

CHATEAU GRAND-PUY-LACOSTE 2017

Grand Cru Classé en 1855 - AOC Pauillac

~ Background ~

Château Grand-Puy-Lacoste is located in the terroir of Pauillac, one of Médoc's six communal appellations, along the estuary left bank. The vineyard is situated in between the well known villages Saint-Estèphe and Saint-Julien. The estate Grand-Puy-Lacoste dates from the 16th century when its first buyer was a member of the Bordeaux Parliament : M. de Guiraud. The domain passed along female lines of inheritance and in the 19th century, Marie Jeanne de Saint Guirons married François Lacoste, adding the Lacoste name to the estate. Their son, Pierre-Frédérique Lacoste inherited the property and rebuilt the chateau the same year it was officially recognized by its inclusion in the official listing of Bordeaux's Great Classified Growths. The domain kept on being passed from generation to generation and today, it is owned by François-Xavier Borie, who works along with his family and especially his daughter Emeline. Together, they have raised Grand-Puy-Lacoste to the level of "great Pauillac and ensure that it maintains that status. The philosophy domain is to work with nature and adjust the chateau's signature.



François-Xavier, Marie-Hélène et Emeline Borie

~ Viticulture ~

- Grape varieties of the estate : 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc.
- 58 hectares, set on a hilly area, 20 meters above sea level
- Deep gravel on very hilly terrain (croups)
- Average vine age is 38 years
- High density of 10,000 vines/hectare.
- Yield of 40 to 45 hl/hectare.
- Sustainable agricultural practices : during the last 20 years, the use of chemical treatments have been halved and no insecticide has been used in the past 10 years, which allowed the restoration of the natural fauna.
- Double Guyot pruning and green harvest are made to increase concentration in the fruit.

~ Tasting Notes ~

The blend of Grand-Puy-Lacoste 2017 once again makes a large place for Cabernet Sauvignon (80%) demonstrating, if it were necessary, the potential of its terroir to express all the characters and charms of great Cabernets. This wine has a beautiful deep and brilliant ruby red color. The bouquet reveals aromas of ripe red fruits, violets and spices. The whole is completed by a nice mineral freshness. In the mouth, the attack is precise, straight and continues of ripe and melted tannins. The whole offers a wine of a very great balance combining charm, elegance and freshness, with a long a long, pure and very aromatic finish. This 2017 breaks with the image of the image of "7" vintages because it highlights the richness of expression of this beautiful terroir of Pauillac by combining balance, refined fruit and ripe tannins.

~ Winemaking ~

- Manual harvest exclusively.
- **Blend : 80% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot.**
- Double sorting process.
- The 43 thermo-regulated vats, of different capacities, allow a high precision work, which respects the typicality of the parcels.
- Fermentation lasts 8 to 10 days at a temperature of 28°C in temperature-controlled vats.
- Daily pumping over to help alcoholic fermentation and enrich the wine's tannins and color.
- Maceration lasts 10 more days.
- Aged in French Allier oak barrels (fine grain) for 16-18 months using 75% of new barrels.
- Gravity racking every three or four month.
- Production of 10,000 cases.

93 Points.

« Aromas of fresh raspberries with some lemon peel and fresh herbs follow through to a full to medium body. Fresh herbs and graphite highlight the wine. Chewy finish. Needs time to soften. Better after 2022. »



92 Points.

« A taut and mineral version, defined by a chalky underpinning that harnesses the core of damson plum, bitter cherry and red currant fruit. Streaks of cedar, chestnut and bay leaf mark the finish. Shows the austere, iron-driven side of Pauillac. Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Best from 2023 through 2038. »

