

Château PuyBlanquet 2021

CSPC# 102711

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	75% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Franc
Appellation	Saint-Émilion
Classification	Grand Cru Classé
Website	https://www.moueix.com/sites/default/files/2022-02/ft_puy_blanquet_nv_ang.pdf
Sustainability	The vineyard work is done in a sustainable way. Soils are ploughed in order to ensure deeper root systems; green harvest, leaf-cropping, and harvests are done by hand.
General Info	<p>Overlooking the Dordogne valley in a village two miles east of Saint-Émilion, this pretty vineyard is planted on a clay-limestone slope thanks to which the northern and eastern parcels enjoy perfect morning sunshine. Château Puy-Blanquet was known as one of the best Saint-Émilion Grand Crus as early as the 19th century and was awarded a part of the collective gold medal bestowed upon a selection of Saint-Émilion chateaux at the Paris Exposition of 1889.</p> <p>In 2020, the vineyard was acquired by the Malet-Roquefort family, owners of Premier Grand Cru Classé Château La Gaffelière. Soils are ploughed in order to ensure deeper root systems; green harvest, leaf-cropping, and harvests are done by hand. Thermo-regulated concrete tanks ensure well-controlled fermentation.</p> <p>PuyBlanquet or Puy-Blanquet? Earlier vintage labels show Puy-Blanquet, with a hyphen. 2021 vintage label shows Puyblanquet, without a hyphen.</p>
Winemakers	Laurent Descos – cellar master.
Vintage	If 2021 was drier than previous years, two intense climatic episodes impacted the vintage. The first one is the April frost which mobilized our teams for 9 nights. The second is linked to the strong episodes of rain in June, with nearly 180 mm of precipitation. The trio August / September / October was accompanied by low rainfall, allowing to harvest in optimal conditions and preserving the qualitative potential of the vintage
Vineyards	Ch. PuyBlanquet returned to the Malet Roquefort family ownership in 2020, 60 years after its sale, before which it was held by their ancestors from 1819-1959. A single 20ha (49 acres) vineyard of limestone plateau and clay-limestone soils are planted with 75% Merlot and 15% Cabernet Franc & 10% Cabernet Sauvignon. Average vine age is 25 years.
Harvest	A respect for tradition and quality is what makes Puy-Blanquet special. Instead of following the trend, vineyard manager Pierre Meunier has continued plowing the soils to ensure optimal maturity of the fruit. Green harvesting, leaf cropping and harvesting are done by hand. Optical sorting.
Vinification/ Maturation	The wine is vinified in traditional, cement vats. Malolactic fermentation takes place in vat. The wine is aged in a combination of vats and oak barrels. 80% of the production is aged in vat, 20% is aged in French oak barrels (10% new).
Tasting Notes	The 2021 Puyblanquet has a high-toned, floral bouquet with violet petals infusing the red berry fruit, hints of mandarin in the background. The palate is medium-bodied with a pleasant sappiness on the entry, fine acidity and a minerally finish that lingers in the mouth. This is a solid effort in a tricky growing season. The wines are fresh and generous and can be enjoyed after just two or three years of cellaring.
Serve with	<p>Chateau Puy Blanquet is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift.</p> <p>Chateau Puy Blanquet is best paired with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes. Chateau Puy Blanquet is also good when matched with Asian dishes, rich fish courses like tuna, mushrooms, and pasta.</p>
Production	unknown
Cellaring	Drink 2024-2035
Scores/Awards	<p>16.5 points - Berry Bros. & Rudd - April 2022</p> <p>90-92 points - Adrian van Velsen, vvWine.ch - April 2022</p> <p>91-93 points - Alexandre Ma (score only) - April 2022</p> <p>Review Only - Lay & Wheeler.com - April 2022</p>



Reviews

“This very well-sited property was owned by the Malet Roquefort family of La Gaffelière until 1959; they had to sell in the downturn following the disastrous 1956 frost. But they had the opportunity to buy it back in 2020. The property sits along the limestone ridge that also houses Laroque, Pressac and Valandraud. Alexandre de Malet Roquefort could wait until well into October to complete the harvest. This nicely composed wine is fresh, with an appealing nose strongly around primary red fruits with an accent of spiced, macerated fruit. Drink 2024-2032”
- Berry Bros & Rudd

“This well-situated estate on the top of the limestone plateau has made a very successful wine this year which could turn out to be one of the vintage’s best bargains. Made from 85%Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc and 5%CS, the wine has a dark ruby colour; a pretty, fruity, grapey nose; nice tension and tangy freshness, silky on entry with good spice and a touch of sweetness. It is a well put together, attractive wine with lovely berry fruit expression and a soft, silky finish. Delivery from winter 2020-2021”
- AvV, vvWine.ch

“In 2021 it's 25% Cabernet Franc and this gives it a beautiful mineral, savoury quality. There's restrained red plum, blackberry and bramble fruits on the nose and some crushed dried flower, saline notes creating a lovely appetising complexity. The acidity is fresh, and the wine is framed by fine tannins.”
- Alexandre Ma

“Ruby red. The nose is fragrant and mineral, with lovely fruit. Crisp, dense on the palate, but not over-extracted, the balance is right, very well vinified and with a nice length. Succeeded.”
- Lay & Wheeler
