

Château Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalonde 2006

CSPC# 765466

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

SOLD OUT

CSPC# 891910

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36% Merlot

Appellation

Pauillac

Website

<http://www.pichon-lalande.com/>

General Info

Château Pichon-Longueville Lalande is one of the most important Super Seconds and this 2ème Cru Classé Pauillac estate has made tremendous strides in the last 20 years. This is largely due to the energy, drive and ambition of May-Eliane de Lenquesaing, who took over the property in 1978.

Pichon-Longueville Lalande is not as powerful or as tannic as some its Pauillac neighbours and this is mainly because of its relatively high Merlot content. In the best years, it is one of the most exotic and voluptuously scented wines of the Médoc. At least a decade of cellaring is required before the wines should be approached.

Vintage

After a particularly dry winter periods of heavy rain alternated with dry spells and morning frosts. In summer, warm and damp weather encouraged rapid vegetation growth, subsequently slowed by heat-wave temperatures and drought. Fine weather in September enabled the grapes to reach full maturity

Vineyards

Pichon-Longueville Lalande is a 75-hectare property that produces on average 36,000 cases per year. Located in the east of the Pauillac appellation, the vineyards (Cabernet Sauvignon 45%, Merlot 35%, Cabernet Franc 12%, Petit Verdot 8%) lie on deep gravel beds underpinned by clay and then sandstone and limestone (part of these vineyards actually reside in the St-Julien appellation).

Harvest

The cabernets survived the mid-September showers and were ripe for picking at the very end of the month and during the first week of October. They proved to be very exciting where they ripened sufficiently, and producers were meticulous about excluding anything substandard. The other crucial key to quality in 2006 lies in what has been selected for the *grand vin*.

Maturation

The wine is fermented in stainless steel cuvées and then matured in oak barriques (50% new) for 18 months.

Tasting Notes

It is great to see Pichon-Lalande back on superb form in 2006 with a wine whose purity and linear cassis fruit is reminiscent of their cracking 1996. General Manager Gildas d'Ollone and his team have produced a cerebral yet beguiling Pichon-Lalande full of sensual, exotic aromatics and pure supple flavours. This is a massive Pichon softened by a silky texture and velvety finish. New owners Louis Roederer must be delighted with their first vintage here, and rightly so. Drink: 2015-2030.

Serve with

Light Poultry and Meat

Production

16,665 cases made.

Cellaring

Drink 2013-2030

Scores/Awards

92 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2009

89-91 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2007

95 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #181 - February 2009

94-96 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #170 - April 2007

93+ points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - September 2010

94 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - September 2009

91-93 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - April 2007

89-91 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2007

94 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 2009

93-95 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 2007

93 points - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2009

91-93 points - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2008

16.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2007

17 points - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com (score only)



Scores/Awards **17.5+ points** - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - November 2010
17.5+ points - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - October 2008
94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 28, 2014
95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - December 7, 2012
94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 7, 2012
96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - August 14, 2011
92+ points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - November 2010
87 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)
97 points - Gilbert & Gaillard - October 19, 2008
17+ points - Farr Vintner - March 2007
88-92 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2007
17 points - John Berry, Berry & Rudd Wine & Spirit Merchants - April 2010
90-92 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only)
18 points - Gault & Millau (score only)
17 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)
17 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)
2 stars - Le Guide Hachette des Vins - 2010

Reviews *"Displays currant and blackberry, with hints of licorice. Full-bodied, with round, chewy tannins, and lots of fruit under the structure. A rich wine for the vintage, needing plenty of bottle age. Best after 2014. 16,665 cases made."*

- JS, Wine Spectator

"Lively, with lots of plum, blackberry, and licorice character. Full, round and velvety. Lacks a tiny bit in the midpalate, but nicely done for the vintage. Score range: 89-91"

- JS, Wine Spectator

"The 2006 Pichon Lalande, which blows away the 2005, represents a return to the velvety-textured, rich, sexy style most readers would associate with Pichon Lalande. This blend of 64% Cabernet Sauvignon and 36% Merlot no Petit Verdot was included in the final blend exhibits a dense purple color as well as abundant aromas of chocolate, coffee, cedar, black currants, and a subtle touch of smoke, a rich, savory, full-bodied mouthfeel, plump, fleshy fruit, and a superb finish. This is a 21st century version of the brilliant 1996. Anticipated maturity: 2013-2030.

One of the major disappointments in 2005 was Pichon Lalande, but the change in ownership, with the Roederer/Deutz champagne firm taking control in 2006, resulted in a very severe selection being instituted, only 41% of the production went into the grand vin."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"Pichon Lalande's new owner, the Roederer champagne firm, appears to have produced one of the finest Pichon Lalandes made in recent years. Administrator Thomas Do-Chi-Nam, assisted in 2006 by consultant Hubert de Bouard, declared only 41% of the production as the grand vin, resulting in a wine that should rival both the 2003 and 2000. The final blend of 64% Cabernet Sauvignon and 36% Merlot was cropped at 41 hectoliters per hectare. This gorgeous wine represents an updated version of the 1996. It boasts a dense purple color as well as a beautiful nose of espresso roast, chocolate, creme de cassis, cedar, and spice. Full-bodied and powerful with high tannin, an attractive mouthfeel, and a multilayered texture, it will be a backward-styled Pichon Lalande, but it is significantly better than the 2005, recalling some of the finest vintages produced over the last 20-35 years. Anticipated maturity: 2015-2030+."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"Tasted blind at Southwold '06 Bordeaux tasting. This is much more closed on the nose: blackberry and graphite...very tightly coiled at present. The palate is full-bodied with saturated tannins, very pure and viscous, modern style winemaking but there is wonderful balance and focus, leading to a sumptuous, structured finish with tinctures of damson, apricot and raisin counterpoising the austere Cabernet. This is a long-term Pichon-Lalande that may ultimately outclass the '05. Tasted January 2010."

- NM, Wine Journal

"Tasted at the Fine Wine Experience's Pichon-Lalande vertical in London. This is the first Pichon-Lalande blended by the Roederer team: 64% Cabernet Sauvignon and 36% Merlot. It sports a very deep purple colour and then a deep fleshy nose of violets, black cherries, blueberry and briary suffused with a thrilling sense of mineralite with

Reviews *hints of white fruits becoming more pronounced with time but always staying tight and reserved. The palate is full-bodied, driven by the Cabernet Sauvignon at the moment whereas in barrel it was the Merlot that seemed more pronounced. A firm structure here, "grippy" for a Pichon Lalande with a chalkiness towards the finish. Backward, a bit grumpy at the moment after bottling, but there sure is great potential. Drink 2018-2030+ Tasted June 2009.*

- NM, Wine Journal

"Tasted four times, the best taken directly from the bottle instead of the decanter at the chateau. A lucid deep garnet hue. The nose is reluctant at first, but builds to reveal a delectable nose of blackberries, blueberries and cedar. The palate is harmonious, complex and unlike the sample from the decanter, devoid of astringency. The Merlot shines on the mid-palate, very smooth and seductive with a lush, floral almost Margaux-like finish. A lesser cousin of the great 2005. Tasted April 2007."

- NM, Wine Journal

"Lively, with lots of plum, blackberry and licorice character. Full, round and velvety. Lacks a tiny bit in the midpalate, but nicely done for the vintage."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"The success of this wine owes as much to Merlot as to Cabernet. The Merlot has created the ripeness and smoothness of the wine. While the Cabernet keeps it firm and closed up, there is a base of rich, sweet fruit here that will show over the next two years. The style of the wine is moving away from elegance to power under the new regime of owners, Champagne Roederer."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"93-95 Barrel Sample The relatively high proportion of Merlot in this blend has given a wine that is ripe, generous in structure, while the Cabernet Sauvignon at 64% offers sweet and juicy fruit and tannins. Very pure, fresh fruit flavors."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Bright ruby-red. Aromas of black raspberry, dark chocolate, cedar, licorice and mint. Rich, lush and sweet, with noteworthy depth to the flavors of dark fruits, smoke and chocolate. Wonderfully broad and tactile in the middle palate. Finishes with sweet, dusty tannins and sneaky persistence. This fine-grained, stylish and downright sexy wine is clearly more successful than the 2005."

- ST, International Wine Cellar

"Bright ruby-red. Subdued but precise aromas of cassis and licorice. Juicy, fine-grained and sophisticated if reserved today. This is actually less opulent and obvious today than the lush, smokier 2006 Reserve de la Comtesse (87-89) but wonderfully broad, sappy and chewy, not to mention dynamic. Really spreads out to coat the palate on the very long finish and leaves the taste buds vibrating. This youthfully reserved wine should be a beauty."

- ST, International Wine Cellar

"No Petit Verdot in the blend, unusually. A little weak at the rim. Otherwise dense crimson. Slight brûlée note on the nose and then a bit angular. Very chewy and muscular. A bit awkward really with some slightly green notes. Lots of chew and bite. Not graceful, not sure if this vintage suits this property. A bit skinny."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Dense and quite rich crimson. Bright and expressive in the nose, a hot and dense concentration of flavour to it, suggestions of roasted fruits. The palate has a very welcome substance, a sweet and concentrated core of polished but warm and comely fruit at the core, around that an elegant drapery of texture with a lightly gritty substance, with a well-formed tannic backbone and fine acidity. The nose really is enticing. A really strong effort from Pichon-Lalande with all the polish you would expect from such an estate. Very impressive."

- CK, The Wine Doctor

Reviews

"A reserved, subtle, well-judged nose, although with a wealth of fruit hiding within. Plums, blackberries and more to be found here. Very elegant, supple, well composed, with a creamy texture. The tannins build through the palate although it maintains its elegant composition. Lovely forest fruit flavours. An elegant wine."

- CK, *The Wine Doctor*

"Concentrated, ripe, sweet, fresh cassis, blackberry, smoke, tobacco and espresso bean on the nose, with soft tannins, supple textures and a refined, elegant, plush finish. Still young, this will improve with another 4-5 years of bottle age."

- JL, *thewinecellarinsider.com*

"From an unusual blend for the property, as it includes only two varieties, Cabernet Sauvignon at 64% and 36% Merlot, the wine is still sporting deep color. On the nose, tobacco, truffle, crème de cassis, flowers, smoke and earthy scents. Pure, rich, silk and velvet in texture, there is depth, concentration and freshness. Packed with lush, ripe, dark berries and black cherry, this beautifully textured, structured, fresh, pure Pauillac is made to age and improve."

- JL, *thewinecellarinsider.com*

"Powerful aromatics with crème de cassis, truffle, tobacco, cedar wood, smoke and earth lead the way to a young, fresh, crisp, bright, spicy, cassis filled finish. This delicious vintage of Pichon Lalande requires at least another 5 years in the cellar before it starts being ready for prime-time drinking."

- JL, *thewinecellarinsider.com*

"2006 Pichon Lalande is a huge step up from the much lighter and simpler 2005. The last vintage produced with the help of Hubert de Bouard of Chateau Angelus as a consultant, the wine is a blend of 64% Cabernet Sauvignon and 36% Merlot. Deep ruby in color, the wine explodes with juicy, ripe, blackberries, plums, coffee, chocolate, earth, flowers, truffles, tobacco and crème de cassis. Opulent in texture, with a silk and velvet palate feel, this sexy style of Pichon Lalande ends with a rich, concentrated mouthful of fresh boysenberries and spice. This is going to be a great wine to enjoy tasting over the next 30 years. This is still a young wine. But the tannins are ripe and round, so while it is not a mature wine, it's fun to drink with a few hours of decanting."

- JL, *thewinecellarinsider.com*

"Red black; good density without looking too forced; more voluptuous on the nose [always higher proportion of Merlot than other Pauillacs]; sweeter, more violets; very polished and attractive – this wine certainly seems to settle well in bottle; real blackcurrant cassis too; good entry on the palate, fruit and acid; structured yes but with more flesh here; more velvety qualities along with chocolate and mocha notes; blackcurrants on the finish; tannins too but chewy and not dry. Good length. Attractive. 92+/100 MW Institute Nov '10"

- JW, *winewordsandvideotape.com*

"The fruit on the nose is very concentrated but the palate feels lighter, the bilberry and sloe have fragrance. Power shows on the mid palate, the roundness of the tannins fleshing out the fruit; oak and cedar wood rather dominates the finish at the moment."

- Derek Smedley MW

"One of THE great names of Bordeaux and a true "super-second". Pichon Lalande is one of the most demanded wines of Bordeaux. It is especially popular in the Far East thanks to its slightly exotic, spicy character and plump ripe fruit. There have been changes at Pichon with the new owners - Louis Roederer - bringing in Hubert de Bouard of Angelus as a consultant. In 2006 all the Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc has been downgraded to the second label "La Reserve de la Comtesse" so the grand vin is 64% Cabernet Sauvignon and 36% Merlot, being aged in 50% new and 50% 1-year old barrels. Opulent and powerful on the nose, there's an abundance of plush dark fruits, complemented by smoky oak and suggestions of chocolate and violet cream. The big, succulent palate continues the theme with sexy voluptuous fruit and creamy texture, that fleshes out the bold structure of full velvety tannins. Deep and layered, this is a powerful Pichon that is more extrovert than usual. Potentially even better than the 2005? ONE OF THE WINES OF THE VINTAGE."

- Farr Vintners

"It is great to see Pichon-Lalande back on superb form in 2006 with a wine whose purity and linear cassis fruit is reminiscent of their cracking 1996. General Manager Gildas d'Ollone and his team have produced a cerebral yet beguiling Pichon-Lalande full of sensual, exotic aromatics and pure supple flavours. This is a massive Pichon

Reviews *softened by a silky texture and velvety finish. New owners Louis Roederer must be delighted with their first vintage here, and rightly so. Drink: 2015-2030.”*
- JB, Berry & Rudd Wine & Spirit Merchants

“Deep colour. Generous fruity nose, crisp, very elegant. Magnificent palate, full, silky, expressive, robust, not too extracted. Great wine that's classy, rich and distinctive”
- en.gilbertgaillard.com
