

Château Pavie Macquin 2015

CSPC# 759363

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety
Appellation
Classification
Website
General Info

84% Merlot, 14% Cabernet Franc, 2% Cabernet Sauvignon
St. Emilion

Premier Grand Cru Classe B in 2006

<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 owners of the estate have 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

2015 St. Emilion has it all going on. Frankly, I could sum this article up rather quickly by just saying, "2015 Saint Emilion Rocks!"

Across the board, 2015 St. Emilion was lucky. Vineyards in the cool clay soils that harvested late made stunning wines. But so, did the estates on the limestone plateau, in the gravel soils and properties on the more sandy terroir were also quite successful. That does not mean buyers do not need to be choosy. Some estates pushed the pedal to the metal a bit too far. There are overly extracted wines, and wines that are aging in too much new oak. But generally speaking, the level of quality here is homogenous. 2015 St. Emilion is the product of a hot, dry summer, with drought conditions. April was hot. June was hotter. July was scorching, and the lack of water exacerbated those conditions. What made this unique was that this level of heat is usually experienced later in the growing season. That was not the case with 2015. Fortunately, the rains in August arrived in the nick of time, providing enough nourishment to allow the growth cycle to continue.

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

picked between September 29 and October 17

**Vinification/
Maturation**

Harvest reception by gravity entirely manual: 4 successive sorting tables, destemming but no crushing. Gravity vatting of whole berries and separate vinification in concrete tanks. Gentle extraction by punching of the cap, at the core of the fermentation. Malolactic fermentation in barrels. Reductant ageing on fine lees: First racking after 6 to 10 months of ageing (before summer), second one a year later, before the bottling. Fining and filtering only if necessary.



Tasting Notes	The third premier grand cru classé wine managed by Nicolas Thienpont, who has a considerable and admirable presence here. The Merlot was picked between September 29th and October 16th, the Cabernet Franc October 7th, 16th and 17th, the Cabernet Sauvignon October 17th. The yield was 40 l/ha. This has a very dark, concentrated nose of crushed black-cherry and black-plum fruit, with fresh perfumed, pencil-drawn edges. The palate is very concentrated, pure, very defined and straight though, the pretty and rather tense fruit character wrapped up in oak here. There is a rather elegant potential underneath it, although no shortage of grip. An impressive barrel sample overall, dark, perfumed, defined, but with lovely freshness and depth as well. This is undoubtedly a great wine, and one of the best vintages of Pavie-Macquin I recall tasting for some time. What an addition to the cellar this would be.
Production	4,583 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2020-2040
Scores/Awards	<p>96 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2018</p> <p>94-97 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2016</p> <p>94 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - February 2018</p> <p>91-93 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #224 - April 2016</p> <p>93 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - March 2018</p> <p>98 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2018</p> <p>96-97 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2016</p> <p>86-88 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2016</p> <p>16 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - October 2017</p> <p>16.5+ points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2016</p> <p>93 points - James Lawther, Decanter.com - April 2016</p> <p>97 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2018</p> <p>97 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2018</p> <p>96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - July 2017</p> <p>96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2016</p> <p>94-96 points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - May 2016</p> <p>93-95+ points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - March 2016</p> <p>89 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2016</p> <p>89-92 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2016</p> <p>92 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - May 2016</p> <p>97 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2018</p> <p>93-96 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2016</p> <p>94 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2018</p> <p>18+ points - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2016</p> <p>93-95 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - May 2016</p> <p>16.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - June 2016</p> <p>17.5 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - April 2016</p> <p>18 points - Gault & Millau (score only) - June 2016</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Ripe, pure and expressive, with a beautiful panoply of loganberry, plum and red currant preserve flavors that meld seamlessly with anise and singed apple wood details and a subtle chalky spine. A bright floral accent on the finish lifts this up a register and lets it sail on, holding that note. Best from 2020 through 2040. 4,583 cases made."</i></p> <p>- JS, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"A pure style, with a bright cassis aroma and a core of plum and bitter cherry notes, allied to a lightly chalky spine. Long and refined, showing lovely cut and precision. Score range: 94-97"</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Medium to deep garnet-purple in color, the 2015 Pavie Macquin bursts forth from the glass with profound notions of plum preserves, fruit cake, Indian spices and chargrilled meat with touches of black soil, mocha, cedar chest and unsmoked cigars. Full-bodied, voluptuously fruited and decadently styled in the mouth, the packed layers of black fruit preserves and exotic spices are well-matched by firm, ripe, grainy tannins and seamless freshness that sits comfortably in the background, finishing with great length and depth."</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Advocate</p>

Reviews

"The 2015 Pavie-Macquin is a blend of 84% Merlot, 14% Cabernet Franc and 2% Cabernet Sauvignon picked between 29 September and 17 October at 40 hl/ha. It has an almost decadent bouquet, perhaps more lascivious than the 2015 Larcis-Ducasse tasted alongside (as part of Nicolas Thienpont's "stable"), with fig-tinged red cherry and blackberry fruit, powerful but perhaps needing to muster a little more finesse? The palate is medium-bodied with a sweet core of citrus-fresh fruit. There is more nuance and precision here at the moment, fleshy and sensual with blood orange and cassis layered over the exuberant finish. It should be a delicious Saint Emilion this year, although I feel that the Larcis-Ducasse will have the sophistication and more longevity."

- NM, Wine Advocate

"The 2015 Pavie Macquin offers tempting scents of raspberry preserve, black truffle and smoke on the nose, later becoming floral and very well defined. The palate is medium-bodied with a fresh opening, lithe and supple, finely tuned acidity with a citrus-fresh, slightly piquant finish that is brimming over with tension that is needed because there is a lot of sweetness locked up in this Pavie Macquin. It will need 4 or 5 years in bottle."

- NM, Wine Journal

"86–88. Barrel Sample. The high acidity in this wine is tight and bright, overly so. It seems unbalanced, while the firm tannins lend a gripping structure."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"So much violet and lilac aromas to this with blackberry and blueberry character, too. Full-bodied and delivering limestone, chalk and lavender on the palate. Great structure, too. Needs four or five years to soften. Better in 2022."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"The purity of fruit and focus in this wine is so impressive. Full body, powerful and persistent. It goes on for minutes here."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Mid crimson. Beautifully fragrant with both red and dark fruit. Tastes very sweet on the palate, as if there were actually some residual sugar? Chewy texture and fruit and structure not fully integrated. The sweetness shows on the finish as it seems to clash with the acidity. Maybe it just needs more time than most. (JH) "

- JH, JancisRobinson.com

"Nicolas and his son Cyrille Thienpont make the wine for the Corre-Macquin family. 84% Merlot, 14% Cabernet Franc, 2% Cabernet Sauvignon. Sweet and rich on the nose. Then marked acidity on the palate. Rather different from and fresher than some earlier vintages."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"84% Merlot, 16% Cabernet. Wonderful lifted fragrance this year. Lots of energy and minerality. Lovely texture and tannins with the tension ever present. Sweet fruit but not excessive. Builds on the finish. Still powerful but a refined power this year. Saline finish."

- JL, Decanter.com

"Lush, sexy, plush and polished, the wine has all the glycerin needed to coat the glass and your palate. There is purity in the fruits and silky tannins in the finish that make this just as exciting to feel as it does to taste. One of the best vintages produced here, this should age for at least 20-25 years or longer!"

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Loads of secondary notes of smoke, wet earth and forest floor compliment the sweet, dark red, earthy, plum and cherry fruits. Concentrated, full bodied, fresh, long and intense, there is length, sweetness of fruit and complexity. The finish offers a touch of jam, dark red berries, espresso and stone, with soft, lushly textured tannins that really linger."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

Reviews *"A gem in the making, this has so much going on, where do you start? Opulence and freshness, with depth of flavor, length and intensity, this is heading in the right direction."*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Dark ruby in color with a floral, boysenberry nose, this wine is complicated by licorice, espresso bean and cherry blossoms. Pure silk and minerality on the palate, the velvety fruits are fresh and clean. This wine was made from a blend of 84% Merlot, 14% Cabernet Franc and 2% Cabernet, reaching 14.5% alcohol with a pH of 3.38. The harvest took place from September 29 to October 17"
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Deeply coloured; saturated; pure fruit; minerality with some plums and ripe qualities; unadorned by oak; real clarity to the wines. Like the purity here. Attractive finish – very long on the palate with real purity. Length. Purity and length. [13ha in production, 40hl/ha, 84% Merlot, 14% Cabernet Franc, 2% Cabernet Sauvignon]. Tasted Pavie Macquin 3/4/16. Drink 2022-2035. 94-96+ "
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

"[Second tasting UGCB 6/4/16]: Deep and saturated look; substantial wine; powerful; certain minerality here; full and structured palate; lots of extract but freshness too; not tired or over-worked. Needs ten years. Vin de garde St Emilion. Drink 2025-2035. 93-95+ "
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

"Firm on the nose the start of the palate is tight but there is mid sweetness some rich black fruits. The tannins are fine supporting but not holding back the fruit with ripe fruit giving depth and richness on the finish. 2022-33"
- Derek Smedley MW

"A lovely red with lifted flavors on the mid palate - violets, sweet spices and blackberries. There is a lightness on the mid palate that comes from the freshness and precise flavors. A wine to follow."
- JCL, asianpalate.com

"One of the highlights of the vintage, the 2015 Pavie Macquin is positively stellar. A veritable explosion of super-ripe red cherry rose petal and mocha makes a strong opening statement. Silky on the palate, with soft tannins and tons of sheer exoticism, the 2015 is stunningly beautiful. All of the signatures of the site are turned up to the maximum in this vivid, head-spinning wine from estate manager Nicolas Thienpont and his team. Don't miss it! 2022 – 2045"
- AG, Vinous

"The 2015 Pavie Macquin is another tremendous wine from Nicolas Thienpont and his team. Inky, rich and voluptuous the 2015 is endowed with remarkable depth and plenty of underlying energy to back it all up. The flavors are dark, bold and incisive, as are the tannins. The 2015 is going to require quite a bit of time to come together, but it is impressive, that much is obvious. Pavie Macquin is 84% Merlot, 14% Cabernet Franc and 2% Cabernet Sauvignon picked between September 29 and October 17 and aged in 60% new oak."
- AG, Vinous

"Very pretty and rather more evocative and floral than many, this is a joyful wine with a honed palate and superb finish."
- MJ, matthewjukes.com

"Notes of cassis, toasted spice, toasty oak, and crushed flowers emerge from the 2015 Château Pavie Macquin, and it's a rockin' effort that marries elegance with full-bodied power and structure. With fine, fine tannin, high, yet integrated acidity, and a great mid-palate, it's more approachable than either of the other Pavie releases yet is still backward and unevolved. Give bottles 4-5 years of cellaring and enjoy over the following two to three decades. 2022 – 2052"
- Jeb Dunnuck
