

## Château Pichon-Longueville Baron 2014

CSPC# 764173

750mlx12

13.3% alc./vol. **SOLD OUT**

CSPC# 834371

750mlx6

13.3% alc./vol.

### Grape Variety

80% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot

### Appellation

Pauillac

### Classification

Second Growth. Deuxieme Grand Cru Classe in 1855

### Website

<http://www.pichonlongueville.com/>

### General Info

Château Pichon-Longueville Baron, a leading Pauillac 2ème Cru Classé estate, is one of Bordeaux's most illustrious "super seconds". In 1987 it was bought by the AXA Millésimes Group, who also own Cantenac-Brown, Petit-Village, Suduiraut. AXA built a state of the art cuverie and chai at Pichon-Longueville Baron, while, in 2000, Christian Seely took over from Jean-Michel Cazes as general manager. The Cabernet-dominated Pichon-Longueville Baron is a more muscular, tannic and full-bodied wine than that of its neighbour across the road, Pichon-Longueville Comtesse de Lalande. The *grand vin* is Chateau Longueville au Baron de Pichon-Longueville. The second wine is Les Tourelles de Longueville, introduced with the 1986 vintage.

Jean-Rene Matignon (Technical Director ) started with the Left Bank Bordeaux property in 1985. In three short years, Pichon Baron once again began producing wines of world class quality. The first vintage that brought this historic estate back to prominence was the sublime 1989 followed by the even better 1990. When Jean-Michel Cazes retired from Pichon-Baron in 2000, Christian Seely was asked to take over the management of Pichon Baron as well as the other seven properties of the wine group including Château Suduiraut in Sauternes, Château Petit Village in Pomerol, Chateau Pibran in Pauillac and Quinta do Noval in Portugal. AXA also maintains an interest in Burgundy with Domaine de l'Arlet. Christian Seely has managed many of these estates since 1993. AXA also owns one of the larger Bordeaux wine négociant companies, Compagnie Medocaine. Alexandra Lebossé - winemaker.

### Winemaker

### Vintage

Some green harvesting work was carried out in June and July, with leaf stripping to help the development of the grapes. Some carefully targeted thinning work was also carried out late on, at the end of August. Then, the weather became hot and sunny, providing good ripening conditions. These stable weather conditions helped the grapes along smoothly as they reached optimal ripeness and balance in the days just before the start of harvesting. The effect of the different plots of vines played its most significant role in the past decade.

The harvest began in late September with the old Merlot vines; the warm, summery weather was very favourable for picking. After picking the Merlot, we stopped the harvest from 9th to 16th October to give the Cabernet-sauvignon grapes the time to achieve perfect ripeness. Even after the strict selection of grapes in the vineyard, rigorous sorting as the grapes arrived in the chai refined the potential quality further.

In order to continue the parcel selection carried out in the vineyard, all the small vats were used, and the larger ones were only partly filled. Alcoholic fermentation soon started at a moderate rate, enabling gentle and progressive extraction during the fermenting phase to suit each different terroir. We gave priority to the subtlety of the tannins and the expression of grape varieties according to soil types. Grapes from young vines were macerated for 15 to 18 days and those from older vines for 20 to 24 days, with extractions monitored daily for flavour. Running off was finished by the end of November



<b>Vineyards</b>	The 73 hectare vineyards of Chateau Pichon Baron are planted to 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot. However, the Cabernet Franc and the Petit Verdot are reserved exclusively for the second wine. This marks a change in the makeup of the vineyard with the addition of Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. The vineyard is planted to a vine density is 9,000 vines per
<b>Vineyards</b>	hectare using a double Guyot training. The average age of the vines is 30 years. However, the estate has old vines. The oldest vines date all the way back the 1930's. While the vineyard occupies 73 hectares of vines, the grapes used for Pichon Baron come from the 40 best hectares in the vineyard. The vineyards of Pichon Baron are situated at the southern end of Pauillac, across the street from Pichon Lalande, not far from Chateau Latour and close to the St. Julien border. The soils are mostly deep gravel.
<b>Harvest</b>	Hand harvested
<b>Vinification/ Maturation</b>	Malolactic fermentation takes place in tank. The wine of Chateau Pichon Baron is aged in an average of 80% new, French oak barrels for 18 months. Of course, the percentage of new oak and the time in barrel varies, depending on the character of the vintage.
<b>Tasting Note</b>	Château Pichon Baron 2014 offers a deep, intense purple colour, almost black. The nose is highly expressive and yields huge aromatic range - black fruits, blueberry, spices - and combines elegance with subtlety. The attack is suave and precise with a pleasing discreetness. On the palate the wine offers a hint of finely integrated oak and is straight, precise, and fleshy. The tannins are backed up by nicely mature, flavorsome fruit notes. The finish is distinctive, complex, and neat. Overall, this is a full, intense tasting experience.
<b>Serve with</b>	Chateau Pichon Baron is best paired with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes. Chateau Pichon Baron is also good when matched with Asian dishes, rich fish courses like tuna, salmon, mushrooms, and pasta.
<b>Production</b>	13,335 cases
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2020-2045
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>93 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2017</p> <p><b>92-95 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2015</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Neal Martin Wine Advocate Interim Issue - March 31, 2017</p> <p><b>92-94 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #218 - April 2015</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2017</p> <p><b>95-96 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2015</p> <p><b>95 points / Cellar Selection</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 2017</p> <p><b>94-96 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2015</p> <p><b>18 points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - February 2018</p> <p><b>17+ points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2015</p> <p><b>90 points</b> - Decanter.com - April 2015</p> <p><b>96 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 2017</p> <p><b>95-96 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2015</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2015</p> <p><b>17.5 points</b> - Farr Vintner - March 2015</p> <p><b>89-93 points</b> - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2015</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - March 2018</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2017</p> <p><b>91-94 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2015</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - November 2017</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Wilfred Wong, wine.com - April 2016</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>"A solid rendering, with an ample core of cassis, cherry preserves, and plum cake backed by energetic, brambly tannins. A singed apple wood accent on the finish adds range. Shows good cut throughout. Best from 2020 through 2035. 13,335 cases made."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p>

**Reviews** *"Features a solid core of dark plum and blackberry fruit, backed by judicious toast that allows tobacco and loam hints to emerge in end. This picks up steam through the finish, showing ample base notes. 13,335 cases made. Score range: 92 – 95."*  
- JM, Wine Spectator

*"The 2014 Pichon-Longueville Baron was broody at first, as if a big "No Entry" sign had been placed in front of the aromatics. But peeking underneath are some wonderful blackberry, cedar and graphite aromas that just sing of Pauillac and exude typicity. The palate is medium bodied with very impressive depth and concentration on the entry, a superb line of acidity and outstanding precision on the finish. This is clearly fulfilling its potential that it showed from barrel. The only drawback is that it might be unfairly overshadowed by the 2015 Pichon Baron! This will be one of those over-performing Pauillac's, perhaps like the 1990 Pichon Baron, that will delight for years to come."*  
- NM, Wine Advocate

*"The Château Pichon Baron 2014 is a blend of 80% Cabernet Sauvignon and 20% Merlot, almost the same as 2010. It was picked between late September and 16 October. It has a tightly wound bouquet at the moment, very "contained" and not as flamboyant as say, the 2009 or the 2010 at this early juncture. But there is remarkable precision here - an aristocratic nose with fleeting glimpses of cedar and pencil lead. The palate is medium-bodied. The acidity is quite noticeable although the pH is 3.8, higher than you would have expected. There is certainly a lot of body and structure (IPT came in at 91) with a precise, almost stoic, graphite finish. If the disappearance of Château Latour from en primeur is getting you down, then this will fill that gap nicely."*  
- NM, Wine Advocate

*"Irony and smoky intensity on the very youthful nose. Really rich and tannic, but as it flows over your palate it becomes more and more suave and complex. This is a concentrated, long-term wine that demands some patience but should richly reward it. Try in 2022."*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"A fabulous young wine with superb depth of fruit and density that shows blueberries, blackberries, oyster shells and stones. Full-bodied, chewy yet with a laser-guided backbone of tannins. Goes on for minutes. Concentrated yet so fine and beautiful. The tannin content analysis is the same as 2009 and 2010 apparently from the winemakers, but the tannin quality is better. Amazing. This could be a remake of the 2010 but fresher."*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"This is rich, while also such a stylish wine. It is ripe and full of tannins while masking that firm structure with immensely generous fruit. The two give the wine power, density, and elegance. \*Cellar Selection\* (RV)"*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"Barrel Sample. This wine has the finest, dusty tannins that float through the structure. Don't be deceived, though—this rich, sophisticated wine will age very well, thanks to its weight and power. It also has poised elegance that is so stylish and already attractive. (4/2015)"*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"Tasted blind. Suave and polished. Thick and rewarding with an inky spine. Big and bold. Very clean and understated. Very long. Drink 2024-2044"*  
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*"Very deep blackish crimson. Hint of savoury treacle/molasses on the nose. Then a little dry but with decent mid charge of tannins. Far from opulent. Pretty angular at this stage. A tiny bit hollow. Needs to gain flesh. Griffons is almost too charming now! Drink 2024-2040"*  
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

**Reviews** *"From vines that have reached an average of 35 years old, this is rich, firm, and broad-shouldered, with dark bilberry fruits overlaid with steely flint edges. We're in film noir territory here: think The Third Man's Harry Lime slipping under the railway arches. After five minutes in the glass there's a floral note curling upwards. Excellent."*  
- Decanter.com

*"There will be less new oak in the finished wine than there was in the en primeur sample, which is good news as I found Pichon a little too marked by notes of mocha and chocolate. The underlying wine is very smart indeed with good grip and structure and the density and fruit weight to age."*  
- TA, timatkin.com

*"Already delicious! What more needs to be said? The wine is full bodied, concentrated and offers length, persistence, and energy, with a long, blast of sweet, juicy cassis, blackberry, earth and tobacco. There is a polish to the tannins and volume that allow this wine to get noticed. This will be even better with 5-10 more years."*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"Dark in color, with black, blue and cassis fruit complicated by smoke, earth and tobacco in the bouquet. This wine is rich, dense, long, silky and lush. There is a beautiful purity to the layers of ripe, sweet, fresh fruit and plush tannins. The finish builds and expands pleasantly in the mouth. This wine is probably better than the delightful 2003 and not far from the even more better 2005. Crafted from a blend of 80% Cabernet Sauvignon and 20% Merlot, the wine reached 13.3% alcohol with a pH of 3.7. The Grand Vin represents 45% of the harvest. 95-96 Pts."*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"This great vineyard has been producing classic Pauillac since the late 1980's when Jean-Michel Cazes of Lynch Bages took control. In recent years Englishman Christian Seely has been in charge and quality continues to rise. The grand vin is now made only from fruit produced in the original vineyard that is opposite Latour and next to Las Cases. Latour-like in style, Pichon Baron has been a star performer in all our recent blind vintage tastings. 80% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, 80% new oak. Deep ruby with a purple rim. Blackcurrant, blackberry, and creamy vanilla from new oak on the nose. Rich and brooding on the nose. The palate is richly textured with mocha, chocolate, blackberry, and toasted spices. Generous, ripe blackcurrant core with a clean and balanced acidity. Long, pure and spicy on the finish."*  
- Farr Vintners

*"There is a smoky fragrant freshness on the nose and a bright fresh start to the palate. Sweet and ripe in the middle fine well-handled tannins cassis and black cherry. Lighter at the back fresh fruit very much to the fore the finish just lacking a bit of richness. 2027-40"*  
- Derek Smedley MW

*"The 2014 Pichon Baron has a similar bouquet to the Pichon Lalande: very precise and classic Pauillac replete with black fruit, graphite and perhaps a little more undergrowth. Maybe there is a touch more Merlot here, suggesting Pichon Lalande (when in fact it is Pichon Baron!) The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin, very well defined with great depth, mineral-driven towards the finish that possesses wonderful harmony and length. It is just a beautiful, quite delicious Pauillac. Wonderful. Tasted blind at the annual Southwold tasting. 2022 – 2055"*  
- NM, Vinous

*"A wine of pure sophistication and class, the 2014 Pichon-Longueville Baron exudes depth and intensity from the very first taste. Super-ripe black cherry, plum, smoke, tobacco and licorice all flesh out in the glass. This is a surprisingly ripe style for the vintage. Readers should give the 2014 at least a few years in bottle to come together."*  
- AG, Vinous

*"Dark red cherry, plum, cedar, smoke and cinnamon are some of the notes that meld together in the 2014 Pichon-Longueville Baron. One of the rounder, more supple wines from this sector of the Médoc, today, the 2014 appears to be a wine that will drink well with only a handful of years in the cellar. The soft, seamless finish is quite striking, but there is plenty of tannin lurking beneath, it is just buried by the fruit. Technical*

**Reviews** *Director Jean-Renè Matignon adds that the tannin levels are the same as 2010, although that would be nearly impossible to ascertain on taste and feel alone. In 2014, the blend is 80% Cabernet Sauvignon and 20% Merlot. Overall, this is a very stylish Pichon-Baron distinguished by the great purity of its fruit. Tasted twice.*  
- AG, Vinous

*"More reserved and classically styled than the 2015, the 2014 Pichon-Longueville Baron is nevertheless a beautiful wine and up with the top wines in the vintage. Possessing deep ruby/plum color as well as terrific notes of blackberries, smoke tobacco, graphite, chocolate, and hints of cedar, it has a regal, understated, yet concentrated style that builds with time in the glass. Medium to full-bodied, ripe, layered, and beautifully textured, it's a classy wine from this estate that's going to benefit from 3-4 years of bottle age and keep for two decades."*

- Jeb Dunnuck

*"The leader of the pack, the 2014 Chateau Pichon Baron appears to be the leader of the pack as it looks to capture the title of "Wine of the Year." This is such a solid, youthful wine and among one of chateaux' best. Very expressive, with great density, there is so much fine-tuned, ripe fruit here; rounded out with well thought of oak treatment, when all is said and done and the wine has finished its time in the barrel, the wine may well be on a platform of greatness. Range 93-95 (Tasted: May 30, 2015, San Francisco, CA)"*

- WW, Wine.com

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