

CHATEAU LA CONSEILLANTE 2023

Surface area in production (2023): 11 hectares
Owner: Nicolas Family
Managers: Dr. Bertrand Nicolas & Jean-Valmy Nicolas
Winemaker: Marielle Cazaux

Vineyard & Terroir

Soil composition: 60% grey clay, 40% sandy gravel
Grape varieties: 80% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc
Average age of the vines: 35 years

Harvests

Manual harvesting in small crates

- Merlot: September 7, 11, 13, 18 & 20
- Cabernet Franc: October 2nd

Winery Equipment

22 epoxy-lined, temperature-controlled concrete tanks

Vinifications

Cold pre-fermentation maceration: 5 days
Total vatting time: 28 to 30 days
5% of the production underwent integral vinification

Ageing

70% new French oak barrels
27% one-wine barrels
3% amphoras
Estimated duration: 15 months

Weather conditions

The 2023 vintage began under mild conditions with satisfactory water reserves (434 mm between October and March), encouraging early budbreak around March 30. A warm and humid spring, with temperatures up to 2°C above average in May and June, accelerated vine growth and required increased vigilance against mildew. Flowering was early, even, and highly fertile, taking place between May 22 and 30. Summer brought alternating heat (up to 34°C) and timely rainfall, allowing for steady, balanced ripening, with veraison starting as early as July 16. The harvest, carefully managed from early September to early October, reveals a generous, structured, and highly promising vintage.

Tasting notes

An unclassifiable vintage, 2023 follows on brilliantly from the dazzling 2022, which set the benchmarks quite high across the board while playing on a different and unexpected register. 2023 has excellent concentration and fresh ripeness. The wine combines hedonistic enjoyment, delicacy, softness and precision with a juiciness contained within its body. This is a vintage displaying balance and harmony, the aromatic expression of which, with its energetic black fruit, is cloaked in undeniable elegance. It finds its place, after 2019, 2020 and 2022, among the family of recent great Bordeaux vintages.

2023 key figures

- Blend: 88% Merlot - 12% Cabernet Franc
- Alcohol: 14% vol
- Yield: 43hl/ha
- Total acidity: 3,24
- Production: 49 342 bottles
- pH: 3,68

