

Château Pichon-Longueville – Comtesse de Lalande 2017

CSPC# 814278 750mlx6 13.1% alc./vol.
CSPC# 831549 750mlx6 13.1% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot, 6% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot
Appellation	Pauillac
Classification	Second Growth. Deuxième Grand Cru Classé in 1855
Website	http://www.pichon-comtesse.com/
General Info	<p>Pichon Longueville and Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande were originally one huge property. When Baron Joseph de Pichon Longueville died in 1850, his estate was split between his two surviving children, Raoul and Virginie. Raoul's part became Château Pichon Longueville, while Virginie's became Château Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande.</p> <p>Edouard and Louis Mialhe, descendants of an old Bordeaux family of vineyard owners and wine brokers, bought Château Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande in 1925. May Eliane de Lencquesaing, Edouard's daughter, inherited it in 1978 and ran it with great devotion and rigour for 30 years, during which time it gained international renown. Finally, in 2007, eager to ensure the continuing success of the estate in the future, she decided to sell it to another family firm, the Louis Roederer Champagne house.</p>
Winemaker	Frédéric Rouzaud & Nicolas Glumineau
Vintage	While no frost affected portions of the Pichon Lalande vineyard by the river, there were around 10% losses further inland. The final blends were made and put into barrel in early February.
Vineyards	The terrace of Château Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande offers a magnificent view of the vineyards of Pauillac and Saint-Julien and the Gironde Estuary. The vines lie mainly in Pauillac, yet 11 of its 86 hectares are actually in Saint-Julien. Pichon Comtesse is Château Latour's neighbour and, like the illustrious Premier Cru, has poor soil of gravel mixed with clay, which benefits from excellent drainage. Poor, yet ideal, since the vine needs hardship if it is to produce good wine, and its roots must plunge several metres down in the quest for nutrition. An unusually high percentage of the vineyard is planted with Petit Verdot, which brings freshness and great aromatic complexity to the wine. In very sunny years such as 1982, 1986, 1989 and 1990, in which the grapes reach excellent maturity, it has a remarkable influence. Since Roederer took over the estate, major work on restructuring the 78-hectare vineyard has been undertaken. Thorough studies of the soils and sub-soils have produced very detailed mapping of the many different plots and better knowledge of the terroir. A replanting programme has been launched to ensure varieties and their root stocks are best suited to the type of soil.
Harvest	The harvest took place from September 7, ending October 1.
Vinification/ Maturation	To produce the wine of Chateau Pichon Lalande, the vinification takes place in 70, temperature controlled, stainless steel vats that vary in size that range from as small as 50 hectoliters and increase in size to 50, 70, 80, 120 and even 150 hectoliter vats. This allows for very precise fermentation work. Malolactic fermentation takes place in tank. Aged 60% new oak for 18 months.
Tasting Notes	In 2017 the Pichon Lalande has an appealing dark and blue fruit on the nose. On the palate it is polished with a silky mouthfeel and a long, graphite persistent finish.
Serve with	Chateau Pichon is best paired with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised and grilled dishes.
Production	Average of 15,000 cases made annually
Cellaring	Drink 2023-2040



Scores/Awards **96 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2020
92-95 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - April 2018
96 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2020
94-96 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate #236 - April 2018
94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2020
95-96 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2018
95 points/Cellar Selection - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2020
95-97 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2018
17.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - October 2019
17 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2018
94 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2018
95 points - Decanter.com - April 2018
97 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2018
92-94 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2018
17.5 points - Farr Vintner - April 2018
90-93 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2018
94 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2020
93-95 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2018
94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - March 2020
92-95 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2018
95 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2020
93-95 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - April 2018
18+ points - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2018

Reviews *"A sleek, precisely dialed-in Pauillac, with a pure and racy beam of cassis, blackberry and dark plum fruit inlaid with a mouthwatering iron note. A backdrop of singed alder and sweet tobacco waits in reserve, while the finish sails through with great cut. Possesses a regal feel. Best from 2025 through 2040."*
 - JM, Wine Spectator

"Solid, with a rounded, enticing core of plum and black currant preserve flavors supported by savory and tobacco notes. Has sleek tannins and fresh acidity for ample length and a nice graphite edge at the end."
 - JM, Wine Spectator

"The 2017 Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande has a medium to deep garnet-purple color and is a little closed to begin, soon revealing floral notes of lilacs and lavender over a core of black raspberries, warm blackberries and forest floor plus touches of star anise and stewed black tea. Medium-bodied, the palate is a bundle of energy and tension with softly played tannins and beautiful floral and black fruit layers, finishing with a long-lingering whisper. Drink Date 2021 – 2049."
 - LPB, Wine Advocate

"This barrel sample is 100% new oak, whereas the final blend will be only 60% new oak. It's very deep garnet-purple in color with an incredibly fragrant nose of roses, lavender and baking spices over a core of crushed blackcurrants, wild blueberries and fresh plums plus touches of iron ore and underbrush. Medium-bodied and elegant with firm, grainy tannins, it's quite taut and muscular, with lots of perfumed and mineral layers and a long finish with lingering cinnamon and anise notes."
 - LPB, Wine Advocate

"A tight, compact young Bordeaux with medium body, polished and round tannins and a medium finish. Not a big wine, but some very classy currant and raspberry character and just a hint of lead pencil and polished structure. Drink after 2022."
 - JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This is a really fascinating young Pichon Lalande with a dense center palate of currants, crushed stones, salt and seashells. Really long and intense. Wonderful energy."
 - JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This smoky wine is structured and full of dry tannins. Acidity comes with the black-currant fruits that are slow to develop but will get there. Drink this wine from a great estate from 2024."
 - RV, Wine Enthusiast

Reviews *“Certainly, a fine wine, this has ripe tannins that are balanced by the fine, black fruits. With its smoky and black currant character, it has the structure for aging, as well as the attractive fruitiness of the vintage.”*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“More evolved, more immediately charming nose than the Pichon Baron. Glossy and polished. Sweet and round – very unlike the Baron, even though the Merlot portion is almost identical.”
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“Dark crimson with soft pink rim. Lightly leafy dark fruit. Super-smooth texture and some fruit sweetness on the mid palate. Firm, dark and elegant on the finish. Sinewy and quite supple and long even without huge intensity, showing the charm of Comtesse and still clearly revealing its Pauillac origins. A smart, elegant wine reflecting the vintage. Tannins are tender and fruit just right. Drink 2027-2042”
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“If you just taste the big name Pauillac’s, you would be hard-pressed to understand that 2017 has been a challenging year. This is one of my wines of the vintage, no question. It’s from 21ha, biodynamically farmed, with Vincent Masson as consultant. Just a few plots further away from the river were affected by frost. The slight austerity of 2017 is evident, with a savoury quality to the fruit, but this is exceptionally good, with plenty of stunning fruit and well-defined tannins. The aromatics are very refined, and the intense cassis fruit doesn’t sacrifice any intensity or power. It demonstrates the energy that Comtesse has displayed so consistently in recent vintages, with gorgeous finesse and structure to the tannins. The new cellar has raised the level of Cabernet from 65% to 70+%, with 12% press wine. This is going to age extremely well. (JA)”
- JA, Decanter.com

“Tasting in a blind lineup across Pauillac, it is instantly clear that what you get in this glass is better clarity of fruit, a darker and more serious texture across the palate and some lovely saffron and cinnamon notes to fill out the body. This feels like a Pauillac and even though it doesn’t have the concentration of bigger years, there is a lot to be delighted about here. Silky tannins, burnished confidence, well-handled oak. Wait just another five years then ready to go with a carafe.”
- Decanter.com

“Showing a virtuous depth of color, the wine opens with notes of lead pencil, truffle, smoke, tobacco leaf, vanilla and dark red fruits. The tannins are silky, polished, salty and creamy. The wine is full bodied, velvety and long, delivering complexity, sweetness and length. The wine reached 13.1% alcohol with a pH of 3.78. The harvest took place from September 7, ending October 1.”
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Spicy and savoury, meaty oak scents, some smoke and bacon. Rich and floral, with a touch of green edge to the fruit, but profound tannin, concentrated fruit and fresh acidity. A little lean on the finish, but with ripe tannic structure. Very good. Barrel Sample: 92-94”
- TA, timatkin.com

“The only loss to frost was 2km inland which may affect the production of Reserve de la Comtesse. The grand vin continues to use more Cabernet and less Merlot and Petit Verdot than in the past. Whilst retaining the Chateau’s hallmark charm, the wines are becoming more classically Pauillac. 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot, 6% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot. Cropped at 36 hl/ha. Nicolas Glumineau continues his impressive run of form here. With a deep purple colour and an overt and expressive nose of cassis, camphor, cedar and roasted coffee, this shows great promise from the aromatics. The palate, if anything, overdelivers on this promise. Fleshy, pure cassis and velvet-like tannins give a wonderful texture and explosive core of ripe fruits. The structure of the wine is seamless and allows the fruit to shine. As this expands through to the finish, the sappy and smoky notes from the oak give a cocoa-like complexity on the finish. This is an outstanding effort and clearly one of the wines of the vintage. Bravo!”
- Farr Vintners

Reviews *"Woodland violets the nose has fragrance freshness the palate depth of flavour ripe black fruits black cherry all backed by dark chocolate. There is an underlying fresh streak the finish has stylish length."*
- Derek Smedley MW

"The 2017 Pichon-Lalande has closed down a little on the nose since it was bottled late June. But it is still very well defined, quite Cabernet-influenced with cedar and graphite aromas emerging with time. The palate is medium bodied with supple tannins. It is a very lithe Pichon-Lalande that in some ways harks back to the fleshier vintages of the past. There is something "sedate" and self-effacing about this 2017, and that is meant in a good way. Harmonious, refined, almost effortless and probably medium rather than long-term drinking."
- NM, Vinous

"The 2017 Pichon-Lalande was picked from 7 September to 2 October and underwent a 23-day cuvaision period. It is intense on the nose, the new oak coming through a little strongly since the sample came from a new barrel, the final blend consisting of 60% new wood. The palate is medium bodied with firm tannin, the Cabernet Sauvignon driving this alone with layers of black fruit laced with cedar and graphite. It is a very "Pauillac" Pichon Lalande, less opulent and giving than recent vintages and more in the style of say, the 1996 or 2010. There is very good persistence on the saline finish, but it is clearly a wine that is going to require more cellaring than its peers. Tasted four times in total, each time this gained more substance and density."
- NM, Vinous

"The 2017 Pichon-Longueville Comtesse de Lalande is a dark, powerful, somber Pauillac. Dark fruit, grilled herbs, smoke and licorice add to its distinctly brooding personality. In multiple tastings the 2017 has been incredibly tight and shut down. Readers will have to be especially patient. Estate Director Nicolas Glumineau has overseen a number of showy, majestic wines since he arrived at Pichon Comtesse in 2013. The 2017 appears to be cut from a different cloth, as it is incredibly reticent in the early going."
- AG, Vinous

"The 2017 Pichon-Longueville Comtesse de Lalande is gorgeous, but it is also going to need time to come together. The sensuality and allure typical of so many Pauillac's is not at all evident here. A rush of dark cherry, plum, smoke, charcoal and exotic spice make a strong opening statement in a powerful Pichon Comtesse that is not ready to show all of its cards. The 2017 was incredibly reticent in several tastings, which is probably a very good thing for its long-term potential. Today, though, the 2017 is dense, powerful and closed in on itself, without the layers that define the 2014, 2015 and 2016."
- AG, Vinous

"Pure elegance and class, the 2017 Chateau Pichon Longueville Comtesse De Lalande spent 18 months in 60% new barrels. Nicolas Glumineau has done an incredible job at this estate and this wine is consistently one of the classiest, most elegant wines in just about every vintage. Pure Pauillac notes of creme de cassis, lead pencil, green tobacco, and gravelly earth give way to a medium to full-bodied, soft, supple, flawlessly balanced 2017 that shows the more straight, classic style of the vintage. It needs 4-6 years of bottle age and will evolve gracefully for 25+ years or more. Tasted twice."
- Jeb Dunnuck

"The Grand Vin 2017 Pichon-Longueville Comtesse de Lalande checks in with yields a modest 36 hectoliters per hectare. Still again in 60% new French oak, it sports a deep ruby color as well as textbook Cabernet flair in its black and blue fruits, leafy herbs, violets, and building minerality. Hitting 13.1% alcohol, it's medium to full-bodied, elegant and seamless on the palate. It doesn't have the weight of the 2015 but shines for its incredible purity and precision. Barrel Sample: 93-95"
- Jeb Dunnuck

"Very clean and firm, there is a singular theme here. The Cabernet Sauvignon is so pure and dominant that while the other varieties clearly add detail, they are lined up behind the silhouette of the Cabernet and for the time being, they have to wait to add their voices to the experience. Very satisfying and very clean, this is a wonderful expression of this property and also the vintage."
- MJ, matthewjukes.com
