

# Château Cantemerle 2006

CSPC# 765468

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

SOLD OUT

**Grape Variety**  
**Appellation**  
**Website**  
**General Info**

44% Merlot, 40% Cabernet Sauvignon, 9% Cabernet Franc, 7% Petit Verdot  
Haut-Médoc  
<http://www.cantemerle.com>

Chateau Cantemerle is one of the first well known Bordeaux estates you see as start the drive along the D2, as you head towards the Medoc. Chateau Cantemerle is also one of the oldest properties in the Bordeaux wine region. Historical documents listing the Lords of Cantemerle of La Sauve Majeur Abbey, can be dated all the way back to the 12th century. The documents exist thanks to the monks who recorded any business that transpired in the monastic community.

In 1855, when the classification of the Medoc took place, Chateau Cantemerle was accidentally left off the list of classed chateaux. It was at the insistence of Madame Villeneuve-Durfort that her property be reinstated in the classification. That re-addition became the first of only two changes in the classification.

In 1852, Fleuret-Jean-Baptiste, Count of Lavergne, was a pioneer in the fight against mildew. The first attempts to control it were done by dusting the vines with sulphur at Cantemerle. He was rewarded for his efforts with several medals and a prize from the Academy of Bordeaux.

Until the late 1800's, the fortunes of Cantemerle could not have been any better. What happened next devastated the property. Cantemerle was not only the worst hit of the Medoc classified growths during the phylloxera crisis, but the vines were also attacked by downy mildew between 1879 and 1887. Consequently, the annual production of Chateau Cantemerle was slashed by 50%.

In 1892, the descendants of the last of the Villeneuve family, Jeanne Armande, Baroness Charles d'Abbadie, sold Chateau Cantemerle to the Dubos family after owning the estate for over three hundred years. The last family owner, Bertrand Clauzel sold Chateau Cantemerle in 1981 to the SMABTP group. At the time of the purchase, Chateau Cantemerle was in serious need of restoration. 40 hectares of vines, close to 50% of the estate needed replanting. In 1999, the new owners purchased 20 hectares of vines from Domaine du Moines Nexon, increasing the size of the Chateau Cantemerle. Other improvements were made in the cellars and the wine making facilities. The SMABTP Group has continued increasing their holdings in Bordeaux with purchases in the Right Bank. They recently added Chateau Haut Corbin, Chateau Grand Corbin and Le Jurat which are all located in St. Emilion appellation. Cantemerle is classified as a 5ème Cru Classé.

**Vintage** The sunny summer and the exceptional late fall played a large part in this successful vintage. The climate was fully favorable for the optimal maturity of the grapes and for the excellent sanitary conditions. We harvested stressless, waiting for the best dates to pick grape by grape, plot by plot, to optimize the maturity of the harvested grapes, waiting for the latest vines.

**Vineyards** 87 ha under production. Silica and gravel soils of the quaternary era  
58% Cabernet Sauvignon - 33% Merlot - 6% Petit Verdot - 3% Cabernet Franc  
Average age of vines: 30 years; Vine density: 8300 plants per hectare

**Harvest** Pruning: Médoc double Guyot; Deleafing: face to face after flowering (berry set)  
Grape thinning is done when the grapes are filling out; Green harvest occurs after changing of color (veraison); Handpicked harvest with selective sorting in the vineyard

**Maturation** Total destemming. The grapes are hand-sorted before crushing  
Fermentation: 6-8 days at 26 -28°C; Maceration: 28 -30 days  
Ageing for 12 months in French oak barrels (medium toast) which 50% are new  
An ultra light fining is done but no filtration occurs prior to bottling



<b>Tasting Notes</b>	Probably one of the most beautiful Cantemerle's of the decade, showing great potential. This is a powerful wine with an almost black color, and still developing great aromatic complexity. Its opulence entirely covers the palate, with a clean and lively finish full of freshness. Be sure to decant it two hours before serving but better yet, wait until 2012 and accompany it with roast beef and wild mushrooms. A great wine for the future.
<b>Production</b>	33,330 cases made
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2010-2025
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>88 points</b> - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2009</p> <p><b>90 points</b> - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #181 - February 2009</p> <p><b>90-92 points</b> - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #170 - April 2007</p> <p><b>87 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - July 2010</p> <p><b>81-83 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - April 2007</p> <p><b>89 points</b> - Stephen Tanzer, ST's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2009</p> <p><b>84 points</b> - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)</p> <p><b>16.5 points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - May 2011</p> <p><b>16.7 points</b> - Decanter.com - September 5, 2011</p> <p><b>15+ points</b> - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - November 2010</p> <p><b>15+ points</b> - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - October 2008</p> <p><b>14.5-15 points</b> - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - April 2007</p> <p><b>89 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 13, 2014</p> <p><b>86-87 points</b> - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - June 2010</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Gilbert &amp; Gaillard - October 19, 2008</p> <p><b>16.5 points</b> - Gault &amp; Millau (score only)</p> <p><b>15 points</b> - La Revue du Vin France (score only)</p> <p><b>16.5 points</b> - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)</p> <p><b>2 stars</b> - Le Guide Hachette des Vins - 2010</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>"Blackberry and sweet tobacco follow through to a medium body, with slightly aggressive tannins and a medium finish. Chewy. Needs time to mellow. Best after 2011. 33,330 cases made"</i> - JS, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"As I indicated last year, quality has improved dramatically at this estate, and the 2006 is a quintessentially elegant Bordeaux displaying a dark ruby/purple color, a lovely bouquet of forest floor, sweet cherries, cranberries, and black currants, medium body, a textured, sweet, tannic mouthfeel, and a long finish. Everything is beautifully pure as well as perfectly balanced in this outstanding effort. Anticipated maturity: 2010-2025. Excellent value."</i> - RP, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Quality at this property has been rising dramatically over the last several vintages. Cantemerle will never be a blockbuster claret, but rather one built on finesse and elegance. Hints of menthol, black cherries, cranberries, and blueberries emerge from the 2006's perfumed bouquet. Medium body, impressive purity, good underlying texture, and sweet tannin suggest this elegantly styled wine will drink well between 2009-2020+. It possesses intense flavors yet requires some introspection."</i> - RP, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Tasted blind at Southwold -06 Bordeaux tasting. The Cantemerle -06 takes time to coalesce in the glass, but it is probably worth the wait. It has a lifted bouquet of blackberry, black cherry and black plum with fine definition and well-integrated oak. The palate has a dry, austere entry; sharp acidity but a firm backbone matched with almost mouth-drying freshness. Good grip on the slightly austere finish that shows some oak needs to be subsumed, so leave this for another 1-2 years. Tasted January 2010."</i> - NM, Wine Journal</p> <p><i>"A rather lean, under-ripe nose is following by a tannic, loose-knit palate that comes across rather hollow. I expected much more to be honest and fortunately a second sample shown in London was better, the nose still displaying some under-ripeness but more cohesion on the palate and a nice redcurrant tinged finish. Tasted April 2006."</i> - NM, Wine Journal</p>

- Reviews** *“Deep red. Pure aromas of blackberry, violet and licorice, lifted by minty and herbal nuances. Juicy and energetic in the mouth, with spices and a light herbal quality contributing to the impression of lift and definition. Finishes with dusty tannins that seem a bit less gritty than they appeared to be a year ago from barrel.”*  
- ST, International Wine Cellar
- “40% Cabernet Sauvignon, 44% Merlot, 7% Petit Verdot, 9% Cabernet Franc. Leather, cassis, spice, black fruit. Light tannins are good for drinking now. Drink 2010-2016”*  
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- “Fresh, lifted and stylish nose of zest, cedar, blackberry, cherry, sweet blue fruit. Fresh, attractively straightforward wine with a buttery, creamy texture and very silky tannins. The finish is good - no expense spared - but it's all very serious. Alc: 13%. Drink: 2012-plus.”*  
- Decanter.com
- “Earthy, green peppercorn style on the nose. A soft palate, supple, with not a lot of vigour. A nice substance though, slightly stewed red fruits with a chalky edge, and slightly chewy tannins too, around a moderate core of structure. Quite stemmy and stalky and austere overall. Certainly, an interesting composition, with a good, robust character.”*  
- CK, The Wine Doctor
- “Nutty oak first, then a layer of dark and dusty fruits. Supple, fairly rich actually in comparison to some other wines here, quite full and fleshy. A firm grip underneath, with a touch of bitterness to it. It has some nice appeal though. This may improve in the cellar.”*  
- CK, The Wine Doctor
- “Sweet, sweet, sweet black fruit here on the nose. Rather a full style on the palate, ripe, a little creamy, rounded with a good texture. A bit of extract here, grippy, with decent acidity too. Nicely put together. Not at all compelling, but I think they have done well for the vintage.”*  
- CK, The Wine Doctor
- “Medium bodied, soft, focused on fresh, bright red fruits, spice and tobacco notes, this lighter style of Bordeaux is already easy to drink.”*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “Mid red, some development; more lift and interest than La Lagune, gutsy nose; some geranium edge here but quite dense; some coffee and dark chocolate; palate OKish, ripe notes, some blackcurrants, mid weight, acid and tannin here too! Needs time, currently disjointed. 86-87/100 Drink 2016-2020”*  
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com
- “Beautifully dense colour. Deep, black fruit nose, with delicate roasted coffee notes. Powerful palate. A full-bodied wine, still a little vigorous, which should become a very good bottle.”*  
- en.gilbertgaillard.com
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