

# CHATEAU PAVIE MACQUIN 2005

## SAINT EMILION GRAND CRU CLASSE

Bright ruby-red. Superripe, perfumed nose dominated by griotte cherry, raspberry and cocoa. Lush, smooth and impressively concentrated, with enough acidity and minerality to leaven the wine's almost port-like ripeness (the pH here, always low, is barely 3.55 in 2005, according to Nicolas Thienpont). Very deep flavours of sweet cherry and dark berries carry through on the mounting palate-saturating finish. A massive example of Pavie-Macquin whose thick coat of baby fat is currently making the wine hard to view. This one is going to require a minimum of a decade of patience.

**Stephen Tanzer, International Wine Cellar (May/June 08)**

**95/100**

It appears consumers can't go wrong with any 2005 with the word « Pavie » in its name. This outstanding terroir, elevated to Premier Grand Cru Classé status in St-Emlion's reclassification, is run with impeccable attention to detail by Nicolas Thienpont, who is assisted by winemaking guru, Stéphane Derenoncourt. The 2005 Pavie Macquin may turn out to be this duo's finest wine to date. This is a moderately large vineyard (37 acres) for the area, and the blend tends to be 70% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon. A black/purple color is accompanied by aromas of charcoal, burning embers, crushed rocks, sweet, pure, blueberries and blackberries, chocolaty crème de cassis, and licorice. It possesses massive concentration, phenomenal levels of tannin, and good acidity, but it is even more backward than either Pavie or Pavie Decesse. A modern day elixir that should prove to be monumental in 15-20 years, it will last for 40+ years.

**Robert Parker, The Wine Advocate (April 08)**

**98/100**

Aromas of licorice and blackberry. Violets. Full-bodied, with chewy tannins and lots of berry and cherry character. A blockbuster. Is it better than 2000? We will see. This is monumental.

**James Suckling, Wine Spectator (April 06)**

**95-100/100**

Looking more like a young vintage port than a Bordeaux, Pavie Macquin's inky/purple-colored 2005 exhibits notes of graphite, melted licorice, espresso roast, crushed rocks, white flowers, blackberries and crème de cassis. Packed and stacked and stuffed with extract, power and tannin, this 75% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon blend's technical numbers are unprecedented. It should enjoy a remarkably long life of three decades or more. The 2005 is capable of challenging this estate's brilliant 2003 and 2000.

**Robert Parker, Wine Advocate (164-April 06)**

**94-96+/100**

Puissant et noble, encore plus net que Larcis Ducasse élaboré par la même équipe (Derenoncourt et Thienpont), grands arômes de truffe et d'épices, d'une longueur impressionnante. Comparé à Pavie Decesse, le corps et peut-être plus intense et la maturité du fruit mieux fondue. Avenir brillante. A partir de 2017.

**Michel Bettane et Thierry Desseauve, Tast Pro (18/19-24 avril 06)**

**17,5/20**

Rich and elegant, this wine is consistently one of the favourites among Bibendum customers. Dusty black fruit nose with rich elegance and silky tannins in the mouth. Concentrated with a spicy finish. A great effort from Nicolas Thienpont. Drink from 2015.

**Bibendum (April 06)**

**18/20**

Big noble wine, even more sharply focused than Larcis Ducasse (made by the same team Derenoncourt and Thienpont). Great truffles/spicy flavour and impressive length, though Decesse has perhaps a little more body and more integrated ripeness of fruit. Great future. Drink from 2017.

**Michel Bettane, Decanter (April 06)**

**18/20** ★★★★★

Spicy blackberry nose. Very round and sweet with fruit masking the tannins. Big wine with fine breed. Pushed but in control.

**www.klwines.com (April 06)**

Stéphane Derenoncourt produces a wine here that Robert Parker describes as "The Lafleur of Saint Emilion". Usually less dense and forced than neighbour Pavie but often just as impressive and considerably more subtle. This year it has almost the intensity of Pavie with a very black colour and thick, Port-like texture. A huge modern nose with concentrated cherry and cassis. Prunes on the palate with layers of thick, sweet, ripe fruit. There is however, a touch of velvet and surprisingly good balance for such a massive wine.

**Farr Vintners (April 06)**

**17/20**

Très beau nez, généreux, éclatant de la mûre. Grande suavité en attaque révélant un vin très soyeux, dense sans excès, et charmeur en diable. Le milieu de bouche est d'une immense richesse...ce vin explose littéralement. L'ensemble est somptueux et la longueur interminable. Au final, un vin énorme.

**Didier Romieux, www.vinissime.com (mai 06)**

**96-97/100**

One of the few châteaux in Bordeaux that is biodynamically farmed. Pavie Macquin has long been one of the top wines of St Emilion which aficionados liken to Lafleur in Pomerol. It is managed by the ultra dynamic Nicolas Thienpont who uses oenologists Michel Rolland and Stéphane Derenoncourt as his right hand men.

Slightly difficult to taste as it was still finishing its malolactic fermentation, the 2005 still showed outstanding potential. Full-bodied and chewy, it also displays crisp acidity rendering it fresh and lively. Wine Spectator describes it as “monumental” which may be better than its 2003.

**Goedhuis & Company (April 06)**

**92-94/100**

Vibrant purple fruit with powdery limestone minerality on the nose and a hint of caramel; big tannins envelop a tight core of high-toned blackcurrant fruit and crème de cassis, and there is a luxuriant creamy texture about the palate; powerful and long on the finish, but those big tannins are well rounded.

[www.justerinis.com](http://www.justerinis.com) (April 06)

A successful estate run by Nicolas Thienpont with Stéphane Derenoncourt as consultant. 80% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc from yields of 35 hl/ha. Dark in colour with a pronounced nose of super-ripe blackberry and blueberry with hints of prunes and blackberry leaf. A lot of richness on this, this is very bold and opulent in style but with good freshness that manages to keep it in check.

**Albany vintners (April 06)**

**92-94/100**

A tiny property whose loyal fan club follows these excellent wines year after year. The estate is organic, the wines hand crafted by talented Stéphane Derenoncourt, and this is one of the mostly lovely of all St Emilion classed growths, if you can find it!! Tons of finesse in the '05 and what strikes me here is how textured and smooth this is. Really lovely balance. Drink 2011-2025

**Avery's of Bristol (April 06)**

80% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc. Opaque purple color. Bio-dynamically farmed vineyard. Perfumed aromas of blackberries and cassis, with notes of espresso and vanilla oak. Juicy tannins support the fruit through to the long finish. Rich and opulent with beautiful elegance. The real deal.

**Shaun Bishop, [www.winecommune.com](http://www.winecommune.com) (May 06)**

**97-100/100**

Stéphane Derenoncourt has produced a wine which offers a dense nose of wild blackberries and blackcurrant with a hint of cloves on the finish. This is a massive wine with intense velvety black cherries and prunes infused with black liquorice on the palate. It is complex in its delivery, but none the less balanced. The tannins cope very well with the power of the fruit as it gives a firm backbone to the wine. The lengthy finish goes on and on. Overall a fine wine, and could be one of the best yet from Pavie Macquin. 80% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc. Drink 2016 – 2037.

**The Cellaret (April 06)**

**93/100**

Pavie-Macquin enjoyed a fine reputation back in the late 1980s, if anything its reputation is at a higher level today due to the efforts of Nicolas Thienpont and Stéphane Derenoncourt. Deep and opaque in appearance, the nose hints at sur-maturité with violet, blackberry and cherry. The palate is ripe and bold, very intense with layer upon layer of ripe back fruit. This is quite a heady style but the freshness and the finely expressed tannins balance out well. There is a marked mineral character that does much to add appeal to a dense, concentrated style of St.Emilion.

**Lay & Wheeler (April 06)**

This is deep, a really charming nose, not overstated, very high-toned intensity here on the palate, full tannins are restrained, ripe and silky on the finish. A stylish wine.

Drink 2015-2025

**WJ Gardener, Nickolls and Perks (April 06)**

**17,5/20**

Run by talented proprietor Nicolas Thienpont, this has a very small production and always sells out very quickly. From very old vines, this is never ostentatious, but powerful, concentrated, old school St Emilion.

**Bordeaux Index (April 06)**

This striking wine is likely to be quite controversial, and while I suspect traditionalists will hate it, the quality is there. Seriously intense nose of raspberry jam-vivid, perfumed and quite sweet. Very intense palate with massive concentration of fruit, pure and bright, with good structure. Unusual but lovely, in its style.

**www.wineanorak.com (April 06)**

**92-94/100**

This hadn't finished its malolactic fermentation so was quite difficult to judge on three occasions. Nicolas Thienpont makes wine of class and complexity here and this is no exception. Ripe, lush and long, this late-picked, super-ripe beauty will be terrific.

**Gavin Quinney, www.bordeauxreport.com (May 06)**

**93-95/100**

Bold and chewy, this has a hard mineral character to its tannins and an extremely long finish. Fascinating earthiness. Balanced for a long life ahead. Under the direction of Nicolas Thienpont, this vineyard is at the top of the St Emilion plateau next to Troplong Mondot, a portion of it farmed biodynamically.

**Joshua Greene, [www.wineandspiritsmagazine.com](http://www.wineandspiritsmagazine.com) (May 06)**

Goûté 3 fois : fermentation malolactique en cours. Le nez est élégant subtil et finement crémeux les fruits sont complexes avec des arômes variés un rien d'épices et de réglisse, l'entrée en bouche est raffinée avec des tannins nombreux et enveloppés qui se structurent avec fraîcheur et une très belle tenue en milieu de bouche , c'est riche en fruits , très parfumé, d'un peps remarquable, grâce à la fine acidité qui s'installe et qui étire la finale, très parfumée pour lui donner ampleur, relief et intensité , avec toujours ses saveurs calcaires et un rien salines en ultime sensation. Un Pavie Macquin de légende.

**Daniel Sériot, [www.lapassionduvin.com](http://www.lapassionduvin.com) (avril 06)**

**96-98/100**

**Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar, May 2006**

**92-95/100**

Even with a stone-cold sample this gave off a fabulous nose. Lashings of oak, to be sure (though the cold is probably making this more obvious) but the fruit is cool, pure and together. A fabulous success with a fruit that really sings on the finish.

**Lea and Sandeman Co. (April 06)**

**93/100**

Beau nez expressif, subtil, de violette et réglisse, zan, avec de belles nuances florales. Bouche voluptueuse, étoffée, presque potelée, très puissante avec beaucoup de tanin dense mais gras. Un très grand Pavie Macquin.

**Jean-Christophe Estéve (mai 06)**

**18,5/20**

Cela fait plusieurs années que Pavie-Macquin réalise le sans-faute avec un vin ample et serré, d'une grande suavité qui masque la grande densité, et une finale époustouflante de classe.

**Le Figaro (22 juin 06)**

**94-96/100**

La fermentation malolactique est toujours en cours. Vin coloré. Beau nez fin, fruité et épicé. Très belle entrée en bouche au toucher soyeux. Le vin se développe très, très fruité, sur un goût de cerise. Après, le milieu de bouche ressort une note presque crayeuse et le vin s'achève tannique mais fin. Son atout principal est d'offrir beaucoup de goût. Belle longueur.

**Jean-Marc Quarin, Carnets de dégustations, no. 49 (mai 06)**

**16,5/20**

70% de merlot, 25% de cabernet-franc, 5% de cabernet-sauvignon. Vignes de 35 ans. Ample, dense, épicé, riche et pourtant, le vin est sans lourdeur. Ses belles notes épicées lui donnent un charme fou, sans aucune concession au boisé. Du vin, rien que du vin, mais quel vin ! Une réussite d'équilibre, une leçon.

**Bernard Burtschy, Vinifera, no. 33 (juin 06)**

★★★★★/★

Bright ruby-red. Captivating aromas of black raspberry, cocoa and licorice. Opulent and silky on entry, then wonderfully full and sweet without any undue weight. This is actually a bit youthfully closed today but already displays lovely inner-mouth perfume. Offers a superb combination of concentration and finesse. This is likely to require at least a decade of bottle aging, and will be long-lived.

**Stephen Tanzer, International Wine Cellar (May/June 07)**

**93-95/100**

As of 2006, Pavie Macquin is one of Saint Emilion's new Premier Grand Cru Classés, although the 2006 reclassification of Saint Emilion has been suspended by a Bordeaux judge because of a pending lawsuit by three estates that were demoted (justifiably in my opinion). Their 2005 may be the finest wine they have yet produced – even better than their 2000 and 1998. From a 37-acre vineyard, this blend of 70% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon is fermented in open-top tanks, with pigeage, malolactic in barrel, aging on its lees and batonnage, all à la Burgundy. It achieved 14,5% natural alcohol, which must be an all time record at this estate. Over 4000 cases will be produced. A fascinating wine that reminded me of a top vintage of Ausone. It represents the essence of its terroir as well as richness. Black/purple to the rim with an extraordinary, intense nose of crushed rocks, spring flowers, blueberries, blackberries, crème de cassis, licorice and camphor, it possesses superb depth, huge tannin and massive concentration, as well as freshness (from acidity and definition). This legendary effort should be drinkable in a decade and last for 35+ years. Out of this world!

**Robert Parker, Wine Spectator (April 07)**

**96-100**

Nez: superbe fruit généreux, pointe crémeuse et oxidative. Si grand, si élégant : le fruit, la tenue, la longueur, tout est fondu ensemble et rien ne dépasse. Superbe vin complexe.

**Fabian Barnes, In Vino Veritas (oct/nov 07)**

★★★★★