

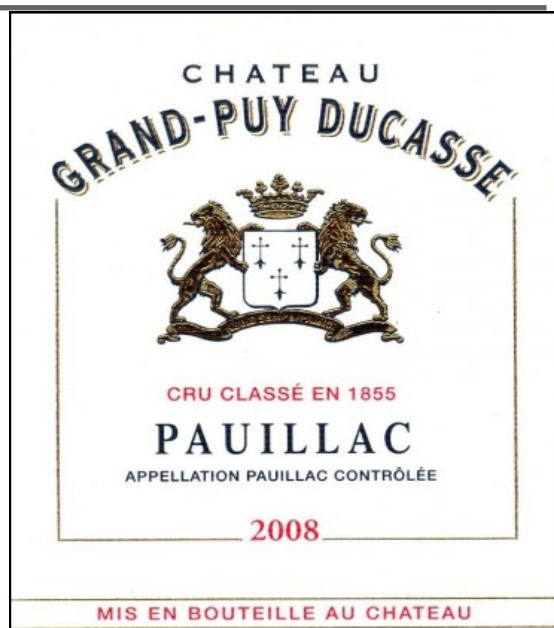
CHATEAU GRAND PUY DUCASSE 2015

Appellation Pauillac

~ Background ~

Acquired in the middle of the 17th century by Arnadu Ducasse, little did he know that the estate would remain in his family for 3 centuries. In 1820, the existing château was built and under Adrien Chauvet, the estate was classified in 1855. The company Grand Puy Ducasse was founded in 1932.

In 1971 a group of shareholders took on what was then a dormant estate, restructured and enlarged it. Today CA Grands Cru owns the estate, and under the team of Thierry Budin, Managing Director, David Launay, Commercial Director, and Anne Le Naour, Winemaker, Chateau Grand Puy Ducasse is making a comeback. Hubert de Bouard, owner of Chateau Angelus, is the consultant oenologist.



~ Viticulture ~

- Manual harvesting
- 40 hectares split into 3 large parcels
- Average yield 40 hl/ha
- **60% Cabernet Sauvignon and 40% Merlot.**
- Average age of vines is 30 years.
- Soil is Garonne gravels and silica, typical of Pauillac
- Parcel management of soil and vineyard, certified sustainable farming

~ Winemaking ~

- The fermentation is carried out in thermo-regulated stainless steel vats.
- Some of the wines undergo malolactic fermentation in new barrels.
- Ageing is from 18 to 24 months depending on the wine.
- The wine is aged in French oak barrels of which 30 to 40% are new each year.
- The Château produces 100 000 to 120 000 bottles each year, depending on the vintage.

~ Tasting Notes ~

Deep color and aromas that contain intense notes of fruit, as well as touches of liquorice and mild spices. The palate is stylish, with tannins that are finely structured, clearly ready for the long haul. The final impression is powerful yet classy, quite free of any weightiness.



90-92 Points. The 2015 Grand-Puy-Ducasse has a classic pencil lead and cedar-scented bouquet that feels just a little foursquare at the moment. The palate is medium-bodied with a dash of spice on the entry. This is underpinned by quite robust tannin, but fortunately this Pauillac forages finesse towards the finish that is well balanced and offers attractive persistence. While not as showy out of barrel, I suspect it may coalesce and turn into one of the better wines from this estate in recent years. My banded score based upon that optimism.

92-94 Points. Barrel Sample. The dark tannins of the wine give it weight and density, yet there's enough acidity to balance. Ripe blackberry flavors are developing behind this brooding facade.

