

## Château Pavie Macquin 2012

CSPC# 866176

750mlx12

14.4% alc./vol.

**Grape Variety**  
**Appellation**  
**Classification**  
**Website**  
**General Info**

85% Merlot, 14% Cabernet Franc, 1% Cabernet Sauvignon  
St. Emilion  
Premier Grand Cru Classe

<http://www.nicolas-thienpont.com/pavie-macquin/pavie-macquin.htm>

Great figure of St. Emilion in the early twentieth century, Albert Macquin left an indelible mark on the estate that was named after him. He is responsible for the use of grafted plant, which has eradicated the ravages of phylloxera. Perfectly situated on the plateau of Saint-Emilion, at an altitude ranging from 75 to 100 meters, the vineyards of Pavie Macquin covers 15 hectares in one piece. Its neighbors are illustrious Pavie south and Troplong Mondot west. The grandchildren of Albert Macquin now owner of the estate has appointed Nicolas Thienpont manager of Pavie Macquin in 1994. He is the advised by Stéphane Derenoncourt, who already took action on the estate several years before. The duo works beautifully. A map of the vineyard has been established to distinguish about nine types of soil, for each of which specific methods of viticulture and winemaking have been edited. Inspired by the principles of biodynamics, they forbid the use of herbicides and are based on the use of biological processes such as compost. Few modern methods are used too, such as micro-oxygenation, which consists of an oxygen supply to certain key stages of winemaking. The aromas of the wine are enhanced. The wines are aged in barrels renewed for 80% during 16 to 20 months. During the ten year review of the classification of St. Emilion in 2006 Pavie-Macquin was promoted the rank of 1st Grand Cru Classé B, a privilege it shares with only 12 other wines. While this ranking is currently suspended, fans are not wrong: Pavie-Macquin produces powerful and aromatic wine. Very harmonious, they offer velvety tannins and display explosive aromas of black fruits in the mouth. Voluptuous, perfectly balanced and tailored for a long cellaring, they reach their peak within 10 to 12 years after the vintage.

**Vintage**

After the very cold and dry winter of 2011–2012, bud break lasted throughout April. The rains of April and May, coupled with mild temperatures, resulted insignificant mineralization and strong vegetative growth of the vines.

Flowering was late (29 May) and drawn out, with a delicate fruit set. The old Merlot plants have at times seen yields reduced due to coulure (shatter, a failure of the fruit to set) or millerandage (shot grapes, incomplete development).

There was settled summer weather from 15 July, with the hottest August since 2003, allowing partial recovery of the growth cycle. From mid-July onwards, 2012 was one of the driest vintages of recent years (along with 2005, 2009 and 2010), resulting in a significant water deficit (120mm lower than the thirty-year average). Ripening in early August was prolonged, with peaks of temperature from July to September and reduced rainfall. The biggest daily temperature difference recorded was 12.9°C, the highest in eight years, favouring a high level of anthocyanins and aromatic intensity. September and October were mild, close to the seasonal norm (27–28°C on 5 October).

**Vineyards**

There are 15 hectares of vineyards, planted to 80 % Merlot, 18 % Cabernet Franc and 2 % Cabernet Sauvignon. Average vine age is 35 years

**Harvest**

The harvest took place between October 17-18

**Vinification/  
Maturation**

No crushing of grapes. Gentle extraction by punching-down. Temperature-controlled tanks. Malolactic fermentation in barrel. Stirring of lees after malolactic fermentation. Reductive aging on lees: first racking after 6 to 10 months (before summer), second racking one year later before bottling. Aged 16-20 months in 80% new and 20% 1 yr old barrels.



**Tasting Notes** Dark purple red with violet hue and black center. Opulent nose with rich fruit, marinated plums, black cherries, sweet elderberries. In the background toasted aromas and a hint of minerality. Discreet tones of vanilla and chocolate. On the palate well balanced, juicy character, excellent tannin structure, weight and length.

**Production** 4,165 cases made

**Cellaring** Drink 2019-2040

**Scores/Awards** **94 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2015  
**93-96 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2015  
**93-96 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2013  
**93+ points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #218 - April 2015  
**92-95 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #206 - April 2013  
**94-96 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2013  
**93-95 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 9, 2013  
**91-93 points** - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - April 2013  
**94 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2015  
**17 points** - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2013  
**17.25 points** - James Lawther, Decanter.com - April 2013  
**91 points** - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only)  
**93 points** - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)  
**93-95 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 18, 2013  
**89-91 points** - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2013  
**88-91 points** - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2013  
**17.5 points** - John Berry, Berry & Rudd Wine & Spirit Merchants - April 2015  
**87 points** - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 9, 2013  
**93-95 points** - Gilbert & Gaillard - April 16, 2013  
**16 points** - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)  
**16.5 points** - La Revue du Vin France (score only)  
**92-94 points** - Falstaff Magazine (score only)  
**16 points** - Gault & Millau (score only)

**Reviews** *"Offers a solid, packed feel, with dense plum sauce, licorice and blackberry preserve flavors, pushed by ganache and graphite details. Despite the dense and fleshy feel, there's serious purity here. A violet note mingles with a lightly chalky echo through the lengthy finish. A terrific effort for the vintage. Best from 2017 through 2027. 4,165 cases made."*

- JS, Wine Spectator

*"This has some serious depth, with alluring plum cake, melted red licorice and blackberry coulis flavors melded together. There's tension too, with well-integrated singed spice and the estate's telltale chalky mineral edge adding spine and length. Very well done. —Non-blind Pavie Macquin vertical (December 2014). Best from 2017 through 2027. 4,165 cases made. Score range: 93-96"*

- JS, Wine Spectator

*"Delightfully fresh and pure, with beautifully expressive aromas of blueberry, raspberry, plum and boysenberry fruit. This tames the grippy, taut side of the vintage, delivering sleek, silky tannins and a long, spice-infused finish. Offers lovely length and precision. Score range: 93-96"*

- JS, Wine Spectator

*"Another wine made by the superstar guru Nicolas Thienpont, this well-situated property of 37 acres on the high clay/limestone plateau in St.-Emilion has produced a blend of 84 % Merlot, 14% Cabernet Franc and 2% Cabernet Sauvignon. A masculine, virile style of wine with an inky deep purple color, lots of crème de cassis and crushed rock and high tannin. This is thick and powerful, with a layered mouthfeel, good purity, earthiness and spice. Forget it for 4-5 years and drink if over the following two decades."*

- RP, Wine Advocate

## Reviews

*"A dense blue/black color is accompanied by notes of creosote, graphite, black fruits, vanillin, chocolate and tapenade. Rich, concentrated and full-bodied, it has a spicy, compacted, layered mouthfeel. Given how past vintages seemed to close down after bottling, this beauty will probably need 5-6 years of cellaring and keep for two decades or more.*

*A stunning blend of 85% Merlot, 14% Cabernet Franc and 1% Cabernet Sauvignon, the 2012 Pavie Macquin came in at 14.4% natural alcohol. This vineyard, which enjoys a tremendous terroir high on the plateau above Pavie Decesse, is planted in pure limestone and clay soils. The harvest took place between October 17-18."*

*- RP, Wine Advocate*

*"The Pavie Macquin is a blend of 85% Merlot, 14% Cabernet Franc and 1% Cabernet Sauvignon picked between 13th and 18th October at 30hl/ha. It has a gorgeous, sumptuous bouquet with pure dark cherries, Hoi Sin and oyster shells that is extremely pure and beautifully defined. The palate has a cashmere texture, wonderful finesse and very well-judged acidity. It is a stunning wine from Pavie-Macquin in a difficult vintage. This would be one of my top picks on the Right Bank. Tasted April 2013."*

*- NM, Wine Journal*

*"93–95. Barrel sample. Full bodied and ripe, this wine is marked by smoky character, spiciness and full-throttle tannins. Blackberry fruits on the palate complement this serious structure. Obviously, a long-term wine."*

*- RV, Wine Enthusiast*

*"(85% merlot, 14% cabernet franc and 1% cabernet sauvignon; 30 h/h production): Deep purple-ruby. Penetrating notes of violet and rose complement intense, almost syrupy aromas of strawberry and red cherry. Then dense and suave in the mouth, with rich flavors of red berries and minerals complicated by vanilla and violet. Finishes very rich and long. This year, the merlot was harvested between October 13 and 18 and the cabernet on October 17 and 18. One of my top 15 wines of the vintage. Pavie-Macquin takes its name from its location in the Pavie sector of Saint-Emilion and from the grandfather Albert Macquin of the Corre-Macquin family. Since 1994, Nicolas Thienpoint has been managing the property with the consulting help of Stephane Derenoncourt."*

*- ST, International Wine Cellar*

*"There is a purity and directness to this wine with blueberry, sliced-mushroom and floral character. Full body, firm tannins and a long and intense finish. Racy."*

*- JS, JamesSuckling.com*

*"Deep dark crimson with purple rim. Rich black cherry aroma, inviting. Some sweet oak toastiness but not too much because there's a meaty edge too. Really moreish. Bright and lively. Generous, full fruited and rounded but not in the least flabby. Lots of red fruit and fine supple tannin. Energy and length. Just enough freshness and a nice chewy finish. Pleasure without pretension. Drink 2017-2025. 17/20 points."*

*- JH, JancisRobinson.com*

*"Spicy, liquorish nose. Red berry fruit. Characteristic acidity of the cru evident. Firm, powerful structure but less assertive tannins than 2011. Drink: 2020 - 2030 17.25"*

*- JL, Decanter.com*

*"85% Merlot, 14% Cabernet Franc and a dab of Cabernet Sauvignon produced the blend. Licorice, flowers, coffee bean and juicy ripe plums, with silky tannins and a sweet, fresh, black cherry finish are found in this wine. 93-95 Pts (18-Apr-2013)"*

*- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com*

*"The nose has a smoky red fruited charm and the palate starts with some fresh flavours. The mid palate is richer with ripe strawberry and black plum the suppleness helped by ripe tannins. There are layers of fruit complexity and length of flavour. 2017-26 88-91"*

*- Derek Smedley MW*

**Reviews** *“Deep and saturated, tight to the rim; very pretty, lots of black fruits, chalk and spices; menthol and oak influence too; very rich and attractive; lushness here again; ripe and concentrated palate with some tension and minerality; lots of body and richness. Pretty chewy finish but lots and lots of fruit here [tannin too]. 92-94+ Tasted Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2013 at Chateau Pavie Macquin [Earlier note] Deep and saturated colour; more mineral tones, some wet rocks and also strawberry jam notes; very ripe and lifted aspect; quite worked and oaky palate; little dryness but the finish is sweet and I’d expect it to settle. 85% Merlot, 14% Cabernet Franc, 1% Cabernet Sauvignon. 89-91+ UGC Weds April 10, 2013”*  
- JW, [winewordsandvideotape.com](http://winewordsandvideotape.com)

*“A nose bursting with intense ripe and concentrated red fruits really captures your attention when tasting this wine. Poised, minerally and velvety, this has real definition and a juicy freshness which we didn't taste in all of the 2012s. This wine has seriously good potential, and is certainly one of our favourites from St Emilion this year.”*  
- JB, Berry & Rudd Wine & Spirit Merchants

*“This barrel sample is very woody and the oak is dominating at the moment. There are dark berry fruits, green pepper and supple, firm tannins here. Fairly long length, well-crafted red that will need time in bottle before it is ready to be enjoyed. Tasted in: Bordeaux, France. Maturity: Young. (09-Apr-2013)”*  
- JCL, [asianpalate.com](http://asianpalate.com)

*“Refined nose of elegant oak and expressive fruit. Silky palate with refined, evident tannins and slightly backward fruit. Wonderful potential. (16-Apr-2013)”*  
- en.gilbertgaillard.com

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