



# CHÂTEAU POUJEAUX / 2018

**OWNER** Philippe CUVELIER  
**MANAGING DIRECTOR** Matthieu CUVELIER  
**DIRECTOR** Christophe LABENNE  
**APPELLATION** Moulis-en-Médoc  
**SURFACE AREA** 70 hectares (173 acres)  
**SOILS** Günz-era gravel  
**DENSITY of PLANTATION** 8,333 to 10,000 vines/ha  
**AVERAGE AGE OF VINES** 30 years  
**CONSULTANT** Stéphane Derenoncourt

## ESTATE PHILOSOPHY

As the owners of Château Poujeaux for the last ten years, the Cuvelier family have consistently sought to improve and enhance their Médoc estate. With a highly committed team, their philosophy is to preserve the values of family, people and high standards of quality, while seeking to bring out in the wines the terroir and all its complexity.

The harmony found in the wines of Château Poujeaux is underpinned by a balanced grape composition in the vineyard, vinification of whole uncrushed berries, ageing in barrels, which together produce a wine that is dense, silky, complex and subtle, faithfully expressing its terroir in each and every vintage.

## THE 2018 VINTAGE

**HARVEST** 25 September to 12 October 2018  
**BLEND** 52% Merlot - 40% Cabernet Sauvignon - 5% Petit Verdot - 3% Cabernet Franc  
**VINIFICATION** Fermentation of whole uncrushed berries in 51 temperature-controlled stainless steel, oak and concrete vats of capacities designed for plot by plot vinifications, extraction through pump-overs, a vatting duration of 20 to 25 days.  
**AGEING** 33% new barrels - 67% second and third-fill barrels - 12 months' ageing  
**ANALYSES** Alc. 14° - pH 3.90  
**PRODUCTION** 48hl/ha - 290,000 bottles

## DESCRIPTION OF THE VINTAGE

**IN THE VINES** After a mild and dry autumn, winter brought heavy rainfall and a plunge in temperatures at the end of winter. After a slow start to the vine cycle, vine shooting was uneven due to warm spring weather combined with multiple periods of storms. The vines continued shooting throughout the whole of the cycle accompanied by exceptionally high downy mildew pressure that was continually brought back by stormy showers and drizzle. Dry, hot summer weather at last set in for the remainder of the cycle bringing about richly-flavoured, balanced grapes which had lovely concentration.

**IN THE CELLARS** The crop sizes were very satisfactory with good concentration levels in the grapes reflecting the large potential yields early on, very fine weather at the end of the cycle and efficient technical management. The aroma and tannin richness in all of the grape varieties brought in promised wonderful potential at harvest-time, which was confirmed at the beginning of the ageing process in barrel. The resulting wine displays a superb version of a great vintage with harmonious balance, concentration and finesse.

## TASTING NOTES

**COLOUR** A brilliant, deep garnet hue.  
**NOSE** Rich and complex with aromas of red and black fruits.  
**PALATE** The entry is smooth and round, the wine rich and complex. The silky tannins are beautifully elegant and show rare finesse. Lovely length of flavour.

**PERSONAL  
COMMENTS**

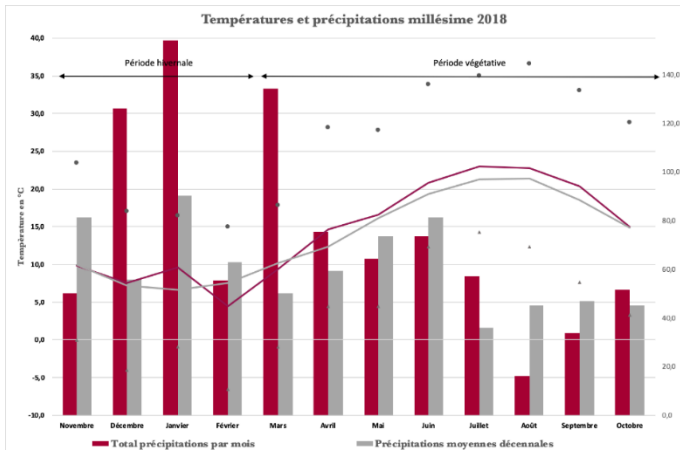
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## THE 2018 VINTAGE

2018 was technically a tricky, capricious vintage on account of the frequency of its storms. After a relatively dry autumn, winter rainfall was well above the seasonal average. Despite cool weather at the end of winter, spring turned mild with heavy rainfall and multiple stormy downpours before fine weather set in for the summer. The harvest, on the other hand, enjoyed glorious Indian summer weather conditions.



### VINE CYCLE STAGES AND HARVESTING DATES:

	Bud-break	Mid-flowering point	Mid-veraison	Harvest
Merlot	7 April	26 May	08 August	25 September to 5 October
Cabernet Franc	8 April	25 May	11 August	2 October
Cabernet Sauvignon	11 April	28 May	12 August	3 to 12 October
Petit Verdot	8 April	02 June	16 August	28 September to 8 October

### 2018 GROWING SEASON FACTS AT CHATEAU POUJEAUX:

- Uneven budding
- Uneven shooting
- Storms - particularly strong on 21 and 25 May
- Heavy rainfall and multiple stormy showers
- Flowering spread out but relatively little coulure
- A more homogeneous veraison due to fine summer weather
- Water deficit right up to the harvest favouring concentrated berries
- Very fine ripening conditions (slight water stress, high temperatures and wide fluctuations in temperatures between day and night)
- Indian summer weather during the harvest

### CHATEAU POUJEAUX 2018 CHARACTERISTICS:

- Satisfactory yields and very good concentration
- Rich aromatics
- Harmonious, subtle and precise structure
- Balance, roundness and finesse on the palate
- Fine length of flavour