

MAISONS MARQUES & DOMAINES



Château Pichon Comtesse

Réserve de la Comtesse

Pauillac, France
Vintage: 2019

Overview

The second growth of Château Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande, the Réserve de la Comtesse, was created and sold for the first time in 1973. Second growths represent between 20 percent and 50 percent of the total production of the Château. From the same soil, the second growth benefits from the technology and reputation of the great wine. The archives kept at Château Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande mention the existence of a second wine as early as the 19th century.

The vast majority of the vineyards are Gunzian gravel mounds of the classic Pauillac composition, with the deep bed of gravel placed over a substrata of clay and limestone. The commitment to sustainable farming practices extends throughout the 220 acres of vineyards, with over 27 acres fully converted to organic viticulture, and 37 acres farmed biodynamically.

Tasting Notes

The nose fluctuates between Pauillac sap (cedar, graphite), fruit (ripe strawberry) and flowers (lily of the valley, lilac). Raising expectations of a rich and juicy palate. Unsurprisingly, we find the same impressions in the mouth. Long and sappy, the wine is velvety, held taut by a lovely acidity and driven by an almost physical sensation of tannin. The red fruits (strawberry, cherry) are combined with sandalwood and cedar, a confirmation of the Pauillac terroir.

Harvest Notes

The years go on ... but they are never the same! This is what makes our wine profession so rich: we are constantly adapting and questioning ourselves to truly reveal the soul of our terroir. 2019 was a very sunny year with major drought. This vintage is characterized by a vibrant and mineral tension, a fullness and balance between power and elegance: a new interpretation of Pauillac by Pichon Comtesse...

With temperatures above seasonal averages, the Winter was mild and unusually dry. Under these conditions, the bud break was particularly early, from March 20th. The coolness and rainfall in the Spring slowed down the development of the vine, and adjusted back to its average period of flowering between the end of May and the beginning of June. The unstable Spring weather, caused slight coulure on the Cabernet, around mid-June. The heat and the sun then settled in for the duration. A little rain in mid-July and early August favoured a rapid and homogeneous veraison from the 9th to 14th August. Slow ripening, with dry, very sunny conditions and cool nights allowed the harvest to start on September 16th in a very healthy vineyard. Weather instability returned at the end of September and lasted until the end of the harvest on October 8th, without impacting on the quality of our grapes.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Varietals: 51% Cabernet Sauvignon, 46% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc
Wine Alcohol: 14.35%
pH: 3.70
Soil Composition: Gravel, clay and sand
Average Vine Age: 35 years
New Oak: 40%
Aging: 12 months