

Château Cos d'Estournel 2021

CSPC# 772104

750mlx6

13.46% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot
Appellation	Saint- Estèphe
Classification	Second Growth. Deuxieme Grand Cru Classe in 1855.
Website	https://www.estournel.com/en/cos/wines-cos-destournel/
Sustainability	Cos d'Estournel was certified HVE (High Environmental Value) in 2019 and ISO 14001 in 2020. These certifications recognize our ongoing commitment to implementing environmentally responsible processes over the last two decades. However, the long-term vision for the vineyard can also be seen in the minds of those who, day after day, tend to its preservation.
General Info	<p>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.</p>
Winemaker	Aymeric de Gironde
Vintage	After a rainy winter, even with close to 600 mm of rain, 2021 Saint Estephe still began the year with 15% less moisture than they experienced in 2020. After a warm, and sunny February, conditions changed rapidly in April with frost conditions on April 7 and 8. Vineyards not situated close to the water, or on the slopes experienced crop loss. After a rapid but uneven flowering, the summer was relatively cool, and wet, which brought about risks of mildew. Things improved in mid-August which aided in vigneron were much happier at the potential of the 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-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	The harvest took place September 23 to October 7



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 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.
Tasting Notes	Crafted from grapes grown on the estate's oldest vines— fifty-five years old on average—Cos d'Estournel 2021 is a finely honed, precise wine that is both silky and full of verve. It opens with notes of black tea and black pepper before liberating intense aromas of red berries, blackberry, and black fig. Subtle mineral notes balance an incredible concentration, resulting in an exceptionally harmonious wine. Noble and remarkably long, Cos d'Estournel 2021 is a classic, particularly refined expression of our singular terroir that is certain to age very well.
Serve with	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.
Production	14,500 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2025- 2045.
Scores/Awards	<p>93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - April 2024</p> <p>93+ points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - February 2024</p> <p>94-95 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022</p> <p>93-95 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent - May 2022</p> <p>95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - December 2023</p> <p>94-95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2022</p> <p>96-98 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 2022</p> <p>17++ points - James Lawther, JancisRobinson.com - May 2022</p> <p>95 points - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - March 2022</p> <p>95 points - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - March 2024</p> <p>96 points - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - May 2022</p> <p>96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2024</p> <p>95-97 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2022</p> <p>96 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2022</p> <p>91-94 points - Thomas Parker, Farr Vintners - April 2022</p> <p>93 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2024</p> <p>93-95 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2022</p> <p>93 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2023</p> <p>94-96 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - May 2022</p> <p>92-94 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2022</p> <p>18.5 points - Matthew Jukes - August 2022</p> <p>96 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - April 2022</p> <p>94 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2022</p> <p>96 points - Vert de Vin - July 2022</p> <p>98 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - May 2022</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Alluring from the get-go, with boysenberry and creamed plum flavors that offer an almost exotic edge, backed by liberal accents of rooibos tea, mulling spices and sweet tobacco. Caressing in the end, this also shows a chalky spine that's better integrated than most in this vintage, plus a pretty, lingering curl of alder. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc. Best from 2025 through 2037. 14,500 cases made."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The 2021 Cos d'Estournel is one of the denser, more muscular wines of the vintage, wafting from the glass with aromas of dark berries, cassis, charcoal, sweet cigar wrapper and subtle hints of smoked meats, framed by a touch of toasty new oak. Medium to full-bodied, ample, and fleshy, it's rich and quite concentrated for the vintage, with a chassis of sweet, generously extracted tannin and a long, lusty finish."</i></p> <p>- WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The 2021 Cos d'Estournel is very promising, offering up rich aromas of dark berries, plums, exotic spices, loamy soil and rose petals, followed by a medium to full-bodied, deep, and seamless palate that's impressively vibrant and concentrated, with powdery tannins, bright acids and a long, penetrating finish. Only 53% of the production made it into the grand vin, and the blend is 64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 4% Cabernet</i></p>

Reviews *Franc and 2% Petit Verdot. Technical director Dominique Arangoits reports that Cos was spared by frost and coulure at flowering, harvesting between September 23 and October 4, and fermenting a touch hotter than has been the case in recent years, at around 28-29 degrees Celsius."*

- WK, Wine Advocate

"The 2021 Cos d'Estournel is a blend of 64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc, and 2% Petit Verdot. Deep garnet-purple in color, it struts out of the glass with classic scents of blackcurrant pastilles, ripe juicy plums, and cedar chest, followed by hints of crushed rocks, pencil shavings, and cinnamon stick. Light to medium-bodied, the palate is tightly wound with firm, grainy tannins and integrated freshness supporting the intense, mineral-laced fruit, finishing long and savory. 2028-2060."

- LPB, Wine Independent

"Floral aromas with violets, lavender, and currants. Lead pencil, too. Medium-bodied, with fine tannins that caress and please. Elegant and sophisticated. Linear line of tannins runs through this. Needs two or three years to soften. Hold for now."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"A firm red with solid, compact tannins. Medium to full body with plenty of blackcurrant, pencil-lead, and graphite character. Compact and structured throughout, with a firm finish. Linear and muscular tannins at the end that are very formed and curated. It will be interesting to see how this one evolves. 64% cabernet sauvignon, 30% merlot, 4% cabernet franc and 2% petit verdot."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Barrel Sample. For the vintage, this is a big wine. Big in all the senses, giving juicy black fruits and powerful tannins. The fruit also exudes great concentration. It will take many years to develop fully."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot. Cask sample. Dark and reticent with a touch of cassis as the wine opens. Linear and firm with a rich but fine tannic frame. Solid through the mid palate and on through the finish. Structured and with plenty of matière. Well within itself so room to develop. 17++/20 points."

- JL, JancisRobinson.com

"Super-rich dark berries on the nose, fragrant and seductive, this draws you in both from the nose and colour with a deep, inky purple and pink tone. Charming and lively, this is sophisticated with a minty, fresh, high-toned fruit profile that is poised and focused, delivering each element in a straight line right now. Not so expansive, but layered vertically with tobacco, coffee, dark chocolate, and vanilla notes alongside bramble fruits. It's tightly packaged but so refined, elegant, and classy. One to watch for sure. 2% Petit Verdot completes the blend."

- GH, Decanter.com

"Lovely stuff, elegant and sculpted, great quality, showcasing the successful side of a cool vintage. There is some austerity, as you would expect, with chewy tannins holding blueberry and black cherry fruits, well balanced with grilled cinnamon and sandalwood smoke. 55% new oak. Among the wines of the vintage."

- JA, janeanson.com

"This vintage, which can be overly straight and austere, benefits from the house style of Cos, where they are happy to add a twist of gourmet glamour, and I am seriously impressed with this wine. It showcases the successful sides of a cool vintage in spades, with bitter black chocolate, cool blue fruits, lemongrass and turmeric and black pepper spices. 55% new oak. 3.79ph. 53% of overall production is for the 1st wine, the rest in Pagodes. Easily one of the wines of the vintage."

- JA, janeanson.com

Reviews

“Dried flowers, smoke, licorice, Indian spices, black cherries, plums, chocolate, and a hint of blue fruit shows up with ease in the perfume. The palate is the wine shines. Here, you find layers of supple, creamy ripe, black, and red fruits, polished textures, creamy, soft tannins and a finish that builds and lingers with its waves of fruit and subtle, smoked herb note that comes in at the end of the finish. The wine was made from blending 64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 1% Petit Verdot and 1% Cabernet Franc. Drink from 2026-2055.”

- JL, *thewinecellarinsider.com*

“Earthy, spicy, black raspberries, blackberries, flowers, and black currants create the nose and the core of its medium/full-bodied palate. Soft, silky, fresh, and polished, there is a nice sweetness and refined edge to the fruit on the palate, finishing with layers of vibrant, peppery, tea-stained, black currants with a gentle hint of herbs on the backend. The wine was made from blending 64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 1% Petit Verdot and 1% Cabernet Franc, 13% alcohol, pH of 3.7. The yields were 35 hectoliters per hectare. The harvest took place September 23 to October 7. The Grand Vin was produced from 50% of the harvest. The wine is going to be approachable early in its life. Drink from 2025-2055.”

- JL, *thewinecellarinsider.com*

“The yield here was 35 hl/ha - only slightly less than normal. With no chaptalization or reverse osmosis, the alcohol is a modest 12.74% from 64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot. The extraction was gentle, and the new oak toned down to 55%. Deep ruby colour. The nose is spice-laden at this stage, but there is an exotic red fruit character underneath. The palate has the same mark of wood at the moment but bright acidity and cool black fruit push through with more success. This is a narrow, focused wine for now that is more vertical than broad. Chewy, grippy tannins and high acid offer ample structure. Licorice, cedar, star anise and cool blackcurrant fruit together with rosemary on the finish.”

- TP, *Farr Vintners*

“The 2021 Cos d'Estournel has retained a Cabernet Sauvignon-driven nose, with pencil shaving scents infusing the black fruit, and a touch of dark chocolate and loam coming through with aeration. It is well-defined and composed, though it doesn't have the complexity of some of the great recent vintages from the estate. The palate is medium-bodied with slightly chalky tannins on the entry. Showing modest depth, it's quite sapid, with a touch of brininess to the fruit. This is not a flamboyant Cos d'Estournel, but it is very well composed and lingers temptingly on the finish. Give this five to seven years in bottle.”

- NM, *Vinous*

“The 2021 Cos d'Estournel has an attractive nose, more complex than the Pagodes (as you would expect), graphite and subtle cigar box scents permeating the black fruit and the Cabernet Sauvignon more expressive at this stage vis-à-vis the Merlot. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannins. One of the most velvety Cos d'Estournel wines I have encountered at this stage, though linear and strict on the saline finish.”

- NM, *Vinous*

“The 2021 Cos d'Estournel marries power with finesse. It has all the intensity that is typical of the wines here, but also a real sense of precision. Dark-toned fruit, licorice, leather, spice, tobacco, and incense all unfold in a rich, heady wine with bitter, astringent tannins. The 2021 is hard to taste today, as it is decidedly quiet and understated.”

- AG, *Vinous*

“The 2021 Cos d'Estournel is a wine of real breadth and volume. It is also quite a departure from recent vintages in that strong Cabernet aromatics are very much front and center. Cedar, tobacco, dried herbs, menthol, and licorice lend notable complexity to the bouquet. I expect the 2021 will need time to be at its best. Cos is usually much more alluring in its youth than the reticent but hugely promising 2021.”

- AG, *Vinous*

“The Grand Vin 2021 Château Cos D'Estournel is 64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc, and 2% Petit Verdot that saw 55% new French oak. It offers a beautiful, elegant, medium-bodied style that carries plenty of pure cassis and almost blue fruits as well as graphite, spicy wood, and hints of tobacco. The tannins are polished, and it has terrific balance, good density, and outstanding length. It's certainly in the more focused, elegant, narrow style of the vintage, but it's beautiful. 92-94+.”

- Jeb Dunnuck

Reviews

“As always, I tasted the Cos family of wines with owner Michel Reybier and winemaker Dominique Arangoits. This was only my third rendezvous of the campaign, and so it gave me a fabulous benchmark to compare to all other wines. Of course, tasting at Cos is a huge pleasure not last because the wines always seem honest and open regarding the vintage conditions. This is, therefore, one of a handful of Châteaux that I regard as barometers for the region and also the vintage. It was here that any notion of 2021 as a ‘disaster’, as a couple of hacks labelled it, went out of the window. With a sub 13% alcohol footprint supporting this magnificent wine, there was always going to be a freshness and directness about Cos. It is a charming and honed wine with intense, dark, smooth fruit touched by cool earth and bright acidity. It was impossible to suppress a beaming smile with a unique balance of freshness and low alcohol countering the lip-smacking exuberant fruit. As it turned out, the very best wines of 2021 are precisely terroir-specific, and this is one of the most accurate, rewarding and satisfying wines in 2021. It will be fascinating to see how it evolves, given its unique balance of sensational fruit, colour, detail, and life-affirming freshness. 18.5.”

- Matthew Jukes

“Vivid ruby red, opaque core, purple on the narrow rim. Elegant dark forest berries, ripe cherries, a touch of noble wood, hints of chocolate and candied orange zest. Complex, juicy, nuances of blackberries, vivid, taut tannins, salty-mineral finish, a touch of dark nougat on the aftertaste; already approachable, certain ageing potential.”

- PM, Falstaff Magazine

“Lovely fresh, elegant, mineral, beautifully racy nose that offers power with finesse, freshness as well as attention to detail. Notes of boysenberry, fresh/crunchy blackcurrant and slightly brighter cherry are combined with hints of iodine minerality, spice and fine points of cumin, nutmeg, and discreet vanilla. The palate is nicely managed and offers power in delicacy, richness, finesse/balance, a nice freshness, acidity, tension in finesse, meticulousness, a nice precision, a nice racy minerality, energy, subtlety, a little melodiousness, a nice dynamism as well as a fruit carried by acidity. On the palate this wine expresses pulpy/juicy blackberry, bright cherry and more lightly violet notes combined with hints of pulpy/juicy cherry, fresh violet plum as well as fine hints of red berries, fresh flowers, racy minerality, discreet hints of green cardamom, toasted almond, Bourbon vanilla as well as a fine hint of cinnamon (in the background) and toasted/crushed hazelnut. Good length. A fine hint of mocha.”

- Vert de Vin