## Château La Conseillante 2021

CSPC# 801695 750mlx6 13.3% alc./vol.

**Grape Variety** 85% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc.

Appellation Pomerol Classification unclassified Website

https://www.la-conseillante.com/en/le-repertoire-des-millesimes/ Since 2016, La Conseillante has implemented a series of undertakings to reduce its environmental impact.

The estate has gained ISO 14001 and HVE 3 certification within the SME programme (Environmental Management System) for Bordeaux wines.

ISO 14001 certification implies the limitation of environmental impacts within a company. HVE 3 certification (High Environmental Value) is centred round 4 separate environmental themes: biodiversity, phyto-sanitary strategy, management of fertilisation and water resources.

La Conseillante also cultivates different species of plants, such as clover (used in different parts of the vineyard where vines lack vigour) and oats (used to break up the soil with their roots). Radish is also planted, particularly in clay parts of the vineyard, where it enables de-compacting and aeration of the soil.

These elements all enhance biodiversity within the La Conseillante vineyard.

Analysis Total Acidity: 3.2 pH: 3.67

The name "La Conseillante" first appeared in the middle of the 18th century. It was given to the property by a certain Catherine Conseillan, an influential figure who ran the estate at that time -almost 300 years ago.

It was in 1871 that the Nicolas family bought the estate, whose surface area and vineyard plots have remained unchanged since then.

Today, it is the turn of the fifth generation of the Nicolas to manage the estate, a demonstration once again of continuity and the attachment of the family to this great growth. Bertrand Nicolas and Jean-Valmy Nicolas are the joint managing directors of La Conseillante. Marielle Cazaux is the estate manager.

The Nicolas heirs are clearly identified on each bottle by the initials "LN" on the label at the centre of a shield within a silver-edged border whose four corners are sloped. The violet-coloured bottle capsule evokes the characteristic aroma of the wine. These packaging features, first chosen back in 1871 by the Nicolas brothers, remain elegant and yet modern even today.

Château La Conseillante is a member of the Union des Grands Crus and L'Académie des Vins de Bordeaux.

Marielle Cazaux. Michel Rolland - consultant winemaker

The 2021 growing season began in mild weather but with a certain amount of rain. Winter had been warmer than average, and rainfall was very much higher. The great turning point in the season was the early part of spring when a cold snap produced a winter-like frost during the night of April 7th.

Low temperatures, which continued from March until May, slowed down the vine cycle making it later than the previous three vintages. Between May and June, rainfall reached 250 mm. These wet conditions, together with increasingly mild temperatures, meant that constant close monitoring of vine health was essential. This situation continued throughout the summer period. While during July and August, rainfall decreased, temperatures were markedly cooler than the ten-year average. The veraison of the Merlot proved slow (lasting from July to mid-August), while that of the Cabernet was completed more quickly, taking place around 18th August. The colour change in the Cabernet had been quickened by the summer's rain. As is often the case in Bordeaux, the end of summer and the beginning of autumn proved beneficial: the month of September was less humid and warmer than usually, while the month of October turned out to be a little cooler but clearly drier than normal.

The 12 hectares of vineyards are in the heart of the Pomerol plateau next to Petrus and Cheval Blanc. One third of the vines – the ones to the left of Cheval Blanc's driveway – are located in Saint-Emilion on gravel and sand, but the remaining two thirds of the vineyard is planted on blue clay. It is apparently the combination of

General Info

Sustainability

Winemakers Vintage

Vineyards



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these two elements which provides the finesse and aroma for which the property is famous, and the power and depth which make it long lived. 80% of the vines that grow in this unique place, where the soil is predominantly made up of clay, are of the Merlot variety, which makes our wines round, deep and smooth. The remaining 20% that grow in gravel soils are Cab Franc, which contribute structure and freshness to the blend.

Harvest

Merlot, from 28/09 to 01/10 – Cabernet Franc, on 06/10 and 12/10 (by hand in small crates). Yield: 39 hl/ha.

Winemaking

A 5-day cold soak, a 27-day vatting period, and 7% of the crop by integral vinification.

Vat room: 22 fully temperature-controlled epoxy-lined concrete vats.

Ageing: 70% in new French oak barrels - 27% in second-fill barrels - 3% in amphorae. Ageing time: 16 months

Tasting Notes Marielle Cazaux believes that the best 2021s came from estates with top *terroir*, a good team and the

willingness to work hard; this held true all week. This is the estate's 150th vintage; it's outstanding. Marielle added this wasn't an easy vintage, so the success comes with a sense of achievement. The wine is superbly

floral with a hint of mint and cocoa. The tannins are seamless, the finish tight with a lick of minerality.

Winemaker's

Notes

The 2021 is a fruity, creamy, and quite concentrated wine. The vintage has texture and bright fruit and a delicate, tannic mouth-feel. The freshness, juicy flavour and digestible character of the wine reminds us somewhat of the La Conseillante 2012, or even the 2016 in some ways. The balance between the alcoholic degree, around 13°, and the good levels of acidity, gives this vintage very good ageing capacity. This 2021 will

delight and surprise many a consumer.

Serve with

meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, chicken, roasted, braised, stewed, and grilled dishes.

Production 40,000 bottles annually Cellaring Drink 2027-2055

Scores/Awards

95 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - February 2024

**96 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - January 2024

**95 points** - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - March 2022

95 points - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - May 2022

96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2024

94 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2022

94 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2024

96 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2024

**19.5+ points** - Matthew Jukes - August 2022

96 points - Jean Marc Quarin - April 2022

94 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2022

97 points - Vert de Vin - July 2022

96 points - Bettane & Desseauve - May 2022