
Château Vrai Canon Bouché 2012

CSPC# 749563

750mlx12

14.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

83% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc, 2% Malbec

Appellation

Canon-Fronsac

Classification

Grand Vin de Bordeaux

Website

<http://www.chateauvraicanonbouche.com/>

General Info

This 12 hectare Bordeaux wine vineyard of Vrai Canon Bouche has been on a roll since the 2003 vintage. Located west of Pomerol in the Canon Fronsac appellation, Chateau Vrai Canon Bouche earns the last part of its name from a former owner, Edgard Bouche. This Right Bank property was acquired by the Roux family, in 1953. In 2005, it was sold to Philip de Haseth Moller - a Dutch businessman, specializing in real estate business in Amsterdam. Epicurean, cultivated a passion for art and antiques, it is also of great wines.

The team at Vrai Canon Bouché is led by Jean de Laitre, with the support of Stéphane Derenoncourt. This combination is good because the last few vintages have undoubtedly raised the standard of wine produced at this Chateau.

Vintage

After cool, wet weather in spring and early summer the sun returned in earnest as the season progressed and became hot and dry with temperatures peaking on 17 and 18 August. Rainfall was seriously lacking, totalling 120 mm less than the 30-year average. September and October were milder and close to more usual seasonal values (27-28°C on 5 October).

- Flowering was reasonably early at the end of May, similar to 2010, and spread out. The fruit began to change colour slowly at the beginning of August over a quite extended period.
- Spells of very hot weather contributed to the concentration of aromas, which were then locked up in the grape skins
- Harvesting began at the end of September and continued in sunny weather until the end of October.

The winegrowers had to react quickly to the changes in the weather from one month to the next as cool, rainy spells were followed by hot, dry periods. The vines had to be closely observed and preventive measures taken, such as the removal of secondary shoots and leaves as well as thinning out the fruit as appropriate, while balancing fruit production on vines with over-heavy bunches or "hens and chickens". Everything was done to enable the vines to thrive, even if they were sometimes challenged by severe weather, and ensure optimal ripening of the grapes. Grapes ripen early on the Saint-Emilion – Pomerol – Fronsac terroirs, so it was possible to harvest the Merlot before the weather deteriorated at the end of October.

Vineyards

Planted at 6,600 vines per hectare in siliceous, limestone soils on the top of the Canon plateau, the average age of the vines at Vrai Canon Bouche is close to 25 years. The 12 hectares at Vrai Canon Bouche is planted to 83% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc, and 2% Malbec. Sustainable viticulture is practiced as one would expect in a property consulted by Stéphane Derenoncourt. The soils of Vrai Canon Bouche are worked mechanically; deleafing and crop thinning are carried out as necessary.

Harvest

The harvest is entirely manual in crates,

Vinification/

Maturation

The hand harvested fruit is fermented in cement tanks with a thirty-day maceration. Malolactic fermentation and aging on its lees for first six months in barrel with stirring for two months is part of the attention to detail shown in the wine making at the estate. Vrai Canon Bouche is aged 12 months in in 50% new oak barrels.



Tasting Notes Very opulent aromas, exhaling well-ripened black cherry and red berry notes. Discrete smoked fragrances mix with mineral features. Supple and vibrant attack, boasting once again an entire range of fruit, including cherry jam and black currant. Toasted flavors combine with hints of flint stone. Following several years ageing, this wine will develop aromas of truffle – one of the characteristics of its terroir. It expresses plenty of aromatic concentration, underscored by mineral salinity – refined with plenty of distinction.

Cellaring Drink 2015 - 2025

Scores/Awards **84-87 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2013
87+ points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #218 - April 2015
90-92 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #206 - April 2013
91 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2015
88-89 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2013
88-91 points - Stephen Tanzer, ST's International Wine Cellar - April 2013
16 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2013 (score only)
16.25 points - James Lawther, Decanter.com - April 2013
91 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only)
86 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)
87-89 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 26, 2013
85 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2013
16 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)

Reviews *"On the lighter side, with soft plum and cherry notes revealing a light whiff of tobacco. A touch airy at midpalate, this offers a rhubarb hint on the modest finish. Score range: 84-87."*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"Abundant minerality, blueberry and black raspberry fruit as well as a floral note are present in this medium-bodied, elegant, classic Canon Fronsac. It is medium-bodied with moderate tannin, but precocious fruit. The color is dense, almost opaque ruby/purple. I suggest drinking it over the next decade."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"A big wine at 14.5% alcohol, it was produced from outrageously low yields of 13 hectoliters per hectare. A dense purple color is followed by a sweet nose of raspberries, blueberries, spring flowers and crushed chalk. This intense, medium to full-bodied 2012 is a superb wine that over-performs once again. It should age effortlessly for 10+ years.

This offering has been spectacular over recent vintages, and the 2012 continues that track of success. From a 30-acre vineyard situated high on the plateau of Canon in Canon-Fronsac, the 2012 Vrai Canon Bouche is a blend of 83% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc and 2% Malbec looked after by renowned consultant Stephane Derenoncourt."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"Lots of fresh minerals, licorice and wet soil. A decadent red with a fully body, round and silky tannins and a long and flavorful finish. Excellent."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Currant and spices on the nose and palate. Medium-bodied, but with a slightly lean finish."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"(83% merlot, 15% cabernet franc and 2% Malbec; 14.5% alcohol; 60% new oak): Bright ruby-red. Musky redcurrant, dried flowers, mocha and cinnamon on the nose, with complementary oak notes of vanilla and smoke. Suave, silky and pure, showing lovely juicy lift to the flavors of red fruits, minerals, sweet spices and herbs. Finishes clean and long, with supple tannins. According to Bordeaux insiders, at about five to ten years Vrai Canon Bouche picks up a white truffle rather than a black truffle quality. This 13-hectare vineyard is planted at 6,600 vines per hectare in siliceous limestone soils atop the Canon plateau, and the average age of the vines is 25 years. Yields were just 13 hectoliters per hectare, and largely for that reason a rather high 80% of the crop has gone into the grand vin. Stephane Derenoncourt consults here"
- ST, International Wine Cellar

Reviews *“Blackcurrant aroma and flavour. Lively, ripe fruit on the palate. Long clean finish. Harmonious. A success this year.”*

-JL, Decanter.com

“Blending 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc created a wine with an earthy, black cherry nose and a fleshy, dark cherry finish. 87-89 Pts (18-Apr-2013)”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Plush, full bodied red with plenty of dense tannins and dark berry fruit that is mostly upfront. Generous and round with moderate length. Tasted in Bordeaux, France. Maturity: Young. (06-Apr-2013)”

- JCL, asianpalate.com
