There is no lack of control here. Instead, it has violets, plums, and exotic woody spice on the nose and, whilst being concentrated and rich on the palate, there is real harmony, balance and energy in the wine that we've often missed in years gone by. The 2016 vintage's trademark tannins are evident, but they have a velvet edge and are well integrated. The lower percentage of new oak (70% this year) and increased proportion of Cabernet Sauvignon (18%) have produced a wine of power, richness, and concentration but one that has balance and refinement and a very long finish. This is the result of a deliberate change in stylistic direction, away from the over-extracted wines of recent years towards a more rounded, balanced wine that is beginning to once again do justice to this great terroir.”

- Farr Vintners

Reviews *“The 2016 Pavie, matured in 80% new oak, has a thrilling bouquet of layers of small black cherries, boysenberry,*

fig and a hint of licorice, all very well defined; the oak is nicely integrated. The medium-bodied palate offers ripe, sappy black fruit, grippy tannin, a smooth texture and crisp acidity toward the finish. This is a seamless Pavie, but backward compared to its peers, and it needs several years in bottle before it even entertains the prospect of drinking pleasure. Drink 2026-2070"

- NM, Vinous

"The 2016 Pavie is simply magnificent. Gracious, perfumed and exquisitely beautiful, the 2016 has it all. I can't remember seeing a Pavie with this much translucent energy and nuance. Black cherry, plum, lavender, spice and menthol all infuse this explosive, young wine with tremendous character. In the glass, the 2016 is vivid, aromatically deep, and full of saline-infused energy. It is without question one of the wines of the vintage. As it turns out Gerard Perse also opened the 2008. Although the two vintages (2016 and 2008) in question are quite different in style and quality, the trajectory Pavie has taken in recent years is evident. The 2016 is a thrilling wine. That's all there is to it. The blend is 60% Merlot, 22% Cabernet Franc and 18% Cabernet Sauvignon. (AG)"

- AG, Vinous

"Seamless, sumptuous and super-expressive, the 2016 Pavie is a real head-turner. It will be years before the 2016 is ready to show all it's got. Even so, it is an absolutely stunning wine. The 2016 is 60% Merlot and 40% Cabernet Franc, which is the most Franc that has ever gone into the Grand Vin. That gives the wine striking aromatic nuance to play off the exquisite, layered fruit. The 2016 is an exceptional wine by any measure. In a word: magnificent!"

- AG, Vinous

"Turning the dial up considerably, the 2016 Château Pavie leaps out of the glass with a thrilling bouquet of crème de cassis, toasty oak, graphite, white truffle, crayons, and flowers. A blend of 60% Merlot, 22% Cabernet Franc, and 18% Cabernet Sauvignon brought up in 85% new French oak (the new oak has been dialed back in recent vintages), this full-bodied Pavie is made in a more elegant, seamless style compared to prior great vintages, yet it still has brilliant depth of fruit and concentration, ripe, present tannins, a seamless texture, and an awesome finish. Drink 2023-2073."

- Jeb Dunnuck
