

CHATEAU GRAND PUY DUCASSE 2019

AOC Pauillac

~ Background ~

Acquired in the middle of the 17th century by Arnaud Ducasse, he could not imagine that it would become the foundation of a great estate that would remain in his family for nearly three centuries. The real founder of the estate was Pierre Ducasse, a lawyer with a passion for wine. He acquired land and part of the Bourdieu de Grand-Puy in three parishes: Pauillac, Saint-Lambert and Saint-Sauveur, as well as three seigneuries: Lafite, Latour and Beychevelle. New purchases and exchanges allowed him to extend his domains until his death in 1797. His son found himself at the head of a real estate operation named Ducasse-Grand-Puy-Artigues-Arnaud, with sixty hectares, of which nearly two thirds were planted with vines. Around 1820, he had the present château built facing the Gironde, on the site of his ancestors' house.

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.



Anne Le Naour, winemaker



~ Viticulture ~

- Manual harvesting
- 40 hectares split into 3 large parcels
- Average yield 40 hl/ha
- 62% Cabernet Sauvignon & 38% Merlot planted.
- Average age of vines is 25 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.
- **Alcohol content: 14.5°**
- **Blend: 53% Cabernet Sauvignon & 47% Merlot.**



~ Tasting Notes ~

Purple color. The already expressive nose shows a harmonious complexity of fruits. The mouth opens up from the attack on a tight weave of tannins of great finesse. The freshness is omnipresent due to the combination of a moderate alcohol and a beautiful acidity, it accompanies the wine on a surprisingly long finish.



90 Points.

The 2019 Grand-Puy-Ducasse exhibits aromas of raspberries, currants and fruit liqueur mingled with subtle hints of loamy soil and pencil shavings. Medium to full-bodied, fleshy and demonstrative, with an ample core of fruit, ripe tannins and lively acids and a finish subtly marked by alcoholic warmth, this is more elegant than its muscular, powerful 2018 predecessor; but it's held back by that touch of alcoholic heat. The new ambition that's animating this historically lackluster estate, however, is more than evident, and there are surely great things to come from this address.

95 Points.

Blackcurrants and walnuts with sweet berry and cherry undertones. Full-bodied with chewy tannins and a long, flavorful finish. Linear and intense tannins run the length of the wine with intensity and persistence. Try after 2026.



93 Points.

Well-packed, showing black currant and blackberry fruit flavors, which are marked by bramble and savory accents and carried by fresh acidity through a finish that's scored by humus, tobacco and iron. A textbook, austere, driven and age-worthy Pauillac. Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Best from 2024 through 2036.

