

## Château Cantemerle 2010

CSPC# 765468

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

<b>Grape Variety</b>	52% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, 85% Cabernet Franc, 5% Petit Verdot
<b>Appellation</b>	Haut-Médoc
<b>Classification</b>	5ème Cru Classé
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.cantemerle.com">http://www.cantemerle.com</a>

### General Info

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 Historical documents listing the Lords of Cantemerle of La Sauve Majeur Abbey, can be dated all the way back to the 12th century.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

**Vintage** The 2010s are robust wines made from more aggressive and extreme conditions and their concentration comes from more extreme dehydration thanks to El Niño. They are the product of drought, of a more irregular sugar build-up in summer and a sudden re-concentration at the finish. And, most importantly, they get their higher acidities from the cooler August–September minimum temperatures and from the cooler autumn.

**Vineyards** 87 ha under production. Silica and gravel soils of the quaternary era  
60% Cabernet Sauvignon - 30% Merlot - 4% Petit Verdot - 6% 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



<b>Maturation</b>	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>Winemaker's Notes</b>	The 2010 vintage brought out all the best in Cantemerle's terroir. A deep color sets the tone for this wine: complex, concentrated and long in the mouth, with a finish which just doesn't finish, leaving an impression of great aromatic richness. The wine's dense structure is masterfully controlled, showing elegance without heaviness, and a liveliness highlighting its freshness. Swirling brings the wine alive in the glass, with aromas of spice, tobacco, black currant and plums. This is Cantemerle's natural character, with the added richness a great vintage brings.
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	Its aromas are marked by pencil lead, black fruit and cigars. The round first impressions in the mouth are due to the subtlety of the Cabernets which express themselves with finesse and complexity, displaying spice bread flavors. This is a vintage of great sunshine which produced mature and powerful tannins marked by freshness. There's no need to rush this wine, it will still be great in ten years. It can only get better with age, but it already shows great class!
<b>Production</b>	33,330 cases made
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2020-2050
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>91 points</b> - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2013</p> <p><b>94+ points</b> - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #205 - February 2013</p> <p><b>91-93 points</b> - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #194 - May 2011</p> <p><b>90 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - March 2014</p> <p><b>90-92 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2011</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2013</p> <p><b>93-94 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2011</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 1, 2013</p> <p><b>90 (+?) points</b> - Stephen Tanzer, ST's International Wine Cellar – Jul/Aug 2013</p> <p><b>15.5 points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - March 2015</p> <p><b>16.5 points</b> - Richard Hemming, JancisRobinson.com - October 2014</p> <p><b>14.5 points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - January 2014</p> <p><b>17 points</b> - Richard Hemming, JancisRobinson.com - November 2012</p> <p><b>16.5 points</b> - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - March 2012</p> <p><b>16 points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - February 2011</p> <p><b>17.5 points</b> - Steven Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2011</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2017</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - December 2015</p> <p><b>93+ points</b> - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - November 2014</p> <p><b>91+ points</b> - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - October 2012</p> <p><b>89-91 points</b> - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2011</p> <p><b>88-90 points</b> - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2011</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2011 (score only)</p> <p><b>17+ points</b> - Farr Vintner - March 2016</p> <p><b>88-91 points</b> - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2011</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2011</p> <p><b>90 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2013 (score only)</p> <p><b>88 points</b> - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - March 2013</p> <p><b>17 points</b> - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - June 2011</p> <p><b>17 points</b> - Bettane &amp; Desseauve (score only) - April 2011</p> <p><b>16 points</b> - Gault &amp; Millau (score only) - June 2013</p> <p><b>16.5 points</b> - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2011</p> <p><b>1 star</b> - Le Guide Hachette des Vins - 2014</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>"Offers a sappy feel, with deliciously pure notes of kirsch and blackberry preserves. Lightly toasted spice and singed anise accents lead to the long, graphite-fueled finish. Should age gracefully. Drink now through 2022. 33,333 cases made."</i></p> <p>- JS, Wine Spectator</p>

## Reviews

*"The wine needs a good 7-10 years of cellaring and should keep for 30 more years, but this is the finest Cantemerle I have encountered in my professional career of tasting young vintages (dating back 34 years now). Stunningly deep ruby/purple, with a beautiful nose of spring flowers intermixed with perfumed raspberry and blueberry notes, it exhibits a sort of cool-climate character. Broad, rich and intense on the palate, the wine has plenty of tannins, but they are sweet and well-integrated. Everything is delicately entwined into this beautiful, medium to full-bodied, dense purple wine, which shows stunning character and a prodigious potential for development. This is definitely a major sleeper of the vintage and even better than I thought from barrel. With its 2010, this classified growth located in the southern end of the Medoc may well have made a modern-day version of their legendary 1949"*

- RP, Wine Advocate

*"A quintessentially elegant style of Bordeaux, the opaque ruby/purple-tinged 2010 Cantemerle possesses elegant floral notes intermixed with hints of blueberries, raspberries, sweet red cherries and currants. Medium-bodied with impressive purity, concentration and texture, it is not a heavyweight, but rather a well-proportioned, stylish red that should drink nicely for 15-20 years."*

- RP, Wine Advocate

*"Tasted blind at the Southwold Bordeaux 2010 tasting. The Cantemerle 2010 has a floral bouquet that is akin to a Margaux - crushed violets intermingling with blackberry and wild hedgerow all with fine definition. The palate is medium bodied with tart cherry fruit on the entry, before segueing into a powdery mid-palate and structured, more masculine finish. The fruit needs to be more expressive, but I think this is just entering a sulky patch and deserves several years in bottle. Tasted January 2014."*

- NM, Wine Journal

*"Tasted twice with consistent notes the Cantemerle 2010 has a tertiary bouquet with ripe blackberry, plum and citrus peel. The palate is medium bodied with a citrus thread lending fine freshness and vitality. There is a little hardness to the tannins, but this should soften by the time of bottling. Good tension here. This is a sterling effort from Cantemerle. Tasted April 2011."*

- NM, Wine Journal

*"A wine with blueberry and mineral aromas follows through to a full body, with fine tannins and a juicy finish. Best for years from here. Needs at least three years of bottle age to soften. Could be better than 2009 in the long run."*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"Layered and rich with lots of blueberry character and ripe velvety tannins. Lovely texture. Best wine from here in years"*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"A great success for this southern Médoc chateau, this is fine, elegant and perfumed. It bursts with a black fruit flavor, balanced by smooth tannins and acidity. It's a wine for medium-term aging over the next six years."*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"Good full ruby-red. Musky aromas of black cherry, blueberry, espresso, menthol and licorice, lifted by a cool floral element. Densely packed and savory, displaying sappy energy to its intense dark berry flavors. With a serious structure and no easy sweetness today, this vibrant wine will need a good five to seven years in the cellar and should last well. This may eventually merit an even higher score. 90(+?) points"*

- ST, International Wine Cellar

*"Very dark blackish crimson. Light but beguiling nose. Very fresh and sinewy. Very classical and this expresses more the property than the intensity of the vintage. Dry finish. Tannins still dominating the slightly evanescent fruit."*

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

- Reviews** *"Luscious but not confectioned. Classic claret shape: medium tannin, medium body, high acid and lots of black fruit. Drinking well now. (RH)"*  
- RH, JancisRobinson.com
- "Lustrous dark crimson. Perfumed. Inky and very tough on the end."*  
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- "Excellent fruit, in a Margaret River sort of mode. Tannins are high, as is acid. As reliable as ever. (RH)"*  
- RH, JancisRobinson.com
- "Riper and sweeter fruited on the nose than Lagune. Acidity sings aloud but there's just enough dark fruit to balance. Taut. (JH)"*  
- JH, JancisRobinson.com
- "Lower yields in general than 2009 but they almost reached the maximum allowed because of their high density. 53 hl/ha. Very dark purple. Big and raw and blustering. Quite a bruiser! Very sweet and lively and classy with marked mulberry fruit. Very powerful with masses of tannins hidden away underneath too. Well-integrated nose with both concentration and vivacity. Nicely balanced and behaved even without real nerve. Just a little stolid on the finish. Tasted both open and blind. "*  
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- "Finely expressed, deep but lifted and potentially complex fruit, refreshing acidity and firmness to add length to its habitual charm. Drink 2017-26."*  
- SS, Decanter.com
- "Wet forest and truffle notes with tobacco, cedar and cassis create the nose. On the palate, the wine consists of vibrant, black raspberries, cherries and spicy cassis. Still young, this classically built wine wants at least 5-7 more years in the cellar."*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "Floral in character, with loads of fresh black raspberries, dark cherries, espresso bean and earth on the nose. Medium bodied, elegant, clean and fresh, the wine ends with sweet, ripe, dark red fruits. This will be better with another 4-5 years of bottle age."*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "Deep; wonderfully open sexy aromatics; blackcurrants, spices, plums and that pain grillé note; hint of undergrowth too; lovely and open; fantastic partner to Cantemerle's ravishing 2009. Similar tones on the palate; perfumed and very Bordeaux; with more astringency and tension than '09. Structure and matter here; tightness too which is attractive. Drink 2016-2030. 93+ MW Institute Nov '14"*  
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com
- [Earlier note] Deep and saturated look; textured nose with layers; blackcurrants, some coffee tones; attractive; not '09 but this is very good; grippy palate but with lots of blackcurrant fruit, extract and acid – a mouthful. Classic with freshness, chew and good length. 91+/100 UGC Oct '12"*  
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com
- [Earlier] Dense and arterial; ripe; some floral notes, roses, violet [Margaux like], cassis and blackcurrants – nice overall; some cream and depth to the palate; rich and concentrated, good blackcurrant flavours, concentrated and tannic with good acid too. Grippy and tannic finish. Good in time 88-90/100 Tasted 5 April 2011 at UGC."*  
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com
- [Second tasting] Thick and deep, ripe and smoky nose; thick and rich; attractive nose; lots of cassis and blackcurrant; thick and ripe, rich; lovely palate, lots of fruit here, lashings in fact. This should be good Very impressive. 89-91/100 Tasted 7 April 2011 at UGC Drink 2018-2030+"*  
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

**Reviews** *“Deep purple in colour, the nose here is expressive with blackcurrant and savoury, smoky spices. The palate has an impressive core of dense cassis and black cherry fruit, layered by nutmeg and clove from new oak. The fresh acidity gives a savoury and refreshing edge to complement the firm and chewy tannins at this young stage. Intensity builds on the mid palate and peaks on the long cassis and violet finish. This is a Cantemerle with great promise and is quite possibly the best ever made from this Chateau.”*  
- Farr Vintners

*“Both nose and palate feel fresh with a mix of bilberry and red cherry. The mid palate is surprisingly light but there is an attractive fragrance about the fruit. It lacks a bit of complexity and feels just a touch simple.”*  
- Derek Smedley MW

*“Violets, plums, blackberries, hint of cedar. This is a classy, dense, full-bodied Cantemerle with good length and depth. There is a wonderful richness of flavours in the middle and lovely aromatics. Surprisingly good concentration and depth in a wine from Haut Medoc. Tasted in: Bordeaux, France. Maturity: Young.”*  
- JCL, asianpalate.com

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