



# 18

PRÉLUDE



— À —  
GRAND-PUY DUCASSE

2<sup>nd</sup> WINE OF CHÂTEAU GRAND-PUY DUCASSE, GRAND CRU CLASSÉ  
PAUILLAC

91

James Suckling

92

Wine Enthusiast

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Decanter

## HARVEST

### MERLOT

19/09 -> 28/09

### CAB. SAUVIGNON

02/10 -> 10/10

100% manual in crates  
14 months maturation  
in French oak barrels

## BLEND

70% merlot

30% cabernet sauvignon

**YIELD** 48 Hl/Ha  
**ALCOHOL** 14,5 % vol  
**PRODUCTION** 141 000 EqB

## THE VINTAGE

Although the start of the year brought a great deal of rain and created a surplus of water throughout the Bordeaux wine region, summer 2018 will be remembered for its incredible heat! The radiant and spontaneous smiles on the faces of our staff were the most obvious sign of the confidence and enthusiasm for this vintage. The grape harvests were accompanied by lovely sunshine to the delight of the grape pickers and our permanent staff. Although the Merlots had already brought a smile to our faces, the Cabernets proved to be even more magnificent, confirming the exceptional potential of the vintage. 2018 will be big, extraordinary even...

## THE HISTORY

Château Grand-Puy Ducasse's story began when Arnaud Ducasse bought a "modest" house on the banks of the river in Pauillac in 1675. Little did he know that it would become a large estate that would remain in his family for almost three centuries. Pierre Ducasse, a lawyer with a passion for wine, considerably extended the land over three parishes - Pauillac, Saint-Lambert and Saint-Sauveur - and three seigneuries: Lafite, Latour and Beychevelle. In 1820, his son built the Château's winery facing the Gironde estuary. At the time, this was a daring decision: Grand-Puy Ducasse would be the only Château in the area to vinify its grapes for 200 years. In 1855, the property was included in the prestigious classification of great growths; with 40 hectares of vines spread over 11 different types of soil, its vineyard can be considered as the most representative of the diversity of Pauillac's terroirs. Since 2004, CA Grands Crus, a subsidiary of the Crédit Agricole Group, has embarked on an ambitious optimization plan. The subsequent construction of a new vat room and barrel storage facilities completed the "Renaissance" project. The guiding principle of Château Grand-Puy Ducasse and its teams lead by Anne Le Naour and Benjamin Cassoulet is to push rigorous standards even further.

