

# Château Cos d'Estournel 2019

CSPC# 772104

750mlx6

14.59% alc./vol.

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

65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot  
Saint- Estèphe

Second Growth. Deuxieme Grand Cru Classe in 1855.  
<http://estournal.com/cos/cos-destournal-red/?lang=en>

In the old Gascon language, the word Cos means the hill of pebbles. Between Pauillac and Saint-Estèphe, separated from Château Lafite by the stream known as La Jalle du Breuil, the hill of Cos dominates the Gironde from the height of almost 65 feet. Born in 1762 during the reign of Louis XV and died in 1853 under Napoleon III, Louis Gaspard d'Estournel, who inherited a few vines near the village of Cos, had one sole passion: Cos. Louis Gaspard d'Estournel became known as the Maharajah of Saint-Estèphe. To celebrate his distant conquests, he had exotic pagodas erected over his cellar. In 1852, overwhelmed by debts he had accumulated in order to extend and beautify the estate, he was obliged to sell Cos to a London banker called Martyns. In 1855, the work of Louis Gaspard d'Estournel was consecrated by the imperial classification of 1855 placing Cos d'Estournel at the head of Saint-Estèphe. In 1869, the chateau was sold to the Errazu, an aristocratic Basque family, then to the Hostein brothers in 1886 and to Fernand Ginestet, one leading Bordeaux wine merchant, in 1917. The chateau has been belonging to Michel Reybier since 2000. In 2002 was constructed a new winery with a liquid CO2 cooling tunnel, small 19 to 115 hectoliter isothermal stainless-steel cone-shaped tanks and four 100 litre used to replace the traditional pumping over process. Cos d'Estournel has become, in the eyes of lovers of fine wines, the archetype of a certain style of masculine elegance in which immense power is combined with grace and smoothness. Impressive when young for the intensity of its structure and explosive fruit, Cos d'Estournel evolves slowly to arrive, when completely mature (after ten to thirty years) at an admirable smoothness and aromatic complexity. Great vintages can be exceptionally long-living, exceeding a century.

**Winemaker**  
**Vintage**

Aymeric de Gironde  
In 2019, all conditions are met to move towards a very beautiful vintage. Conditions for ripening were excellent. All four varieties clearly show the advantages of our clay-heavy gravel soils and the limestone bedrock beneath: each is expressive in its own way, and all four are fresh, rounded, and full of flavour. The tannins are velvety, the balance exceptional: here is a wine similar in some ways to 2016 or 2018, yet even fresher and more aromatic.

**Vineyards**

The vineyard of Cos spreads around the château on 91 hectares. The Cabernet Sauvignon vines (60% of the vineyard) find the soil of their choice in the thin layers of gravely soil situated on the top and on the southern slopes of the hill. On the other hand, the Merlot vines (40% of the vineyard) excel on the eastern slopes and on the slopes where the Saint-Estèphe limestone bed shows on the surface. The percentage of Cabernet and Merlot varies from one vintage to another according to the year weather conditions, benefiting successively to the one or the other. Plantation is extremely dense (8000 to 10000 vines per hectare) and the average age of the vineyard is high (35 years old on the average) in order to enable the roots to extend excessively and to obtain a very slender yield per vine that will create the "Grand Goût" Only the wines coming from over 20 years old vines will have the name of Château Cos d'Estournel.

**Harvest**

Harvest for the grand vin began on the 23rd of September and finished on the 7th of October.

**Winemaking**

The grapes were small with thin yet robust skins. A rapid extraction of anthocyanins was noted during the pre-fermentation macerations. The use of the gravity proved to



<b>Winemaking</b>	be even more useful this year for the merlots with a high tannic potential. It also enabled better control of components of the musts due to much gentler extractions, producing smoother tannins, while at the same time preserving the vintage's freshness and fruity character. Aged 50% in new barrels during 18 month/s
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	Silky, delicate, and immensely profound, the 2019 vintage embodies the quintessence of Cos d'Estournel. Multi-faceted, it delivers aromas of cinnamon and jasmine alongside fine mineral notes and a touch of spice that perfectly structures the wine through its finish. A dazzling expression of the estate's terroir, exceptional and full of grace, Cos d'Estournel 2019 is an alluring vintage with universal appeal that promises many wonderful years of cellaring.
<b>Serve with</b>	Chateau Cos d'Estournel is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. Young vintages can be decanted for 2-4 hours. This allows the wine to soften and open its perfume. Chateau Cos d'Estournel is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted braised and grilled dishes.
<b>Production</b>	15,000 cases made
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2024- 2040.
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>96 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2022</p> <p><b>97+ points</b> - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022</p> <p><b>97-99 points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - June 2020</p> <p><b>99 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2022</p> <p><b>98-99 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2020</p> <p><b>96-98 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 2020</p> <p><b>18+ points</b> - James Lawther, JancisRobinson.com - June 2020</p> <p><b>98 points</b> - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - June 2020</p> <p><b>97 points</b> - Jane Anson, Insidebordeaux.com - January 2022</p> <p><b>97 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2022</p> <p><b>96-98 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - June 2020</p> <p><b>95-98 points</b> - Farr Vintner - May 2020</p> <p><b>97 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2022</p> <p><b>96-98 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - June 2020</p> <p><b>98 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2022</p> <p><b>95-97 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - June 2020</p> <p><b>96 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - April 2022</p> <p><b>97-99 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2020</p> <p><b>96 points</b> - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2020</p> <p><b>97 points</b> - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - June 2020</p> <p><b>98-99 points</b> - Vert de Vin - April 2020</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>"Dark and winey, featuring black currant, fig and blackberry preserve flavors laced with a smoldering hint of cast iron, plus notes of anise, apple wood, sweet bay leaf and warm earth. The finish offers a long sanguine thread that stitches it all up. Gorgeous. Best from 2024 through 2040. 15,000 cases made."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The 2019 Cos d'Estournel has turned out brilliantly, exhibiting aromas of minty cassis, sweet wild berries and wild plums mingled with hints of spices, loamy soil, and potpourri. Full-bodied, broad, and enveloping, it's polished and seamless, its ample chassis of fine, velvety tannin entirely concealed in its deep core of succulent, crunchy fruit. Beautifully integrated at this early stage, the last decade has witnessed a number of changes at this address, including a trend toward less aggressively late picking, cooler fermentations and élevage with fewer rackings and more moderate percentages of less heavily toasted new oak: in 2019, the results speak for themselves.</i></p> <p><i>Cos d'Estournel may neighbor Lafite-Rothschild, but its vineyards are very different, rising from the banks of the Jalle de Breuil—the small stream that divides Pauillac and Saint-Estèphe—to a height of fully 26 meters above sea level. Cos's clay-gravel vineyards occupy the plateau on top, as well as straddling the slopes, scrolling round the hillside from the east-facing holdings overlooking Lafite to fully south-facing holdings that look out over the Gironde. It's surely this variety of expositions—as well as an average vine age of 55 years—that lend the wine its completeness and plenitude. Soil studies, undertaken in 2003, inform parcel-by-parcel farming and winemaking, as well as replanting, where Cos's important percentage of Merlot is gradually tending to diminish. The last two decades have witnessed considerable evolution: herbicides were banished and experimentation with cover crops began in 2002; a new gravity-flow winery was built in 2008; and winemaking and picking dates have evolved. In the past, the wines sometimes flirted with extremes; but in pushing the boundaries, sometimes one exceeds</i></p>

them. Today, harvest is a touch earlier than was the case a decade ago; fermentation temperatures are cooler, and the wines racked less frequently; and percentages of new oak are both much more modest, in 2019 amounting to only 55% (mainly from Taransaud, François Frères and Berthomieu) and, above all, much less heavily toasted. The result? Wines of greater textural refinement and more vibrant fruit flavors, with as much intensity of flavor and persistence as ever. I suspect, what's more, that today's more reductive élevage will see them age very well indeed. Proprietor Michel Reybier is surely proud that two decades of unremitting investment in quality are today consistently delivering some of the Médoc's very finest wines."

- WK, Wine Advocate

"Harvest for the grand vin began on the 23rd of September and finished on the 7th of October. Composed of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon and 35% Merlot (with no Petit Verdot or Cabernet Franc this year), yields for this wine in 2019 were 43 hectoliters per hectare, and it is aging in 55% new oak. It came in at an alcohol level of 14.02% and an IPT of 67. Medium to deep garnet-purple colored, the 2019 Cos d'Estournel soars out of the glass with vibrant black raspberries, Black Forest cake and crushed blackcurrants scents plus nuances of red roses, wild sage, dark chocolate, and cast-iron pan with a waft of woodsmoke. The medium to full-bodied palate is taut, muscular, and built like a skyscraper, with firm, grainy tannins and seamless freshness supporting the concentrated black fruit flavors, finishing with incredible length and depth. This wine so beautifully, clearly captures the juxtaposition between the periods of dry heat and those hallelujah moments of refreshing rain - the hallmarks of this great vintage. It's a vinous masterpiece in the making. Barrel Sample: 97-99+."

- LPB, Wine Advocate

#### Reviews

"This is so aromatic with blackcurrants, black berries, and raspberries. Pure fruit, together with coffee and nutmeg. Really fresh and clean with bright spices. Full-bodied, yet reserved and tight with fantastic structure. So long. This is a great Cos for the cellar. A real benchmark for the true character. Needs at least five or six years to open and come around. Try after 2029."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"A very powerful and structured Cos. It's full and layered, but not overpowering in terms of fruit. It's more about the abundant, very fine tannins. It's a classic wine with historical grip and power. Real Bordeaux. Sophisticated and provocative."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"The beautiful perfume of this stylish wine are the first impression. They set the scene for the wonderful black currant fruits and dark tannins that meld together on the palate. Made with 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, this structured wine shows long-term aging potential."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Deep colour to the rim. Huge concentration of dark fruit with a notable Cabernet cassis aroma. Mighty tannic build but very fine tannins. Layers of fruit. Powerful but carefully constructed and precise. A lovely mellow quality to such a muscular wine. Plenty of reserve and clearly for long ageing. Drink 2030 – 2050."

- JL, JancisRobinson.com

"Powerful and enjoyable Cos. Needs to be given time in the glass to reveal the impressively velvety texture, and the sheer depth of bitter black chocolate, black truffle, and coffee notes. The tannins sit back and then build slowly to full bristling impact by the close of play. Feels extremely sophisticated, with the always-present Cos glamour."

- JA, Decanter.com

"Powerful, concentrated, and textured black cherry, cassis, and blueberry fruits, laden with black truffle, cocoa bean and liquorice root. Reduction on the first nose gives a gun smoke edge, this is full of personality and opens to show fresh acidities and finessed tannins. Such a good vintage at this estate, one to cellar for a good few years and then luxuriate in when it's ready. 40hl/h."

- JA, Inside Bordeaux

## Reviews

*“Full-bodied, concentrated, refined and showy, this is the modern era's version of a classic vintage for Cos d'Estournel. Initially you find a litany of spices, incense, flowers, espresso, and red with black currants, mixed with blackberries. Intense, rich, deep, and lively, the fruit displays freshness, length, purity, energy, lift, and the structure to age and evolve for decades. In comparison with recent great vintages of COS, with 2019, the wine exchanges the power and concentration found in 2018 and 2016 for a greater sense of elegance, purity, and classicism. Drink from 2030-2060.”*

- JL, [thewinecellarinsider.com](http://thewinecellarinsider.com)

*“The wine opens with exotic notes of incense, 5 spice, potpourri, leather, and deep red with dark black fruits. Perfectly balanced with concentration, silky tannins, lush, sensuous textures, freshness, and a remarkable sense of purity, this is a flawlessly refined vintage for Cos. The finish remains with you surpassing the 60 second mark. If you're a lover of COS, this is an incredible wine not to be missed! In comparison with recent great vintages of COS, with 2019, the wine exchanges the power and concentration found in 2018 and 2016 for a greater sense of elegance and purity. The wine was made from blending 65% Cabernet Sauvignon and 35% Merlot at 14.2% alcohol with a pH of 3.7. The harvest took place September 23 to October 7, with the Merlot finishing up October 2 and the Cabernet Sauvignon picking taking place October 1 to October 7. From yields of 43 Hectoliters per hectare, the Grand Vin was made from only 50% of the harvest.”*

- JL, [thewinecellarinsider.com](http://thewinecellarinsider.com)

*“Cos d'Estournel is always in the top tier of St Estèphes, and the 2019 follows a vintage with two potential 100-point scores here. The yield is a healthy 43hl/ha, with a blend of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon and 35% Merlot aged in 55% new French oak. 14% abv. A deep ruby colour, with rich cassis fruit and hints of incense and sweet spices on the nose. The palate is pure and precise, with fine-grained and ripe tannins persistent and mouthcoating but not dominating the fruit. This is not a blockbuster style, but rather fully refined. The lithe core of fruit is full of red and black fruits, complemented by sweet, spicy oak. An exceptionally elegant Cos d'Estournel, with a long, driven, and pure finish. 95/98.”*

- Farr Vintners

*“The 2019 Cos d'Estournel was picked from September 23 to October 7 at 43hL/ha, matured in a judicious 55% new oak, and bottled in July 2021 by gravity. It is more backward on the nose, and there's nothing wrong with that for a Grand Vin. Biding its time, it opens to deliver lovely, very pure scents of blackberry, raspberry coulis and touches of graphite and violet, the latter having developed during barrel maturation. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannins, and the texture is a little more crunchy than when tasted from barrel sample. Gone is the silkiness; in its place there is backbone and grip, features that will stand this Cos d'Estournel in good stead for considerable cellar aging. It displays more classicism in bottle compared to barrel and exhibits more Saint-Estèphe DNA.”*

- NM, Vinous

*“It marks a serious and tangible upgrade over the Les Pagodes as you would expect far more intensity, more fruit and complexity. It delivers gorgeous, very pure scents of blackberry, raspberry, crushed stone and just a hint of truffle. The palate is medium-bodied with fine-grain tannins, pitch perfect acidity and a satin-like texture. One of the most harmonious Cos d'Estournel that I have encountered in barrel and, though it is not quite touching the same ethereal level, it reminds me of the 2016 towards the finish. Utterly divine. 2025 – 2060. 96/98.”*

- NM, Vinous

*“The 2019 Cos d'Estournel is a deep, powerful wine. That has been true on both times I have tasted it recently. Readers will have to be patient. Those who can afford it will be rewarded with a towering, statuesque Saint-Estèphe. With a bit of air, the fruit starts to emerge, but this is a very reticent Cos that does not show the opulence that it often does in its youth. Gravel, smoke, incense, tobacco, and dried flowers gradually unfurl over time, hinting at a very bright future. The 2019 is impressive. That's all there is to it.”*

- AG, Vinous

*“The 2019 Cos d'Estournel is exquisitely beautiful. Dark, pliant, and wonderfully inviting, the 2019 has so much to offer. Readers will find a wine of notable restraint and dramatic beauty. The purity of the fruit is just striking. Time in the glass brings out the wine's textural depth and rich, driving resonance. The combination of ripeness and energy is compelling. 95/97.”*

- AG, Vinous

**Reviews**

*“The Grand Vin 2019 Château Cos D'Estournel checks in as 65% Cabernet Sauvignon and 35% Merlot coming from 43 hectoliters per hectare and hitting a healthy 14% alcohol. Brought up in just 55% new French oak, it's a pretty, elegant, seamless Saint-Estèphe that has plenty of redcurrant and cassis-like fruit as well as lead pencil, graphite, and chalky minerality. Medium to full-bodied, it has supple, fine tannins, wonderful purity, and a classy, regal profile that will be loved by staunch traditionalists out there. Exceedingly elegant and finesse-driven, with a touch of Château Lafite-like character, I compared this wine to a more elegant version of the 2016 from barrel, but now from bottle, I think 2014 is a better comparison in its weight, balance, and just overall style. It has a silky, charming style that already offers pleasure but won't hit maturity for a good 7-8 years and will have 25+ years of prime drinking”*

- Jeb Dunnuck

*“The grand vin 2019 Château Cos D'Estournel is indeed grand and just about instantly transports you to the northern Médoc. Sensational notes of crème de cassis, lead pencil, unsmoked tobacco, new leather, and Asian spices all emerge from this gorgeous wine. Playing in the medium to full-bodied end of the spectrum, it shines for its incredible purity, balance, and elegance, with the vintage's seamless and sexy style front and center. It's not a blockbuster, but it's gorgeous in every way. It reminds me of a slightly softer version of the 2016. Barrel Sample:97-99.”*

- Jeb Dunnuck

*“Dark ruby garnet, opaque core, violet reflections, delicate ocher edge. Ripe heart cherries with a hint of cinnamon, candied orange zest, fine nougat, pleasant precious wood root, very inviting bouquet. Complex, full-bodied and extract-sweet, fine blackberry confit, perfectly ripe tannins, a hint of exotic spices, salty minerality on the finish, convincing length, reliable aging potential for many years, a delicate Cos vintage.”*

- Falstaff Magazine

*“The nose is harmonious, beautifully balanced, racy and offers a very beautiful finesse of the grain, richness (but full of balance), complexity as well as a beautiful fleshy/ripe fruit and finely acidulous. It reveals notes of fleshy cassis, fleshy raspberry, small notes of fleshy blackberry associated with touches of violet plum/ripe/pulpy blue fruits, cornflower, violet, racy minerality as well as hints of incense/spices/exotic spices, cocoa, very discreet hints of vanilla and a subtle iodine hint. The palate is fruity, elegant, harmonious, delicate, very beautifully balance (between finesse, power, and richness), almost very discreetly tight, “complete” and offers an acidulous frame, tension, delicacy, a beautiful guideline, roundness, fat as well as a beautiful fresh and silky touch. On the palate this wine expresses notes of fleshy blackberry, fleshy/pulpy cassis, small notes of fleshy/pulpy raspberry associated with touches of wild strawberry, pulpy/juicy violet plum, fleshy sour cherry /cherry, lily as well as hints of chocolate, racy minerality/sense of the place, toasted, nutmeg, ripe almond as well as a very discreet varietal hint, Cuban pepper, and sugared mild tobacco. Tannins are elegant, fine, and beautifully built. Sapidly and suavily on the finish. A persistence with notes of toasted/caramelized hazelnut, ripe almond, chocolate, vanilla as well as a very discreet iodine hint. A very beautiful wine, complete which offers a perfect balance between richness, finesse, power, and raciness!”*

- Vert de Vin