

Cos d'Estournel 2009

CSPC# 749544

750mlx12

14.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety
Appellation
General Info

65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 33% Merlot and 2% Cabernet Franc
Saint- Estèphe

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.

Vintage Winter and early Spring were cold and dry, delaying onset of vine growth. From early May, sharp rise in temperatures. Between August 1st and 31st, temperatures are even higher than the average over the last ten years and the famous 2003 vintage! It is mostly because of the very low rainfall that the 2009 is such an exceptional vintage.

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-Estephe 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 Merlot: Friday 25 September 2009 - Thursday 1, October 2009
Cabernet Sauvignon: Monday 5 October 2009 - Saturday 10 October 2009
Cabernet Franc: Friday 2 October 2009 - Friday 2 October 2009

Maturation 80% in new barrels during 18 month/s

Tasting Notes Classic Cos with so much spice and fruit, yet refined and sexy. Powerful with super silky tannins. Full bodied, yet incredibly compacted. This is so tight and rich with layers of fruit and tannins and a finish that last for minutes on the palate.

Production 20,830 cases made

Cellaring Drink 2022-2072



Scores/Awards **97 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2012
97-100 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2010
100 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #199 - February 2012
98-100 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #188- April 2010
90 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - January 2012
89-91 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2010
100 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - Web Only 2012
94-96 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - September 8, 2010
89 points - Stephen Tanzer, ST's International Wine Cellar - July 2012
86-89 points - Ian D'Agata, ST's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2010
16.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 20, 2010
16-17+ points - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - March 2010
18.5 points/5 stars - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2010
95 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2010

Reviews *"This is a stunner, with gloriously ripe, succulent cassis, blackberry and fig fruit flavors backed by extra notes of plum cake, blueberry confiture and roasted wood spice. On the back half, the iron spine takes over on the hard-driving and extremely long, anise- and incense-tinged finish. An awesome expression of the modern style. Best from 2020 through 2040. 20,830 cases made."*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"This smells like Harlan a bit. Supercharged in fruit, with intense aromas of tar, spice, cardamom, clove, blackberry and black pepper. Crazy nose. Full-bodied, with masses of fruit, yet focused and in form. Chewy tannins, with great length. This goes on and on. Incredibly exotic. Could be best ever from here?"
- JS, Wine Spectator

"One of the greatest young wines I have ever tasted, the monumental 2009 Cos d'Estournel has lived up to its pre-bottling potential. A remarkable effort from winemaking guru Jean-Guillaume Prats and owner Michel Reybier, this blend of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon and the rest Merlot (33%) and a touch of Cabernet Franc (2%) was cropped at 33 hectoliters per hectare. It boasts an inky/black/purple color along with an extraordinary bouquet of white flowers interwoven with blackberry and blueberry liqueur, incense, charcoal and graphite. The wine hits the palate with extraordinary purity, balance and intensity as well as perfect equilibrium, and a seamless integration of tannin, acidity, wood and alcohol. An iconic wine as well as a remarkable achievement, it is the greatest Cos d'Estournel ever produced. It is approachable enough at present that one could appreciate it with several hours of decanting, but it will not hit its prime for a decade and should age effortlessly for a half century."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"The 2009 Cos d'Estournel is one of the greatest young wines I have ever tasted ... in the world! An extraordinary effort I tasted on two separate occasions, this blend of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon and the rest primarily Merlot with a dollop of Cabernet Franc has a whopping 14.5% alcohol, but a remarkably normal pH of 3.69. Kudos to Jean-Guillaume Prats and owner Michel Reybier for this amazing wine made from yields of 33 hectoliters per hectare. It will be a legendary claret that should last for 50-60 years. A black/purple color is accompanied by aromas of graphite, ink, creme de cassis, blackberries, cedar, and incense. Full-bodied and unctuously textured, with an ethereal personality, tons of nuances, and a burgeoning complexity, it is an enormously well-endowed, fresh, perfectly balanced tour de force in winemaking. As mentioned above, it should drink well for 50-60 years. This wine possesses this vintage's classic characteristics of enormous power, massive fruit, and extraordinary freshness and precision - largely unprecedented, particularly for Cabernet-based wines in the Medoc. (Tasted two times.)"
- RP, Wine Advocate

"Tasted at the chateau and later in Hong Kong with consistent notes. The Grand Vin has retained that exotic, lush, generous bouquet with very ripe dark berried fruits intermingling with dark chocolate and a touch of espresso. Moderate definition: certainly the '08 and '10 has more precision. The palate is full-bodied with grippy tannins, very intense dark fruits intermingling with mocha and dark chocolate. Firm grip, still New World in style whilst the spherical finish is missing a little tension. This is a massive Cos d'Estournel, but one denuded of typicity and sophistication. Tasted November 2011. "
- NM, Wine Journal

Reviews

"Tasted twice on separate occasions at the property. Stylistically, the Cos d'Estournel sets itself apart from the entire Left Bank, though I am uncertain whether this is a positive thing. Coming in with an IPT of 99 and tangible 14.5% alcohol, it is endowed with an extremely rich, decadent nose with macerated black cherries, cassis, a touch of creme de menthe, melted chocolate and a hint of fig. This is an extremely powerful nose that bears more relationship with the Douro than the Gironde. It is endowed with Leviathan tannins that form a massive, arching structure, moderate acidity, the power seeming to dominate the finish at the expense of a little finesse. This is a Cos d'Estournel that wants to make a bold impression. Leaving it for 15-20 minutes there is a change in the glass, becoming rounder and more harmonized, certainly some of the heat dissipating and yet one has to question whether stylistically, it has forsaken its identity as quintessential Saint Estephe? Another sample with one-hour decanting with a little smoother and yet still showed a little hardness and alcohol on the finish. Tasted March 2010."

- NM, Wine Journal

"What a fabulous nose of currants, raspberries and Indian spices. Nutmeg and cloves. Full-bodied, with an amazing precision and superb compacted fruit. Endless. Laser guided. Shows such intensity. Decadent and rich and changing all the time. Mystical wine. Dense, yet agile. More refined than when I tasted it in November in Hong Kong. Try in 2018."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"94-96 Barrel sample. A hugely rich wine, where the tannins seem initially lost in the overwhelming fruit. It has power and concentration, showing its alcohol a little. There is great intensity, but an edge of Portiness from the super-rich fruit."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Bright red-ruby. Sexy aromas of currant, chocolate and flowers, plus hints of cedar, smoky oak. Plump, lush and fine-grained, showing a remarkably seamless texture for a second wine. Very ripe flavors of currant, mocha, beefsteak tomato and chocolate turn a bit roasted in the glass. Finishes with a smooth dusting of tannins and ripe, chocolatey persistence. I'd drink this wine over the next decade. (This chateau's flagship wine is clearly more delineated, more tannic and longer than this wine but it's still a bit too ripe for my taste.)"

- ST, International Wine Cellar

"(69% cabernet sauvignon, 30% merlot, 1% petit verdot; 14.5% alcohol; 50% new oak) Very dark ruby. Flattering nose offers ripe blackberry, minty minerals, licorice and dry herbs. Enters fresh and sweet, then turns a little rigid due to drying tannins, but with plenty of ripe black fruit flavors and lively acids. A pretty floral note and a hint of bitterness resonate on the moderately long finish. It's a shame about the drying tannins: with its attractive balance and easy-drinking charm, this wine is in some respects more successful than the flagship Cos."

- ID, International Wine Cellar

"Accounting for 56% of the Cos harvest, this is 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 33% Merlot and 2% Cabernet Franc. IPT 99 (i.e. high). Naturally deeper, richer, creamier look to it than with Les Pagodes. Bright and crunchy-edged fruit, very tightly compacted, with rather a stony-steel feel. Pure, very well defined, with crunchy tar-like elements to it. Powerful attack on the palate, the alcohol is immediately apparent here, determining the texture of the wine to a large extent. Alongside there are reticent forest fruits and acids which take a backseat. Hard composition, tannins becoming very dominant. This is not a wine that will appeal to all. As it shows at present it certainly doesn't appeal to me. From my 2009 Bordeaux primeur assessment. 16-17+?/20 (March 2010)"

- CK, The Wine Doctor

Reviews

"56% of the crop went into Cos. 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 33% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc, 80% new barrels. Prats: 'A bit like 2003, average yield 33 hl/ha. We had to reject all the [most stressed] south-facing parcels where the vines shut down. It's a very atypical, baroque Cos.'

Very dark indeed. Blackish crimson. Not much scent though obviously very ripe. Firmer than some of the more obvious Napa Valley-style wines in 2009 with the tannins much more obvious. But a coolness on the finish. This may come around eventually. It is much more demanding than most 2009s and will need SO long.

A very exaggerated wine with a bit of a hole in the middle. A definite lack of freshness. Does remind me a little bit of Pavié 2003. To be generous I'm assuming that in the far distant future it may resolve itself, but I can't quite understand why they let the grapes get so ripe. Harvest dates are pretty similar to Ch Latour, but the results are very different. "

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Superb black red, very full and spicy, very broadly structured, really quite massive (14.5abv) and will take years to pick up finesse, a 'baroque' almost Porty wine, explosively rich and definitely impressive if not a typical Saint-Estèphe."

- SS, Decanter.com

"The 2009 is a controversial wine, an all-out attempt to produce a claret that bludgeons the taster into submission. There's no denying the quality of the fruit - or the investment that has been made in the vineyard and cellar here - but this seems OTT to me, closer to a Shiraz than a red Bordeaux in style and flavour. A massive, super-charged number that will divide opinions. 15+ years."

- TA, timatkin.com
