



## RÉSERVE DE LA COMTESSE

### Vintage 2015

#### Climatic Conditions

2014 was a mild autumn, followed by temperatures in December to March which were colder than the average last 30-year period. Consequently, the bud break was a little bit later than the previous years. The first Merlot buds appeared around the 7th of April and the Cabernet Sauvignon buds on the 12<sup>th</sup> of April.

The growing season from April to July was dry and sunny encouraging a steady development of the vine and a quick and uniform flowering which continued to the 4<sup>th</sup> of June.

Only some of the young vines showed signs of water stress during the hottest days in July. However, a cooler and wetter August to September revived these plots that were in difficulty.

The veraison started rapidly from the 4<sup>th</sup> of August across all the grape varieties.

For all the vines, these conditions encouraged a good phenolic ripeness whilst maintaining a good level of acidity.

#### The Harvest

The harvesting began on the 10<sup>th</sup> of September and finished on the 8<sup>th</sup> of October. A rainy spell at the beginning of September could have affected the condition of the Merlot grapes but finally the risk of Botrytis during the campaign did not take hold quickly allowing the plots to be harvested at their optimum ripeness. The Cabernet grapes too were unaffected despite several frequent but less intense rainy periods than at the beginning of the harvest.

#### Blend

**53% Cabernet Sauvignon**

**40% Merlot**

**4% Cabernet Franc**

**3% Petit Verdot**

#### Tasting notes



**Neil Martin, eRobertParker.com**

The 2015 Reserve de la Comtesse is a blend of 53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc and 3% Petit Verdot. It has a very fine, quite sophisticated and pure bouquet with black cherries, cedar and violet aromas, perfumed and sensual. The palate is medium-bodied with supple, rounded tannin that is cloaked by layers of tobacco-tinged black fruit that segues into a long, lightly spiced finish. This is a delightful, quite serious deuxième vin that I suspect will age much longer than drinkers will afford it. Try to give this five years and you will be rewarded. **90-92**

**Antonio Galloni** - The 2015 Réserve de la Comtesse is a powerful, tannic second wine that looks like it will need a few years in bottle to come together, as its structural spine is imposing at this stage. Dark, brooding and intense, the 2015 possesses magnificent depth and pedigree to burn. A host of black cherry, graphite, smoke, licorice and incense hit the building, intense finish. The 2015 is a gorgeous Comtesse, but the brooding style is going to take some time to come into its own. This is a serious second wine. Tasted four times. **90-93**



**James Molesworth** - Lively, with kirsch and cherry paste notes that are lined with fresh floral and bright iron notes, followed by a rather sleek finish. **87-90**



**James Suckling** - Lots of blackberry and blueberry aromas and flavors. Full body, chewy tannins and a savory finish. A juicy second wine from PL. **92-93**



**Rolf Bichsel, Barbara Schroeder** - *Vinum Extra* - Königlicher Wein, demokratisches Jahr  
Frais et plein de sève, équilibré, jolie pointe boisée. Une belle réussite. **16**



**Jancis Robinson** - 53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, 4% Cabernet France, 3% Petit verdot. Really very opulent – just like blackberry juice !. Until some slightly drying tannins on the end. Very merlot influenced with great sweetness. Early maturing. A real fleshy charmer. 13,62%. Drink 2021-2030 – **17**