



# CHÂTEAU POUJEAUX

# 2020

**OWNER** Philippe CUVELIER

**MANAGING DIRECTOR** Matthieu CUVELIER

**ESTATE MANAGER** 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 13 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 uncrushed berries, ageing in barrels, which together produce a wine that is dense, silky, complex and subtle, which faithfully expresses its terroir in each and every vintage.

## THE 2020 VINTAGE

**HARVEST** 17 September to 02 October 2020

**BLEND** 54% Cabernet Sauvignon - 40% Merlot - 6% Petit Verdot

**VINIFICATION** Fermentation of 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 time of 20 to 25 days.

**AGEING** 12 months in barrel, 33% of which are new.

**ANALYSES** Alc. 13.5° - pH 3.89

**PRODUCTION** 34hl/ha - 210,000 bottles

## DESCRIPTION OF THE VINTAGE

**IN THE VINES** After abundant rainfall in autumn, the 2020 growing season began in extremely wet and mild conditions. With sodden soils, downy mildew pressure, unsettled weather and early vine budding, our teams forgot about lockdown for a while and instead focused their minds on the necessary vineyard techniques and tasks to be carried out. A halt to the rain in mid-June led to improved conditions in the vines, and this was followed by a boiling hot summer that gave us a high quality, ripe and early vintage.

**IN THE CELLARS** Crop yields were uneven and generally low. The Merlot grapes were of high quality and concentrated and benefited from the end-of-summer rain. The Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot displayed excellent tannic richness and aromatic complexity. Already showing promise at harvest-time, the vintage's superb potential is being confirmed and enhanced during its ageing process. The 2020 continues the run of fine vintages at the estate with wines showing excellent balance, finesse and depth of flavour.

## TASTING NOTES

**COLOUR** A deep garnet hue with brilliant bright purple glints.

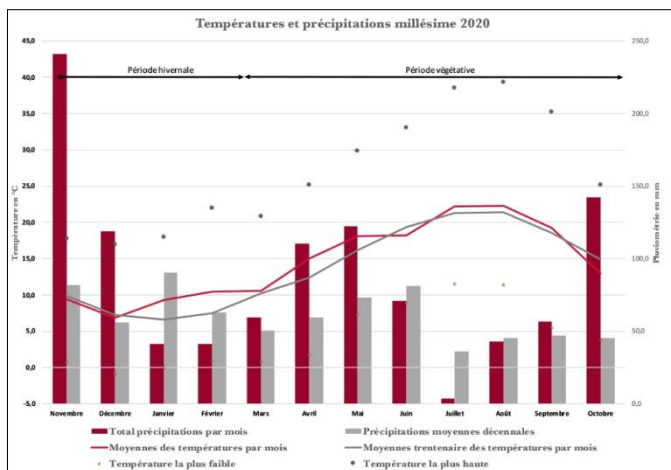
**NOSE** Intensely aromatic with notes of violets, blackcurrant, flint and cigar-box.

**PALATE** The entry is harmonious and velvety smooth. Silky tannins. Great minerality and beautiful finesse and elegance. Outstanding length of flavour. This wine expresses the brightness of the sunshine rather than its heat.



## THE 2020 VINTAGE

2020 required technical skill and produced a wine of high quality, on a par with the two previous vintages. The different microclimates of the region, with their ever-increasing excesses and variations, contributed to the variety of profiles in the wines of this vintage. The extremely hot and dry summer, together with wide diurnal temperature variations, counter-balanced the wet and mild start to the growing season. The roundness and concentration of the ripe Merlot complemented harmoniously the power and balance of the Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot.



### VINE CYCLE STAGES AND HARVESTING DATES:

	Bud-break	Mid-flowering point	Mid-veraison	Harvest
Merlot	24 March	16 May	01 August	17 to 30 September
Cabernet Franc	25 March	16 May	08 August	30 September
Cabernet Sauvignon	30 March	19 May	01 August	25 September to 02 October
Petit Verdot	27 March	24 May	10 August	23, 24 and 29 September

### 2020 GROWING SEASON FACTS AT CHATEAU POUJEAUX:

- Very heavy rainfall in November (3 times more than average)
- An exceptionally mild and rainy winter and spring (3°C above the seasonal average)
- Vine cycle in advance of normal schedule throughout the growing season
- Very damp conditions and numerous rainstorms at the end of April, in mid-May just before the flowering, in the first half of June, and at veraison in mid-August.
- Fine conditions during flowering with a low number of bunches, which were small in size.
- Disease pressure until mid-June, water deficit stress and heat, with wide diurnal variations and record temperatures in summer
- A relatively even veraison across the different grape varieties
- Ideal summer ripening, favouring concentration of juices in the berries
- All within a global pandemic context requiring Covid protection measures, during an advanced vine cycle demanding technical expertise and necessitating active, uninterrupted efforts in the vineyard without a moment's respite.

### CHATEAU POUJEAUX 2020 CHARACTERISTICS:

- Low yields and very good concentration
- Power and finesse in the blend
- Balanced, fine, round and deep
- Aromatic complexity, harmony